LEADING IN LOMA LINDA

As directors of pharmacy, LLUSP alumni Michael Campbell and Tony Gobin make their mark on Inland Empire healthcare.
What a privilege it was to be on stage this past May as interim dean during Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy’s 11th Commencement ceremony. Witnessing the 77 graduates from the Class of 2016 join the ranks as the newest alumni was a joy and honor.

Since joining the School of Pharmacy on April 1st, I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the students, faculty, and staff, learning about the School’s history and needs, and gaining insight into the development and growth that it is undergoing. It is truly an exciting time for LLUSP.

I am also pleased to invite all of you to attend Loma Linda University’s first-ever, University-wide Alumni Homecoming to be held from Thursday, March 2 to Monday, March 6, 2017. We hope to see many of you return back on campus for this (crimson) red letter weekend that will be packed with many an exciting event, so please keep an eye out for your Save-the-Date in the mail soon.

As you read this volume of The Capsule, it is my hope that you will join in the celebration of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and fellow alumni. We are proud of all that you continue to accomplish in your careers, and we pray for your continual success.

Marilyn Herrmann, PhD
Interim Dean, School of Pharmacy
Dean Emerita, School of Nursing
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As the LLU School of Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff returned from the December 2015 holidays, there was something missing. Not just something, but somebody. Our Dean of nine years, Dr. Billy Hughes, would no longer be filling the School with his energy, experience, and passion.

Dr. Hughes often described his dean’s role as that of “servant-leader — servant to our faculty, students, and alumni colleagues, and leader in setting the vision for our School.” Within one year of Dr. Hughes’ leadership, LLUSP received full accreditation. The standards of excellence and achievement fostered by Dr. Hughes have become the
foundation of the School, and continue to guide the academic and professional changes in the School as we mature.

Not one for bragging, Dr. Hughes was all about shared accomplishments. However, he left a University ethos of integrating technology into education. In 1993, he built the first “smart” lecture podium, consisting of an old desk to which he added wheels, a small CRT monitor, his own video camera, a sound system, and a VCR — all linked to a “dinosaur” LCD projector. Early in his LLU career, as Director of LLU Educational Support Services, Dr. Hughes helped extend the University’s worldwide reach via the Internet, Grad-cast, Chapel-cast, and Global Gateway technology in the Centennial Complex — all daily reminders of his passion for assimilating technology into the fabric of academe. As Dean of LLUSP, he was dedicated to extending state-of-the-art technology to Shryock Hall, even as we maintained the historic identity of one of the first buildings on campus. In recognition of his career-long record of contribution to LLU, Dr. Hughes was brought out of retirement for one day to be presented the prestigious Distinguished University Service Award during the School of Pharmacy commencement service on May 29, 2016.

“Dr. Hughes was a valued member of our University leadership team,” says Loma Linda University Health President Dr. Richard Hart. “His knowledge of technology, his generous spirit toward others, and his always pleasant demeanor made him a favorite on many committees. Billy’s long experience within the Loma Linda system gave him a valuable perspective. Though he has earned his retirement, he will be missed.”

Dr. Hughes’ dedication to mission and values infused every LLUSP discussion and decision. During orientation, defining “JCHIEFS” was often the first “test” students faced at the School. (The Class of 2015 even gifted a plaque to the School commemorating these values!) In our historic halls daily, there are conversations heard between students, faculty, staff, and alumni referring to values and whether a particular decision or activity defines same. What a legacy.

“Billy Hughes is a true friend,” shares Loma Linda University Provost Dr. Ronald Carter. “Our friendship is born out of common interests and many similar life experiences — from our graduate origins, to our commitment to research, to our focus on philosophical issues of science and faith. And, in like manner, we chose to devote much of our careers to supporting our faith positions by enthusiastically promoting the establishment of academic learning environments that produce graduates who see their professions as spiritual callings, not just mere jobs.

Hand-hewn inventions in the Hughes’ garage are no longer geared toward educational technology. Retirement from LLUSP has brought a remote mountain cabin and surroundings to be the beneficiaries of Dr. Hughes’ innovations.

Dr. Hughes — Billy — we miss you, we value you. We thank you.
NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR LLUSP

Having served at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy since August 2005, Linda M. Williams, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, has been an integral part of the School’s growth and development as a faith-based institution. In recognition of her commitment and dedication to LLUSP, her husband, Rick E. Williams, PhD, LLU Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Services, and their son and orthopedic surgeon, Shane Williams, MD (LLU School of Medicine, Class of 2002) have established The Linda Williams Endowed Scholarship.

With the support of the School of Pharmacy, the scholarship was created with the intent for giving financial assistance to prospective students who have exhibited the highest level of commitment to LLU’s values — Justice, Compassion, Humility, Integrity, Excellence, Freedom, and Self-Control.

Dr. Rick Williams explains that “it was established in Linda’s name to honor the phenomenal work behind the scenes that she has accomplished to encourage a more values-centered and faith-based School of Pharmacy.”

The scholarship currently has commitments of around $410,000 dollars, with plans to surpass $500,000 in the next couple of years, hoping to ultimately grow to an endowment of one million dollars.

Of the scholarship, Loma Linda University Health President, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, says that “this fund will ensure the School’s legacy of academic achievement and service learning will continue to be a hallmark of each class.”

To learn more about the scholarship, please visit llu.edu/giving/williams.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The knowledge base of clinical pharmacy has broad applications within healthcare, the fact of which was highlighted on March 18, 2016, during a continuing education seminar presented on campus by Alireza Hayatshahi, PharmD, BCPS from the School of Pharmacy and Erin Stephens, DDS, from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Entitled “Pain Management in Dental Practice”, this interprofessional seminar was the first of its kind for LLUSP and drew the attendance of nearly 100 guests including faculty from both LLUSP and LLUSD, as well as preceptors and pharmacists from the greater Inland Empire.

A second interprofessional CE seminar was held at the May 2016 California Dental Association (CDA) annual meeting in Anaheim, where more than 140 dental professionals attended this collaborative effort by the LLU schools of Dentistry (Erin Stephens, DDS; Euni Cho, DDS), Medicine (Adrian Cotton, MD), and Pharmacy (Alireza Hayatshahi, PharmD, BCPS).

Regarding the interprofessional partnerships LLUSP has enjoyed engaging in recently, Dr. Hayatshahi shares, “This is an invaluable collaboration as professionals from different health care disciplines share their knowledge and clinical experience with each other. Together, we are able to provide the safest and most effective care for our patients.”

Loma Linda University Pharmacy, the School’s first fully-owned and operated community pharmacy, is set to open in October 2016. In addition to being a full-service community pharmacy, it will also provide ample educational opportunities for students as well as incorporate a Medication Therapy Management program. The pharmacy will be a key clinical component of the new Loma Linda University Health — San Bernardino complex, which is a part of the Social Action Community Health System (SACHS).
CAPPING OFF A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy Residency Recognition Dinner is an event where we recognize the achievements of the PGY1, PGY2 and ID Fellows during the year. Seventy-seven guests joined in celebrating this year’s 17 residents and fellows for the 2015-2016 academic year at the Redlands Country Club on June 23, 2016.

Twelve of our residents and fellows were also able to complete the teaching certificate program. LLUSP also had the privilege of extending program participation to three PGY1 residents from Desert Oasis Healthcare and one from Desert Regional Medical Center.

For event coordinator, Kyla Gilbert, someone who has come to know the residents and fellows intimately over the past year in assisting the Department of Pharmacy Practice, she shares that “being part of the Dinner last week was a highlight for me, too. I am happy for them in all that they achieved this year and their new beginnings ahead.”

PHARMACY AND DENTAL STUDENTS COMBINE CLASSES

The School of Pharmacy’s commitment to interprofessional education was the main driver behind a collaborative course with Loma Linda University School of Dentistry on May 23, 2016. Held in the Chen Fong Conference Center, the class combined the PY1’s “Introduction to Disease Management” course with LLUSD’s “Pharmacology & Therapeutics” course offered to its second-year dentistry students. Working with Erin Stephens, DDS, Assistant Professor with the School of Dentistry, LLUSP Associate Professor Alireza Hayatshahi, PharmD, BCPS, and Assistant Professor Farnoosh Zough, PharmD, BCPS prepared five patient case studies for the 163 students to review. Students were split into 25 groups which mixed both pharmacy and dentistry students alike, encouraging the exchange of inter-program knowledge among the students as they analyzed and prepared defenses to their proposed course of treatment. After each table was asked a question by the professors, a review of educational pearls of wisdom helped to close the loop of interprofessional learning.

LLU RESIDENTS

PGY1 RESIDENTS
Candice Chiaramonte
Danielle Chipchura
Scott Fitter
Joseph Han
Christina Henkel
Kelly Ishizuka
Lisa Pham
Ariani Wavoruntu
Lily Yam

PGY2 RESIDENTS
Johnny Jiang
Justin Kinney
William Kuan
Caroline Small
Liz van Zyl
Erika Wass

INFECTIOUS DISEASE FELLOWS
John Veillette (2nd year)
James Truong (1st year)

EXTERNAL RESIDENTS

Diandra Ruidera
Foday Manneh
Thanh Nguyen
Thomas Brazeal

TEACHING CERTIFICATE PARTICIPANTS

Candice Chiaramonte
Danielle Chipchura
Scott Fitter
Joseph Han
Christina Henkel
Kelly Ishizuka
Lisa Pham
Ariani Wavoruntu
Lily Yam
Justin Kinney
William Kuan
John Veillette
Diandra Ruidera
Foday Manneh
Thanh Nguyen
Thomas Brazeal
What started off as a table lunch conversation has matured into the strong educational partnership in existence today between Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and Indian Springs High School’s (ISHS) Health Academy. In the summer of 2012 during Loma Linda University’s first Excellence in STEM Experiential Education (EXSEED) program, Willie Davis, PhD, struck a lunchtime conversation with the high school’s principal, Dr. Alan Kay, and Health Academy director, Brian Willemsen, who had given a presentation about their school’s program earlier in the day.

As chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences, Dr. Davis saw potential for collaboration between LLUSP and the Health Academy, and discussed with them some ways the School of Pharmacy could be involved with getting ISHS students familiar with learning basic molecular laboratory techniques. The idea was that students would become employable upon completion of the biotechnology program with the skills taught, which are part of the curriculum in the Health Academy.

In this particular program, junior and senior students take a year-long sequence of biotechnology courses in which they learn basic molecular biology techniques, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and gel electrophoresis.

Alongside serving on the board of the Academy, Dr. Davis coordinates the activities of the laboratory with the faculty and administration of ISHS, and has also designed the experiments and given lectures to the students. But he is quick to wholeheartedly acknowledge the extensive involvement of LLUSP research assistant Sara Solak. “Our lab’s participation in the biotechnology program would not occur if it were not for the efforts of Sara,” he adds. “She works hard to train the students. She is the key to our success and deserves the overwhelming majority of the credit.”

Ms. Solak recently led the biotechnology program’s first cohort of five laboratory externship students this past spring break, and I was privileged to interview four of these senior scholars during their last day of externship: Roman Doranski, Jaylean Gonzales, Justin Gutierrez, and Peter Rubalcava.

**So what’s the biggest thing that you’ve taken away from the biotechnology program and your externship?**

**Roman:** The lab experience. We’re doing experiments that people do in college, but we do them starting in 10th grade.

**Peter:** Learning. I love learning about all of this stuff and working in a lab; that’s what I want to do in the future. I’m going to major in biochemistry, so I might as well get a head start.

**Jaylean:** I think my greatest experience here was meeting two people who could be a part of your future. I knew I wanted to major in the sciences, and I fell in love with the program. I’ve always wanted to be a medical student, and working in the lab, working with two people who push you to be something greater, it makes you want you to endure it even more because you appreciate that there are people out there who can help you.

