



NEWS CAPSULE

For students, faculty, staff, alumni, & friends | West Hall | Loma Linda, California | (909) 558-1300 | pharmacy.llu.edu

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From the Dean | 200 Yards— The Excellence of Proximity

—Billy Hughes PhD, Dean

In the United States there are more than 100 Academic Health Centers (AHC), each one characterized by the synergistic presence of health professions education, patient care, and research. As I write this column, I look out my office window, east across Campus Street, and see the Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) a mere 200 yards away and ask—what is the value-added benefit of this facility for our PharmD students, Residents, and Clinical Faculty?

Some have heard me talk about moving to Loma Linda in the 50's. How in the early 60's I watched construction of LLUMC, even getting into some trouble playing on the construction site. And then in 1967, the year the new hospital opened, I was employed in the Hospital Cafeteria where I made vegeburgers and milkshakes—the same corner where the vegeburger construction takes place today! In those days I was oblivious to the educational value of LLU's AHC status.

Fast forward to 2011, and there are eight schools educating health professionals, some 900 hospital beds available for patient care, over 33,000 inpatient admissions, and over half a million outpatient visits. LLUMC is the only level one regional trauma center serving more than 4 million people residing in Inyo, Kern, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Only one in three schools of pharmacy are on AHC campuses. So what's the benefit for our School of Pharmacy?

First, LLUMC provides for the breadth, diversity, and quality of experiences available to student pharmacist interns. It is rare to find so many different, high-quality experiences in one major medical center. LLUMC has a quality intern pharmacist program

where our School of Pharmacy student pharmacists fill slots each year. Student pharmacists who complete the program are well prepared for PY3 IPPE and PY4 APPE experiences. Additionally, LLUMC and LLUSP jointly host a large PGY1 and PGY2 residency program that offers a teaching certificate. Residents further enhance the experiences for student pharmacists in the clinic and classroom.

Second, student pharmacists have access to unique clinical-experience areas offered by LLUMC. Student pharmacists are able to gain experiences for APPE clinical rotations in Medicine, Ambulatory Care, and many electives including: Intensive Care Units across a broad spectrum (e.g., Neonatal ICU, Pediatric ICU, Adult ICU), Emergency Department, Transplant, Oncology (both Pediatric and Adult), Cardiology, Investigational Drugs, and Medication Safety. One notable experience would be Emergency Department exposure in antivenin treatment. In this clinical setting student pharmacists learn protocols for snakebite victims as led by Dr. Sean Bush (*Venom ER* Animal Planet TV series). Student pharmacists are also able to observe transplant and elective surgeries. The opportunities are great when you get your educational and clinical training at the #1 Hospital in the Inland Empire, a hospital recognized for ELEVEN Centers of Excellence (US News & World Report).

Third, the educational and clinical environment of AHC/LLUMC exposes student pharmacists to a diverse patient population due to referrals from other medical centers in a five county area.



