

Behavioral Health

The Alumni Magazine of the Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health

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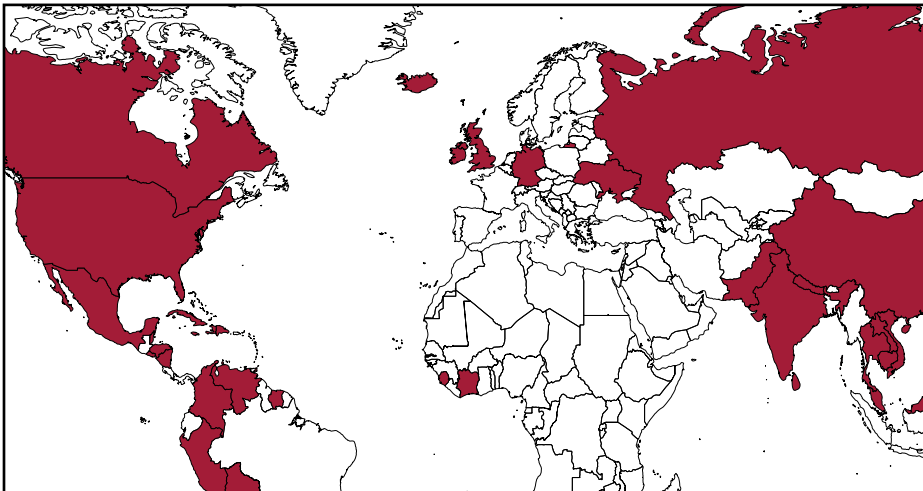
- *International Trauma Team Restores Hope*
- *Honor Society Provides Service with Dignity*
- *Collaborating for Whole Person Care*



**LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY**

School of
Behavioral Health

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The mission of the School of Behavioral Health is to provide graduate-level education that prepares competent, ethical, and compassionate professionals who possess the knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills necessary for a life dedicated to whole person care in behavioral health practice, research, and leadership. The School of Behavioral Health is singularly driven by this mission, academically incorporating Loma Linda University's commitment to the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, which produces wholeness within transformed lives.



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School of Behavioral Health

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From Dean Beverly Buckles

Let's Stay Connected

Dear Alumni:

On behalf of the School of Behavioral Health, I am pleased to share with you the first issue of *Behavioral Health*, a semiannual publication designed to provide alumni with up-to-date information about the School of Behavioral Health regarding innovations in education, practice, research, and global outreach.

More importantly, this publication has been intentionally developed to celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni—who are living to make a difference. So, please contact us at llualumni.sbh@llu.edu and let us know what you are doing! By staying connected, we can also let you know of events in our School and at Loma Linda University that you may want to attend. Similarly, we would love to hear about opportunities that can be shared with current students. When emailing us please provide a phone number so we can also call you.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of *Behavioral Health*. Among the features in this edition you will find a brief look at the work of the International Behavioral Health Trauma Team; the global outreach of the Child Life Program in China; a look at innovations in integrative care; reflections on emeriti faculty; recognition of the 2018 student honorees; and stories about some of our alumni who have and continue to reach out in extraordinary ways to serve others.

The next issue of *Behavioral Health* is already being planned. To be featured will be an article about the MEND (Mastering Each New Direction) program, which is a family systems-based, psychosocial intervention for pediatric chronic illness. Dr. Brian Distelberg, Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and Family Sciences and Dr. Daniel Tapanes (2016 Alumnus of the DMFT Program, and recipient of the President's Award) will tell the story of the development and success of this amazing program. Also to be featured is the research of Dr. Camie Neece, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, whose research addresses the needs of families who have children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Dr. Neece has been awarded NIH grants to further her research in the provision of an intervention to reduce parenting stress, lessen parental reactivity and negativity, and decrease child externalizing behaviors. These are but a few of the exciting updates we will be sharing with you. But the next issue will not be complete without your input. So again, please contact us at llualumni.sbh@llu.edu.

Last, but not least, we will also be visiting neighborhoods closer to you. SBH Alumni Meet and Greet events are being scheduled for this August at several Starbucks locations. Watch our Facebook page and your email for specifics! Come and have a bite to eat—our treat. I plan to be there and hope you will too.

Best wishes,
Dr. Bev Buckles, Dean
School of Behavioral Health



Let's Connect!

Alumni email address: llualumni.sbh@llu.edu Alumni update form: tinyurl.com/sbhalumni

School of Behavioral Health news page: tinyurl.com/sbhnews

LLUHConnect site: lluhconnect.org

Twitter: [@llusbh](https://twitter.com/llusbh)

Facebook: [LLUSBH](https://www.facebook.com/LLUSBH)

Instagram: [@llusbh](https://www.instagram.com/llusbh)

International Trauma Team:

Restoring hope to people impacted by tragedy

The world's attention focused on west Africa as a devastating Ebola epidemic swept through the region for 21 months beginning in 2014. In one country, Sierra Leone, nearly 4,000 died as the disease rapidly spread through the population. Even as the horror of the epidemic subsided, those who remained faced significant trauma as they looked to the future.

The epicenter of the outbreak in Sierra Leone was the community of Waterloo, the location of one of the Adventist Health International hospitals (AHI). That hospital, the Adventist Health System, Waterloo Hospital, was commandeered during the pandemic as an Ebola hospital.

Collaborating with AHI and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Loma Linda University International Behavioral Health Trauma Team (LLUIBH^{TT}) was called upon to introduce the Community Resilience Model

(CRM)^{©™} to assist the people of the Waterloo region of Sierra Leone with their recovery.

Although members of the LLUIBH^{TT} arrived in Sierra Leone near the end of the Ebola pandemic, team members were aware of and understood that people of Sierra Leone were also experiencing the cumulative effects of multiple other recent traumatic events (including twelve years of civil war and devastating seasonal flooding). All of these factors added to the impact of the Ebola pandemic which touched every household, resulting in entire families dying, homes being burnt, and businesses closing. The people of Sierra Leone had truly experienced overwhelming conditions. As such, in planning for the Sierra Leone outreach, members of the LLUIBH^{TT} developed a behavioral health rapid assessment tool that was used by AHI leadership to determine the general level of distress of potential program participants who had been asked to be part the outreach in their communities. As a result of this initial assessment, the LLU team began the program in Sierra Leone by providing the forty individuals selected as community participants with a brief orientation to the CRM skills.