**What was one of your favorite memories from this lab experience?**

**Roman:** When I started realizing what was going on in the test tubes and everything just clicked together, like why we were doing our experiment and what we were getting out of it. I think that was a really cool moment. It was right before Research Day last year when we were having to understand our project so we could explain it to other people. Just going over it and...
practicing it, I really feel like I got it and was able to explain it.

Jaylean: My favorite memory was just holding the pipette for the first time. It was kind of uncomfortable at first, but I think once you get the hang of it, it feels really nice because you have a lot of control over how your results are going to end up. And then seeing those results pop up was like, "Wow, you did a good job pipetting. It’s like, I’m amazing!", you know?

Peter: Well, for me it’s the knowledge gained. I love learning about what’s happening, why we’re doing this. I felt super excited when I saw my first DNA yield. It was really high and I was really happy about that. Science excites me.

Justin: Learning all the techniques was fun but I think the best memory for me would be when we had to present for the class. Our teacher Mr. Arient and Sara told us we had to present two different topics to the class, to the first-year students, and we would have to explain to them why we are taking this class. We had two weeks to do that, but through the process it gave me the experience to speak in front of people. Teaching a class was pretty fun.

How have you grown from Day one of being in lab to today?

Peter: I wasn’t really sure at first what I wanted to do in science. At first I thought it would be pharmaceuticals because I love the science world, but from the first day, I really loved this stuff. I loved pipetting, I love the techniques we do. So after this entire experience, I want to do clinical laboratory work. It’s really helped me discover what I really want to do.

Roman: Skill-wise, starting off in the beginning of class, I wasn’t really lost, but I didn’t really know what we were doing. I was just following directions. But over time, I was able to look at the protocol and look at it and know exactly what I was going to do.

Jaylean: I think when we really figured it out was when we had to do the experiments solo and we had to really test ourselves to see if we really did grasp everything that we learned. Sara really put us to the test. So I guess you could see we have learned to become more independent. I feel more mature just from this lab alone. You become more independent, self-aware of what you’re doing, what you want to do in life.

Justin: Being a third-year in the biotechnology program changed me skill-wise. I was terrible at pipetting and now we have some of the best technique. I also have grown in the area of public speaking, in teaching a class, and being able to be more open to things like Research Day presenting. Whether it’s the dean of the school, to other students, professors — I can talk to whomever now.

Do you have any parting words for Sara?

Justin: Sara’s an amazing teacher. I was glad to meet her because she’s such a kindhearted person. She’s like an older sister to me.

Jaylean: Today we asked Sara how long it has been since she started working at Loma Linda University and she said two-and-a-half years, roughly around the time we started the biotechnology program. When she barely got her job she started working with us immediately, so I think it was destiny. I’m so thankful she came to our school because I don’t think anyone would’ve put in the time and effort she does to explain, and explain again, and explain multiple times after that when we still don’t understand! But she does, no matter.

Roman: Thank you for helping make this understandable. You do a good job at teaching.

Peter: I know this was my first year, but I really appreciated the opportunity to come work with you guys. Sara has been an awesome person. She answers all of my questions even though I bug her a lot.

What can you say about this group of students, Sara?

Sara: I teach a lot of students — a lot of graduate students, a lot of undergraduate students. And these are probably the most dedicated and eager-to-learn students that I’ve ever met. They take everything in stride. They want to learn. They come at me with questions that I don’t even know the answer to, that I have to look up, but it’s really cool. It’s been a wonderful experience. I’m just really thankful that Dr. Davis brought me on. Now they’re going off to college. I never thought the program would go this far and that it would spark this much interest in the students, so it’s really cool to see that they want to pursue science. And they know that science doesn’t always necessarily mean you have to go and be a physician. That there’s totally different avenues that you can have. I’m just happy I could share what I love.

I hope that every year we have an incoming class of thirty students in Biotechnology I, and that those thirty students join Biotechnology II, to the point where I hope thirty students come intern, to the point where I can’t handle them just in one lab and that we need to incorporate more laboratories at Loma Linda University! I just hope it keeps progressing, and I hope I’m a part of it the whole time.

“IT’S REALLY HELPED ME DISCOVER WHAT I WANT TO DO.”
— JAYLEAN GONZALEZ
NEW ALUMNI RESIDENTS

Continuing the Journey with Pharmacy Residency

For many pharmacy students, their educational journey does not end at Commencement. Come every July, institutions nationwide open their doors to newly-minted PharmDs as pharmacy practice residents, as well as those continuing on into further-specialized residencies or fellowships.

The first pharmacy resident was a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice resident in 1995, which expanded to having two residents in 2004. In 2009, the PGY2 programs were established and since those seminal years, LLUSP’s residency program has grown rapidly over the years. “Our residency program has grown in many ways over 21 years,” shares PGY1 Residency Program Director, Norm Hamada, PharmD. “Between Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, the spectrum of rotation and longitudinal experiences puts our program at the upper echelon for pharmacy residency programs. The possibilities for future expansion are exciting.”

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy is pleased to welcome 20 residents for the 2016-2017 academic year: ten PGY1 Pharmacy Practice, one PGY1 Community Practice, six PGY2 residents (with one each in Transitions of Care, Oncology, Critical Care, Pediatrics, Cardiology, and Informatics), two Infectious Disease Fellows in Year 1 and Year 2, and one Pediatrics Endocrinology Fellow.

This latest group of residents is the largest to date, and we are especially pleased that several of our alumni are part of this newest batch. Get to know them below!

1 SCOTT FITTER
Hometown: Corona, CA
Residency: PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy
Interests: Emergency Medicine, Toxicology, Neurocritical Care

What would you like to do after your residency is completed? If I can’t own a major league baseball team, I think I will settle for working as a critical care pharmacist. My career goals include earning my BCCCP, gaining employment at a large academic medical center, and guest lecturing at a school of pharmacy.

Why LLU? Coming back to LLU was also an easy decision due to all the relationships I have built at the Medical Center and School of Pharmacy.

2 AMANDA GOLAY
Hometown: Highland, CA
Residency: PGY1 Pharmacy Practice, Administration
Interests: I have the privilege of being able to speak and consult with patients about their treatment plan and the medicines they are prescribed by their doctor. I make sure that patients walk away with as much information as possible in an effort to bridge the gap between patients and their healthcare providers. I am hoping to discourage the reluctance that many patients have with seeking care in the clinical setting.
What would you like to do after your residency is completed? What are your career goals? Ideally, I would like to go into some sort of administration position within the hospital setting. Perhaps later down the line, I hope to gain enough experience to open up a pharmacy of my own to better serve the people of my community.

**Why Loma Linda University?**
I chose LLU simply because their values, teachings, and moral compass was something I agreed with on a personal level. Being a devoted Seventh Day Adventist, it was always hard for me to explain science and medicine while still being true to my faith. However, LLU’s unique method of intertwining faith and medicine is something that drew me into the program. I feel comfortable knowing what I do for a living still full-heartedly agrees with my faith. I truly feel that I am doing God’s work and I would not trade that in for anything.

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**3 CJ JACOBSON**
**Hometown:** Loma Linda, CA  
**Residency:** Endocrine Fellowship  
**Interests:** Pediatric Diabetes Management

**What would you like to do after your residency is completed?** Travel to visit one of the last two continents on my “to visit list”

**What are your career goals?** To become established as a provider in a diabetes clinic and help create a way for pharmacy to be as involved in type 1 diabetes as type 2 diabetes.

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**4 ANTHONY LEE**
**Hometown:** Loma Linda, CA  
**Residency:** PGY2 Pediatric Pharmacy  
**Interests:** Pediatrics and Critical Care

**What would you like to do after your residency is completed? What are your career goals?** I would like to find a pediatric clinical pharmacist position in a critical care setting and be able to precept and educate students in the pediatric field.

**Why LLU?** I believe that Loma Linda University will provide me with unique experiences and opportunities to build on my knowledge of pediatric pharmacy. In addition, with their focus in wholeness, I feel that this program not only allows me to learn to help others, but also to take care of myself physically, mentally, and spiritually.

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**5 KIWON PARK**
**Hometown:** Millcreek, WA  
**Residency:** PGY1 Pharmacy Resident  
**Interest:** Hematology/oncology, transplant, and transitions of care.

**What would you like to do after your residency is completed? What are your career goals?** I want to pursue PGY2 in Oncology and become a hematology/oncology specialist.

**Why LLU?** I thought LLU was one of the best places for me to transition from being a student to a pharmacy resident/pharmacist since LLU provides training in both clinical and academic settings. I also wanted to experience various clinical specialty rotations LLU offers to their residents in order to develop my clinical skills.

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**6 ARIANI WAJORUNTU**
**Hometown:** Grand Terrace, CA  
**Residency:** PGY2 Oncology Residency  
**Interests:** Oncology

**What would you like to do after your residency is completed? What are your career goals?** After completion of the PGY2 oncology pharmacy residency, I hope to work in an ambulatory care infusion center/cancer clinic. I would like to continue teaching in some aspect, whether as a preceptor or participating in a course as a lecturer.

**Why LLU?** LLU has a unique view of whole person care and it is something I find to be invaluable. It is one of the main reasons why I chose LLU and want to continue my learning experience here.

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To read all of our Resident and Fellow biographies, visit pharmacy.llu.edu
Leading in Loma Linda

By Bernadette Malqued

“

One-thousand and seventy-one beds. For Loma Linda University Health, that equated to 44,819 patients discharged in 2014."

For Class of 2007 alumni Antony (Tony) Gobin, PharmD, MBA, and Michael Campbell, PharmD, MBA, these are not just numbers — these are lives they daily dedicate to providing the best care possible as directors of pharmacy for LLUH.

When asked what inspired him to pursue pharmacy as a career, Dr. Gobin recalls how as a child, his father would always point out the pharmacist in the outpatient settings, and with his deep voice and accent say, “You see that man? He is very smart and that is a very good profession.” It was this high esteem his father had for pharmacists that helped put the spotlight on the career for him.

After graduating from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy and waiting for board licensure results, Gobin was hired as a graduate intern by Paul Norris, PharmD, Executive Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Supply Chain Management, Nutritional Support Team, GI Lab, at Loma Linda University Medical Center. But Gobin alludes that his paths had been pointing him towards Loma Linda early on having grown up in the Inland Empire and taking note of the high esteem his family held for the health system.

Between his beginnings as a Medical Center clinical pharmacist and becoming the Quality Management Coordinator in 2012, Gobin returned to his undergraduate alma mater, Cal State San Bernardino, to complete his Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) in 2010. It was after his coordinator role that he would transition into his current position as Director of Pharmacy Affiliates for Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2014.

Alongside Dan Kardasinski, PharmD, Director of Adult Pharmacy Services, Gobin oversees operations for the Loma Linda University
Medical Center East Campus, Behavioral Medicine Center, Surgical Hospital, and Medical Center–Murrietta. Given this wide range of campuses, he is quick to note the importance of their collaboration. “Because of the magnitude of his position, I work closely with him and help,” he says. “I was formerly the pharmacy manager but kept all of the Medical Center duties even when I became a director. Dan and I are very much a team and we are both involved at all of the locations.”

Dr. Kardasinski is also a mentor and inspiration to him, using his example when dealing with personnel and daily operations. “I didn’t think it was possible for someone to be liked by all staff, but he’s the example that proved me wrong.”

Having a solid team is crucial for how expansive this role is, the purview of which is mirrored in how early Gobin’s days start. After his 4:30 a.m. wakeup and answering emails, he squeezes in a workout at the Drayson Center, and is in the hospital by 7:30 a.m. and out around 4:00 p.m. But even after walking out of the hospital doors, he is still attached to a pager and available via email. He is always “on”, dealing with issues that come up and answering emails until it’s lights out.