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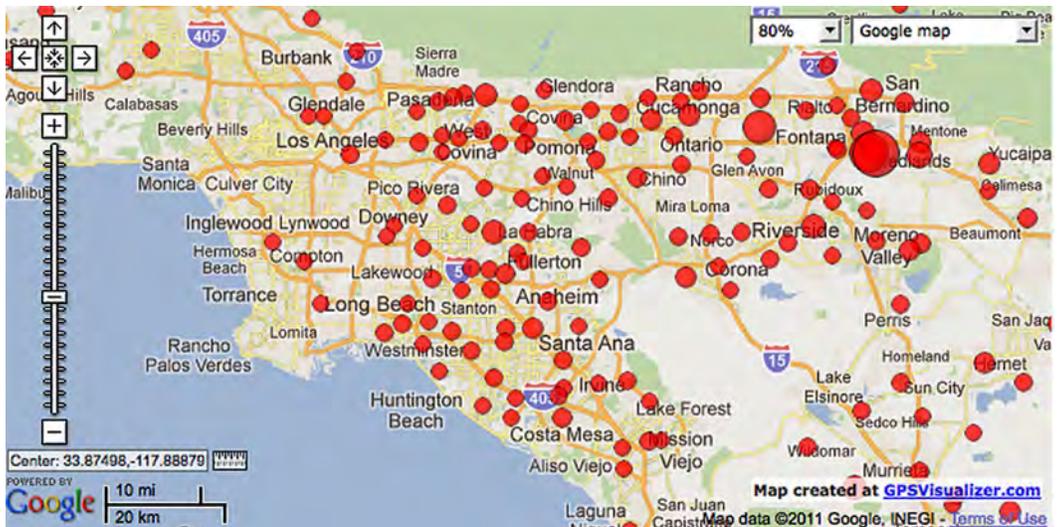
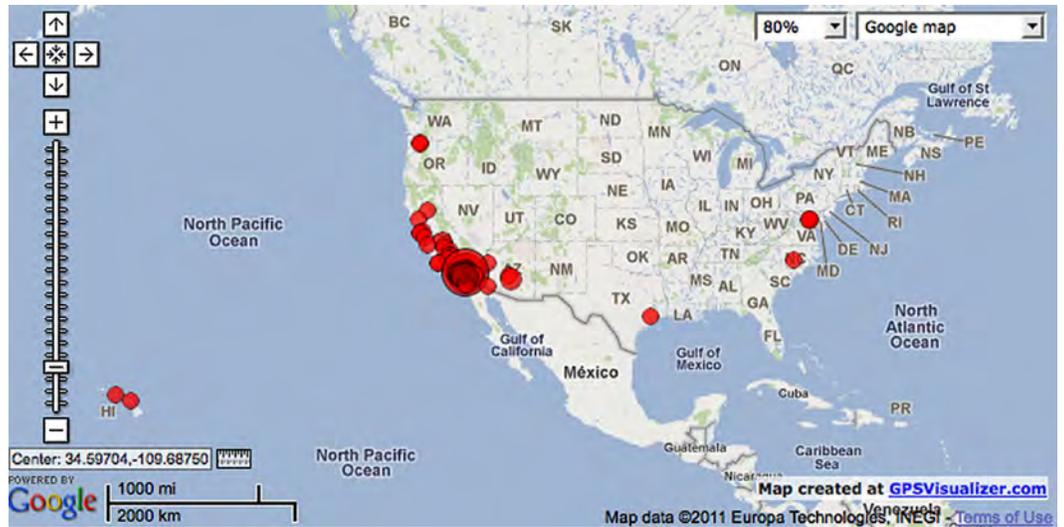


200 Yards—The Excellence of Proximity (continued from cover)

The LLUMC vision is *Innovating Excellence in Christ-centered Health Care*. Experiences include participation in the University's mission and values by training on units where prayer is a part of the routine practiced by health care professionals. Many senior pharmacists are faculty preceptors and are recognized nationally by their peers as leaders in their respective areas. Senior preceptors, some with over 20 years of precepting experience, make excellent role models. Pharmacists hired at LLUMC are expected to teach students and it's my experience that they want to teach and they care about each student pharmacist journey of becoming an excellent pharmacist devoted to whole person care.

Who makes all of this possible? First, Mrs. Ruthita Fike, CEO LLUMC, is committed to the functional role that characterizes an AHC—the education of future healthcare professionals. This commitment has tremendous monetary cost, as the education of students by clinicians takes time, and time is money. Other administrators including Danny Fontoura, Sr. VP University Hospital, and Zareh Sarrafian, Sr. VP Children's Hospital, echo Mrs. Fike's commitment. Dr. Paul Norris provides the bridge between the School and Medical Center. As both the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (LLU) AND the Executive Director of Pharmacy (LLUMC), Dr. Norris has responsibilities for over 100 staff pharmacists, including about two-dozen LLUSP Alumni. Many of the LLUMC pharmacists are faculty in the School of Pharmacy and are involved with the education of our student pharmacists.

It is these administrators and health care professionals, and the excellence experienced at LLUMC that defines the *Excellence of Proximity*.



LLUSP Excellence of Proximity continues as clinical sites expand.

A Variety of the Profession

Loma Linda University Medical Center provides School of Pharmacy students with a complete clinical experience inside the pharmacy profession.

—Steve Vodhanel, PhD

As soon as students enter the school of pharmacy, experiential education at the Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) plays an important part of their learning. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE/APPE) generally are the student's first look into the many facets of the pharmacy profession, and the rich learning environments of clinical experiences at LLUMC often exposes students to future career options.