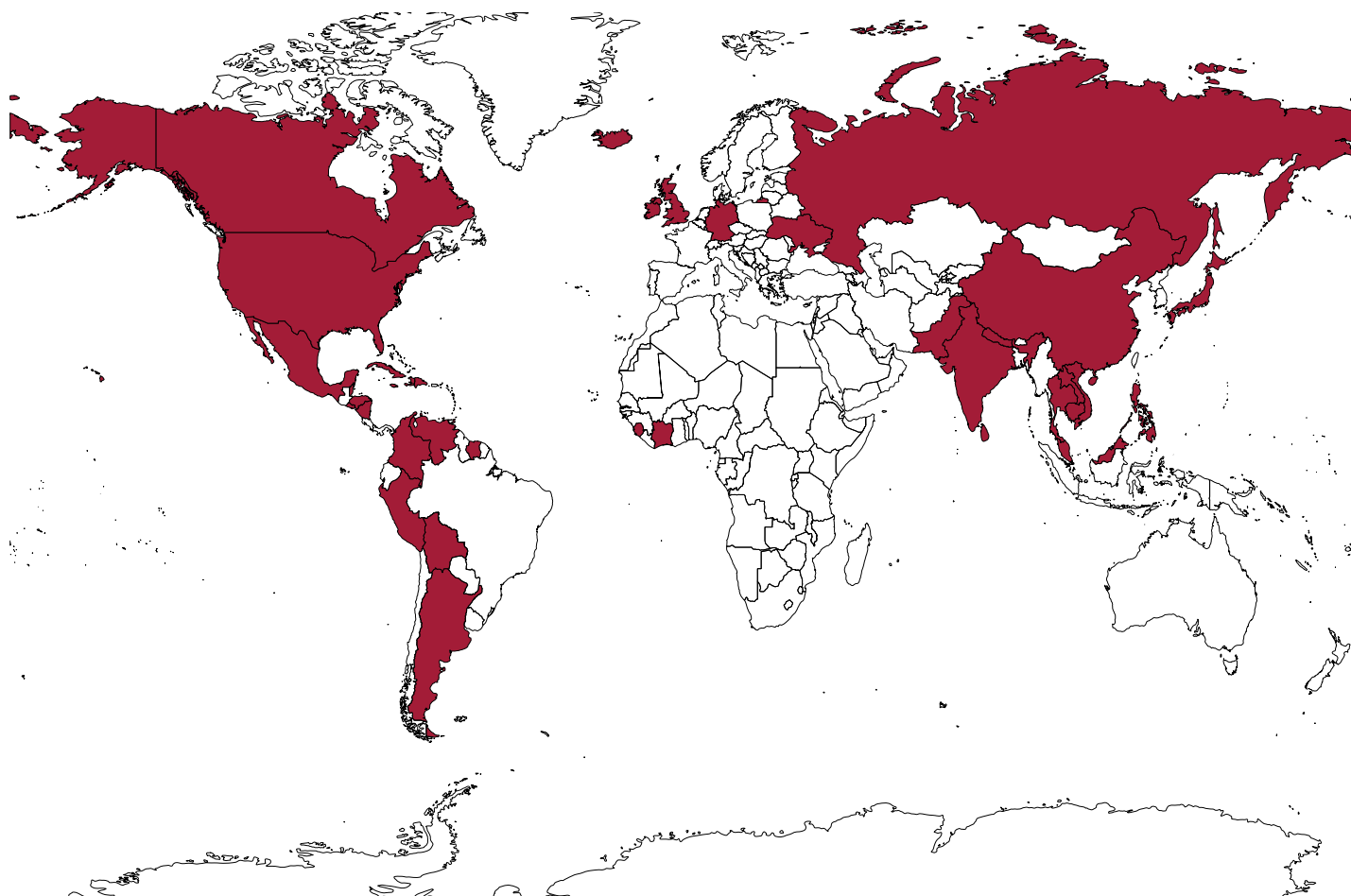
Although associated with the Behavioral Health Institute, the LLUIBH^{TT} is administered by the School of Behavioral Health through the Dean's Office. Dr. Buckles, Dean of the School of Behavioral Health and founder of the LLUIBH^{TT} provides the primary leadership.

"The LLUIBH^{TT} originated following a request from the Seventh-day Adventist World Church to support the health care providers and teachers living through and providing assistance during the conflict in Bosnia and Croatia," states Dr. Buckles, Dean of the School of Behavioral Health and leader of the team. "Although the conflict in those countries prevented the team from serving at that time, it became clear that tragedies

Following the 2016 earthquake, the LLUIBH^{TT} provided training in Nepal in both Katmandu and at the SDA Shearer Memorial Hospital to support services provided to survivors.



Where The Trauma Team Has Served



occur all over the world, and that development of a team of trained experts could support the mission of the Church and Loma Linda University to serve those in greatest need." According to Buckles, "Following the inception of the team in 1995, I asked Dr. William Murdoch, now Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, to share in the implementation of the team's efforts. LLU has the privilege of having all the behavioral health educational programs and clinical services at one institution that comprise teams of mental health first responders. Since its beginning in 1995 the LLU-IBHTT has made over 60 trips to more than 40 countries. The service we provide continues to expand as knowledge of the need of mental health support is better understood and needed around the world."

The services of LLU-IBHTT were originally created to provide direct inter-

Locations Helped by International Trauma Team

<i>Argentina</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Singapore*</i>
<i>Belize</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Sioux Nation (Canada)</i>
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Sri Lanka</i>
<i>Cambodia*</i>	<i>Jamaica*</i>	<i>St Lucia*</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>St Vincent</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Lakota Nation</i>	<i>Sint Maarten</i>
<i>Cote D'Ivoire</i>	<i>Laos*</i>	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>Cuba</i>	<i>Lesotho, South Africa</i>	<i>Trinidad/Tobago</i>
<i>Curacao</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>
<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>US/US Territories</i>
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	<i>Nepal</i>	<i>California</i>
<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>	<i>Georgia</i>
<i>Grenada*</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Texas</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Guam</i>
<i>Guyana*</i>	<i>Peru</i>	<i>Venezuela</i>
<i>Haiti</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Vietnam*</i>
<i>Honduras</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>*Countries served through regional trainings</i>
<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Sierra Leone</i>	



(Top) The LLUIBHTT provided training and direct services to support survivors of the devastating mudslides that occurred on the border between Haitian and Dominican Republic.

(Above) LLUIBHTT members providing play therapy support for children displaced by the 2005 Venezuelan mudslides.

ventions with populations experiencing the effects of disastrous natural and/or manmade events, and to support the efforts of international first responders. At times, these types of responses including teaching the process and skills of Psychological First Aid are still requested. However, over the years through dialogue with sponsoring organizations, the LLUIBHTT has demonstrated that its greatest impact is realized through community capacity building. The services now provided by the LLUIBHTT support the development of resiliency informed individuals and communities as they continue to focus on cutting edge interventions.

“Our function now is to train community members in techniques that can be disseminated throughout their communities that make

them more resilient,” said Adam Aréchiga, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs. “Our goal is to reduce the impact of major trauma on a population and support the implementation of effective self-care. Typically, the countries we are asked to serve have very limited to almost non-existent social and mental health systems and professionals.”

Typically, at a location for a week to ten days, the team provides training, and when possible shadowing for trainees within their own communities. Deployed teams vary in size depending on the outreach event.

“Because of the lack of services, the approach we primarily use is to teach self-regulation resiliency skills that are based on the neurobiology of the autonomic nervous system. Our goal is to reduce the stigma people feel from the effects of overwhelming stress following traumatic natural and/or man-made events. We talk about the nervous system through the lens of neurobiology and teach techniques that allow people to control how their nervous system activates. The response to this approach has been very positive. I’ve not found any approach that works quicker,” Aréchiga said.

Financial support for the LLUIBHTT is largely provided through reimbursement for services from ADRA, Health Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the allocation of indirect funds received through Dr. Buckles’ grants, and donations made to LLU to support specific disasters.