Children’s Hospital Director of Pharmacy Dr. Campbell has a similar early-bird schedule, his dictating a wakeup time of 3:30 a.m. Though he commutes daily from Alhambra, the drive is opposite traffic and he still manages to get in to the hospital around 6:00 a.m. “I take an hour and a half just to get caught up and to prep for my day,” Campbell says. “I go through my emails from the morning and the night before, go to my calendar, look at what I need to prep for that, and then go from there.” If anything comes up, however, such as CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) or a regulatory body, it all goes out the window, and he tries to prioritize what he does from the top.

Within his ten-hour day, Campbell calls various floors and gets shift change reports from his night staff, a practice that was never done previously, but one he established in 2013 after becoming a director. As an administrator, he likes to see how the shifts were handled the night before and follow-up on any issues that might have arisen then.

Responsible for about 15 pharmacists and double the amount of pharmacy technicians in the Children’s Hospital, Campbell contends that the two most important qualities of a leader are listening and follow-through. “If you listen to your staff, take their opinions, and allow them explain what they’d like to see, it can make a huge difference.”

Campbell made the move to Loma Linda University Medical Center Emergency Department in 2008 after working in retail following graduation. A year into that role, Dr. Norris encouraged him to pursue an opening at the Heart and Surgical Hospital to be a manager. “Funny part is that I think I turned him down two times,” Campbell says. “I liked what I was doing. I liked the hustle and bustle of the ED. It was fun. Dr. Sean Bush [the snake venom expert of television show “Venom ER” fame] was there; I worked alongside him. It’s always busy and I liked it, and I didn’t want to give that up. But then the third time, I thought, ‘Let me give it a shot.’”

After proving his worth through performance at LLUHSH, Norris would later bring him back to LLUMC to assist in quality assurance processes. Four years later, Campbell would become the director of pharmacy for the Children’s Hospital pediatric services in 2013.

“I enjoy being here at Loma Linda,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed the opportunities that have come my way in terms of where I’m at now. Paul has always been supportive throughout my whole career here.”

Gobin echoes the same sentiments for the person he considers his personal mentor, friend, and inspiration. “He has led this department for so long and I owe a lot to him. Everything I’ve ever done in pharmacy is in some way dependent on him. I think any alumni reading this owes a little something to Dr. Norris, as he was instrumental in getting our school up and running.”

“Paul has done a lot for this campus,” Campbell adds. “I have a lot of respect for the man. He’s done this for 36 years and is a forefather of this school. He doesn’t like people bragging about him, but if it wasn’t for him, we wouldn’t have a school of pharmacy. This is coming from Dr. Lyn Behrens [past president of LLUMC] when I had a chance to sit and talk to her. She always had high praise for Paul. He was the one in her office saying, ‘You need a school of pharmacy.’ Paul was the catalyst to get this all started, and look at where we’re at today.”

The mutual respect these three have for each other is evident to anyone observing them as a group, and is testament to the direct role Norris has personally played in
each of their careers. Even before Gobin matriculated into LLUSP, Norris had been impressed with the college basketball player since meeting him through the kinesiology department chair at Cal State San Bernardino, and Norris kept in contact with him through the years. For Campbell, it was his proven performance in his various roles at LLUH that caught the executive director’s eye.

Norris was also integral in encouraging Campbell to pursue his MBA. “If you want to go into healthcare management, it’s beneficial,” Campbell says. As someone who took heavily science-focused courses in undergrad, he underscores how helpful the finance and organizational behavioral courses have been in his managerial responsibilities.

Commending his protégés on their leadership qualities, Norris says that “Tony thinks through things really well. He weighs the pros and cons and gets everyone’s input. Michael gets a lot of people’s input too, and he’s not afraid to speak his opinion. We’ve had some disagreements. Tony isn’t bashful either. I think those are good qualities — speaking up when they think something can change to be better. And I think they both have good people skills.”

While their hospitals and technical roles may differ, both directors voice that their biggest challenges come in the form of regulatory standards. “There have been so many changes in pharmacy practice and law, especially in regards to sterile compounding,” Gobin says. “It takes a great team to make sure our large organization is compliant.”

“There’s always a new regulation coming out down the line,” Campbell adds. “whether for CMS or USP (United States Pharmacopeia) standards. Compounding is probably the biggest headache because not only do you have the California State Board of Pharmacy adopting laws, but you have the FDA getting their hands in inspecting pharmacies. Regulatory bodies — state and federal — are what make our job hard and very stressful.”

In the face of those daily challenges, Campbell is quick to add that every day, he still comes to work excited. “I drive a long way to work, drive a long way home. Sometimes I’m tired, but God gets me through the day, and the staff get me through the day. The staff do a great job, and I just love being around them. They have a good positive energy.”

Both of them are hopeful for the areas of opportunity for the profession of pharmacy. “This is the time when pharmacists should fight for more responsibilities and show what we can do,” Gobin says. Referencing SB 493, Campbell adds, “There are a lot of laws being passed that are in our favor with provider status. We can build on that within the institutional setting and just grow from there. The Affordable Care Act is in our favor, too. Pharmacists can expand not only within the walls of an inpatient pharmacy or hospital, but outside in ambulatory care clinics, anticoagulation clinics, physician offices — we have a chance to grow.”

Reflecting on his career growth within Loma Linda University Health, Gobin says that his stay with LLUMC was always supposed to be temporary, but that LLUH has a way of making it difficult to leave. “I love working here with such a great team and good friends.”

For Campbell, working at LLUH has also been a highlight for him in his journey as a professional, as well as an encouragement to him in his spiritual walk. In speaking about the impact LLUH has made in his life, he shares his appreciation for the faith-centered environment of LLUH. “I like starting out a meeting with prayer. You don’t see that everywhere. I think that’s what makes my day run better, knowing that I’ve asked God to help me get through my day, because you never know what may be coming at you. Some days I do thank God that I prayed in the morning because when it rains, it pours. Knowing that you have Someone looking down on you is a good thing, and I like working here because of that aspect. And I like the people I work with. We have a really good team up there.”

For all of the challenges and achievements, taking stock of the good days and bad, in speaking with these two directors, one is left with the clear impression of what drives them to excel in what they do.

“We’ve taken an oath as pharmacists, at our white coat ceremony, that our main goal when we come here is to take care of our patients,” Campbell says. “That’s it. That’s why we come to work. It’s not because of pay, not because we have ‘doctor’ said before our name. We took an oath to provide care for our patients. That’s number one.”

* Statistics taken from the 2014 Loma Linda University Health Annual Report.
You must be the change you wish you see in the world. Armed with blood pressure cuffs, bone density analysis machines, an educational poison control quiz, and blood sugar pamphlets, four of Loma Linda University’s School of Pharmacy student organizations headed to Beaumont on May 15, 2016 to follow these words of wisdom. The day was slightly overcast, warm, and crowded with people at the Beaumont Community Health and Fun Fair as curiosity and interest propelled large amounts of attention from people as the blood pressure cuffs were constantly engaged, the poison control quiz was ever in use, and the feet were ever loving the bone density analysis machine. Busy is an understatement. The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists, the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, the California Society of Health Systems Pharmacists, and Rho Chi spearheaded the booths as students engaged the public. Pupils became the teachers as AMCP offered blood sugar screenings, and SNPhA pumped the little black bulb, watching the manometer as people came around to measure their blood pressure. CSHP involved the crowds in a mini quiz that compared various commonly used or ingestible substances with their similar in appearance counterparts, bringing to the public mind the importance of poison control. Rho Chi attracted high amounts of foot traffic as people came and went, pulling on their shoes as they left, with a better knowledge of bone density, osteoporosis, and numbers for the density of the bones in their body.

Also in attendance were several of LLUSP’s professors and advisors to the organizations who showed an immense amount of dedication both to their students and to educating the crowd in attendance. The event is annually held to serve and offer the public food, free health screenings, and fun activities for kids, including a petting zoo, train ride, and mini aquarium complete with touchable aquatic life. Students were able to engage the public on a one-on-one capacity, offering their time, attention, and skills as student pharmacists. Every classroom lesson, every hour of studying grew legs as the students’ dedication to the pharmacy profession paid off. LLUSP’s students attend events such as this health fair as a way to serve the public, and develop skills no classroom can replicate. It’s through health fairs like the one hosted in Beaumont that our students can showcase the change they want to bring to the world.
LLUSP ALUMNI OVERSEE PHARMACY OPERATIONS FOR MEGAHEALTH CLINIC

By Bernadette Malqued

From April 27-29, over 8,500 uninsured and under-insured individuals flooded the Los Angeles Convention Center during a mega clinic spearheaded by the Your Best Pathway to Health organization. While the health clinic served a majority of patients in the local and greater Los Angeles community, some had traveled from as far as Washington, Arizona, and Texas to receive medical and dental care.

Because of the partnership and collaboration of various area medical institutions, the Best Pathways to Health clinic was able to offer free, comprehensive healthcare to patients, many of whom were unable to receive such care previously. Alongside volunteers from Adventist Health southern California’s hospitals such as Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Simi Valley Hospital, and White Memorial Medical Center, Loma Linda University Health also help lead the charge by offering service through its healthcare practitioners, faculty, students, and staff.

Also among the thousands of volunteers staffing this event were five of our own Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy alumni: Danielle Davis-Khoromana ’12, Krinstin Joe ’11, Bless Vale-Cruz ’12, Andrew Waite ’14, and Cambria Wehtje-Sim ’11.

When asked how she became involved with the clinic, Dr. Wehtje-Sim says that “One of my classmates [Krinstin Joe] from pharmacy school recruited me. She had been to a previous megaclinic and said that California-licensed Pharmacists were greatly needed. I was excited for the opportunity to use my professional skills to help serve people needing medical and pharmaceutical care.”

In total, our alumni oversaw the dispensing of 2,248 prescriptions by the end of the three-day health clinic.

“The pharmacy was one of the busiest departments at the clinic,” Dr. Wehtje-Sim reveals. “It was so encouraging to see volunteers from other departments come and volunteer their services, including some of the physicians and volunteers with language translation skills. I don’t think we could have made it through our two busiest days without the much-appreciated assistance from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy assistant professor Dr. Lisa Hong and the students that she recruited to help us out.”

Although seven months pregnant at the time, Dr. Davis Khoromana did not hesitate to answer the call to serve either. “I feel like I’m in this profession for a reason,” she shares, “and as a pharmacist, I feel like we don’t have as many opportunities to volunteer as we should. So, when I saw pharmacy professionals on the list of services needed, I knew I had to go.”
If you’ve ever walked into one of the many classrooms used during a Community Kids Connection Music session, the cacophony of sounds can be overwhelming at first. In separate rooms devoted to different focuses — strings, keyboard, woodwinds, music theory — the student volunteers are often teaching lessons side-by-side. In another room, you can find student volunteers playing with the younger siblings of students in session. The din and energy in combination are electric, and one cannot help but be excited to jump and join in.

Already in its ninth year of operation, CKC Music continues to provide music education, performance opportunities, and mentoring to underserved children in the San Bernardino community. From music theory to keyboard to strings to wind instruments, this enrichment program literally brings music into the lives of children who may not have the opportunity otherwise.

Started by Kathryn Knecht, PhD, LLUSP Associate Professor, LLU Medical Center physical therapist Stacey Belliard, their children, and La Sierra University Associate Professor of Music Jason Uyeyama, CKC Music is a year-round afterschool program for children whose ages span the K-12 grades.

During the academic year, the program meets weekly at Indian Springs High School while during the summer, it transitions to the La Escuelita Family Resource Center for every-other-week sessions. While the majority of Loma Linda University student volunteers hail from the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy, there are also students from other schools across campus such as Allied Health Professionals and Dentistry.

