

SUMMER 2021 | VOLUME 13

the CAPSULE



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
School of Pharmacy

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

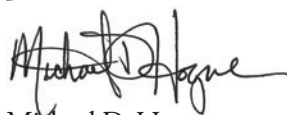
A S I'M WRITING THIS YEAR'S MESSAGE for *The Capsule*, the world is re-opening after 15 months of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The optimism about the future is almost palpable as we begin again to gather together on campus, with our families, and with friends.

We at the LLU School of Pharmacy have much to be optimistic about! In 2022, the school will celebrate 20 years of pharmacy education! Coming off of a successful eight-year accreditation reaffirmation from ACPE, we are a mature pharmacy program with outstanding outcomes evidenced in our board pass rates and the success of our graduates. To keep that edge of excellence, the faculty and staff will engage in a process of curricular renewal beginning in August. Our plan is to move to a competency-based curriculum, a new approach to teaching and learning implemented most recently by LLU's School of Medicine. This curriculum will allow us to be nimble, ensure our students are prepared with cutting-edge knowledge and skills for a future of patient care, and bring our schedules more in line with others on campus to optimize interprofessional learning. We will be calling on alumni, preceptors, and current students to give us feedback along the way as we plan forward for this new approach.

It's also become very clear that today's student desires pathways to differentiation of their degree and opportunities to pursue their interests. As a result, we're expanding our dual degree and certificate program options. We now offer dual degrees in Bioethics, Health Professions Education, and Health Informatics, and we plan to roll out a new dual degree in Health Administration (MHA) and Public Health (MPH) with the LLU School of Public Health. Additionally, we are exploring certificate programs in entrepreneurship/business, pharmacogenomics, and nuclear medicine.

Finally, we are excited about the increasing prominence of our outstanding faculty! LLUSP faculty have recently been granted two patents, have published dozens of new manuscripts in highly regarded international journals, and have held prominent leadership positions in CPhA, CSHP, ASHP, APhA, and AACP.

Please join us for our Homecoming in Spring 2022, and stay in touch – I'd love to visit your practice and see firsthand the great work you are doing to advance patient care!



Michael D. Hogue,
PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP



the **CAPSULE**

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Michael Hogue, Dean

EDITOR
Jen Mathew

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Ellen Musselman

PHOTOGRAPHY
Art Kroetz
Natan Vigna
Chet Williams

CONTRIBUTORS
Jacinda Abuld-Mutakabbir
Jessica Gray
Jen Mathew
DJ Potts

CONTACT US

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SHRYOCK HALL
24745 Stewart Street
Loma Linda, CA 92350

PHONE
909-558-1300

pharmacy.llu.edu



FOR QUESTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS,
OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

pharmacyalumni@llu.edu

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SUMMER 2021



LLUSP alum Dr. Amy Reese (Class of 2019) supervises as student Jenny Park prepares a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

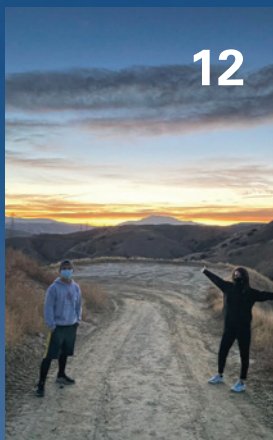


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SO, THAT JUST HAPPENED...

This past school year was *different*, you could say. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted so much of what we at the School of Pharmacy do and how we do it. But it didn't stop us. Learning, serving and connecting still happened. And amazingly, valuable, new experiences for all of us happened, too.

Coming in Handy for Loma Linda University

During a national shortage of cleaning supplies, the School of Pharmacy stepped in to make sure everyone at Loma Linda University had access to hand sanitizer.

Spearheaded by Dean Michael Hogue, the effort proved a valuable experience for participants and an essential way to help the entire University. The School followed the United States Pharmacopeia and FDA approved formulas to purchase ingredients. Then, under the supervision of Professor Victoria Maskiewicz and Laboratory Manager Sara Solak, LLUSP students, staff and faculty volunteers worked together in the lab of Shryock Hall each Wednesday for several weeks to create the solution. Once made, bottles of the hand sanitizer were distributed to other schools across campus.



MASKING, DISTANCING, ZOOMING AND MORE ZOOMING

After an initial “baptism by fire” experience with online instruction in the spring of 2020, students and faculty became more familiar and comfortable with Zoom technology during the 2020-2021 academic year. For several weeks at the start of the school year, students were allowed to attend classes on campus, albeit with limited seats available to the first 25 students who signed up. Eventually, however, the San Bernardino County Health Department notified Loma Linda University that classes and meetings must be conducted entirely online, and that is how they remained until Commencement. Faculty and students found creative ways to give lectures and host meetings, competitions, and awards ceremonies virtually. Only exams were held on campus, which required the checking of student temperatures, separating each class into different classrooms to allow for social distancing, and spraying down tables with disinfectant after each test. But after time and with *most* of the kinks worked out, the processes for teaching, learning and meeting online as well as for socially distanced testing became regular practices. Still, we look forward to returning to the good old days of in-person instruction, face-to-face meetings and conversations, and on-campus events.



Serving the Community by Providing Vaccinations

As President of the American Pharmacists Association and a member of the COVID-19 vaccination workgroup for the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, LLUSP Dean Michael Hogue gained unique insights into the vaccine and what it would take to get immunization shots into the arms of Americans. He saw early on the need for LLUH to provide vaccinations to members of our community. Collaborating with all eight schools, he organized efforts to turn the Drayson Center gym into an enormous vaccination clinic. Drawing from alumni, students, current and retired healthcare workers, and university staff, the team developed a network of volunteers. Soon, the clinic became one of the top private vaccination sites in California and was honored with a visit from California governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. congressman Pete Aguilar, and state assemblyman James Ramos. By the time the clinic closed its doors to the public at the end of May, over 140,000 vaccine doses had been administered.



Giving Equal Access to Vaccinations through Mobile Clinics

In the U.S., non-Hispanic Black and Latino/LatinX individuals are disproportionately represented amongst COVID-19 mortalities. The COVID-19 vaccines held promise for changing this outcome, but there has been a perpetual disproportionate representation in Black and Latino/LatinX vaccinees. This was apparent at the LLUH Drayson Center clinic, where only 3% and 28% of vaccinees were Black or Latino/LatinX, respectively, in a county with a very significant number of inhabitants from both groups. LLUH administrators and clinicians developed an approach to increase COVID-19 vaccinations specifically among these populations. They engaged faith leaders to help with disseminating COVID-19 health information, ensured that healthcare volunteers represented

the cultures they would educate and serve, and conducted "low barrier" vaccination clinics within targeted Black communities around the Inland Empire. Dr. Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir, LLUSP Assistant Professor of Critical Care – Infectious Disease Pharmacy, served as the lead clinician and lead pharmacist at these clinics. Through the effort, 2,124 people (38% Black and 54% Latino/LatinX) were immunized, allowing for the overrepresentation of these two groups at a vaccine clinic.