Following the initial intervention in Sierra Leone, the LLUIBHTT made follow-up visits to Sierra Leone twice in 2016. During the first trip, 22 of the original 40 trainees were selected to complete a four-day “Train the Trainer” program. These 22 people were then assigned to train 30 persons each during a five-month period. When the LLUIBHTT returned for a second time in late 2016, they found that 822 Sierra Leone residents had been trained in the basic Community Resilience Model skills. Data from these efforts demonstrated that those residents had reduced symptoms associated with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. A fourth visit in 2017 emphasized working with the Sierra Leone trainers to develop ways of developing fundable services within their communities.

Though there have been over 60 LLUIBHTT trips, Aréchiga says team members face unique challenges in each trip. For instance, seeing the effects of poverty in countries that struggle economically makes a strong impact on team members.

“In China we worked with teachers following a massive earthquake,” Aréchiga recalled. “They were digging kids out of the rubble. That was difficult.”

“We were in Ukraine when Russia was interfering in the

Crimea peninsula,” Aréchiga said. “Being in an active conflict area was something I had never experienced.”

And, although the purpose of the team does result in members being confronted with the realities of tragedies and difficult situations, team members are also quick to share the extraordinary learning opportunities they have experienced during the team’s journeys around the world. According to Dr. Buckles, “one of the wonderful positive latent functions of the LLUIBHTT has been to give mem-

bers meaningful ways to use their professional knowledge and skills in unexpected and humbling service to others. Many have expressed that through the Trauma Team they have been able for the first time to use their behavioral health expertise to serve the Church.”

“In Sierra Leone, kids can’t get enough food,” he said. “But each time we go back we see how Adventist Health International is working to improve the infrastructure of the Adventist hospital in the city of Waterloo.”

Trauma Team Members Share Their Memories



“My trip with the LLU International Behavioral Health Trauma Team in 2010 to assist the mudslide victims in El Salvador, made a huge impact in my life. It solidified my decision to pursue a career in social work and awakened my passion to serve and teach others about God. I saw God’s love and work throughout the trip. It was an honor to be part of such a wonderful team, I am forever inspired and humbled

by this experience. Participating as a part of the LLU Trauma Team allowed me to work for the Los Angeles County Emergency Outreach Bureau. I am forever grateful for the opportunity that was given to me to be part of the Trauma Team.”

Elizabeth Sanchez, 2010 alumna of the MSW Program; clinical social worker for Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.



“Being a Salvadoran immigrant and having the opportunity to go back to my native country to support the survivors and victims of a natural disaster was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Supporting individuals that included children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly undergoing acute trauma in their native language was humbling. We worked for several days

providing the tools to Salvadoran Mental Health professionals to develop their own Trauma Team. Seeing emotional and professional growth in underserved countries like El Salvador was absolutely incredible.”

Claudia Reyes, 2010 alumna of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program; licensed marriage and family therapist and the program manager for the Early Head Start program at Foothill Family.

“My work with the Trauma Team has been transformative to both my personal and professional life. I have met people all over the world and I am continually amazed by how resilient and giving peo-



ple are even in the face of great loss and trauma. Through these experiences, I have developed a deeper sense of compassion, empathy, and appreciation for life. By teaching resiliency skills to communities who often do not have access to health services, it is my hope that their overall mental and physical wellness is strengthened and that they will reach out to others who may be struggling.”

Dr. Kimberly Freeman, Professor and Executive Associate Chair, Department of Social Work and Social Ecology, LLU Alumna, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, 1999; MSW Program, 2004.



“As a member of the LLUIBHTT I’ve been privileged to serve others in their greatest need. In turn, I have grown professionally and personally but most significantly, in my walk with God.”

Dr. Winetta Baker Oloo, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Counseling and Family Sciences, LLU Alumna, MS in Marriage and Family Therapy, 2003; PhD in Marital and Family Therapy, 2006.



“Since its founding more than 20 years ago, the International Behavioral Health Trauma Team has embodied the mission of Loma Linda University, “To Make Man Whole.” We are one of several prongs in Loma Linda’s international outreach efforts. It’s really meaningful to be a part of this team. I am proud of the work we do.”

Dr. Adam Aréchiga, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs for the School of Behavioral Health, LLU Alumni PsyD in Clinical Psychology, 2006; DrPH in 2006.

All in the Family

Annette Ermshar's family features generations of Loma Linda graduates

Annette Ermshar, PhD, is a busy professional who divides her time between providing psychotherapy to clients in her private practice, conducting psychological evaluations in the jails and prisons, testifying in high-profile forensic cases, consulting for Hollywood screenwriters and producers, and conducting neuropsychological evaluations for children, adolescents, and adults. She has expanded the definition of a working psychologist, and in every arena of her practice, she is committed to excellence, rigorous ethics, and human dignity.

Ermshar is part of a multigenerational line of Loma Linda graduates. Her father and both grandfathers received their MD degree; her mother a dental hygiene degree, and many cousins and extended relatives have all graduated from Loma Linda University. This close-knit family's quest for knowledge and high standard for achievement set Ermshar on a path she willingly embraced.

"At Loma Linda I enjoyed mentoring relationships with both Dr. Jan Sonne and Dr. Kiti Freier," Ermshar recalled. "Both were instrumental in molding me as a professional and setting the stage for my future career trajectory. Their commitment to my development was extraordinary and I really value the training I received from both of them."

Ermshar received a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Loma Linda University in 2000, after having received her BA in Psychology from Pepperdine in 1994. During graduate school, Ermshar declared a minor in neuropsychology/neuroscience and this specialty has continued throughout her career.

"The best advice I can give is to take any and every opportunity given to you, as you never know when it will open doors and lead to extraordinary possibilities for the future," Ermshar said.

She went on to complete a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at Patton State Hospital. While working at Patton from 2005 to 2014, Ermshar established the neuropsychological assessment services program hospital-wide and the Psychology Practicum Training, supervising more than 120 pre-and post-doctoral students during her tenure.

Ermshar went on to additional education, receiving a postdoctoral Master's of Science degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology. Additionally, she completed the rigorous process of receiving board certification in forensic psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), qualifying her as a Diplomate in Forensic Psychology. Currently, less than 5 percent of all licensed psychologists are board certified by ABPP, a testament that Ermshar is at the top of her profession.

As a Board Certified Forensic Psychologist, Dr. Ermshar has served as an expert witness in numerous court cases within the Federal Court, California Superior Courts, and California Juvenile Court over the past 15 years. She has served as a consultant to both television shows and motion pictures in the areas of criminal psychology, neuropsychology and mental illness.

Her passion for research has been extensive throughout her career. Ermshar was the principal investigator for a large-scale, CA state approved IRB study involving the nature of psychopathy and executive functioning among forensic patients. She has several publications and has recently co-published a chapter in a wide-selling book on frontal lobe functioning.

In 2002 she started her private practice in Pasadena and now has several associates and assistants, all providing a wide range of outpatient clinical services. She has inpatient hospital staff privileges at a psychiatric hospital in the Pasadena area where she sees clients in an inpatient setting, and has been a professor at numerous universities, both undergraduate and graduate, most recently as an associate professor at Alliant International University. She also served as a member-at-large for the California Psychological Association Board, Division 5 in the area of clinical psychopharmacology.

Ermshar also co-founded an in-residence psychological treatment center in Pasadena, CA, where she is a co-owner of a pioneering program that specializes in more severe psychiatric conditions, thus bridging the gap between inpatient hospitalization and transition back into the community.