“Per year, we have maybe a half dozen pharmacy students who volunteer regularly in various capacities, especially in the summer, which is a critical time,” states Dr. Knecht. “But there are maybe twenty to thirty students who fill in to help as part of Professional Development during the academic year.”

As the director for CKC Music, Dr. Knecht reports that they always need volunteers, especially those with music skills, however basic. “The children learn music theory, choir, and a variety of instruments so we need help teaching, but we need help organizing and finding music as well. Financial support is welcome, too — we take children to summer music camp every year and we help the families with tuition and transportation.”

When asked how she feels about its growth...
It has been said that ignorance is the breeding ground for fear. For without knowledge, what are we to do? The answer for the attendees at Loma Linda University Health’s 14th annual PossAbilities Triathlon came in the form of nine of the School of Pharmacy’s student organizations.

Our students had chosen the Triathlon as the location for their Spring 2016 health fair on April 24, 2016. PossAbilities itself is a community outreach program developed by LLUH. It is free to the public and seeks to offer disabled individuals who have been born with or have suffered permanent physical injury a welcome community and social network. The organization’s yearly triathlon showcases their athletes’ skills and capabilities as well as offers the surrounding community the opportunity to host booths advertising their services. Equipped with poster boards, educational pamphlets, candy and classroom knowledge, our LLUSP students joined other vendors on the Drayson Center field and set up at 8:00 a.m., fully armed and ready to tackle the day’s activities.

Success threaded its way throughout the five hours students spent dispersing their knowledge on topics such as cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, heart burn, poison control, proper disposal of medication, the importance of sunscreen, osteoporosis, and pain management. Spearheading each of these topics were the LLUSP chapters of Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists, American Pharmacists Association, California Pharmacists Association, Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International, California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, National Community Pharmacists Association, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi, and Student National Pharmaceutical Association, respectively. Also in attendance were several of the School of Pharmacy’s residents, professors, and advisors to the student organizations, dedicating their time and expertise to assist the students and serve the community attendees.

Students were able to interact with the public, receive their questions, provide answers, and put smiles on people’s faces, including those put there by little sweet treats that some of the booths held in stock. If curiosity drove the crowds to come take a closer look at what the School of Pharmacy students had to offer, it was their friendliness and dedication to teaching the public about their health topics that kept people there.

“"I enjoy being able to put into use what I learn in the classroom, and speak with people of my own community,” shares P3 LLUSP student Alexandra Taylor. “It makes the hours spent studying worth it when you see how you can actually help others.”
The mission trip to Belize was my first. As a pharmacist and new faculty member, I was looking forward to helping the locals and gaining the opportunity to teach the students in our group as well as our patients. I was also looking forward to working with and learning from other healthcare professionals.

As the pharmacy team, Shawn Smith (third-year pharmacy student) and I assisted the team during clinic by helping with patient triage, dispensing medications, and providing medication education as well as education regarding diabetes, hypertension, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Triage included obtaining chief complaints, past medical history, past surgical history, family history, social history, current medications, allergies, height, weight, and blood pressure. We took part in meetings prior to departure during which we helped create a list of medications deemed appropriate to bring with us and attempted to minimize drug cost. During clinic, we would receive orders from our team provider for individual patients with drug names and were responsible for coming up with appropriate dosing and quantities. Shawn and I educated patients regarding each medication dispensed.

We also screened patients with a history of or patients at high risk for diabetes, hypertension, and/or HIV and provided additional education as well as handouts (created prior to departure) to these patients.

Our daily clinics also consisted of vision screening, diet/nutrition education, dental hygiene education, HIV education, teddy bear clinic, as needed behavioral health.

“THE DIVERSITY IN OUR TEAM ALLOWED FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR OUR PATIENTS.”
sessions, the provider visit, prayer and bible study. The diversity in our team allowed for interdisciplinary learning opportunities and a wide range of services for our patients.

Encountering the locals of Belize and learning of their healthcare system made us more conscientious of how much we take for granted. We met an elderly man who had his foot crushed at age two and has lived with the consequences of this accident ever since. Rather than succumbing to this deformity which made him walk using his leg as though it were a cane, he made the best of it and would ride his bicycle for over 30 miles at a time. We also met a woman with ALS who was not receiving any medical treatment. Not being able to provide disease-modifying therapy to this woman was heart wrenching. However, the team found a way to connect with this woman through prayer. This woman’s good spirits and profound faith despite her condition were inspiring.

Overall, our mission trip was not only an outstanding outreach for providing service in Belize, but allowed for meaningful and unforgettable interactions with members of our team and members of the communities we visited. The strong desire to educate and serve, compassion and faith shared between our team and members of the community allowed for a bond that will last longer than our limited time spent in Belize.

To learn more about the Global Health Institute and the trips coordinated by the Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) office, visit lluglobal.com.

BELIZE REFLECTION

By Shawn Smith, ‘17

I traveled to Corozal, Belize in December of 2015 for a medical mission trip with a multidisciplinary group of Loma Linda University students. This experience was my second medical mission trip. Each mission trip is different and comes with different challenges and experiences. This trip was special to me because of the fact that almost all of the natives of Belize spoke English. It was such an amazing experience to be able to talk to people in your own language. My previous trip was to Romania where we could not hold conversations with the people. The connection and interactions that myself and the rest of the team was able to have in Belize was much different than Romania. Being able to communicate with Belizeans in this special way added a whole other dimension to the mission experience. I made some friends that I will never forget and I was able to make health interventions in a clear and concise manner.

This particular trip was ten days in length and we had three different clinic sites. The professions represented on the trip were medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dental hygiene, nutrition, and behavioral health. The degree of health education that took place was amazing. The people of Belize we so thankful and were so attentive to our instruction about their health. They received us with open arms. It was evident that God called each and every member of the team to use their gifts and talents serve the poor and impoverished communities of Belize.

Not only were the people of Belize blessed by our service, but our team was able to learn so much from people who rely on God in a way that we have never experienced before. Also, this was a very spiritual trip in that each member of the team organized worship that was held every morning. In addition to that we all had secret prayer partner’s that were members of the team. The objective was to get to know someone in particular and pray for them all week. At the end of the week we all gathered around and shared our experiences praying for our secret partner as well as our overall experience. If I could explain this trip in a few short sentences, I would say that this was a trip in which God was present and His love was made manifest to the people of Belize. One of the team members that was not a Christian shared to the whole team that what was happening on this trip was “what Christianity is supposed to be like” as she cried. It was such a blessing to a part of a movement in which someone is discovering the love of God through people.

After going on a couple of mission trips, one thing I am learning while going on these trips is to never expect or predict what my role will be. These trips are unpredictable and I learned to roll with the punches per se. The only way to be prepared is to have the mindset to love and serve everyone that you interact with! I have found that going on mission trips to serve the underserved and spread the gospel is my passion and I will continue to do so. As of March 18, I will be going to Brazil for another medical mission trip! I encourage everyone to go on a mission trip — you will not come back the same!

“IT WAS SUCH A BLESSING TO A PART OF A MOVEMENT IN WHICH SOMEONE IS DISCOVERING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH PEOPLE.”
Alongside classmates Annie Nguyen and Julie La, P2 Geraldine Cadalin traveled to and volunteered for two weeks this past summer in Hangzhou, China. Led by the Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) department of the LLU Global Health Institute, the mission trip was conducted in partnership with Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital and Zhejiang University’s Children’s Hospital, where the SIMS team organized and hosted health expos and health education fairs throughout the city.

When asked why she chose to go to China, Geraldine says, “I thought this trip would be the perfect opportunity to not only learn more about tea and alternative medicine (specifically Traditional Chinese Medicine), but to gain more public speaking and teaching experience as well. I honestly was also hoping to see some pandas and the Great Wall of China, too.” For students considering taking advantage of the mission trip opportunities at LLUH, Geraldine advises, “Mission trips help broaden your worldview and provide opportunities to practice what we’ve learned in school.”

Geraldine also had the opportunity on this trip to share a devotional with the entire LLU team towards the end of the mission trip:

“Although I’ve been wanting to go on a mission trip with SIMS since my orientation at LLU, I never committed to actually signing up until this China trip. Even months after signing up, I was still doubtful about whether or not I should go on this trip or if I would even be of any help. I shared my apprehensions with friends and family before going on this mission and received countless snippets of advice. The one tip that resonated with me throughout this trip was this: “Although the reason may not be apparent to us at the time, God places us where we need to be.”

So far, this trip has been quite… challenging for an introvert like me. The first 48 or so hours were tainted by the fear and worry I carried with me since before I boarded that shuttle heading to LAX. There were also times during this trip when I questioned whether or not I was making a positive impact, or if I was making any impact at all. It was actually during one of our morning devotions that I was reminded of my friend and her tip for me (although the reason may not be apparent to us at the time, God places us where we need to be). As I reflected upon the trip thus far, I thought that maybe the purpose of this trip for me wasn’t to make that positive impact during those health fairs or during those presentations. Maybe instead, the purpose of this trip was to connect with 13 other individuals from LLU, most of whom I would probably have never met or even reached out to if it were not for this trip.

Overall, this trip has been a great learning experience. I mastered some Mandarin phrases, saw how some non-US pharmacies operate, and honed my photography skills. In regards to spirituality, I trust that God specifically brought us all here for a reason. Everyone has been so kind and understanding thus far. Regardless of what God’s reason for bringing us may be, I am thankful for the opportunity for the 14 of us to travel together, to provide some health education together, and to just grow as individuals as we experience a little of China together.”
This June, I had the opportunity to go on my very first mission trip to the beautiful country of Thailand as part of a very diverse team of individuals. Led by full-time International Mission Board missionaries, Dr. Doug and Mrs. Cheryl Derbyshire, our team held five mobile clinics in various villages in Chachoengsao Province, located in central Thailand. As part of this team, we may have had different daily roles and responsibilities, but we all shared a sole purpose during this time: to reflect Christ and to spread the Gospel to the people of Thailand.

After a more than 24-hour journey, we arrived in the district of Bangkla, where the Derbyshires live and operate a clinic. Over the next couple of days, we were fully immersed into Thai culture, learning about the delicious food, the language, and the country’s main religion: Buddhism. As we prepared for our upcoming clinics, I got to know some of the other members of our team, including some of the Bangkla clinic workers, who would play a significant role during our mobile clinics.

For the four days, we would travel to different villages in order to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Thai people. When patients arrived, they would get their vitals checked. Then they would go see one of the two doctors present to write whatever prescription they needed. Next, the patients would drop off their prescription at the pharmacy table, manned by me and Alex, and then sit and wait for a consultation. Our job was to ensure that each patient got the right medication and the appropriate dose and quantity. Instead of giving the medication directly to each patient, we would assemble a bag containing the prescription, medicine, and a small pamphlet detailing the Gospel message. Finally, one of the Thai clinic workers would grab a bag, sit with the patient, go over important counseling points, and then proceed to share the pamphlet’s message. Each patient could then decide whether they were interested in learning more or they could even pray to receive Christ as their Savior right there! Although I could not understand exactly what was being said during each encounter, it was clearly evident when someone was fully engaged and interested in the message, and it was especially heartwarming to witness those who took a leap of faith and gave their hearts to the Lord.

Overall, we ministered to over 500 patients and at least 50 either prayed to receive Christ or were interested in learning more. After seeing these numbers and listening to the testimonies provided during the worships after clinics, I can confidently say that the Lord was working through us.