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NOW OFFERS THREE DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS TO COMPLEMENT STUDENTS' PharmD DEGREES.

Enhance your pharmacy career.

Masters programs that complement your PharmD degree:

Masters of Science Health Professions Education

- » Two - year program with the School of Allied Health Professions
- » For students interested in academic administration/teaching

Job Opportunities

- » Faculty member at a college of pharmacy
- » Continuing education program writer
- » Medical communications company
- » Pharmaceutical industry
- » Consumer education company
- » Food and Drug Administration/ consumer and provider education
- » Corporate education coordinator for a health-system or large chain pharmacy organization

Masters of Science Health Informatics

- » Two - year program with the School of Allied Health Professions
- » For students interested in being healthcare pharmaceutical ethicists

Job Opportunities

- » Health informatics pharmacist in a health system
- » Managed care pharmacist
- » Pharmaceutical industry analytics
- » Health technology companies
- » Food and Drug Administration
- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- » Corporate quality assurance for community pharmacy practice

Masters of Science Bioethics

- » Two - year program with the School of Religion
- » For students interested in streamlining patient care and outcomes while enhancing efficiency and accuracy in the administration of medications

Job Opportunities

- » Hospital/health-systems bioethics coordinator
- » Pharmaceutical industry, government
- » Teaching pharmacy and healthcare ethics in a school of pharmacy/medicine/nursing
- » Legal consulting with law firms on ethics matters
- » Executive director of a state board of pharmacy/regulatory agency

MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.

A Seventh-day Adventist Organization
Pharmacy.llu.edu



To Ensure Institutional Mission and Values, LLUSP Initiates “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee”

By Jen Mathew, MA

After the killings of Ahmad Mabry and George Floyd in the spring and early summer of 2020, School of Pharmacy Dean Michael Hogue was impressed to “listen, learn and take action” in order to acknowledge the hurt many Black students, staff, and faculty felt and move toward a more empathetic, safe, and fair atmosphere for everyone. After listening to the stories and advice of several students, alumni, and colleagues, Dr. Hogue called for the formation of LLUSP’s new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

Dr. Hogue asked Dr. Willie Davis, Assistant Dean of Academic Success, to chair the committee whose mission is to provide administrators with suggestions and actionable items that will help remove barriers to learning and improve the climate and learning environment of the School.

Dr. Davis hopes that leading the Committee will be a part of his legacy at LLUSP. “I’m so proud to be a part of this school. And to make it even better, to help us truly live out our mission and improve our educational process—this is the lasting imprint I want to leave here.”

The initiation and implementation of the DEI Committee is, in fact, a part of the School’s strategic plan towards program improvement by supporting *all* students’ learning and well-being. Dr. Davis maintains that the success of students ensures the success of the School.

So that multiple perspectives and backgrounds are represented on the committee, Dr. Davis reached out to stakeholders of different ethnicities, ages, genders, and religious affiliations. Committee members include LLUSP faculty, staff, alumni, and administrators.

Already, the Committee has precipitated events and changes.

Consultant Vibhuti Arya, PharmD, MPH, along with Dr. Davis, conducted diversity training for incoming PY1 students during orientation in the fall of 2020. Dr. Arya also facilitated conversations around structural racism and bias during LLUSP faculty and staff meetings. After completing a diversity, equity and inclusion climate survey, employees reviewed and discussed the findings.

Thanks in part to the formation

of the DEI Committee, LLUSP received a financial award from Walgreens’ Diversity Donation program. After Walgreens noted the School’s commitment to creating a diverse student population and a culture of inclusivity, the corporation made LLUSP one of 126 pharmacy programs across the nation to receive a portion of its \$850,000 set aside for student scholarships. On top of this, Walgreens donated extra funds for discretionary spending, which will help the DEI Committee to accomplish its actionable items.

Dr. Hogue believes establishing the committee was essential. “It is a critical first step in what will be a process including multiple initiatives and activities to institute meaningful change leading to progress. In order to “Continue the Teaching and Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ,” we must make improvements in how we treat each other – whether students, faculty, staff or preceptors. This means that individually we must all commit to doing our part to ensure that equity and inclusion is evident in our personal actions and interactions so that it is then a part of the fabric of our school.”



Left to Right: Dr. Jody Gonzalez, Ms. Nelky Rodriguez, Ms. Brittany Hanna (Class of 2023), Dr. Willie David (Chair), Ms. Amanda Limonius, Dr. Alan Connelly, Dr. Farnoosh Zough, Mr. Terry Williams (Class of 2022), Dr. Kathryn Knecht, Ms. Marwa Sara (Class of 2023). Not pictured: Dr. Vanessa Ardon (Class of 2014), Dr. Chase Bui (Class of 2008), Dr. Robert Chiles (Class of 2018) and Dr. Jessa Koch.

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy earns full reaccreditation from ACPE

By DonaJayne Potts, MBA

The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree program at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) received eight years of continued accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the national accreditation agency of professional pharmacy degree programs recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. ACPE also accredits providers of continuing professional education for pharmacists.

Of the 15 pharmacy schools in the state of California, 13 hold accredited status in 2021, according to ACPE's website.

Accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy provides a national basis for quality assurance. For the profession, accreditation provides a means for practitioners to participate in setting of requirements for preparation to enter the profession. It also assures improvement in the professional services available to the general public since accredited programs are expected to periodically modify their requirements to reflect advances in knowledge and practice.

Michael Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP, dean of the School of Pharmacy at LLU, said the accreditation process is a healthy method of identifying areas of improvement



within a program and highlighting its strengths. "We are committed to continuous quality improvements in our curriculum as new information related to pharmacy comes into focus, and we are proud that the ACPE recognized that our efforts were worthy of a full eight-year term of accreditation," he said.

The class of 2020 earned a pass rate score of 87.5 percent on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX), which is in line with both state and national score averages of 87 percent, according to Hogue.

Evaluation for the accreditation included a virtual, two-day site visit during the second week of November 2020 and was conducted by an ACPE-trained five-member team.

Following the virtual visit, ACPE's Board of Directors determined that LLUSP's program meets the expectations of all 25 standards of ACPE accreditation.

LLUSP Hosts 2020 Southern California Residency Showcase

By Jessica Gray, BA

In September 2020, Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) volunteered as the lead organizer for the Southern California Pharmacy Residency Showcase. Staff in the Office of Experiential Education were tasked with coordinating the event. Though they originally intended to host the event on campus, plans quickly changed in the spring due to COVID-19

quarantine and social distancing protocols. Rather than cancel the showcase, staff members worked diligently to find an online platform which would not only be capable of hosting a large number of students and residency programs but still offer an experience that would feel rewarding and socially connecting during a time of distancing.