In addition to her clinical work, Ermshar also gives back to the community through serving as the President of the Foundation Board of Directors for Adventist Health Glendale; Governing Board member for Adventist Health Glendale; Vice-President of the Board for the Pasadena Symphony and Pops; Member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Los Angeles Music Center; member of the Twilight Club; and member of the Blue Ribbon of the Los Angeles Music Center.

"I am committed to and interested in the impact of generosity on physical and mental health and incorporate volunteering, giving back to the community and philanthropic giving to my own personal life," Ermshar shared. "I feel generosity is so critical for a healthy person and a healthy community."

Between her work and philanthropy, Ermshar enjoys traveling with her husband, Dan Monahan.



Annette Ermshar

Child Life Program Develops Training Session for Visiting Chinese Nurses

A new School of Behavioral Health program offering pediatric nurses from the People's Republic of China the opportunity to complete training as Child Life Specialists launched in Fall 2017. The new program is an outgrowth of a four-year series of education exchange visits the School of Behavioral Health faculty members and students have made to the Zhejiang University Children's Hospital (ZUCH), introducing nurses there to the benefits and value of child life services.

Nancy Wu is the first ZUCH nurse to enroll in the new program. She has had a strong interest in studying child life approaches

since being first exposed to the field during a visit to Seattle Children's Hospital in 2014. She also served as one of the translators for the presentations made there by the visiting Loma Linda University Health groups. ZUCH leadership supported her desire to take advantage of this new SBH educational program.

"There has been a shift in China to becoming more open to family centered care," said Michelle Minyard-Widmann, program director for the child life specialist master's program. "Building on a working relationship that started in 2007, Zhejiang University Children's Hospital and Loma Linda have established strong partnerships. It was a natural extension of that partnership for us to visit and introduce child life techniques."

Minyard-Widmann and Alisha Saavedra, assistant professor, first visited Zhejiang University Children's Hospital in 2014, where they shared the concepts of family centered care and support for hospitalized children to the nurses there. Those conversations led to a second visit by SBH faculty and students in Fall 2014. The group offered several lectures and hands-on demonstrations of Teddy Bear Clinics, therapeutic play with stuffed animals designed to help children understand hospital procedures they faced. Loma Linda students and faculty have returned to ZUCH annually.

A foundation grant to the ZUCH nursing staff resulted in initial steps to establish a child life program there. Currently, there is only one child life specialist working in the People's Republic of China. Conversations among ZUCH leaders, the Loma Linda University Global Health Institute, SBH leaders, and the LLUCH child life manager led to the creation of this groundbreaking program.

"I've learned many valuable techniques here," Wu said. "The type of language used with parents and children is important. I've also learned techniques to guide parents and children through the

Nancy Wu works with a patient heading into surgery at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. She plans to share her new knowledge with other child life specialists in China.





procedures they face, and the importance of clearly explaining the medical technology to help relieve their fears.”

Wu is completing the six-month program designed to meet the specific needs of visiting Chinese nurses. Three months are spent on classroom theory, followed by a three-month internship. The Association of Child Life Professionals, the national accrediting body, is aware of Loma Linda’s efforts and is supportive. Wu passed the Child Life Professional Certification Examination in late March, and returned to China in April as the second Certified Child Life Specialist in mainland China.

Wu plans to share much of what she learns with the nursing team at ZUCH.

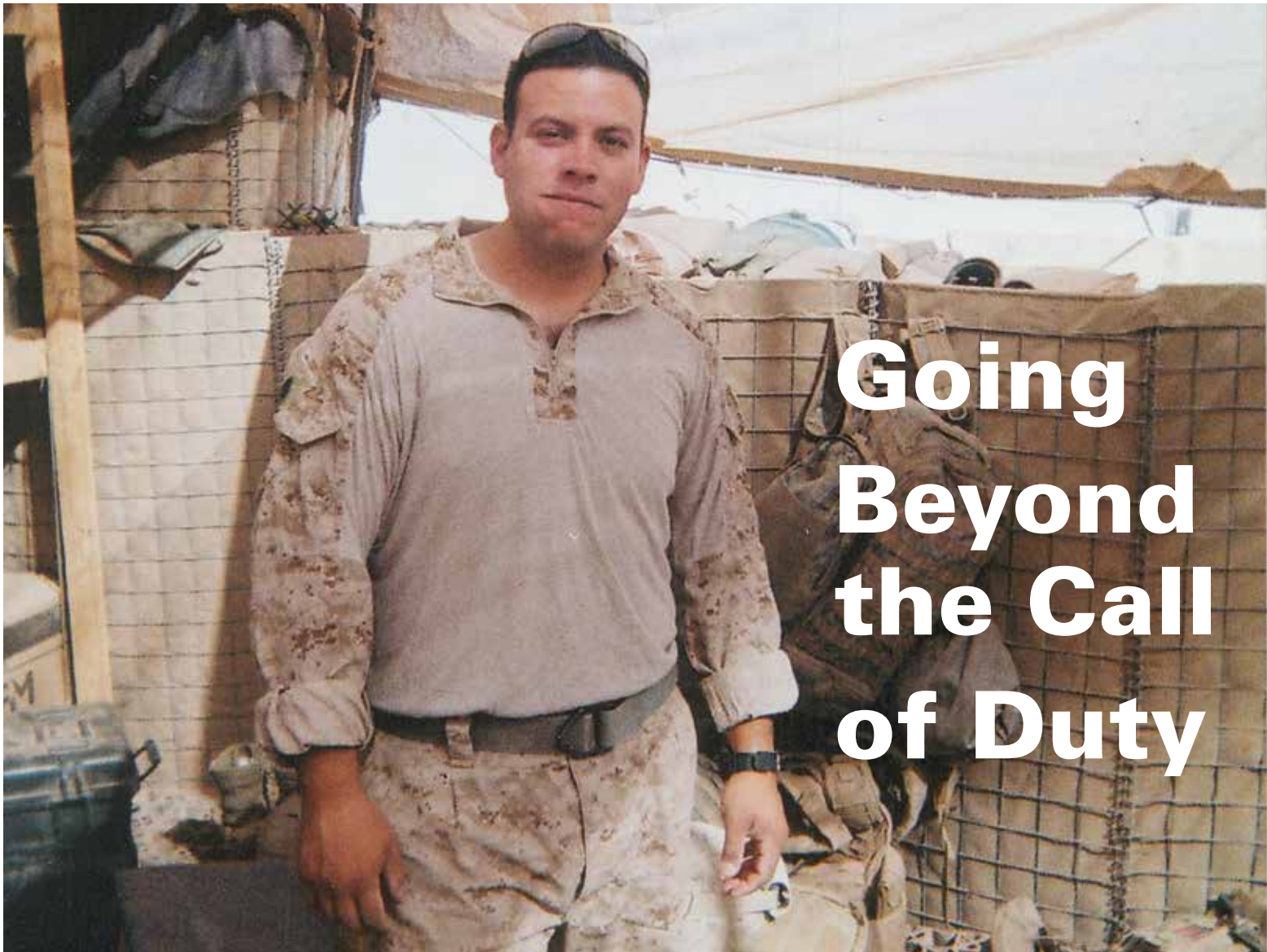
“I have much to do,” Wu said. “I will begin training a child life team of 30 nurses, focusing on the services we can offer. We can’t just depend on one or two people. Those 30 nurses will go back to their units and serve as teachers to many more nurses.