Yes, this trip took me out of my comfort zone. Yes, I sometimes even questioned how much of an impact I was actually making, considering the fact that I did not speak Thai and was limited in my interactions with the people. Despite these barriers and challenges, I can still say that I left Thailand with a renewed sense of purpose and appreciation for mission work. One aspect that I treasured the most about this experience was the kindness and hospitality of the Thai people. Clinic workers always did their best to make us feel welcome and comfortable. Patients smiled with gratitude and appreciation. It was also rewarding to see individuals of different backgrounds, talents, and capabilities come together with similar desires for transformation in the lives of others. Indeed, service is our calling no matter what our occupation may be. It was a privilege to be a part of something that was so much bigger than myself and to be part of a team that came together for the glory of God.
CLASS OF 2019 QUICK STATS

**CLASS SIZE**
75

**ETHNICITY**
- African-American: 3%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 59%
- Caucasian: 28%
- Hispanic: 7%
- Multiethnic: 4%

**CLASS GENDER**
- 65% Female
- 35% Male

**MARITAL STATUS**
- 89% Single
- 11% Married
HOME STATE

In-State Residents 91%
Out-of-State Residents 9%

LLU “LEGACY” STUDENTS
Students who have immediate family members who are alumni from or current students at an LLU school.

BACHELOR’S DEGREE INFORMATION

- Medical Studies 1%
- Communications 1%
- Spanish 1%
- Psychology/Psychobiology 3%
- Public Health/Environmental Studies 4%
- Business/Economics 8%
- Science 81%

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- Adventist 25%
- Public 67%
- Other Christian 8%

HOME STATE

In-State Residents 91%
Out-of-State Residents 9%

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- Adventist 25%
- Public 67%
- Other Christian 8%

AVERAGE AGE

24
AMCP WESTERN REGIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

For the first time ever in its nine years of running, the AMCP Western Regional Managed Care Student Conference was hosted by our student chapter here at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy. Held on campus Sunday, July 10, 2016, the conference drew the attendance of nearly 100 guests from eight different schools of pharmacy from all over California, as well as one student from the University of Michigan. Guests also included leaders in AMCP, past and current presidents of APhA, and executive leadership of Molina Healthcare, Inc.

Douglas Hillblom, PharmD, Founder and President of Arena Health, LLC, was the day conference’s Keynote Speaker, and LLUSP Associate Professor Paul Gavaza, PhD, provided a complimentary continuing education seminar entitled “Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a pharmaceutical product or service”. Also included in the day’s activities were various breakout sessions where conference attendees were able to learn about topics relevant to managed care. Additionally, a round table session on residencies and fellowships was organized for students to ask pharmacy leaders to share their insight and pointers on how to succeed in those pursuits.

“I was definitely humbled by the experience,” shares AMCP LLUSP student chapter President-Elect and P3 Jason Kiroyan. “I was amazed by how much support we received by these leaders in pharmacy and how they took out their time to be with students and mentor them so that they could make a difference in the future.

TYLENOL® SCHOLARSHIP

This past Fall, Amy Kang, ’16 became one of 40 recipients chosen nationwide for the TYLENOL® Future Care Scholarship. According to their website, the corporation awards scholarships every year to undergraduate and graduate students who have displayed “academic excellence, exemplary leadership, community involvement, and dedication to a career of caring for others.”

“I chose a healthcare career because it provides me the opportunity to help those who are sick and in pain,” Amy shares in her biography on the scholarship website. “I recall wanting so desperately to provide medical relief for my mother when she was suffering from breast cancer. This desire did not subside when my mother recovered but evolved into an undying determination to become a pharmacist. My heart is set on becoming a pharmacist as opposed to a physician because the emphasis of pharmacy is more on therapeutics than it is on diagnosis. I am determined to serve as a bridge between physicians and patients related to medication.”

Amy Kang was also chosen as the recipient for the President’s Award during this year’s Commencement ceremony. This past July, Amy began her PGY1 residency in pharmacy practice at the University of California, San Francisco.
GRADUATION WEEKEND 2016

On Friday, May 28th, the Class of 2016 walked into Wong Kerlee Conference Center to begin the first of their Graduation Weekend’s events — the Hooding Ceremony. On Sabbath-morning, our graduates shared the sanctuary of Loma Linda University Church for the Baccalaureate service, where Andy Lu, PharmD, and Mary Thompson, PharmD, were featured student speakers during the program. The weekend was capped off momentously the next day, Commencement Sunday, on the lawn of the Graduation Mall, where 77 Doctor of Pharmacy degrees were conferred to our 11th graduating class. Several awards were also bestowed during the ceremony:

MISSION EXCELLENCE AWARD: Millina Hanna, PharmD

WIL ALEXANDER WHOLE PERSON CARE AWARD: Nadine Slazon, PharmD

DEAN’S AWARD: Carmen Wong, PharmD

PRESIDENT’S AWARD: Amy Yoon Kang, PharmD

SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Nancy Kawahara, PharmD, MEd

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: James Pinder, JD, MBA

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: Caroline Nguyen, PharmD, ’11

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: W. William Hughes, PhD

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016!
WE ARE PROUD AND EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE LLUSP ALUMNI FAMILY!
OVER $100,000 AWARDED TO STUDENT SCHOLARS

Fifty-eight awards were handed out on April 14, 2016 for the Honors & Awards Ceremony, which gathered all of our students together at the Double Tree Hilton in San Bernardino.

The event recognizes the achievements of students, faculty, and preceptors over the academic year. Students receive scholarships and awards from various corporate sponsors, professional organizations, private institutions, as well as faculty and administration. Faculty and preceptors are also recognized for their contributions to the education and professional development of our students.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR
Jim Pinder
Elvin Hernandez
Farnoosh Zough

PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR
Byung Im, ‘10
Dennis Ho, WeCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Alireza Hayatshahi
Mike Coronado

CATEGORY
Alumni
External
LLUSP Faculty
LLU Medical Center

For a full album and list of awardees, please visit the School Facebook page: facebook.com/LLUSchoolofPharmacy.
CLASS OF 2007 COUPLE GIVES BACK IN HONOR OF PARENTS

Established in 2015 by alumni couple Claudia Attallah-Campbell ’07 and Michael Campbell ’07, the Boushra and Mariam Attallah Scholarship is named in honor and appreciation of Claudia’s parents and their amazing story to achieve The American Dream.

Emigrating from Egypt in 1973 with only $600 between them, Boushra and Mariam hit the ground running to find work as soon as they landed in the United States. Initially, Boushra worked security and various odds-and-ends jobs to make ends meet before going back to school at Cal State Northridge for his physical education degree in 1976, after which he served as a physical education teacher at Chester W. Nimitz Middle School in Huntington Park. For 30 years, Boushra was a committed educator, and, aside from his teaching duties, would often referee football and basketball games, and participate in the school’s Sport Night.

For Mariam, she used her skills as a seamstress in finding her first line of work, taking three different bus routes from downtown Los Angeles just to get to her place of employment in Marina del Rey. When she became pregnant with her second child, Claudia (older brother Tony was born in Egypt and came with Mariam), she was considered such a valuable employee that her factory gave her equipment to take home with her to continue working — which she did up until the week before Claudia was born.

With a new baby in tow, Boushra wished for Mariam to stay home in Alhambra with the children, and the idea for setting up the Virgin Mary Preschool blossomed. As the business grew, so did their operations, and after eight years, the entrepreneurial Attallah family would raise up the walls of the physical building which is still in existence today. Up until two years ago, this longstanding and respected Alhambra community daycare center was run by the Attallahs until their retirement, and it is still in operation today. Additionally, the Attallahs over the years have also successfully managed rental properties.

“Boushra loves the fact that he came here to open up opportunities for his kids and his family, and he’s done that,” shares son-in-law Michael Campbell. “But his and Mariam’s story is pretty cool, taking three buses to work, commuting two hours. It’s a pretty cool story.”

“I think that’s what Claudia and I want, we want to keep [their story of the American Dream] going,” he elaborates. “America is a land of immigrants. We are from everywhere ... and people come here because there’s tons of opportunity. We wanted to give back by establishing that scholarship based on that American dream, and to give back to a school that we went to.”

When asked what their hopes are for how this scholarship impacts its awardees, Michael says that “I hope it helps them to be appreciative of their story and what their parents had to go through, wherever they migrated from, and to share their story and be appreciative. And maybe carry it on. The concept of passing it forward. Someone’s doing something for you, now do something for someone else.”

If you are interested in learning about the opportunities to positively impact the lives and education of future healthcare leaders, please contact jonafie@llu.edu.
On Sunday, June 12, 2016, P3s Liem Hoang and Tammy Young became the first LLUSP students to graduate from the masters program in Health Informatics. Completed through the School of Allied Health Professionals, this Master of Science degree is the newest of the two dual degree programs offered by the School of Pharmacy, the other being the Master of Arts in Bioethics through the School of Religion.

“I like computers and technology in general,” Tammy shares, “and I wanted to do something a little different in terms of pharmacy. In undergrad, I debated about switching to computer science, but stayed in science to graduate sooner. Informatics is about as CS as you can get with healthcare, so it seemed like a good fit. My current job has a lot those elements in it, so it’s been pretty sweet.”

For Liem, it was his genuine interest in utilizing technology to improve the quality and safety of patient care that motivated him to pursue this degree.

Unsurprisingly, steely motivation became key to completing a two-year masters program while concurrently enrolled full-time as a PharmD student. “My two major challenges were time management and resilience to complete non-stop heavy loads of assignments,” Liem reveals. “I also tackled 20 intern hours per week, assisted Dr. Nguyen in his research projects, and was actively involved as a webmaster officer for CSHP LLU Chapter. Detailed planning for each week at the beginning of each quarter became extremely helpful to ensure completion of all tasks I have for the quarter.”

For Tammy, though, she felt that “overall it wasn’t too bad. The courses were fairly straightforward, though some were more time-consuming. I did also work, but usually not more than 16 hours a week. The most challenging thing was probably just getting used to having 12- to 13-hour school days, but those were only a few days a week. We had to learn to use our time more efficiently, but near the end of the program I think Liem and I were both pretty zen about everything.”

When asked what the most enjoyable part of the program was, they both had the same answer: their Professional Practice Experience, or PPE, which was a three-week experiential learning component of the program. Working alongside the other students in their cohort, preceptors, and faculty members, Tammy and Liem amassed 110 hours working with the Loma Linda University Health’s LLEAP (Loma Linda Electronic Access Portal) team on LLUH’s Electronic Health Record software pharmacy module, Willow.

“We had quite a few projects but the short summary is that we worked with the Willow team in configuring the back-end of Epic [LLUH’s EHR system],” Tammy reveals. “Everything was very hands-on and the environment was super chill.” Tammy goes on to share that “We met a lot of neat people and were able to make good connections. Our PPE with one of the LLEAP teams was one of the best I’ve ever experienced.”
1 BOYLE, KRIS

2 GAVAZA, PAUL


3 PINDER, JIM

4 SHI, WEI-XING


5 WELDON, DAVE
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE (DPP)
Publications 2015-2016

1 HAYATSHAHI, ALIREZA

2 HONG, LISA

3 KOCH, JESSA

4 NGUYEN, LEE

5 SANTOS, JODY
NEW FACULTY

OLAYEMI O. ADEOYE, MBBS, PHD, MPH
Dr. Adeoye received his medical degree from College of Medicine University of Lagos in 2004 and practiced clinical medicine for two years. His love and passion for community health and research propelled him to attaining a Master of Public Health (MPH, 2008) and a Doctorate in Physiology (PhD, 2013) from Loma Linda University. He completed his three-year fellowship in Vascular Biology with the Center for Perinatal Biology Loma Linda University in June 2016 and joined the School of Pharmacy at LLU as an Assistant Professor of Physiology. He has extensive teaching experience of basic science and public health subjects. His research interests include elucidation of mechanisms involved with mammalian vascular smooth muscle responses to hypoxia. Additionally, he intends studying the regulation of the cytochrome P450 system during pregnancy and hypoxia. He hopes to attain a results oriented mastery of delivering learning materials to his students and to motivate them to develop productive practices that will poise them to be competitive after graduation.