For Ashlyn Davies (Class of 2013), the pharmacy clinical rotations at LLUMC have provided a rich and important variety of experiences across the entire spectrum of the pharmacy profession. It is this clinical experience provided by LLUMC that is helping shape Davies' future direction in the pharmacy profession.

"The LLUMC experience is forming the mold of what type of pharmacist I'm going to be. They offer so much to you, things we don't see in the classroom. As a student in IPPE/APPE, you see just how much experienced pharmacists really know and how far, as a student, I have to go and where my future interests might be," said Davies.

The clinical experience provided by LLUMC extends far beyond patient care and drug knowledge by immersing students into the administrative responsibilities of clinical hospital practice. "The LLUMC experience has much administrative experience...policy... monitoring...responsibility management. Ins and outs of hospital work...the business end more than I expected. The agencies and

what they expect. But it's the hospital's action-type meetings where policies and procedures, current issues, new drugs to formulary, and all the ideas finally come together. It is a learning experience we can't get in the classroom," said Davies.

By having a close working relationship with LLUMC, the school of pharmacy clinical experiences offered to students is as top-notch as any in the nation.

"Students enter the Doctor of Pharmacy program with a narrow view of what opportunities are available to them as licensed pharmacists. Through hands-on experience in real-world settings, students come to appreciate the breadth of opportunities that the profession provides. We are fortunate to have a facility like LLUMC available to help open their eyes to the impact that pharmacists can have on the patients they serve," said Dr. Nancy Kawahara, Associate Dean of Assessment and Professional Affairs for the School of Pharmacy.



Faculty News

Grant received for depression awareness education

The LLU chapter of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacist (CSHP) has received grant funding from the CSHP Foundation and Pfizer to promote depression awareness. The LLU CSHP student president, Sarah Prates (Class of 2013), has worked with Drs. Mary Gutierrez and Jerika Lam to create magnets, pens, post-it notes, calendars and a website dedicated to this project. The project will focus on depression awareness education to promote help-seeking behavior for those suffering from depression.



Publications

Congratulations to **Dr. Lee Nguyen** and co-authors, **Dr. Anh-Vuong Ly** and **Dr. Carl Dominguez**, for the abstract, *Impact of Teaching Seminars to Develop Pharmacy Academicians within a Residency Program*, presented at the 2011 AACP Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jerika Lam** for her abstract, *Impact of a Pharmacist Managed HIV/HCV Co-Infection Clinic*, presented at the 2011 AACP Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Dr. Siu-Fun Wong has accepted an invitation to participate in revising the risks and benefits sections of the *ICD Informed Consent Template* for cancer treatment clinical trials.

Congratulations to **Dr. Willie Davis** in collaboration with other LLU and UCLA faculty on the journal publication: Insulin-like Growth Factor – 2 (IGF-2) Activates Estrogen Receptor – α and β via the IGF – 1 and the Insulin Receptors in Breast Cancer Cells. (Journal: *Growth Factors*)

Loma Linda University Pharmacy Residency Program: A Course of Growth

Residency program sees growth as both professional and organizational.

—Steve Vodhanel, PhD

The Loma Linda University pharmacy residency program began in 1995 with one resident working with the residency program director, Dr. Norm Hamada. During the year 2008, the pharmacy residency program became a joint collaboration between the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) and the Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC). This enabled an opportunity for growth in a professional organization capable of accepting greater numbers of residents, while also providing a valuable learning experience for current residents.

LLUSP and LLUMC have worked in tandem to create residency programs built on adequate infrastructure and are driven by current market requirements for the specialization of pharmacist training.

Students view the pharmacy residency program as an opportunity for professional growth. The clinical experiences within LLUMC provide pharmacy residents the opportunity to gain knowledge unattainable in most pharmacy settings. "I chose to come back to do a residency because I wanted to expand my clinical knowledge regarding the management of patients with a broad range of acute disease states. I also wanted to learn about pharmacy operations in the inpatient setting," stated Ana Connor, PharmD, PGY1 (first year) resident.