Nancy Wu came to Loma Linda University Health from Zhejiang University Children’s Hospital in China. She completed her training in Child Life Services in March, and is now serving as only the second Certified Child Life Specialist in mainland China.

Ultimately I hope to encourage Zhejiang University to build a child life degree program.”

According to Minyard-Widmann, interest in the program is beyond expectations. Future growth for the program will be determined by access to internship slots. But the effort is starting strong.

“It’s been easy to have Nancy here because she has embraced the concepts,” Minyard-Widmann said. “She demonstrates a fire and a spark that made it easy to bring her here.”



Going Beyond the Call of Duty

There is perhaps no greater sense of duty or honor than in serving our country through military service. It takes a unique individual to want to serve and to accept this challenge.

Edgard Villa entered the Master of Social Work program at Loma Linda University in January 2016 after realizing that God was calling to him to serve those most vulnerable. He had completed an undergraduate degree in Political Sciences at Cal Baptist University but felt a calling to change majors for his graduate work.

"I was attracted to study at Loma Linda University because of its standing in the community," Villa said. "Loma Linda University is respected. But it is also invested in the well-being of this community." The School of Behavioral Health's commitment to meeting needs in the surrounding communities matches Villa's desire to serve others.

"The School has opened doors and provided access to organizations in the community I would not have otherwise had," Villa

said. "I was invited to participate in a project operated by the City of Riverside's mayor's office. On that committee sit representatives from CBU, La Sierra University, and Loma Linda University, the mayor, and myself. We had several important tasks. Short term, we developed a program to address homelessness in Riverside. We identified community resources and their capabilities to meet the needs of the homeless. We are also planning to provide social support such as case management, social interaction and social reintegration. Long term we hope to help the mayor by developing faith-based supportive housing to meet the basic needs of the homeless."

Villa also completed an internship at the Jerry Pettis Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Loma Linda, providing intensive case-management and clinical therapy to homeless veterans. While serving at the VA, Villa was named Student of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers—California Chapter.

A veteran himself, Villa has personal experience with the impact of war. He served in the United States Marine Corps for

Edgard Villa chose Loma Linda University's School of Behavioral Health for his master's studies because of its longstanding reputation of investing in the well-being of the community.

13 years, completing five combat tours — three in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. Each combat deployment lasted approximately eight months.

Villa regularly had to deal with mortar and rocket attacks while deployed. He lived in constant fear of being injured or killed by improvised explosive devices while on missions. His last unit was with 7th Marine Regiment, an infantry unit where as a Staff Sergeant, he had the privilege of leading a platoon of 40 marines and three navy corpsman on combat missions. "It was both the greatest reward and the harshest measure of success that no one was injured or killed during this deployment," Villa said.

As a platoon sergeant, Villa was also responsible for living with and training Afghan recruits into becoming soldiers prepared to defend their country. "This was a significant challenge, given the impact of various tribes and cultural differences in the area," he recalled. "It was important to learn how to work within tribal dynamics."

Returning to the United States after each deployment, Villa had to learn to adjust to life at home, manage and recognize the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder. Early on he had daily nightmares, irritability, and insomnia.

"My military career has absolutely shaped the direction I go and grow in," Villa said. "However, my five combat tours strained my spiritual relationship. Cal Baptist University helped to rebuild my spiritual life. I specifically chose to attend LLU to strengthen and nurture my spiritual journey."

Villa's motivation to serve others has remained strong throughout his academic career. He plans to attend a SIMS trip to India this summer. During a SIMS trip to Peru during spring break, Villa and seven other social workers on to the trip worked to shape the objectives of the mission to include Community Resiliency Model. He has already begun applying to doctoral programs in Social Work and Behavioral Health, with a goal of becoming a teacher in the future.

Villa spent his childhood years in Walnut, CA. His mother worked as a nurse, while his father was a quality control inspector. He credits his parents with influencing his desire to serve others. Villa is most proud of his two children, Edgar III, 17 years old, and Isaac, 12.

"My greatest honor, more than earning the title of Marine, or leading men in combat, is being a parent to those young men," Villa said.

Whether by his service to the country, or by his ongoing commitment to serving others, Villa's life is an example of "extending the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ" and in "making man whole."

Lobo Receives 2018 President's Award

Elsie Lobo, PhD, is the 2018 Loma Linda University President's Award recipient from the School of Behavioral Health. She received the award during the school's commencement ceremony on June 10.

Lobo completed her PhD in the Systems, Families, and Couples program in the Department of Counseling and Family Sciences. She previously received a Master of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Loma Linda University's Canadian campus program offered in Alberta.

During her academic program, Lobo worked with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, assisting with projects focusing on the needs of families and individuals receiving Housing Authority assistance. Lobo coordinated a number of multi-family groups that taught mobility through improved family functioning. She also collected and analyzed data that focused supporting underserved and at-risk families as they progressed toward self-sufficiency. She has also provided in-home therapy for children with autism, helping with skill development and supporting parents in working with their child. She served internationally through work at a student behavioral health clinician in Cuba through Students for International Mission Services.

While at Loma Linda University, Lobo contributed to eight publications, presented at 16 professional conferences, participated in three grant-funded projects, was an instructor for eight courses, and has been a regular ad hoc reviewer for numerous professional journals.

"Elsie Lobo embodies the essence of what it means to be a scholar and community servant," said Zephon Lister, PhD, LMFT, director of the Systems, Families and Couples program. "Her excellent scholarship, professionalism, exemplary leadership and passion for her field are examples of what we hope for all of our students."



Elsie Lobo, PhD, accepts the 2018 SBH President's Award from Richard Hart, Loma Linda University Health president.



Dianna Simon

Dianna Simon, PhD, received the appointment of professor emeritus in 2009, in recognition of her service and contributions to both the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology and to Loma Linda University.

Dr. Simon's joined the Department of Psychiatry in 1975, providing clinical services to patients dealing with serious emotional disorders, as well as conducting psychotherapy groups. She received an appointment through the School of Medicine in 1994, where she provided training for many years to psychiatric residents. She was also appointed as a professor within the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology in 1994, working there until her retirement in 2009.

Dr. Simon taught many classes for the department, particularly focusing on advanced clinical practice. Students respected the quality of her instruction and depth of knowledge of theory and interventions. She served on a statewide mental

health committee and co-wrote the original competencies for mental health practices for the State of California.

Dr. Simon was a member of the Behavioral Health Trauma Team, having provided both direct intervention to victims of disasters as well as training to providers. She traveled with the team to Russia, Iceland, Venezuela, Aruba, and Houston, Texas. She was also an active member for many years with the Southern California Psychoanalytic Association.

She has maintained a very active private practice in the Redlands area for many years having specialized in eating disorders and other major behavioral health disorders.

Dr. Simon was born in Aruba to Hungarian Jewish parents. Her grandparents sadly were killed in the German concentration camps during WWII. The family relocated to the United States when she was 10 years of age residing initially in New York City.