LISA HONG, PHARMD
Dr. Hong joined Loma Linda University as a faculty member in July of 2015. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2013 and also completed her first year of residency training at the University of Colorado Hospital. She then completed a PGY2 in internal medicine at the University of Utah and became a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist.

Dr. Hong currently practices and precepts on the Internal Medicine Units at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She teaches fluids and electrolytes, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, chronic kidney disease, and Pharmaceutical Care Laboratory III, a capstone course focused on patient cases, clinical application, and literature evaluation. She has a strong interest in interdisciplinary education and serves on the Center for Interprofessional Education Task Force as well as the Resident Advisory Committee.

JUSTIN KINNEY, PHARMD, MA
Justin Kinney attended Walla Walla University as an undergraduate, earning in 2010 a B.S. in Biochemistry. Afterwards he returned to his Southern Californian home to complete a dual degree PharmD/MA in Bioethics in 2014 at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy. To further his passion for the critical care setting he earned a PGY1 at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and a PGY2 back at LLUSP in Critical Care/Emergency Physiology.

As of July, 2016 Dr. Kinney began as an Assistant Professor at his alma mater where he is invigorated with the opportunity to practice in a critical care environment, provide didactic lecture, and mentoring both students and residents. For the upcoming academic year, he will be coordinating the Spring GI course as well as providing guest lectures for other courses. He is hopes in establishing his clinical site at the Neuro-ICU (NMCCS) team at the Medical Center. Taking advantage of his dual degree, he will continue to serve on the University and Children’s Hospitals’ Ethics Committees.

Dr. Kinney currently makes the long commute from Redlands where he and his wife, Brittany, live.

JESSA KOCH, PHARMD
Dr. Jessa Koch earned her B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2012 and her PharmD in 2014 with an Area of Concentration in Global Health from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Koch spent two years leading a smoking cessation program and therapeutic group sessions at a rehabilitation center for men with substance use disorder. This experience was one of many that solidified her interest in psychiatric pharmacy practice. Upon completion of her PharmD, Dr. Koch went to the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ohio where she completed both her PGY1 in 2015 followed by a PGY2 in Psychiatric Pharmacy in 2016. She gained invaluable experiences providing care to our nations veterans as well as learning alongside other health professionals. She completed a teaching certificate program from the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy in 2015 and the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy in 2016. She looks forward to teaching the Psychiatry and Neurology courses at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy in addition to precepting student pharmacists. Her clinical interests include primary care mental health integration, substance use disorder, and interprofessional education.
NEW FACULTY

JODY SANTOS, PHARMD, CGP
Dr. Jody Santos joined LLUSP in July 2015 as an Assistant Professor. She received both her Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters in Gerontology degrees from USC School of Pharmacy and USC Davis School of Gerontology in 2013. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center in 2014 and a PGY2 residency in ambulatory care video telehealth at USC in 2015.

Currently, she teaches and coordinates the endocrine and gastrointestinal and miscellaneous courses. She also teaches a portion of geriatrics in special populations. Her clinical practice site is the SACHS clinic in San Bernardino where she provides chronic disease management and drug information in a multidisciplinary setting as part of a collaborative practice agreement.

CAROLINE M. SIERRA, PHARMD
Dr. Caroline Sierra joined the Department of pharmacy practice in the summer of 2016. She received her B.A. in Biology from Pomona College in 2007 and her PharmD from the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy in 2014. Dr. Sierra then completed her PGY1 and PGY2 residencies in Pharmacy and Pediatric Pharmacy at LLU in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Dr. Sierra has been involved in multiple pharmacy organizations throughout her career, most notably APhA and ASHP. She is also a member of the Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma Honor Societies. She has served as an editor and author for multiple texts designed to prepare students for standardized professional school entrance exams. She has received multiple grants to fund patient care outreach activities and public health education. Her primary research interests include pediatric heart transplant and critical care, specialty pharmacy, and academia.

As an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, she will be teaching in the pediatrics component of the special populations course. She will also coordinate and teach in the Drug Information course this fall.

KATHLEEN BESINQUE PHARMD, MSED, FASHP, FCSHP
Dr. Kathleen Besinque graduated with honors from Cal State Long Beach with a BS Zoology, after which point she received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from USC School of Pharmacy in 1982. She completed her postgraduate residency in Ambulatory Care with VA Outpatient Clinic and USC School of Pharmacy. She would later earn her Master of Science in Education from USC Rossier School of Education.

In her over 33 years of clinical and teaching experience at USC, Dr. Besinque served most recently as Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment and Director of Professional Experience Programs from 1996-2015.

Dr. Besinque has also had significant involvement with professional organizations including CPhA, serving as President in 2014; CSHP, as Chair and on its House of Delegates, AACP (having also completed its Academic Leadership Fellow Program in 2015); the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, serving on its Board of Directors through 2016; and president-elect of the SCSHP local chapter. Her practice interests include women’s health and community pharmacy practice.

Dr. Besinque calls Santa Monica home with husband Gary, a pharmacist with Kaiser Pharmacy Operations in Downey. They are the proud parents of four children, including a daughter who is also a pharmacist practicing here in West Covina. Dr. Besinque’s hobbies include gardening, walking, entertaining her dog.
Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy is pleased to welcome Kathleen Hill Besinque, PharmD, MSEd, FASHP, FCSHP, as the new Chair of the Department of Experiential and Continuing Education. She brings with her over 30 years of experience in clinical pharmacy and pharmacy education. We sat down with her for a candid interview a month into her new position here at LLUSP this past July.

Where are you originally from and how did you land on pharmacy for a career choice?
I was born in Detroit, but I pretty much grew up in California. I went to school in Fullerton. I raised livestock when I was in Orange County, and my high school, Sunny Hills High School, had a full farm. I’m not zoned to raise cattle right now, but I would have hens in a heartbeat if I could.

I graduated from high school early because I had enough credits to, and I went to California State Long Beach where I majored in zoology. Originally I was going to go into veterinary medicine. I’ve always liked animals, and I volunteered for a veterinarian for quite some time. And then, after a while, I thought, I would rather take care of people. I was around 20 years old.

In college, I took what would now be considered a gap year and I worked for Chevron Oil Field Research in their research labs. The facility was within a couple of miles from where I grew up so I just went in there one day and asked what jobs they had available. It was very random. But when I was working there and trying to figure out what I was going to do, I ran across some brochures about pharmacy and that’s when I decided that, it would be a good mix of science and helping people, and quality of lifestyle [that I wanted].

Where did you go to pharmacy school? Where did you complete your residency?
I attended USC. I don’t think I applied to any other schools, primarily because I worked at Disneyland, and I did that even while I was doing the oil covered research. I did it as an undergrad and then I kind of continued. But I made so much money working at Disneyland that it just didn’t make sense to go school anywhere else. I thought about going to UCSF, and I actually mapped it out where I could make it work to fly back and forth every weekend. But UCSF was going to make me take a bunch of courses I had already taken; I didn’t want to take them again.

I did a combined residency with the VA Los Angeles and USC, and my practice site was at the VA Outpatient Clinic downtown, very close to Skid Row. It was sort of the predecessor of the ambulatory care residency. At the time, they didn’t have the same offerings as today and there weren’t as many around. There were maybe 150 residencies in the country when I graduated.

What made you want to pursue a residency at the time?
It just seemed like something I wanted to do. I didn’t have that much pharmacy experience because I worked at Disneyland even through pharmacy school. I thought the idea of ambulatory care was a good one, where you do primary care, and so when a residency opened up, I took it. It seemed like a good idea and I had the ability to do whatever I wanted to do at that point, as I didn’t have family obligations.

When I did my residency, one of the components of it was like an early predecessor of sort of a teaching skills curriculum and I got inspired at that point. Actually, Dr. Nancy Kawahara and I were residents and classmates. We were also in the same fraternity, Lambda Kappa Sigma, which was the fraternity promoting women and women’s leadership in pharmacy.

And your foray into academia?
So again, as things have it, they approached me about a position that had just opened up and asked me if I’d be willing to take it. And I said, “Sure, why not?” It was a staff position that involved doing faculty work, which was interesting. In the 33 years I was at USC after residency, my job changed a several times over, but my latest role was Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Assistant

NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. KATHY BESINQUE
Continuing Education?

Dean for Curriculum and Assessment for the past 19 years.

What drew you most to LLU?
It’s really a student-centered institution. There’s a smaller number of students, so there’s more sense of community in that respect.

What were you most excited about in taking the reins here in the Department of Experiential and Continuing Education?
So many things! I think mainly just helping the students grow and develop, and provide support for them as they embark on their career goals. I think it’s a bigger challenge than it used to be to have high quality sites for students that meet their needs and meet ours. So I’m excited about making that happen and having more time to spend doing that.

What do you find about the profession of pharmacy that is unique to it? What do you like about pharmacy that you don’t see elsewhere?
I think there’s a lot of overlap in the professions, but really where pharmacy comes in is in the regular contact with patients. Many people see their pharmacists more than they see anyone else, and we have a chance to see them in good times and in bad. So you see patients when they’re their usual selves, which I think is a big advantage because you don’t just see them when they’re sick. I think that’s a good thing.

Our niche is that we really understand drug therapy and how to make it work and I think that’s really interesting — the idea of keeping people well (therapeutically) as opposed to cutting into them.

You’ve been heavily involved in the area of women’s health as it relates to the contribution of pharmacists can make.
How do you see pharmacy continuing to grow in healthcare?
My next thing will be to expand some of pharmacy’s reach in reproductive health. I’d like to see pharmacists be able to furnish the new diaphragm and some of the simple injections implants over time. But I’m also working with the Safe Opiate Prescribing Initiative; there are some bills in congress right now looking to expand the provider types that can prescribe medicine-assisted treatment for addictions. I’d like to see pharmacists get added to that. Medication-assisted therapy is our thing, so I’d like to see us really focus in on those conditions that we can collaborate with other healthcare professionals on the diagnosis.

PHARMACISTS ARE REALLY A GOOD PROVIDER GROUP. ONCE ALL THE DIAGNOSING HAS BEEN DONE, WE CAN COME IN AND MANAGE THE TREATMENT, AND THE OUTCOMES ARE GOOD.”

What are some things you didn’t realize about pharmacy when you first entered into it? What has been eye-opening about your career in pharmacy so far?
I think a lot has changed in the profession since I started and is continuing to change. The idea that I saw in the brochure about the pharmacist being on the healthcare team and making these interventions working with other healthcare providers, when I started, it wasn’t as robust as the brochure would have suggested. And I think achieving that has been a slow process. It takes a long time to change culture and systems. But we’re moving there.

What would you say is your mission as a clinician and educator?
I think to help people live the highest quality of life that they can and to try to address their needs in more than one dimension. You can’t just treat a patient, you have to treat a person. And that takes into account their spiritual needs, their personal needs, and the goals and things that they want to be able to achieve and do.

Are there any fun sidebars you’d like your students to know about you?
Pharmacy is very big in my family. My husband is a pharmacist and one of my daughters is a pharmacist (graduated from UOP School of Pharmacy). My son was a pharmacy technician and later became a lawyer. I have four children in total: three girls, one boy, who is the oldest (everyone always asks). One daughter is returning from living in Paris for a time; she’s a PhD student in comparative literature at USC. My youngest is just starting her masters in occupational therapy at California State Dominguez Hills. All six of us — me, my husband, my kids — have a degree from USC.

I’m the oldest of seven kids. We have a really big family and are scattered all over the country. I have one brother who I can never quite tell where he’s going to live. Right now he’s in San Francisco, but I think he’s moving to London at the end of the summer. He’s a nurse practitioner. He’s the youngest, I’m the oldest, and we’re the only ones in healthcare. And then I have a brother in Hawaii, I have a brother and a sister in Utah, a sister in Colorado, a brother in Nevada.

