

# The Link



FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

SUMMER/FALL 2008

## Dr. Jean Lowry Announces Retirement: End of an Era for Speech Pathology Department

*Written by: Keiko Kboo, Department Chair*

Dr. Jean Lowry just received her 30-year pin at the employee recognition banquet in April, but she has been on the faculty at Loma Linda University longer than 30 years. She came back to her alma mater, La Sierra University/Loma Linda University, in 1974 as a young bride and a fresh Ph.D. graduate in Speech-Language Pathology from Kent State University. Her teaching years have been devoted to Loma Linda University. She took only a brief hiatus to be a mom and to accompany her husband while he pursued his doctorate. Dr. Lowry served as department chair from 1984 to 1989 and 1993 to 1998. Her services on school and university committees still benefit us in many ways.

Throughout her years at Loma Linda University, she has left an indelible mark on the faculty, the students, and the profession. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, as we know it, has been shaped by her tireless effort to elevate the academic standard, to promote clinical excellence and to create a department culture of collaboration and compassion. A colleague summed it up by stating that "she is one tremendous, positive force, always building up those who are around her." Another reminded us that she has mentored nearly every faculty who has walked through the door. If we asked the alumni, I know



there would be hundreds who will testify how Dr. Lowry took time to help them grow personally and spiritually.

Dr. Lowry has told us that she plans to have the front seat and miss nothing when her son, Christopher and his wife Sarah have a baby this summer. Since Christopher has been offered a post-doc position at University of Wisconsin, Madison and Sarah has two more years to go in veterinary medicine, it is clear that they will need a reliable child care giver. I knew how all these pieces were coming together, but have been in denial. After all, I have watched Dr. Lowry look for a faculty to replace her for years: She would not leave us without cloning herself, I thought. But we have to face the fact that she is now talking about her post-retirement plans.

The only thing left for us to do is to show our appreciation for what she has done for us and promise to build on the good foundations she gave us. We plan to send her off with a celebration lunch in the lower rotunda of Nichol Hall on August 15th. It is a come-and-go event that will last till 2:00 p.m. We would like to know how many alumni can join us, so please watch for an email invitation.

*Keiko J. Kboo*

### Alumni Search with AfterCollege.com!

Register for a FREE AfterCollege account to view or contact fellow alumni. This is a great way to reconnect with your friends and classmates. This site also is SAHP's source for businesses to post their job listings. Visit [www.AfterCollege.com](http://www.AfterCollege.com) and sign up today!



## 2008 CALENDAR

AUGUST:

CE Cruise to Mexico.....10-17

NOVEMBER:

National Allied Health Week...2-8

## AWARDS

APRIL 19  
ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

*Distinguished Alum:* Gilbert Sissons  
*Rising Star:* Cynthia Martinez

MAY 21  
AWARDS CHAPEL

*Outstanding Senior Award:*  
Catherine Cheng

*E. Evelyn Britt Promising Student:*  
Jonathan Pilgrim & Jennifer Brucks

*Humanitec Scholarship (Japan Airfare):*  
Catherine Kim Shaw Cheng,  
Lily He & Lauren Maxwell

## CONTACT US

DEAN OF ALLIED HEALTH  
Craig R. Jackson, JD, MSW  
909.558.4545  
emailthedean@llu.edu

DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
Keiko Khoo, MS, MA, CCCA  
909.558.4998  
kkhoo@llu.edu

ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICER  
Jaclyn Pruehs  
909.558.7840  
jpruehs@llu.edu

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
Kisha Norris, M.Ed.  
909.558.7790  
knorris@llu.edu

## Student Clinicians Conduct Free Hearing Screenings

Every May, the nation's attention is focused on hearing loss during Better Hearing and Speech Month. The SAHP speech department was among the many organizations that helped to screen individuals for hearing problems. On May 21, 2008, students from the department conducted free hearing screening in the lower atrium of Nichol Hall. More than 50 people stopped by to test their hearing. There was also a free screening conducted at the Drayson Center where about 100 people were tested. The celebration of Better Hearing and Speech Month has been around since 1927 and continues to expand as more speech and hearing loss organizations join the council.



## First SAHP Student Association Developed and Officers Elected

For the first time in SAHP history, a Student Association, called SAHPSA (School of Allied Health Professions Student Association), has been officially developed with the help of Marketing Director, Chuck Dart, and student events coordinator, Karen Westphal. Students have been in deliberation concerning a Constitution and Bylaws since the first week of the 2008 winter quarter. On Thursday, May 22, five students engaged in a lunch-time debate for five positions in the Association. This event was cleverly named "Pancake and Debate" and lunch was, of course, pancakes. The new SAHPSA officers for the 2009 school year are as follows: President - Jorge Romo (Respiratory Care), Financial Vice-President - Jamie Venegas (Respiratory Care), Community Service Vice-President - Abigail Moss (Clinical Laboratory Science), Spiritual Life Vice-President - Jennifer Brucks (Speech Language Pathology), Social Life Vice-President - Peterson Le (Respiratory Care).