She received her master's degree in Social Work from Cal State Berkeley and a PhD in Social Work from USC. Prior to joining the faculty at Loma Linda University, Dr. Simon worked for the Department of Mental Health in Riverside for two years, providing crisis intervention for referred patients.



Ignatius Yacoub

Dr. Ignatius Yacoub retired his post as professor in the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology in 2010. His Loma Linda tenure started in 1995, teaching policy courses in administration, management, and supervision.

Previous to coming to the Loma Linda University campus, Dr. Yacoub had been the founding dean for the School of Business and Management at La Sierra University. He worked at La Sierra for 15 years, where he was known as a respected mentor to both students and faculty.

Dr. Yacoub's career began in Syria. He was born on January 5, 1937 in Dwar Taha, Syria, son of Immanuel and Martha (Kharma) Yacoub. Following elementary and secondary school in Syria, Yacoub studied English at the Middle East College, in Beirut, Lebanon. While there he met his future wife, who worked as a registrar at the university. He subsequently came

to the U.S. obtaining a master's degree in business from Pacific Union College in 1964 and then a Doctorate degree from Claremont University in Executive Business Management in 1976. He then returned to Middle East College, serving as dean from 1975 until 1978.

With war having significant impact on the region, Yacoub and his family returned to the United States. He taught business at Southwestern Adventist College (now Southwestern Adventist University) in Keene, Texas. He then joined the faculty at La Sierra, where he chaired the Department of Business Administration before becoming dean of the new School of Business and Management.

Dr. Yacoub was married to his wife for 43 years prior to her passing. They have three children, two of whom are dentists, and his third works as a physical therapist.

He served as an executive member on the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation from 1991 to 1995. He was also a member of the American Management Association, Academy Management, Society for Advancement Management, Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce (Service award 1995), and the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Louis E. Jenkins

Dr. Louis E. Jenkins joined the Department of Psychology faculty in 1996. Prior to joining Loma Linda University, he served as a school psychologist with the Los Angeles Unified School District; a clinical psychologist with the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health and Health Services; chief psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Martin Luther King, Jr., General Hospital and Charles Drew School of Medicine; and was a psychology professor at Pepperdine University for twenty-two years.



Dr. Jenkins is licensed in California as a psychologist and marriage and family therapist, and is credentialed as a school psychologist. He was appointed by the governor of California to the Board of Psychology and served from 1985 to 1993; and has been a consultant for the United States Army and numerous school districts in California. He has also served as a member of the California Psychological Association Ethics Committee.

Dr. Jenkins has always endeavored to use his expertise to bless others—through health ministries, presentations, and as a volunteer chaplain with the California Department of Corrections since 1982. He has also served as a member of the Loma Linda University International Behavioral Health Trauma Team. He served as chair of the Psychology department from 2001 to 2013, a time that allowed him to work closely with students, sharing with them his experiences, and mentoring others who had dreams about attaining higher education.

Dr. Jenkins reflects on his decades as a psychologist, and he marvels at God's providential guidance in his life, the Department of Psychology, the School of Behavioral Health, and Loma Linda University. He lives by three statements: "We have nothing to fear for the future except as we forget how God has led us in the past"; "Freely you have received, freely give"; and the inspiring words of the Old Testament prophet Nehemiah: "I'm engaged in a great work, and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

Dr. Jenkins enjoys church work, music, reading, outdoor activities, and flying aircraft. He is a former flight instructor, has single/multi-engine ratings, instrument rating, and possesses an airline transport pilot's rating.

Second only to God, Dr. Jenkins' wife, Althea, and his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter comprise the center of his universe. Their support through the years has contributed to an abundant life and the ability to serve others.

Psychology Students Achieve a 100% APA-Accredited Internship Match Rate

As their capstone clinical experience, 5th-year Clinical Psychology PsyD and 6th-year Clinical Psychology PhD students must complete a one-year, full-time clinical experience prior to graduation.

Not only did 100% of PsyD and PhD intern applicants match for 2017-2018, but 100% of these placements are in APA-accredited internships, and include VA and general medical centers, children's hospitals, forensic hospitals, community and county mental health sites, and university counseling centers.

School Plans Samoa Internship Program

The School of Behavioral Health sent a team led by Dean Beverly Buckles to Samoa in April, seeking to establish a field internship site for students from the three school departments. They met with the Prime Minister and other local officials to determine a range of opportunities for student learning.

This unique opportunity will be one of the first of its kind in the Inland Empire to offer students the ability to work collaboratively in providing needed mental health services to international communities. The first group of students will travel to Samoa during summer 2018.

In addition to this unique opportunity, many students have participated in other international mission trips through the University's Students in International Mission Service office. In 2017, students went on multi-disciplinary trips to Brazil, Nigeria, Madagascar, Cuba, and Thailand.

Helping Families Survive Through Their Darkest Days

While answering a call to the scene of a domestic dispute, one of the police officers noticed some movement beneath a pile of sheets.

He looked under the bedding and found a baby, alive but with serious injuries. The police later said the boyfriend of the woman at the home had severely beaten the infant girl and left her for dead.

The police called San Bernardino County Children and Family Services (CFS) to help them decide what to do with the baby. The agency assigned Marlene Hagen, a new social services practitioner, to the case. Hagen had just earned a Master of Social Work degree from nearby Loma Linda University, and this was her first case.

“Because of the severity of the injuries, the agency didn’t offer to reunite the mother with her child,” Hagen said. Her job then became finding a good home for the baby girl. After a long search, she found a home and the girl was adopted at two years old.

Five years later, Hagen received a picture of the little girl and her brother, whom they had also adopted, from the adoptive parents. It was their way to say thank you. “The parents wanted to share with me that she was doing really well, and thanked me for bringing her into their lives,” she said.

That tragic incident was 19 years ago. Hagen is still with San Bernardino County CFS. Because of her diligence and deep concern for children and their families, she has risen through the ranks. In February 2015, the county promoted her to the post of Director of Children and Family Services. The agency employs about 1,000 employees in six regions serving some 2 million people.

In June 2017, Hagen was the speaker at the hooding ceremony for the Master of Social Work graduates from the School of Behavioral Health. She spoke about the importance of the profession they were entering and reminded the graduates that they would be working with individuals and families during the most difficult and vulnerable times of their lives.

“I told them that it’s all about building relationships and collaborating with the families they will work with,” she said. “If they trust you and they connect with you, you will be much better at helping them, and the parents will be invested in their success.”

Hagen has worked with hundreds of children and families over the years. She says one of the most rewarding programs in her department today is the Parent Partner Program, which she and her staff have enhanced over the years. Parents who have been involved with CFS, and have successfully reunited with their children, mentor and share their experiences with others going through a family crisis.

The program received a merit award for innovation and best practices in county government by the California State Association of Counties earlier this year.

“Not only do we hire parents who have successfully reunited as a family, but we also hire former foster youths. That’s a tremendous benefit to children and youth trying to cope with the pain and confusion of separating from their family,” she said.

Hagen grew up in the town of Hacienda Heights, nearly 50 miles west of Loma Linda, in the San Gabriel Valley. Her mother emigrated to the U.S. from Mexico in her 20s and married her father, who grew up in California.

“I was raised in a bilingual household. There were three girls in our family, and there was always a huge emphasis on education.” Hagen did

Marlene Hagen answered the call to help an abused baby, and she’s never looked back.

her undergraduate work at Cal State Fullerton, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish.