Nearly 3,700 virtual one-on-one chats occurred using the Brazen virtual platform. With 947 registered

students and 462 residency program representatives participating during the two-day event, just over 1,400 people, from the University of Southern California to the University of San Diego, were able to participate from their own, safe sites. Hosting this sizable virtual event did come with technological challenges, but the event's accessibility to all participants—no matter the program or student's geographic location—made this an overwhelmingly successful event.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD— KIRSTEN VYHMEISTER

Although an astounding number of Kirsten Vyhmeister's relatives graduated as physicians from Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Medicine, Kirsten found herself far more interested in pharmaceutical intervention and public health. After discussing career options with several doctors and professors, Kirsten ultimately chose to pursue a degree in pharmacy. Following graduation from Willamette University with a B.A. in Biology, Kirsten chose the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) to pursue her Doctorate of Pharmacy. During her time in pharmacy school, Kirsten demonstrated superior scholastic performance and commitment to serving her fellow students and her community.

Throughout her time in pharmacy school, Kirsten maintained an exceptional GPA and earned multiple scholarships, including the Dean's Merit Scholarship and Stephen Chan Memorial Scholarship in 2019 as well as the LLUMC Hospital Practice Scholarship this year.

While studying, Kirsten also managed to engage in a number of extra-curricular activities. She was accepted into Rho Chi, the international honor society for pharmaceutical sciences; through the

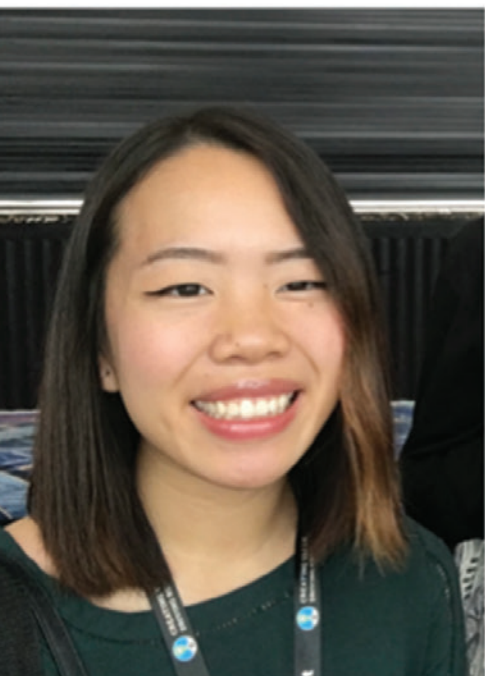
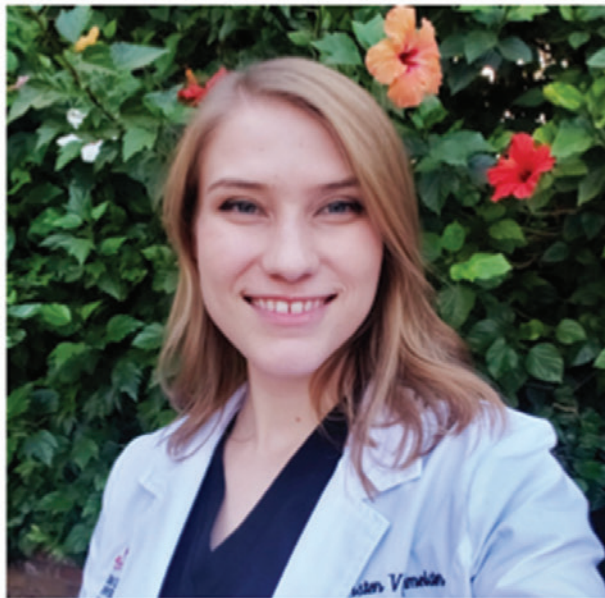
organization, she served as a tutor to other students and as president of the LLUSP chapter during the 2019-2020 academic year. In addition, she worked as Curriculum Vitae Coordinator for two years in LLUSP's Phi Lambda Sigma chapter and Director of Membership for the local CSHP/ASHP organization for one year.

Besides earning a reputation for academic achievement, Kirsten is also known to be exceptionally kind-hearted, helpful, and supportive of her classmates, community, and the pharmacy program. Using her exceptional musical talents, Kirsten volunteered in her first year of pharmacy school to help with Community Kids Connection (CKC) Music and remained a volunteer all four years at LLUSP, taking on numerous responsibilities and leadership roles. Even

during exam week, Kirsten never skipped a meeting. She served as a representative to the University's CAPS (Community-Academic Partners in Service) and soon was referred to as "that rock star volunteer in pharmacy." Kirsten also became one of LLUSP's first Student Ambassadors, a group dedicated to representing and supporting the School. To her classmates, Kirsten is a team-player, an encourager, and the "Self-Care Fairy."

Loma Linda University and Medical Center are pleased that Kirsten will remain with the institution for another year to complete a PGY1 pharmacy residency. In recognition of her academic accomplishments and faithful commitment to her community, fellow students and school, Kirsten Vyhmeister is this year's recipient of the President's Award.







WHO ARE THE LLUSP STUDENT AMBASSADORS?

Fundamentally, LLUSP's Ambassadors are caring students who follow through on ideas. They are passionate about LLUSP's program and want to promote the school and support its growth. Ambassadors are enthusiastic and responsible leaders and achievers who value sympathy, generosity, friendliness, and positivity.

Students must earn a 3.0 GPA or higher and submit an application and two letters of recommendation from LLUSP faculty members in order to be considered for the Ambassadors program. In addition, they must demonstrate exemplary communication, organization, and people skills.

Once accepted into the program, Ambassadors volunteer for a number of responsibilities including making calls during the University's phone-a-thon, assisting with recruiting events, providing social media content and input, helping with Homecoming duties, planning fundraising event, and organizing class gifts.

In addition to the personal satisfaction and fun students experience during events and while giving back to the School, Ambassadors also receive the benefits of networking opportunities, additional volunteer work on their resumes and LLU Experience transcripts, appreciation gifts, and an exclusive dinner at Dean Hogue's house at the end of every academic year.

For LLUSP and its Student Ambassadors, it's a win-win relationship!

ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WALK THE WALK TO SUPPORT STUDENTS IN NEED

By Jen Mathew, MA



“Little by little, one walks far.”

–Peruvian Proverb

Proving compassion, humility, teamwork, and wholeness are not only expressed ideals but true core values, LLUSP students, faculty, staff and alumni walked and worked together to raise money for pharmacy students who find themselves in dire financial circumstances.