For Immanuel Ijo, PharmD PYG2, (second year) resident, the clinical setting of LLUMC provides experiential learning in a multidisciplinary

setting, and the opportunity for professional growth by experiencing first-hand the patient-focused delivery of medical excellence across an array of infectious diseases. According to Dr. Ijo, learning comes through engaging with the team of pharmacists at LLUMC and direct patient care at the bedside.

Julie Thiry, PharmD, PGY1 resident, views the residency program as an opportunity to further develop and refine clinical skills as well as improve the decision making processes required to become a competent and autonomous pharmacist. Dr. Thiry is also looking for the opportunity to apply learned pharmacy skills across a wide spectrum of patients.

John Alpago, PharmD, PGY1 resident adds, "The reason why I chose to do a residency was

to enhance my knowledge and confidence to become a proficient clinical pharmacist." Dr. Alpago also states that Loma Linda University's commitment to develop the 'whole person' coupled with the wide variety of rotations was important to his choice of pharmacy residency programs.

Currently, there are eleven pharmacists working in the residency program. However, "further expansion is always a discussion. Our departments are large enough to allow for further growth," stated Dr. Carl Dominguez, Pharmacy Residency Coordinator and Assistant Professor.



Alumni News

Tony Eid from the Class of 2006 writes to Dr. Kawahara,

I just wanted to touch base with you it's been a long time. I was hoping if you by chance caught the latest edition of AJHP. I just published my 2nd article with them entitled *Dabigatran induced rash*. I am still with the United States Air Force, Pharmacotherapist at David Grant Medical Center. I am running the anticoagulation/ Lipid and HTN services in addition to being the National Patient Safety Goal 3E czar. We just had Joint Commission in last few weeks, we did great.

The previous article is just a sample. I am working on something now with our cardiothoracic surgeon in addition with our interventionalist regarding more judicious use of dabigatran. There are some

remarkable issues with this medication. Stay tuned....Other than that I hope all is well.

Armin Hariri writes:

Dr. Mack!

How are you? Hope all is well with you and the whole faculty at LLU. I just wanted to send an email and say hi. Anything new at LLU? I was surprised to receive a bday card signed by you all a couple months back. Really appreciate it. Please thank everybody from me and say hi.

God bless, Armin Hariri, Pharm.D., Class of 2009

(continued on back page)

From Student to Pharmacist to Preceptor to Corporate Manager

—Steve Vodhanel, PhD

For Greg Harrington, PharmD (Class of 2009), the challenge of pharmacy school was extensive, but the challenges of career opportunities moved all too fast. In a period of less than two years, Dr. Harrington has progressed from student, to pharmacist, pharmacy manager, to preceptor, to corporate professional that includes special projects in the Las Vegas area. Dr. Harrington also has received the Region 72 Paragon Award for CVS. CVS gives the Paragon Award solely to their very top performers.

“Yes, it’s true. While there are plenty of pharmacist jobs, the pharmacy profession is much larger and the career paths much broader than I realized while in school. As a pharmacist, once you are licensed your perspective of the profession changes, and careers can happen quickly,” said Dr. Harrington.

Dr. Harrington does find the time to assist the Loma Linda School of Pharmacy by precepting students in a manner beneficial to both students and CVS/Caremark.

“I was fortunate to work with great preceptors, some who have been pharmacists for 25 and 30 years, and this made a huge impact on me. And, I want to make sure I have the opportunity to influence other students. As a preceptor, I get a chance to use my experience in making students become good pharmacists in the same manner as those preceptors who helped me. I have this saying... learn the hard way by yourself, or learn the easy way through the experience of others. And in this profession, learning the hard way by yourself can be a fatal mistake,” stated Dr. Harrington.



According to Dr. Harrington, precepting is also a valuable experience for any corporate or professional entity. “Through precepting we get a real close look at a student’s skills and knowledge, but also how they will handle themselves in an often stressful situation that demands good people skills. Students need to understand that the pharmacy profession truly is a small family and that every rotation is a potential audition for a job. Take each rotation seriously and work professionally, as you may meet these same people later in your career, or, and this is common, someone in an interview will know that person whom you once worked under,” said Dr. Harrington.

Dr. Harrington also simply enjoys the precepting experience. “It’s fun and a great way to stay in contact with your school. Every six weeks or so we get to meet another student on their path to becoming a pharmacist, and we look forward to this time. We’ve had some really great students, and actually hired a few along the way,” stated Dr. Harrington.