After she graduated, she married her high school sweetheart, Tony, and they settled into a home in nearby Ontario. They had two children, Christina and Ian, and moved to a bigger house in Riverside County where she landed a service position at Loma Linda University's Behavioral Medicine Center.

There she met a friend and mentor who changed her life. Jim Dyer was the head of the center's social work department and also taught at the LLU Department of Social Work and Social Ecology.

"He saw something in me that I didn't see, something in how I interacted with patients. He asked me if I had thought about going back to school to continue my education." Hagen says she had always wanted to go back to school, "But once you get married and have children and a house ... having to pay for my education wasn't in the cards."

Dyer, who has since passed away, told her about the Title IV-E program for students wanting to further their education in social work. She applied to LLU and was accepted to the School of Behavioral Health.

"Without Jim's guidance and mentoring, I don't know whether I would have gone back to school. Over the years I have made some really good friends and formed relationships with colleagues from the School of Behavioral Health," she said.

She received her master's degree in Social Work in 1998 from the Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health and began her career as a San Bernardino County social worker. Her main job



Marlene Hagen speaks at the 2017 Adoption Finalization Day for San Bernardino County, which was held at the Ontario Convention Center in November.

was to get children reunited with their family or, if that wasn't possible, then to get them placed with a good family who was willing to adopt or become legal guardians.

Although her work week is filled with administrative functions, Hagen enjoys meeting with her new staff during the Director's Meet and Greet and sharing her nearly 20 years of experience on the front lines helping families.

"I had a new hire who shared with me that she was a former foster youth, and she mentioned all the good social workers that she had along the way," Hagen said. "I shared with the other new hires that it's these types of testimonials that make it worthwhile. Many of the children and youth we work with are resilient and become contributing and responsible adults like this new social worker. This is what the social work profession is all about — making a difference in the lives of the children and families we come in contact with every day."

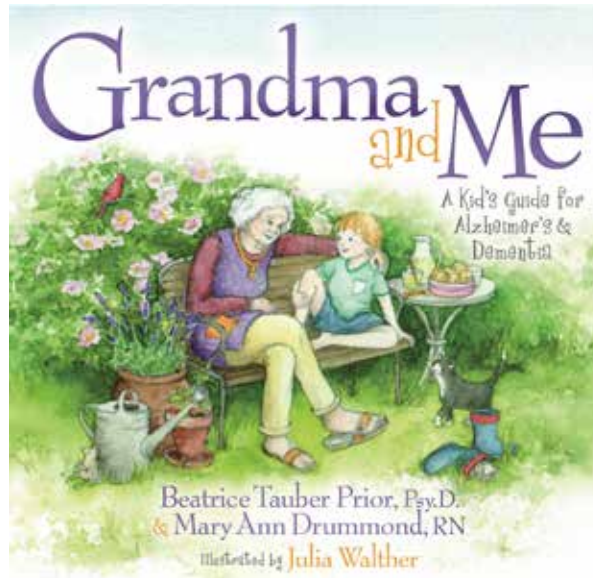
Living to Make a Difference

At a very early age, alumna Beatrice Tauber Prior, PsyD, knew she wanted to help others needing emotional support. In fact, by the ninth grade she already knew her career path was to become a licensed psychologist. Choosing Loma Linda University to complete her doctoral degree was a perfect fit for her interest in neuropsychology and developmental issues from birth through old age. Dr. Prior was also attracted to LLU because of its reputation in focusing on whole person and integrated care. Dr. Prior's goals resonated with the importance of demonstrating compassion as part of serving others during the healing process.

Prior's journey to become a psychologist began early in her life. While growing up in New York she spent many extended summer vacations with her parents in Germany; visiting their homeland and getting to know the extended family. Her parents immigrated to the United States after WWII, during which time her father became an optical engineer and her mother a pediatric nurse.

Prior began her post-secondary education at Andrews University, where she completed an undergraduate degree in Community Counseling, followed by a master's degree in psychology. After graduating with her master's she worked at a foster care agency in Dayton, Ohio, during which time she became the youngest director for a foster care agency in Ohio. Her work there at first entailed providing in-home support services for high risk families, providing both case management and therapy. After five years of working in foster care services she sought to advance her clinical knowledge and skills. Subsequently, she completed her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at Loma Linda University, graduating in 2004.

While a student at LLU, Prior's passion for neuropsychology ex-



SBH graduate Beatrice Prior created a book to help children understand how Alzheimer's disease affects their loved ones.

panded to studying the impact of aging on health. Like so many, she witnessed the impact of chronic illness on family members, including the impact on her two young children as they learned to cope with seeing their relative's lives dramatically changed because of illness. As with many difficult situations, information and new perspectives can come from unexpected places. While talking with her hairdresser one day about these challenging family changes, the stylist recommended that she contact someone by the name of Mary Ann Drummond, a nurse who had written a book called "Meet Me Where I Am". Then still a student, Prior did reach out to Mary Ann Drummond. Sharing their stories subsequently led to the two deciding to collaborate in writing a very important book titled "Grandma and Me: A Kid's Guide for Alzheimer's and Dementia".

"Grandma and Me provides a gentle, yet age appropriate description of Alzheimer's disease, while providing tools that help children continue to have a relationship with their loved one despite the disease. *Grandma and Me* addresses a difficult topic with love and understanding and provides the tools for children to successfully navigate the journey ahead." Rated five stars on Amazon, the book helps young children understand what is happening to a loved one and provides tools to assist in maintaining the quality of the relationship.

Prior is currently working on two additional books on the impact of Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. In addition, she publishes as an associate editor for the North Carolina Psychological Association. She also provides trainings and seminars on the impact of progressive illness on family members in her home state of North Carolina and throughout the United States. In-between her writing and lecturing, she maintains an active solo private practice in Lakes Norman, North Carolina called Harborside Well-Being. She resides with her husband, son and daughter. Together they enjoy the serenity of the outdoors and participating in water sports and tennis.

Integrated Care Focus of Joint Behavioral Health/ School of Medicine Initiative

*SAC Health System research shows
importance of mental health
considerations in patient treatment
planning and follow-up*

A collaborative project between the School of Behavioral Health's psychology department and the School of Medicine family medicine department is enhancing whole person care at the SAC Health System in San Bernardino. The new training initiative is supported by a \$2.4 million grant from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration.

The initiative creates interprofessional teams of nurses, family physicians, psychologists and pharmacists to support high-risk patients. Behavioral health support is integrated to each outpatient clinic visit as needed.