After learning that, on occasion, students in the pharmacy program have experienced financial losses leading to homelessness and difficulty buying food, LLUSP’s Student Ambassadors planned a school-wide walk-a-thon fundraising event lasting two weeks in January to support the school’s Student Emergency Relief Fund, a new endowment specifically for students with unexpected, urgent financial needs.

For Jessica Trinh, a PY3 Student Ambassador, the walk-a-thon was particularly meaningful:

“Coming from a low-income family myself, I understand the struggles of making ends meet and that graduate school is a privilege. Being involved in a community effort to not only support these students but bring awareness to the issue is what made this event so important to me. The success of the walk-a-thon showed how much LLUSP faculty and staff care for their students as well as how much the students care for each other. I’m proud to have been part of the planning process, and I’m looking forward to what we can achieve next year!”

The event required participants to form teams of five, with each walker donating ten dollars to register. Walkers were further

encouraged to solicit sponsors or additional donors to build team fundraising totals. Due to Covid-19 social-distancing requirements, the walk-a-thon was a perfect way to bring people together in spirit to work towards a common, worthy goal.

In total, 45 walkers joined nine teams and, collectively, walked nearly 2,200 miles! Leading the pack in mileage was LLUSP Assistant Professor Dr. C J Jacobson (also an alum from the LLUSP Class of 2015), who alone logged 178 miles.

Having never hosted a school-wide fundraising event like this before, and with no precedent to inform goal-setting, event organizers established an arbitrary objective of raising \$2,000. However, in true LLUSP fashion, participants went above and beyond and raised \$4,950 instead!

A good portion of the money came from registration fees, but most of the funds raised were graciously donated from alumni, faculty, staff, friends and family. For this, the school is extremely grateful.

After the event concluded, Student Ambassadors hosted a virtual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding performances. Teams won gift cards and LLUSP apparel in the categories of Most Miles Walked, Most Money Raised, Best Team Name, Best Team Effort, and Best Team Spirit. But the real winners are students who now know there are funds to draw from when they need some extra help to keep moving forward.



Dr. Jody Gonzalez Wins LLUSP Awards in Two Categories

This spring, Assistant Professor Jody Gonzalez, PharmD, MSG, BCGP, BCACP, APH was honored with two prestigious awards from the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP). She was named “Faculty of the Year” and earned the “Distinguished Service Award.”

LLUSP’s most highly esteemed honor for its faculty members is the Faculty of the Year award. Faculty are nominated by their own peers based upon several factors including collegiality, excellence in teaching, and scholarly involvement. For her excellence in all of these areas, Dr. Gonzalez was recognized by her colleagues at the end of an exceptionally challenging year.

Dr. Gonzalez teaches LLUSP’s introduction to disease management, endocrinology, and special populations courses. She also practices internal and preventative medicine at the Loma Linda University Health Faculty Medical Group and travel medicine at the student health department on the university campus.

Dr. Gonzalez felt drawn to academia as a pharmacy student but intended to work in clinical pharmacy practice first and then move into teaching. However, it was her interview at LLUSP that ignited her passion for teaching and is one of the primary reasons she decided to enter academia right after finishing residency. Says Gonzalez, “I chose academia in order to help train upcoming students in the profession. My favorite part of teaching pharmacy practice is having students on APPE rotation, which truly allows me to foster relationships with students and aid them in their professional development.”

In addition to her teaching and practice site responsibilities, Dr. Gonzalez worked tirelessly to coordinate campus-wide influenza vaccinations in collaboration with employee and student health services during the fall of 2020. A few months later, she served as the School of Pharmacy liaison for scheduling volunteers to assist with the campus-wide COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

“The vaccine clinic required a lot of work and organization,” says Gonzalez. “The success of the clinics was largely in part to everyone—faculty, staff, students, and preceptors— working together to vaccinate not only our campus but also the community. There were definitely a lot of moving pieces that had to be addressed to keep the vaccination clinics running smoothly. But I was motivated by the impact of vaccines on reducing the rate of infection, especially as I heard stories of how COVID-19 had impacted our guests.”

For her significant time and attention given to the Loma Linda University campus community, Dr. Gonzalez was awarded the school’s Distinguished Service Award.

LLUSP Dean Michael Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP affirms the award winner selected by faculty. “Dr. Gonzalez is a tremendous collaborator across our School and University. Her colleagues clearly appreciate Dr. Gonzalez and value her greatly for her contributions to the school.”

This PharmD Is On Fire!

By Jen
Mathew, MA



In the first three months of 2021, LLUSP pharmacy practice faculty member Caroline Sierra, PharmD, BCPPS was voted President-Elect of Inland Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHP), named Pharmacist of the Year by the same organization, and appointed as a member of the Council on Education and Workforce Development for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

After joining ISHP in 2014, Dr. Sierra served as New Practitioner Chair, Continuing Education Chair, Industry Liaison and Chapter Delegate. Her term as president-elect began in March, and the next 12 months will prepare her for her role as President of ISHP the following year.

At her induction as president-elect, Dr. Sierra was also recognized as Pharmacist of the Year for the ISHP chapter.

A week later, the president-elect for ASHP asked Dr. Sierra to join the organization's Education and Workforce Development Council. The group is responsible for creating and upholding policies related to the quality and quantity of pharmacy practitioners, including students and postgraduate education, credentialing, development of technicians, and other matters. The appointment follows several other leadership roles Dr. Sierra has served in the organization.

"I am delighted to serve my profession as ISHP's President-Elect and as a council member for ASHP," says Dr. Sierra. "I hope to continue the education and community engagement established by the organizations' leadership. I am also honored to be selected as ISHP's Pharmacist of the Year and will to continue to serve the organization and the profession of pharmacy well in the coming years."

**In the midst of a pandemic,
LLUSP students told us
what made them smile.**

WHAT MADE YOU

Smile

Dr. JAM's
Mobile Clinics!

Getting a job, having
the time to be out-
side in the sun, and
getting the stimulus!

THIS YEAR?

The love of my life proposed to me at the
start of the new year in the most romantic
way possible to surprise me <3! I also got to
meet so many new and amazing people in my
journey of starting a new school.

Participating at events
and getting to see my
classmates in person

Making new
friends at LLU,
attending class in
PJs, seeing the
profession come
together during
the pandemic

Being able to wear
the same outfit for
a week because
Zoom university

The few times I got to
go on campus and see
my friends and peers
after such a long time of
not seeing them :)

Being able to go
outside and take
pictures again after
seven months

Finally having
the vaccine,
friendships that
have made it
through COVID,
cooking, and my
relationship :)

Working with CVS,
my dogs Brutus and
Simba (let me know
if you need some
cute pics!), my soul-
mate Chris and my
nephew David

NEW FACULTY



JACINDA C. ABDUL-MUTAKABBIR, PHARM.D, AAHIVP

Jacinda C. Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD, AAHIVP joined the LLUSP pharmacy and faculty in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the summer of 2020. She and her husband moved to

Loma Linda in July, and in August, she began coordinating the school's Respiratory and Renal Diseases therapeutics course.