SAHPSA Constitution & Bylaws Committee

## SAHP Hosts 12th Annual Homecoming Weekend

As many as 200 individuals were on hand to attend a variety of continuing education courses and special homecoming events over the weekend of April 17-19, 2008. The weekend events began with a lunch provided for all paying registrants of the CE courses as a gift from SAHP dean Craig Jackson, JD, MSW. On Friday evening, the SAHP Worship and Praise Vespers took place, featuring music by the RE:Live Praise team, a message by David Taylor, PhD, LLU School of Religion, and a special global outreach presentation by physical therapy graduates Calvin and Cheryl Hartman.

On Saturday, April 19, at both LLU Church services and at the main Sabbath School, SAHP was prominently featured. The Sabbath school program honored the 100th anniversary of nutrition and dietetics at LLU. The annual Potluck on the Hill was held on Sabbath afternoon, followed by a tour of the Centennial Complex led by the office of philanthropy and Dean Jackson.

The final event was held on Saturday evening where more than 150 guests attended the 12th Annual Alumni Recognition Banquet, located in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center. The evening highlighted the best of the School for the past, present, and future, while honoring distinguished alumni and current student leaders.

*Portions taken from the LLU Today  
May 12, 2008  
Larry Kidder, MA*

## 1 Current Student Awarded as a Rising Star

The Rising Star Award is given to a student who, by conduct and performance, shows promise of “brilliance” in the future. Cynthia Martinez is just such a star.



Cynthia entered the transitional master’s program with a bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of California, Riverside. Her academic record as a master’s student at LLU is exemplary, having earned a 4.0 GPA.

For Cynthia, academic excellence is not enough. Her commitment to the community shows in her service to her church, Wings of Eagles Christian Center, where she is community service coordinator, arranging and coordinating Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in the Riverside area and Valentine’s day visits to care facilities for the elderly. She participated in the December 2007 mission trip to Brazil through SIMS, volunteered with the Braille Institute for the Blind, volunteered at Riverside Community Hospital, and worked with Best Buddies, a volunteer support organization for individuals with Down’s Syndrome.

Cynthia’s interest in service to others has extended to serving as a page for the state convention in Long Beach, working as an aide, using ABA with children with Autism, and working one summer as an assistant, teaching daily living skills in a group home to adults with developmental disabilities.

Cynthia’s interest in Speech-Language Pathology begins at home. Cynthia taught her uncle, who has Down’s Syndrome, to communicate using a few manual signs. That began her passion for helping others communicate. Cynthia’s aspirations are to be well known for her contributions to the profession and for working with the Down’s Syndrome population. She plans to get her Ph.D. and open a private practice specializing in treatment for people with Down’s syndrome.

## 3 ALUM/STUDENT PROFILE: Mr. & Mrs. Pilgrim

Alumna, Marie Pilgrim (class of ‘96), and her husband, Jonathan, a current SLP student, joined the School of Allied Health at the Annual Awards Chapel on May 21, 2008. Jonathan received the E. Evelyn Britt Promising Student Award.

This school year, he gave up his elementary teaching job and decided to join the Speech Pathology program because of the impact the profession has had on his wife. “We are

## 2 Distinguished Alumnus Receives Award at Alumni Banquet

Gilbert Sissons, SLP (‘00) and his wife Melissa, RN (‘99) spent their first year after Gilbert’s graduation working and paying off their school debts. With their personal obligations met, they decided to go to the mission field for a year before settling down. That was almost seven years ago. They have “settled down” in the jungle of Guyana, South America, working as self-supporting missionaries with David Gates’ group, Guyana Medical Aviation Service.



The first couple of years in Guyana, Gilbert and Melissa lived in the village of Kimbia. Their home was a shed with no electricity or running water. It also served as the first health clinic. Gilbert built a medical clinic for Melissa’s work as well as a dental clinic and other buildings. It was in Kimbia where Gilbert and Melissa first dreamed of founding a school for medical mission workers. There are two jungle academies in Guyana. Both schools had graduating high school seniors who wanted to be missionaries but had no place to go for their training.

Gilbert and Melissa began searching for a place to build a school to meet that need. The village of Bethany, located in the North-West portion of Guyana, was selected. They were welcomed by the local villagers who gave them 60 acres of raw jungle for their school. Bethany Medical Missionary College was born but there was a lot of work to be done.

Now, the school offers a one-year training program in the principles of healthful living, first aid, and natural remedies. Students study the Bible and learn how to share the gospel. Their first class of 12 students graduated in June 2006. The Minister of Education came into the jungle to attend the first Bethany graduation. He told Gilbert that the students had passed the government’s health worker test with flying colors...in fact better than some of the RN students from the only college in Guyana!

Gilbert and Melissa feel that they are making a difference. To quote Gilbert, “We are changing Guyana one student at a time! I love working for the Lord.”

so thankful that she sent us such an excellent student. It is obvious she fully supports him in every way,” says Kay Khoo, Department Chair.



# STAY CONNECTED...ONLINE!

We would love to hear about what's happening in your life.  
Email photos and information to [jpruehs@llu.edu](mailto:jpruehs@llu.edu).

Update your personal information online  
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Stay Connected. To get there quickly, here's your link:  
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Loma Linda University  
Office of the Dean  
School of Allied Health Professions  
11234 Anderson Street  
Loma Linda, CA 92354

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Loma Linda  
University  
Loma Linda, CA

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