On her sister, who is world-renowned rock climber, Lynn Hill:
I actually climbed before she did, since I was older, but I was never as good as she was. She went climbing with me and my friends, and that’s how she got started into climbing. She went on to achieve a number of first ascents, where people weren’t even able to repeat, so you could say that, she’s into it.
ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER

On December 3, 2015, the Office of Alumni Affairs in partnership with the Department of Experiential & Continuing Education were delighted to host the Alumni Holiday Dinner at The Langham Huntington in Pasadena. With the holiday season in full swing, the hotel provided a beautiful backdrop for the intimate reunion and get-together for our alumni and School faculty and administration.

The evening included a video overview of Loma Linda University Health’s Vision 2020 and its plan for growth of LLUH. The commercial of the V-Tech “Carina” doll officially represented by Ashlyn Davies, PharmD, Class of 2013, was also debuted. In addition, as an interactive activity, the alumni were asked to list, swap, and then rank their shared and most special and favorite memories as students, memories of which were read aloud to the group to collectively reflect on.

Two alumni were also recognized for their contributions to the profession of pharmacy. Lia Pop, PharmD, Class of 2011, received the Excellence in Pharmacy Practice award for her extensive role as residency program coordinator at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, as well as her involvement with precepting and mentoring both residents and pharmacy students alike. Dr. Pop also heads the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee at ARMC, is an active member of CSHP.

"IT MAKES ME PROUD TO SEE THE STAMP OUR LLUSP ALUMNI HAVE MADE IN THE PHARMACY WORLD AND HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT AS A WHOLE."

— PHILLIP HIVALE, ’12
ASHP, and an editor of the Comprehensive Pharmacy Service (CPS) Monthly Pharmacy Newsletter, and has taught pharmacology courses at Riverside Community College as well as Western University of Health Sciences.

Landon Dean, PharmD, MA, Class of 2009 President, was also recognized for his Excellence in Academia. Since becoming a pharmacy manager for Walmart in Riverside in 2011, Dr. Landon has served as a preceptor for LLUSP since 2012, and has consistently garnered glowing reviews from students for his dedication to quality education. When asked to describe his preceptorship responsibilities, Dr. Dean says that he enjoys “the opportunity to be a preceptor and help students learn about the science and art of pharmacy, but most importantly, how to provide compassionate pharmaceutical care to patients.”

Interwoven throughout the evening was an added layer of sentimentality as this would be Dean Hughes’ last official alumni gathering before his retirement in January 2016. Dr. Hughes candidly closed the event by sharing with guests his own special memories with LLUSP alongside some parting words of wisdom as Dean.

For Class of 2012 and WeCare clinical pharmacist/Provider Relations Coordinator Phillip Hivale, PharmD, CDE, the alumni dinner was an enjoyable opportunity to reconnect with old friends and classmates. “It was fascinating to see and hear the contributions of my peers that I sat alongside just a few years ago. It makes me proud to see the stamp our LLUSP alumni have made in the pharmacy world and healthcare environments a whole.”

Aside from her regular gig as an inpatient clinical pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente Anaheim Medical Center, LLUSP’s very own Ashlyn Davies, Class of 2013, has also spent this past year serving as the VTech doll ambassador for “Carina, The Doctor”, a character which is a part of the Flipsies toyline and one that she was selected for after an extensive interview process.

“I wanted to inspire young girls to challenge themselves and I loved the concept of introducing a variety of careers at such an early age! I wanted to share my passion and enthusiasm for clinical pharmacy and what I do with others,” Ashlyn shares of her experience and her goals as a spokesperson. “It was an honor to be considered a role model for young girls and represent the profession of pharmacy at the same time.”
It’s always a lot of fun catching up with our alumni, and we are doubly delighted when they take the time out of their busy schedules to give back to their alma mater in the form of mentorship of and networking with our students. Seeing former-students-now-professionals come back and lend a helping hand to soon-to-be graduates was an especially warm and proud full-circle moment for us during the Alumni Networking Reception at The Mission Inn on March 24, 2016.

A joint effort between the Department of Experiential and Continuing Education and the Office of Alumni Affairs, the event provided third – and fourth-year students an evening to network with LLUSP alumni as well as industry leaders within hospital, community and retail pharmacy, including WeCare Pharmaceutical, Inc. CEO and owner Dennis Ho, Regional Pharmacy Recruiter Deborah Polito, and Rob Mullins, Divisional Pharmacy Vice President for Rite Aid. Alongside this unique opportunity to meet and mingle with guests, students were able learn of the many kinds of opportunities that can await them after graduation, how best to take advantage of those opportunities, and garner tips on how to succeed in their plans — be it in residency, clinical, or community pharmacy.

“What I enjoy most about attending networking receptions as an alumna is the opportunity to reconnect with other alumni, as well as connect with a new generation of pharmacists preparing to enter the workforce,” shares WeCare pharmacist Celesti Kiroyan, PharmD, Class of 2014. “I feel like I did not utilize networking receptions as much as I should have when I was in school, and I highly encourage students to take advantage of the opportunity to meet future mentors and colleagues through these events.”

For P3 Michelle Montalongo, she appreciated the networking opportunity the reception provided. “As an intern with Rite Aid, it was exciting to get to speak with the company’s leadership about the future of the company. I also enjoyed meeting the alumni and getting their input on how the world of pharmacy is evolving.”

As our alumni family continues to grow, LLUSP looks forward to extending more networking opportunities to our students and giving them the chance to interact with and be inspired by our alumni.
ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: CAROLINE NGUYEN

Class of 2011 alumna and 2016 Alumna of the Year recipient Caroline Nguyen, PharmD, is always on the go. At Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Dr. Nguyen juggles her positions as a Care Transitions Pharmacist for the Emergency Department and Enhanced Care Program, as well as an Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist in Acute Care. Bernadette Malqued, School of Pharmacy Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs and Communications, and John Nafie, Director of Development for Loma Linda University Health, recently sat down with Dr. Nguyen at her downtown Los Angeles hospital for a candid interview on how it all began and where her journey after pharmacy school has led her so far.
medication list, the admission medication list, labs, and providers’ notes, to determine if patients were on the correct medications and respective regimens post-discharge. My results justified the pharmacist role on the ECP team. On average, I made recommendations for approximately 50% of patients, and as a team, Cedars saw a reduction in readmissions by approximately 25%.

About six months later, I developed the ED pharmacy medication reconciliation program with a pharmacy technician, Parveen Zaman, where I now dedicate half of my current daily work time. The program was established as a result of a study I was involved in during my residency, which found approximately seven errors per admission medication list. Shortly after, together with a physician champion, Dr. Joshua Pevnick, I spearheaded a randomized control trial studying the comparison of obtaining medication histories between pharmacists, pharmacist-supervised pharmacy technicians, and standard of care in the Emergency Department. This program has been widely received throughout the hospital, and the team has more than quadrupled in size due to its success.

I also serve as a primary preceptor for a transitions of care rotation and regularly train rotating medicine and ICU students in medication reconciliation at the start of their rotation. In the past three years, I have trained over 60 pharmacists, students, and technicians, including the entire ED pharmacy medication reconciliation team.

What would you say you enjoy the most about being a pharmacist?
I love having a job where my primary responsibility is to help people. I like transitions of care because it is a hybrid of both outpatient and inpatient, and I enjoy that I’m able to utilize my clinical and general experience in both to assist me in my roles.

As an introvert, it was difficult for me to talk to patients. However, years of interviewing patients for medication reconciliation have greatly improved my interpersonal skills. It now comes much more naturally. I also enjoy mentoring technicians, as I closely supervise them in this specialized direct patient care role. For my post-discharge role on the Enhanced Care Program, I enjoy the complexity of my job. I love synthesizing large amounts of broad and detailed information from the hospital stay and determining opportunities to intervene post-discharge to optimize the patient’s medication regimen. This fulfills my strong restorative nature.

What are the challenges that you face as a pharmacist?
The primary challenge is overcoming the stereotypical image of the pharmacist. Pharmacy is an evolving profession, and the majority of the public, and even those within healthcare, still exclusively see the pharmacist as the one who dispenses medications. Pharmacists have evolved into being a key player in collaborative practice as the medication expert. One positive outcome from creating new pharmacist roles is being able to counter that historical perspective of pharmacists and establish respect and understanding from other disciplines for what pharmacists can truly achieve.

Another challenge that healthcare providers face is balancing the desire to provide excellent patient care within the practical limitations of the healthcare business. It would be ideal to only have to consider patient care. However, this is oftentimes impractical because of how expensive healthcare is, which has influenced the way healthcare is delivered.

In your experience, what have you observed to be some attributes of individuals who are most successful in pharmacy?
For pharmacists, a strong clinical knowledge base and critical thinking skills are imperative for garnering respect and trust. I also think pharmacists who increase their visibility by putting in the effort to actively engage patients and other healthcare providers can better establish themselves as valuable resources.

For leaders, I have always related to servant leadership. When I think of leaders I aspire to be, they embody two classes of traits: competency and servitude.

What are you most passionate about?
I’m passionate about living a full life. I want to make sure I give myself the chance to
do everything I want in this lifetime and explore all that is out there. There are so many things to see and do, and I’m always looking for those new experiences. Looking back, I’m glad I’m this way because it gave me an enriching life, open mindset, and unforgettable memories.

**How did you choose to attend Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy?**
I am very close to my family, and I wanted to stay close to home. I knew about Loma Linda’s well-known reputation in the healthcare community, and I was confident I would receive a strong pharmacy education there. Moreover, I was already familiar with religion-based schooling, as my parents sent my siblings and I to Christian school up until high school, although they were not Christian. I liked attending religion-based schools because, regardless of my beliefs, I was taught by these institutions to be tolerant, compassionate, empathetic, humble, and considerate.

**Tell us about some of your favorite memories as a student at LLUSP.**
I have countless fond memories at LLUSP that it would be too much to share here. I definitely cherished the bonds and friendships I made there. It was a tough four years, and I had a lot of growth during that time. Prior to that, I think others would have described me as very quiet, shy, and reserved. It was there I started to realize my strengths and weaknesses. The extroverted, passionate part of my personality came out, and it was the first time I realized my potential as a leader. Because of those milestones in my journey, that time will always be special to me.

**Did you have any mentors at LLUSP?**
Dr. Mack [Erik J. Mack, PhD, then-associate dean for academic affairs] was definitely a mentor to me as my faculty advisor for APhA-ASP. I was very involved in APhA-ASP during pharmacy school and served as president in my final didactic year. Dr. Mack was beyond generous and supportive, and he donated $10,000 of his own money to help fund the trip to the national meeting, allowing nearly 40 students the opportunity to attend.

**He’s very philanthropic.**
Yes, he was. I was always so grateful, and I’m sure there are many others also, for his support and mentorship. As a small token of our appreciation, I had everyone who attended the trip contribute to a central fund that we could use to purchase a meaningful thank you gift for Dr. Mack. I know he had a great fascination for the hockey player Bobby Orr, so we purchased an autographed Bobby Orr puck and presented it to him at the end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

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**I understand there is another highly-esteemed LLUSP alumna here at Cedars.**
Yes, the APhA-ASP president who preceded me during pharmacy school [Jua Choi, Class of 2009, Kidney Transplant Pharmacist] works here! It’s funny how life unfolds sometimes and how paths cross. Jua has always been great! At the time when she was the president, she was really busy and juggling a lot of other things, and I was very motivated and excited, so it worked out that I was able to be very involved and take on a leadership role early on. Years later, when I applied to Cedars, Rita Shane, Director of Pharmacy Services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, told me that she didn’t know many of my references. However, Jua had just completed her residency there and she gave me a good recommendation. When I started, Rita told me that Jua was a gold standard resident and apparently she told Rita, ‘Caroline is even better than me.’ I think that’s highly debatable, but I was very touched by the sentiment.