Dr. Abdul-Mutakabbir completed her Doctorate in Pharmacy at the University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy, an accelerated three-year pharmacy program located in Hartford, CT. Following pharmacy school, she completed her pharmacy residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. She also completed an Infectious Disease Pharmacokinetics/ Pharmacodynamics (PK/PD) Research Fellowship and went on to earn a Masters of Public Health at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. As an emerging practitioner, Dr. Abdul-Mutakabbir's primary research interests include translating her in vitro research and focusing on multidrug-resistant bacteria to improve patient treatment strategies in vivo. Her dedication to

improving public health has been recognized by the United States Public Health Services, as she was the 2017 recipient of the USPHS Outstanding Service Award. Additionally, for her research she was named by the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as one of their 30 under 30 outstanding young scientists at the ECCMID 2021 31st annual meeting. She continues to be an active member of several professional organizations including the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), American Society of Microbiology (ASM), and the Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists (SIDP).

DR. IKE DELA PENA, TIKTOK SENSATION

Looking for a tool to help students remember basic pharmacology for the top 200 drugs and for a method of integrating faith and learning, Ike dela Pena, PhD created a TikTok account and began creating short, informative videos under the name "Drugs and Bible Verses."

After watching an Adventist World Radio panel discussion about 'digital evangelism,' dela Pena says he was inspired to become a digital evangelist. "I try my best to represent Jesus in whatever I do. I see to it that I'm collegial to my co-workers and fair and compassionate to my students. I tell my students that I pray for them and that God cares for them. But still, I think to myself, *maybe I can do more to represent Christ here on Earth.*"

Dr. dela Pena uploaded his first video on February 6th this year. To his amazement, many people liked his content and began following his account. He now has 12,800 followers. Some are college students who have asked him about the profession of pharmacy. ("Of course," he says, "I always recommend LLUSP if they ask about pharmacy schools!")

His most-watched video, "Drug #11, Sertraline: Zoloft" was viewed over 260K times in less than a month. Check out all 25 of Dr. dela Pena's videos on TikTok to connect your drug knowledge with scripture.





FACULTY MEMBER AWARDED MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO HELP PATIENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES

By Jen Mathew, MA

Huy Le, PharmD, Medication Safety/Pharmacy Quality Management Coordinator at Loma Linda Medical Center and member of the LLUSP faculty, received a grant of approximately four million dollars from Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) to work on pharmacy medications for patients within the Loma Linda University Health system with mental health illness diagnoses. The grant is a part of the Behavioral Health Integration Incentive Program within California's Department of Health Care Services.

Over the next two years, funds from the grant will be provided quarterly to support four initiatives:

1. Managing medications for beneficiaries with co-occurring chronic medical and behavioral diagnoses
2. Providing diabetes screening and treatment for people with serious mental illness
3. Improving follow-up care after hospitalization for mental illness
4. Improving follow-up care after emergency department visits

Already, Dr. Le has rented office space in Loma Linda for the Behavioral Health Pharmacy Clinic where pharmacists and technicians are screening, interviewing, and consulting patients.

In addition to her work at the medical center, Dr. Le teaches LLUSP's Medication Safety course and serves as the director of the PGY2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy Pharmacy Residency program. "I try to live by the words of Harriet Jackson Brown, Jr.—that 'life doesn't require us to be the best, only that we try our best,'" she reflects. "This grant is an example of always doing my best, and the results are super rewarding."

During the first half of the grant application process, Dr. Le was assisted by Dr. Kevin Mai, a PGY2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy Pharmacy resident at the time. Dr. Le then completed the remainder of the project

on her own, with approvals from Dr. Norm Hamada, Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services, and Dr. Antony Gobin, Executive Director of Pharmacy Services at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"You would think Huy wouldn't surprise me, considering all she's accomplished, but she continues to impress everyone," says Dr. Gobin. "Whether it is running ultra marathons or applying for a grant, when she sets a goal for herself, she truly follows through. The funds from this grant will allow us to hire multiple pharmacists and technicians in order to dedicate resources to a problem within our community. I'm very fortunate to work with Huy."

"When [Huy] sets a goal for herself, she truly follows through."

2020-2021 FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

1. Khaled Bahjri, MD, DrPH, MPH received the “Teacher of the Year” award from the class of 2024. Additionally, since July 2020, he has published seven articles in peer-reviewed journals and served as a reviewer for the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*.

2. Ike dela Pena, PhD published four research articles in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, *Brain Sciences*, and the *European Journal of Pharmacology*. He spoke at a scientific virtual meeting for Tulane University. In addition, he served as a New Investigator Award grant reviewer for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and abstract judge for the 2020 and 2021 AACP and American Pharmacists Association conferences.

3. Paul Gavaza, PhD published two manuscripts in the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* (JAPhA), one article each in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (AJPE), *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* (RSAP) and *Journal of the California Dental Association*. He was also accepted to the AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program (2021 - 2022 cohort). He serves as an International Services Program Evaluator for ACPE as well as a Faculty Scholar at the LLUH’s Institute of Health Policy and Leadership (IHPL).

4. Victoria Maskiewicz, PhD published two articles. The first, a collaborative effort with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at LLU, was in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Research* titled “Novel Microcomposite Implant for the Controlled Delivery of Antibiotics in the Treatment of Osteomyelitis Following Total Joint Replacement.” The second, a collaborative effort with

the Pharmacy Department of LLUMC, was in the *European Journal of Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics* and titled “Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of High-Dose Piperacillin-Tazobactam in Obese Patients.”

5. Aimable Ngendahimana, PhD was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for his newly developed blood-brain barrier cell culture models. The patented cell-culture method may be used to discover drug formulations with potential to overcome the human blood-brain barrier in the ongoing battle to develop and treat various brain illnesses.

6. Wei-Xing Shi, PhD published two original research articles in *Addiction Biology* and *European Journal of Pharmacology*, respectively, and one review paper in *Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

7. Kyle Sousa, PhD published the manuscript “Vertical sleeve gastrectomy confers metabolic improvements by reducing intestinal bile acids and lipid absorption in mice” in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Along with colleagues at City of Hope, he also serves as a Co-Investigator on the National Institutes of Health R01 grant entitled “Bile acids and metabolic surgery.” Lastly, Dr. Sousa was elected as the Chair-elect of the Administrative Services section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

8. Mike Tranter, PhD authored and published an Amazon bestselling book explaining how the brain works in a fun and simple way, using questions from the public to educate readers. “A Million Things To Ask A Neuroscientist – The Brain Made Easy” is also available at the LLU Campus Bookstore.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE

9. LLUSP Dean Michael Hogue, PharmD serves as Director of the Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice and leads LLUH's COVID-19 vaccine efforts. He published three collaborative manuscripts, one in *Lancet Global Health*, and two in *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*. Dr. Hogue also finished his term as President of APhA.

10. Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP earned her Master's degree in Public Health in August 2020 and is a recent appointee of the Making a Difference in Infectious Diseases (MAD-ID) Scientific Committee. Since July 2020, she has published research articles in several peer-reviewed journals including *Pharmacotherapy*, *Antibiotics*, *Lancet*, *eClinicalMedicine* published by *Lancet*, and *Antimicrobial Agents of Chemotherapy*. She is also a recipient of a 2021 LLUSP Golden Brick Award.

11. Alireza FakhriRavari, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP received the LLUSP Junior Faculty of the Year Award as well as the Teacher of the Year Award for the Class of 2021. He also served on the ACCP's Infectious Diseases-Practice and Research Network Award Committee. He presented two posters at AACP's annual conference and a one-hour AACP-accredited continuing pharmacy education session entitled "Outpatient and Inpatient Treatment of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Adults."

12. Lisa Hong, PharmD, BCPS received the 2021 LLUSP Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award and earned an Interprofessional Education Collaborative Certificate of Achievement. She also obtained a \$5,000 grant to develop a consensus recommendation and published an article in *Clinical and Applied Thrombosis/Hemostasis*.

13. Christopher Jacobson, PharmD, BC-ADM received LLUSP's 2020 Community Service Award. In addition, he earned a dual appointment with the School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor. For the upcoming academic year, Dr. Jacobson has secured funding to initiate a pharmacy fellowship focused around diabetes management.

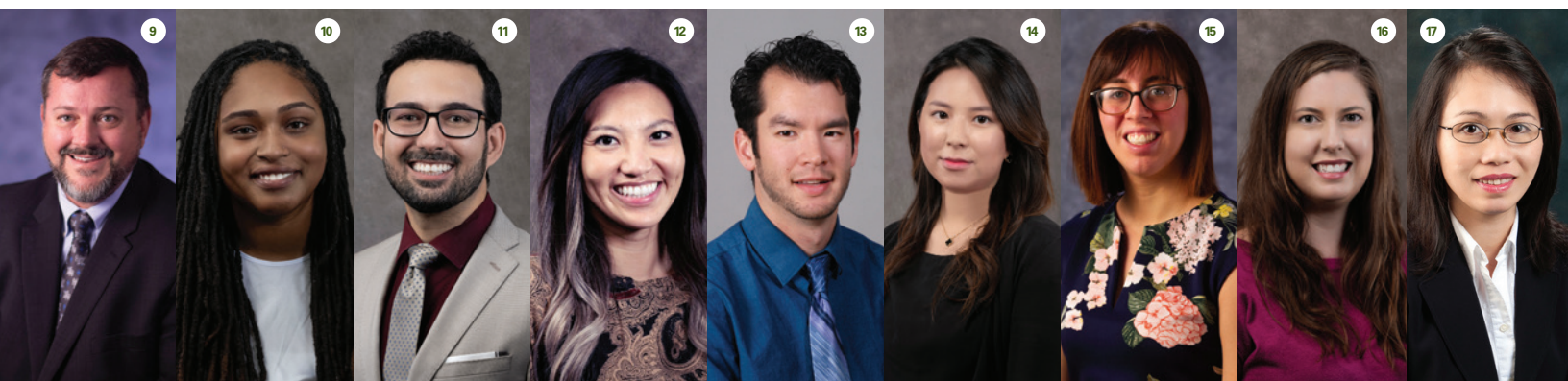
14. Soo Min Jang, PharmD, BCACP, APH is a recipient of LLU Grants for Research and School Partnerships for 2021. Since July 2020, she has also published research articles in the peer-reviewed journals *Seminars in Dialysis*, *Journal of American Pharmacists Association*, and *Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis*.

15. Jessa Koch, PharmD, BCPP in collaboration with Dr. Ike dela Pena (Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences), published the commentary "Teaching Intellectual Humility is Essential in Preparing Collaborative Future Pharmacists" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical*

Education. She also published the book chapter "Alcohol Use Disorder" in *Pharmacotherapy First*.

16. Caroline Sierra, PharmD, BCPPS published in the *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice*, *Pediatric Pulmonology*, and the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. She also provided continuing education at the Pediatric Pharmacy Association Fall Conference and the Pacific Coast Preceptors Conference. She was recently named Pharmacist of the Year by the Inland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

17. Huyentran N. Tran, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP published the manuscript "Association of sacubitril/valsartan with metabolic parameters in patients with reduced ejection fraction heart failure at a multidisciplinary clinic" in *Metabolic Syndrome and Related Disorders*. Dr. Tran and LLUSP PGY2 Cardiology Resident, Dr. David Silva, PharmD, BCPS collaborated on an abstract regarding variability of time in therapeutic range surrounding federal holidays in patients anticoagulated on warfarin which was accepted to the American College of Cardiology Annual Meeting, Virtual Pharmacist Poster Session 2021. Additionally, she has been accepted to participate in the 2021 ACCP Foundation Mentored Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) Program at the University of Kentucky.



DR. SCOTT FITTER

VOTED LLUSP ALUMNI PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR

By Jen Mathew, MA

Students at LLUSP voted in the spring for their favorite pharmacy practice experience preceptors by completing evaluations of their rotations. In the category of alumni preceptors, Scott Fitter, PharmD, BCCCP, Class of 2015, received the highest scores on evaluations of the rotations he offered.

Dr. Fitter's practice site is the Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) Emergency Department, where he has mentored students since 2017. During rotations at this site, students are exposed to extreme cases of medical emergencies including trauma, cardiac, and cerebrovascular accidents. In these circumstances, the pharmacist's role is tremendously important to assure patients' home medication lists, emergency medications, allergy information, and transition therapeutic plans are precise and communicated in a timely manner.

"When I was a student at LLUSP, I was fortunate to work with many amazing preceptors in the classroom and on rotation," recalls Dr. Fitter. "Now, as a pharmacist, I view precepting as a way of paying back all those preceptors who helped me get to where I am today."

One of Dr. Fitter's favorite preceptors as a student was another LLUSP alum, Dr. Scott Glenny (Class of 2011). The two volunteered at a student-run health clinic in Riverside, and Dr. Fitter observed Dr. Glenny's dedication to teaching and giving back while maintaining

a busy work schedule. "I try to emulate that same passion today, even when work becomes chaotic," says Fitter.