“But, as a last thing, show me a pharmacist who made it without preceptors. We all owe it to our profession to take on the responsibility of precepting, as those did before us. As a student, if you had a great experience during a rotation, try to emulate that same great experience as a preceptor. If you had a terrible experience during a rotation, try not to repeat that. Precepting is a rewarding experience,” added Dr. Harrington.

LLUSP News



Abby Elizabeth Rowland joined LLU School of Pharmacy as Director of Development in June. Consistent with our new direction to coordinate our philanthropy activities across the institution, Abby will focus her talents and experience on continuing to build on the foundation of great development work that Jim Pinder has led in the School of Pharmacy. In addition, she will continue to expand her efforts for the Children’s Hospital.

This partnership with Dean Hughes and the Children’s Hospital is the first new strategic position that will serve to grow a strong major gifts program across the system that is donor driven and relationship based.



Jim Pinder, JD, MBA, accepted new responsibilities within the School of Pharmacy in July. His new title is Director of Academic Affairs, reporting to Dr. Mack, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Jim’s primary areas of responsibility are course scheduling and student registration. He continues to teach Pharmacy Law to first-year students. While

he will miss fundraising and the interaction it brought with donors, both corporate and individual, he looks forward to new challenges in the academic affairs realm.



Shastin Rains, MA, who currently directs all marketing and recruitment efforts for Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, will now also be overseeing all alumni-related activities. Her new title is Director of Enrollment & Alumni Affairs. She is very excited about her new responsibilities and looks forward to connecting alumni with each other as well as back to the School of Pharmacy.

Congratulations to **Steve Vodhanel** for completing his PhD in Leadership for Higher Education. His thesis title: “The Digital Divide: Best Practices for Training Online Faculty in the Use of Educational Technology”.

New Student Lounge Opens in Shryock Hall: The new CVS/Caremark Student Lounge in Shryock Hall is now open. Thanks to Shastin Rains for design, Alan Connelly for project management, Steve Vodhanel for the photographic artwork, and Jim Pinder for donor support. Special thanks to Chi Vi Tran, PharmD, manager professional and college relations, CVS/Caremark, for providing the donor support that paid for renovating and equipping the student lounge.

At the recent **National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Annual Meeting**, Dean Hughes was informed that the School of Pharmacy was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship from the NACDS Foundation.

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LLUMC Ranked #1 in the Inland Empire

Students and residents benefit from “high performing” medical center.

—Edited by Steve Vodhanel, PhD

Recently, U.S. News and World Report released its 2011-12 Best Hospitals rankings, and Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) was ranked #1 among hospitals surveyed in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Of the 42 hospitals in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, serving an area with a population of more than four million people, LLUMC received the top spot in the 2011-12 rankings with 10 “high performing” specialties. These specialties are cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, ear, nose and throat, gastroenterology, gynecology, nephrology, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.

The Loma Linda School of Pharmacy (LLUSP) is able to offer what Dean Billy Hughes, PhD, calls “teachable moments” to students and pharmacy residents by having a close working relationship with the medical center’s department of pharmacy. With the close proximity of LLUSP to LLUMC (literally across the street), students and pharmacy residents are able to experience many pharmaceutical

requirements of patients from across the medical spectrum, and within a high-ranking medical center exhibiting nationally ranked medical expertise.

For student Coralee Johnson, class of 2012, having a school of pharmacy in a medical teaching institution with a medical center was paramount in her decision to apply for admission at LLUSP. Ms. Johnson is currently on rotation working under Dr. Norm Hamada, assistant director of the LLUMC department of pharmacy.



LLU School of Pharmacy Hosts CE EVENT

“Enhancing Communication of Healthcare Disparities in Diverse Communities,” an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) 2.0 contact hour continuing education event.

—Steve Vodhanel, PhD

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy cordially invited pharmacists to attend a continuing education event titled “Enhancing Communication of Healthcare Disparities in Diverse Communities,” held on October 19, 2011 at the Peterson Room of the Wong Kerlee convention center here on campus.

The continuing education event focused on how the diversity of patient populations presents challenges to pharmacists in terms of patient-pharmacist communication.