**I have to say, when the Department of Experiential and Continuing Education met with Dr. Shane several months ago, she had nothing but glowing remarks for both you and Jua.**
Thank you so much. I’ve learned a lot from Rita and her leadership at Cedars also. I initially applied to Cedars because of the world-renowned reputation for excellent patient care and Rita’s reputation. I thought
Looking back, I now see pharmacy was a great choice for me. It gave me opportunities to accomplish things I never thought possible and evolve into someone that I never imagined.”

by being in the presence of excellence, I, too, would learn to become excellent. I have learned tremendously here, and I’m exceptionally grateful to Rita for giving me the chance to study under her and be provided the opportunities she gave me.

So how did your experience at Loma Linda prepare you for your career?
Loma Linda provided me that initial clinical knowledge base as well as exposure to whole-person care. One of Loma Linda’s strengths is that it is associated with a medical center and provides education for a number of healthcare disciplines, so many of the different healthcare disciplines grow accustomed to each other during education and training. That sense of being used to working with other disciplines was valuable to have prior to joining the workforce.

One of the things I loved most about Loma Linda University was that it was a newer school so there were a lot of opportunities for students to be professionally active and the School was very supportive of that. I don’t know if they still do it now, but for all the organizations I was an officer of, they paid for all of my expenses to attend professional meetings. Because of this, I was able to attend professional meetings all over the nation to learn about the profession’s national agenda and meet pharmacy students from all over.

One thing that I always wish I had done, though, as a student at Loma Linda was the mission trips. I never had a chance to but it’s always something I wanted to do.

Circling back to where it started, with your parents, do they still work?
Yes, they do still work, and after my sister graduated pharmacy school, she actually went to go work with them. Growing up, it was impossible to take family vacations longer than a holiday weekend because they always needed to open the business. Now that I’m a pharmacist, I’m able to help them take a break. I covered for them this last July, and they were able to travel through Asia for vacation. I’m glad I am able to do that for them.

For the most part, I enjoy the community pharmacy experience, and I like how it keeps me well-rounded. It’s touching when the patients who knew me as a child are excited to see me grown up as the pharmacist. Lastly, it’s not too shabby being the boss either!

Any advice for an aspiring pharmacist?
Prior to graduation, we had to write a short summary of our time at LLUSP and our aspirations for the future. In my summary, I incorporated a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson that had been resonating with me, “Always do what you are afraid to do.” This stayed with me for many years, and served me well to strengthen my weaknesses and become a more well-rounded person and pharmacist. So my advice is to follow what you fear because the hardest work pays off the biggest dividends.

I now also see that opportunities I took before, however minor at the time, prepared me for the more important opportunities later on. So if you see an opportunity, take it, because it may lead you to something you love.

I also think being a team player is really appreciated. A lot of times, it’s not about how “good” you are, it’s about if people want to work with you.

Keep trying even after you have failed. I was a well-rounded student and thought it would be easy for me to get an inpatient intern pharmacist position. However, over the course of a year or two, I was rejected about ten times. At Redlands Community Hospital, they told me that they wouldn’t be accepting applications until May of the next year. When the beginning of May came, I went straight to the pharmacy, with my CV in hand, requesting to speak to the director to apply for the position. I ended up getting it. I believe things happen when the time is right.

Also, remember that others’ opinions of you aren’t always true. Don’t let others define your ability or dictate your potential.

Lastly, it’s okay to be uncertain. I never really knew with 100% certainty that I was on the right track, There were times prior to, during, and even after pharmacy school as a licensed pharmacist, where I questioned whether pharmacy was right for me and if I made the right choices. During those times, I had to just trust that I was. Looking back, I now see there is a great choice for me. It gave me opportunities to accomplish things I never thought possible and evolve into someone that I never imagined.

What would you like to pass on to future generations?
I think the desire for them to continue to push the envelope for pharmacy, the advice to not compare themselves to others (because everyone had different paths), and the encouragement to continue working towards their personal and professional goals, even if it seems like they are not possible.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE TUNG FAMILY

They first met during the first-year retreat of pharmacy school after being lumped together in the March birthday group. Then they found out they were neighbors in the same apartment complex. From there, they began studying together and after two quarters of poring over biochemistry, physiology, and immunology notes, Class of 2011 alumni Elise Chen-Tung, PharmD, and Lonald Tung, PharmD became a couple and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fast-forward five years, a wedding and two babies later (Logan, 3 years-old and Landon, 1 year-old), the Tung family now resides in Loma Linda. Lonald working as a pharmacist-in-charge and Elise currently works part-time. With two working pharmacists in the family, one can imagine how crazy their schedule can be, evidenced below.

“To be honest I feel we’re still struggling and learning on a day to day basis, especially with young kids meeting new developmental milestones, such as walking, the toddler years, and the sleep deprivation doesn’t help,” She admits. “What helps is having family members that are able to help out. Both of our moms are good with both kids. Having a circle of friends who are also pharmacists is helpful too.”

6:00 AM

(Elise) Baby wakes up early again despite having gone to bed late. Half a sleep, I stumble into nursery to nurse and console him.

6:05 AM

Logan notices mom is not sleeping next to him and begins to scream for mom. Baby hears Logan and starts crying too.

6:10 AM

(Elise) Come back to bedroom equally amazed and annoyed at my husband’s ability to sleep through two screaming and crying kids. I “gently” shake him awake and hand him the baby.

6:45 AM

(Lonald) Baby falls back to sleep. Finally. I jot down some notes and do a mental run-through of today’s tasks at work while getting ready.

8:00 AM

By the time Lonald arrives to work at 8:00 a.m., there is already a line of waiting customers. The rest of the morning is filled with directing staff and work flow and inventory management, not to mention filling out and verifying prescriptions.

8:10 AM

Back at home, Elise’s day is equally as hectic once the boys wake up.

8:50 AM

(Elise) After Baby is done feeding, I watch him as he pushes his walker around. Logan is still chewing on the bite of food he took ten minutes ago. I start to do dishes and sweep the floor between feeding him each bite.

9:20 AM

(Elise) Logan and baby play in the living room. I give baby his toy, but he ignores it and goes for big brother’s cars. Fight breaks out between the two. Conflict resolution time.

11:00 AM

(Elise) My mother-in-law arrives and after filling her in, officially hand over the kids to her for the day. Get ready for work. Excited to wear a blouse and slacks instead of T-shirt and gym shorts. Kids see me and begin to fuss. I nicely tell them I have work. Logan gets it but Baby cries and breaks my heart just a little. I grab soy milk and a sandwich to eat in the car.

1:00 PM

(Elise) My shift starts. Love seeing all my co-workers and talking to anyone over three years old.
(Lonald) After lunch, I go to the front office for a short conference call and make work schedules for upcoming weeks. I stress over the budget, trying to schedule my techs to still ensure good customer service delivery.

(Lonald) Get paged back to the pharmacy to help since it’s busy. More verification of prescriptions and finishing up calls until I clock out.

(Lonald) I enjoy my drive home listening to my audio book and brace myself for my second shift at home with the kids.

(Elise) I clock out for lunch for an hour. I pump during lunch in a private lockable room.

After lunch, she steadies herself for the “rush hour” of community practice.

(Elise) Customers come in after work or to pick up prescription items ordered through our outside vendor. Rush hour is here.

By 8:30 p.m. Elise has no more than two technicians until closing at 10 p.m. and focuses on resolving prescription issues and phone calls.

(Elise) Arrive at home. Happy to see both kids asleep. Enjoy late dinner with husband. Sometimes (if not most of the time), workdays feel more relaxing than my stay-at-home days.

(Lonald) This is one of the happiest times of my day where I can relax a bit and enjoy our peace and quiet together.

Borrowing a meme that she once saw, Elise describes parenthood as being “neither an early bird nor night owl; I am just some form of permanently exhausted pigeon.” We have our good days and bad days, but if I had a choice to go back in time, I’d choose to do it all over again.”
ALUMNI BABIES

OLIVIA VAUGHAN CACHO
Born: March 16, 2016.
Weight: 7lbs, 4oz
Height: 19.5 in
Parents: Kristin (Vaughan) Cacho ’09 and Vince Cacho, LLUSM ’07
“It’s been quite the adventure, and we are enjoying every minute!”

JAYDEN DAVIS KHOROMANA
Born: July 4, 2016
Weight: 7lbs, 11oz
Height: 19 in
Parents: Danielle (Davis) Khoromana ’12 and Mervin Khoromana
“Mervin and I are truly blessed that our union has created such a precious bundle of joy in Baby Jayden.”

HAYVN OLIVIA THOMPSON
Born: April 4, 2016
Weight: 7lbs, 11oz
Height: 21 in
Parents: Mary Thompson ’16 and Ian Thompson
“Ian and I are so insanely blessed to have each other and to have this sweet tiny love that we get to cherish, love, and raise. There is no greater feeling in the world!”

CLASS NOTES

DOUGLAS BRADLEY, ’09
Since graduating in 2009, I have been working at Walgreens in Ridgecrest, CA, and in 2011, I became the pharmacy manager. In August 2015, I got married and my wife and I have two kids, our first one together being born in 2012.

MICHIKO OKAWARA, ’15
Since graduating from LLU, I have been working at CVS Health. My husband and I have been saving up and were able to purchase our very first home located in Torrance. This year we celebrated our 7th Wedding Anniversary. I am also pregnant with a baby boy due September 22nd. Owning a home and starting a family are two huge milestones that we are excited to hit.

Besides my personal life, I have been following my passion to serve our community. My passion started at LLU with educating the youth and preventing potential drug abuse. Dr. Kathryn Knecht and several students, including me, started a program called “Youth Rx Abuse.” We toured around schools presenting about drug abuse using puppets. After our great success with the puppet shows, my enthusiasm to serve the community led me to join a community outreach program by CVS Health, called “One Choice.” One Choice focuses on community high school students and educates them on potential prescription drug abuse. Collaborating with another pharmacist in my district, Dr. Mable Lai, we have presented at two different schools, reaching out to over 800 students. We were recognized by our district supervisor and district manager for our work. This achievement made us presenters very excited and pushed us to serve more in our community.

LARRY RUTEBUKA, ’10
As of September 17, 2016, I began my new role within Wal-Mart as Market Health & Wellness Director (MHWD) for the Los Angeles area market. My territory will include eight Wal-Mart Supercenter stores of which I will supervise both Pharmacy and Optical. I’ve been a Wal-Mart Pharmacy Manager/PIC for five years, my most recent location being the new Loma Linda Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market. I’ve enjoyed precepting many LLUSP students and interns since then, and was honored to be recognized as LLUSP Alumni Preceptor of the Year in 2013. I was also re-elected for a second term to sit on the national pharmacist advisory panel for Wal-Mart corporate leadership, where I continued to lead out in several change initiatives for the company. My advice to all pharmacy students beginning their journey in this profession is to have mentors and network, but most importantly, to also join SNPhA!

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On July 17, 2016, Bishoy Tannious ’14 and Deyana Beshir ’16 were joined in marriage at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge, CA. Dr. Beshir is currently a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice resident with the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and Dr. Tannious is with Lab Specialty Pharmacy in Lancaster. “We are so happy to begin our new life together! God has blessed us to have met each other through Loma Linda School of Pharmacy. We look forward to a lifetime full of adventures.”
Philanthropy Priorities

Clinical Care $225 million
- New Adult Hospital
- Expanded Children’s Hospital
- Enhanced Proton Treatment Center
- Enhanced International Heart Institute
- New East Campus Operating Suite

Education $70 million
- Scholarships
- Faculty Development
- New Educational Approaches
- Research Discoveries

Research $50 million
- New Research Laboratories

Wholeness $15 million
- New Wholeness Institute
- Enhanced Community Programs
- Seminars and Publishing

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