Because Dr. Fitter works in the field of emergency medicine, he introduces students to a "non-traditional" pharmacy environment. There is often a steep learning curve, but he enjoys challenging students to think critically and apply information to each patient case. "I want to show students there is more to pharmacy than regurgitating information from LexiComp. I hope to inspire students to practice pharmacy at the top of their potential."

This challenge to students and expectation for high performance is what helped earn Dr. Fitter the "LLUSP Alumni Preceptor of the Year" award. Says the chair of LLUSP's Pharmacy Practice Department, Alireza Hayatshahi, PharmD, BCPS, APh: "Students wrote great comments on the rotation Dr. Fitter offered. They appreciated that he allowed them to be a part of the interdisciplinary team and engage with the therapeutic plans. He also included topic discussions and patient case presentations during their training time with him."

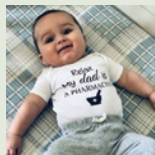
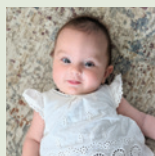
For Dr. Fitter, earning the award means he has helped create a positive experience in a unique pharmacy practice for which he is truly passionate. "I hope to pass this excitement for emergency medicine to all pharmacy students and residents whom I have the opportunity to precept."

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SHRYOCK HALL



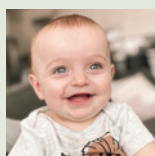
ALUMNI BABIES

**Maddox Carroll****Birth date:** October 12, 2020**Birth weight:** 8 lbs 7.5oz**Birth length:** 21 inches**Parents:** Monique and Andrew (Class of 2007) Carroll**Elyse Brielle Kinney****Birth date:** November 28, 2020**Birth weight:** 7 lbs.**Birth length:** 20.28 inches**Parents:** Justin (Class of 2014) and Brittany Kinney

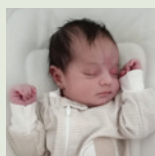
Elyse is a very happy baby who loves exploring, lounging in the pool, and licking everything she gets her hands on. She enjoys watching her puppy run around, and she sleeps like an angel.

**Winston Augustus Fogelquist (b. October 2017) & Penelope Rainier Fogelquist (b. May 2019)****Parents:** Shari (McClendon, Class of 2014) and Jeffrey Fogelquist

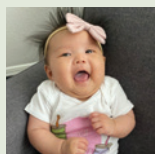
Every day is an adventure with Winston (3.5) and Penelope (2). They fill our lives with joy while discovering life's possibilities. We are honored that God chose us to be their parents.

**Ethan James Elmer Hollinghurst****Birth date:** July 4, 2020**Birth weight:** 8 lbs. 6 oz.**Birth length:** 20 inches**Parents:** Emily (Class of 2012) and Christopher Hollinghurst

Ethan has completed our little family of four. His current favorites are giggling and playing with big sister Eleanor, his play bongos, and listening to his mommy sing "You are my Sunshine!" He was born on his late great grandmother's birthday, Independence day, so he will always share a birthday with a special lady who looks down on him from Heaven.

**Nia Lily Suchak****Birth date:** February 13, 2021**Birth weight:** 7 lbs. 9 oz.**Birth length:** 20 inches**Parents:** Mohini (Patel, Class of 2013) and Shyam Suchak**Loveen Sophie Tadwalker****Birth date:** November 25, 2020**Birth weight:** 5 lbs. 15 oz.**Birth length:** 19 inches**Parents:** Tanya (Taefi, Class of 2009) and Rigved Tadwalker

We are blessed with the arrival of our baby girl, Loveen, and are overjoyed to be new parents! Looking forward to spending time as a family of three!

**Sophie Anne Tedjakesuma****Birth date:** March 21, 2021**Birth weight:** 7 lbs. 11 oz.**Birth length:** 20 inches**Parents:** Nicholas (Class of 2019) and Megan Tedjakesuma

We are very grateful for our first baby girl! What we quickly learned about being new parents: be ready for anything!



Devin Cohen wedding



Alex Taylor wedding

ALUMNI NOTES

Devin Cohen, PharmD (Class of 2020) was married on June 20, 2020. In summer 2021, he will complete the LLUSP-PPG Community Pharmacy Residency program. Presently, Dr. Cohen seeks to continue his career, working to increase clinical management of patients in the community setting.

Alex Taylor, PharmD, MSHI (Class of 2017) married Matthew Hesketh in September, 2020.

Jessica Kim, PharmD, BCPPS (Class of 2018) completed her PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy Residency at UC Davis Health last year and stayed on as a Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist. She currently works in specialty pharmacy with Pediatric Rheumatology and Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis.



LLUSP RECOGNIZES ITS 1000TH GRADUATE

After sixteen graduating classes, the LLU School of Pharmacy celebrated its 1000th graduated student at this year's drive-through commencement ceremony! It came as a surprise to Jonathan Mamahit, Class of 2021, who was honored as our milestone 1,000th graduate with an ornate lei made of ribbon and twenty-dollar bills. Mamahit took advantage of LLUSP's dual degree program. In addition to receiving his doctorate of pharmacy degree, he graduated with a master's of science degree in health informatics.