Health literacy and cultural competency challenges must be met by the pharmacist in terms of compassion and empathy, with strategies for successful communication. The speakers presented information about the culture of patients with respect to race, gender, sexual orientation, health literacy, and abilities. The speakers also engaged the audience in active discussion regarding employing strategies for maximizing communication with patients.

This program was designated by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) for Continuing Education (CE) credit. A total of 2.0 contact hours was awarded to attendees.

About the speakers:



Linda Davis, PharmD, MA, TTS is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for LLUSP, received a master of arts degree in biomedical and clinical ethics, is a tobacco dependence treatment specialist and has practiced pharmacy in the inpatient, ambulatory care and community pharmacy settings. Dr. Davis’ teaching interests include professional communication skills, motivational interviewing, cultural competency, tobacco dependence treatment and bioethics. Her current research focus is on tobacco dependence treatment outcomes within Loma Linda University Health Services.



Elvin Hernandez, DrPh, MPH, MCHES, is associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for LLUSP. Dr. Hernandez’s research interests include outcomes research in diverse populations and reducing health disparities by way of examining health communication between minority patients and their providers. Dr. Hernandez has received grant funding to investigate these issues from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, New Investigator Program (NIP) Award for the project titled “The role of patient-pharmacist communication regarding health disparities: Attitudes and perceptions of minority patients in clinical settings.”



School of Pharmacy graduates largest class

58 students conferred with the degree of PharmD

—Steve Vodhanel, PhD

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy commencement ceremony for the PharmD degree took place Sunday, May 29, on the central campus mall. This year saw the largest class in the six years of LLUSP graduating classes with 58 students receiving the PharmD degree.



Speaking to the 58 graduates was Lucinda L. Maine, PhD, Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, CEO and Executive Vice President of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions, with a thought-provoking speech titled "Discerning Our Path Forward." Dr. Maine is recognized as the leading advocate for high-quality pharmacy education in the United States, as well as abroad.



Scott D. Glenny, President of the Class, addressed the ceremony by first telling the audience that four years of pharmacy school taught him that there is a greater plan for what we all shall do, and then calling on

the newly conferred Doctors of Pharmacy to "...be the servant you were born to be."

Several awards for excellence and outstanding service were presented during the graduating ceremony.

Dean's Award: Phuong Thao Tran; **Wil Alexander Whole Person Care Award:** Jean Pierre Bullon; **President's Award:** Jefmar Dickey; **School Distinguished Service Award:** Teresa Hodgkins, PharmD, and Ms. Jackie Valcourt

Spiritual Reflection

Where is He?

—Linda I. Davis, PharmD, MA, TTS
Assistant Professor, LLU School of Pharmacy

In the course of our lives we meet a variety of people who support us or whom we have the opportunity to support. Support and teamwork are often encouraged in professional and academic worlds. Compassion is appreciated in healthcare. Love, however, is a word often reserved for church services perhaps for fear it will be seen as unprofessional. Does love have boundaries? What are the professional limits of love? Can you love a co-worker, colleague or classmate? If not, what are we afraid of?

Within our professional pursuits there is space for humanity. There is enough time. There is enough energy. Let not the world fool us. Scarcity is a frame of mind. He came to give us life so that we could

live it abundantly (John 10:10). If we really believed this, would we live our lives the same way?

To love your neighbor as yourself is the second greatest commandment (Matthew 22:39). Reach out in your humanity to someone. Relationships will always be the glue that holds society together. Whether it is a classmate or a co-worker, there is an opportunity to be a reflection of Jesus in someone's world today. And in doing so, we can be a part of His promise when He said "I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you" (John 14:18, KJV).



Alumni News (continued from page 4)

Let us know about your exciting news!

Did you get married recently? Or maybe you welcomed a new baby to your family? Do you have any other announcements you would like to share with your fellow alums? Email your Alumni Office at pharmacyalumni@llu.edu and include your announcement along with your graduation year.

We are also looking for alums with great "after school" career stories to share their experiences with our alumni community. If you are interested, please email your details to pharmacyalumni@llu.edu. Make sure to include what year you graduated, your current credentials and a photo of yourself.

— Shastin Rains, Director of Alumni Affairs

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
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