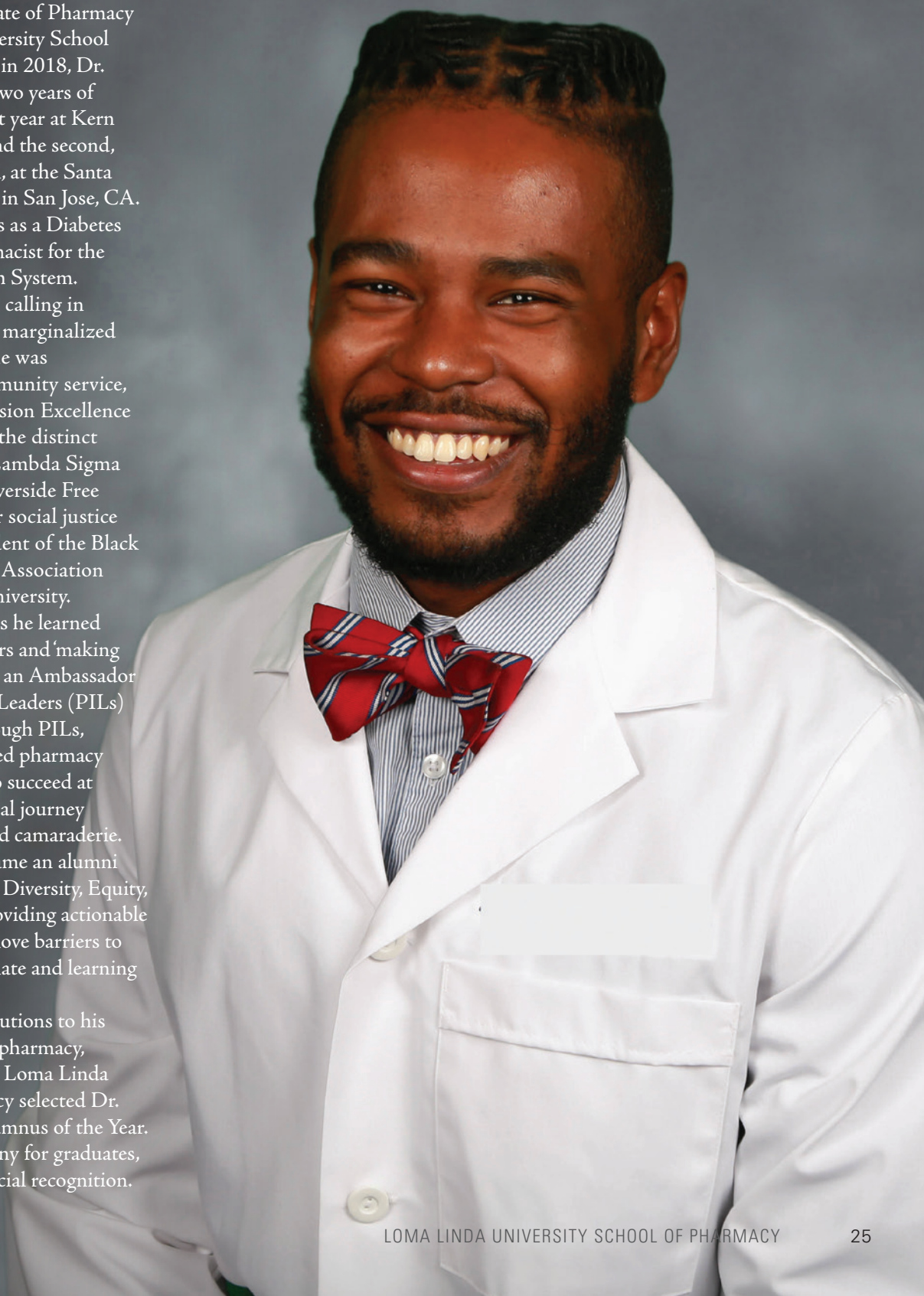
LLUSP ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR— **ROBERT D. CHILES, PharmD**

After earning his Doctorate of Pharmacy from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) in 2018, Dr. Robert D. Chiles completed two years of pharmacy residency—the first year at Kern Medical in Bakersfield, CA and the second, an Ambulatory Care program, at the Santa Clara County Health System in San Jose, CA. Currently, Dr. Chiles practices as a Diabetes Care Manager Clinical Pharmacist for the County of Santa Clara Health System.

Dr. Chiles believes that his calling in this world is serving those in marginalized communities. As a student, he was passionately involved in community service, earning him the LLUSP Mission Excellence Award in 2018. He also had the distinct honor of serving as the Phi Lambda Sigma Clinic Coordinator at the Riverside Free Clinic. Dr. Chiles' passion for social justice led him to become the President of the Black Health Professional Student Association (BHPSA) at Loma Linda University.

Carrying on the vital lessons he learned at LLUSP about serving others and 'making man whole,' Dr. Chiles is now an Ambassador with the Pharmacy Initiative Leaders (PILs) non-profit organization. Through PILs, he empowers underrepresented pharmacy students across the country to succeed at every stage of their professional journey through authentic support and camaraderie. Most recently, Dr. Chiles became an alumni representative on the LLUSP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, providing actionable suggestions that will help remove barriers to learning and improve the climate and learning environment at LLUSP.

For his outstanding contributions to his alma mater, the profession of pharmacy, and communities in need, the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy selected Dr. Robert Chiles as its 2021 Alumnus of the Year. During the Hooding Ceremony for graduates, he received his award and special recognition.



REPRESENT!

Now Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy alumni can officially weigh in and give their feedback on alumni relations. Representatives from each class were invited by Jen Mathew, Director of Alumni Affairs & Communications, to serve on the school's inaugural Alumni Advisory Committee.

When selecting alumni to serve on the committee, Mrs. Mathew says she kept a few things in mind. "I looked for those who had connected with the school in some way recently, whether it was through giving, precepting, attending an alumni event, or some other form of engagement. I also tried to make sure that our representatives were diverse, not only in ethnicity, but also in geographic location and current pharmacy practice."

After about a month of selections, invitations, and discussions, the committee membership was finalized. Twenty-four alumni agreed to serve as advisors. Specifically, representatives do the following:

- offer advice on alumni events
- assist with the planning of those events
- help with fundraising efforts for scholarships, mission trips, student emergency funds, etc.
- solicit input from other alumni
- provide updates on members of his/her class
- communicate information regarding school updates, needs and events to his/her former classmates

The commitment for each of the representatives is one year, which may subsequently "renew" if the alum is invited and interested. Since its inception last fall, the committee has met three times virtually.



For volunteering their time and insights, we say "THANK YOU!" to each member of the committee:

Dr. Nancy Chang (2006)
 Dr. Piala Styadi (2006)
 Dr. Suha Kilani (2008)
 Dr. Walanika Lum (2008)
 Dr. Jua Choi (2010)
 Dr. Lawrence Rutebuka (2010)
 Dr. Gerard Rivera (2011)
 Dr. Elise Chen (2011)
 Dr. Lap Fan Chan (2012)
 Dr. Emily Hollinghurst (2012)
 Dr. Alan Estareja (2013)
 Dr. Christy Smith (2013)
 Dr. Celesti Magpayo Kiroyan (2014)
 Dr. Michelle Adia Healy (2015)
 Dr. Gilbert Rodriguez (2015)
 Dr. Kiwon Park (2016)
 Dr. Mary Thompson (2016)
 Dr. Shawn Smith (2017)
 Dr. Alexandria Taylor Hesketh (2017)
 Dr. Syndy Malit (2018)
 Dr. Ryan Faulconer (2018)
 Dr. Edmund Lestari (2019)
 Dr. Stefanie LeGrand (2019)
 Dr. Amy Reese (2019)
 Dr. Stephanie Jin (2020)



Remember when...

students lined up for the annual pancake feed? Everyone mingled in close proximity without masks and ate together. Those were the good ol' days! And although the event required much work for Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Mrs. Linda Williams, and her team, it was always worth it!

Because of COVID-19 concerns this past year, all social events at school were suspended. But someday soon, we will resume our favorite activities with more gratitude for the opportunity to be together. We can hardly wait!



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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Pharmacy

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24745 Stewart Street
Loma Linda, CA 92350



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

homecoming

Thursday, March 3 – Monday, March 7

2022

For all the latest updates, visit
llu.edu/homecoming.