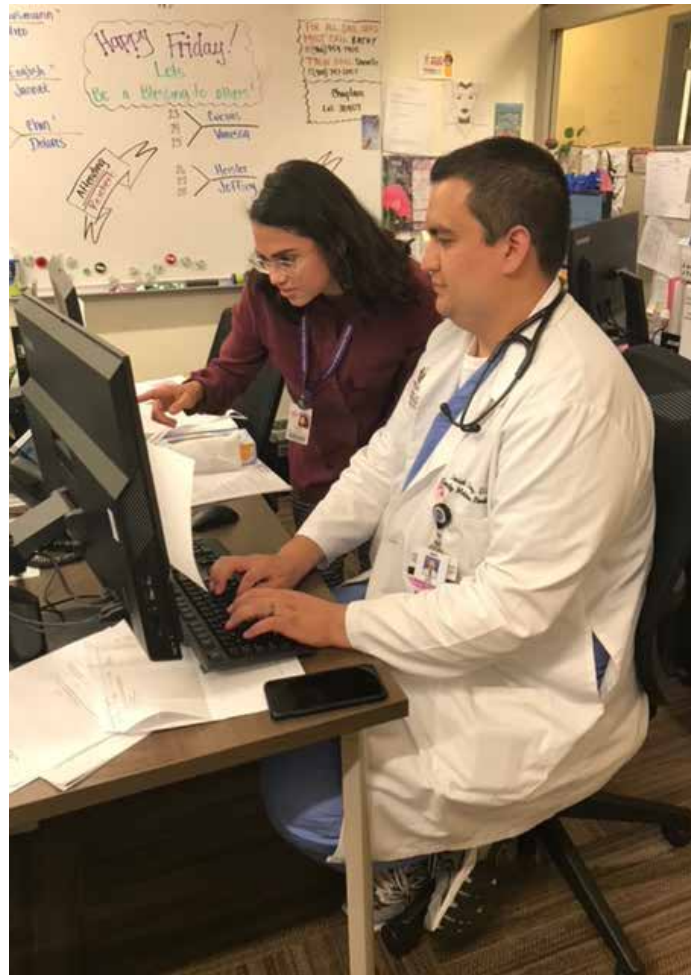
"A patient with uncontrolled diabetes is at risk for stroke, heart attack, loss of vision and limbs," says Kelly Morton, PhD, professor of psychology. "But if they are also depressed, it's difficult to make progress with medication adherence and needed lifestyle changes that prevent these complications."

Chronically ill patients inevitably have behavioral issues that must be considered in a treatment approach, Morton says.

Roger Hadley, MD, School of Medicine dean, agrees, and believes this integrated approach will play an important role in health-care for the Inland Empire region.

"Among these chronically ill patients there are inevitable behavioral issues that must be considered in their management. The most effective way to treat these complex cases is to work collaboratively with the different health care professions," Hadley said. "This grant is allowing us to create a pipeline of family medicine physicians and primary care psychologists who can work together to improve mental and physical health in the same clinical setting."

"This grant provides an expanded opportunity for the Department of Psychology to work with the Department of Family Medicine in an integrated health model to serve the patients at SAC Health System," says Beverly Buckles, DSW, dean of the School of Behavioral Health.



Gabriela Bolivar, psychology student, works at SACHS with family medicine resident Jonathan Brick, MD, on a behavioral health integration case.

The project has entered its third year, and Morton reports seeing successes in several areas. Patient/doctor continuity (seeing the same physician for each visit) has increased from 8% to 35%. HIV screening rates have gone from non existent to 30%.

"We have also created a registry of all patients on chronic opioid therapy, and track their care safety and risk through regular drug screenings," Morton says. "We also regularly take steps to ensure that the patient is only receiving prescriptions through us, and we've created a clinic that provides medical solutions to move patients off of opioids to less risky medications."

Morton points to the integrated care model as a best practice, and believes the teams at the SAC Health System have made remarkable strides with the support of the HRSA training grant.

"Psychology and family medicine trainees not only work side-by-side to provide patient-centered care but they also work on quality improvement project teams to make the care environment and system the best it can be," Morton says. "I think we are training leaders for the future as well as cutting edge clinicians."

Providing Community Service With Dignity

Social Work Honor Society works to serve community and profession in creative ways

Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health's social work honor society—Iota Pi—is one of 450 local chapters of the Phi Alpha national honor society. Founded 20 years ago, the society is committed to serving the local community and promoting academic excellence.

The chapter's efforts have attracted the notice of the national honor society. Iota Pi has received national awards for three consecutive years, including the top four awards at the 2016 national convention—the Chapter Support, Chapter Service, Chapter Grant, and Poster Presentation awards.

Students interested in joining the honor society must have a 3.5 GPA or higher and demonstrate a commitment to serving the community. Tori Dang is Iota Pi's 2017-18 chapter president. Under her leadership and working alongside the rest of the chapter's officer group, Iota Pi has developed relationships with several non-profit groups in the region. "We are looking to provide community service with dignity," Dang said.

Riverside's Calvary Presbyterian church has been serving warm meals to their community for more than 30 years. This year Iota Pi became involved, taking responsibility for serving the meals on a regularly scheduled basis.

"However, once we are done serving, we join the guests to speak with them," Dang said. "It's an opportunity to let people feel a sense of importance for a few minutes."

During those conversations, the Iota Pi members found an increased understanding of the community situation.

"We realized not all of the guests were homeless," Dang said. "There is a big food insecurity issue in that neighborhood. People who were on the cusp of becoming homeless were having difficulty meeting their family's food needs."



Iota Pi members regularly participate in fundraising walks throughout the community. Students raised more than \$2,700 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness walk.

Taelolo Lepale, the chapter's faculty advisor, says that projects like the one at the Presbyterian church do more than help community members.

"These experiences help our students develop a whole person care model," Lepale said.

Many of Iota Pi's projects require multiple volunteers, providing opportunities for chapter members to bond. One popular set of outreaches includes participation in a variety of local organization fund raising walks.

Iota Pi members participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness' local walk to raise awareness of mental health issues. As part of their support of NAMI, Iota Pi raised \$2,786 to support the organization.

"We raised the seventh largest amount out of 74 teams," Dang said.

Other local events receiving Iota Pi member support included:

- Warm coat collection in coordination with the University of Redlands;



- A Winter Wonderland project at the Loma Linda Ronald McDonalds House, providing activities for families there at Christmas time;

- A Christmas event at the SACHS clinic, helping 300 children have a happier holiday.

Iota Pi's volunteer efforts extended to the state and international levels this year. Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health Master of Social Work students participated in the 2018 National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Legislative Lobby Days in Sacramento in March. Dr. Monte Butler and 15 social work students were able to see the legislative process in action while helping

NASW rally support of two Senate bills (SB-10, SB-982) and one Assembly bill (AS-186).

On the international level, social work students are filling 23 slots on international mission trips sponsored by the Loma Linda University Health Students In Mission Service organization. They will be serving on 2018 projects in Cuba, Honduras, and Brazil.

Phi Alpha members are also taking advantage of Wholeness Hours held weekly at the Social Work building.

"We aren't on the main campus, where the weekly chapel sessions take place," Dang said. "Our Wholeness Hours are designed to promote professional and spiritual growth. We invite speakers to share how they incorporate spirituality in their work."

Speakers this year included the mayors of Murrieta, San Bernardino, and Riverside.

Lepale said the 2017-18 Phi Alpha cohort has been extremely active.

"These are all student initiatives," Lepale said. "Participation in this is not required. But outside of some mentoring and feedback, it's the students that really make these things happen. "Our students really want to serve the community from a holistic perspective."



(Top) A number of School of Behavioral Health social work students traveled to Sacramento, California, to participate in Legislative Lobby Days in March.

The Weekly Wholeness Hour promote professional and spiritual growth for students. This year's series of Wholeness Hours featured the mayors of San Bernardino (above, center), Riverside, and Murrieta.

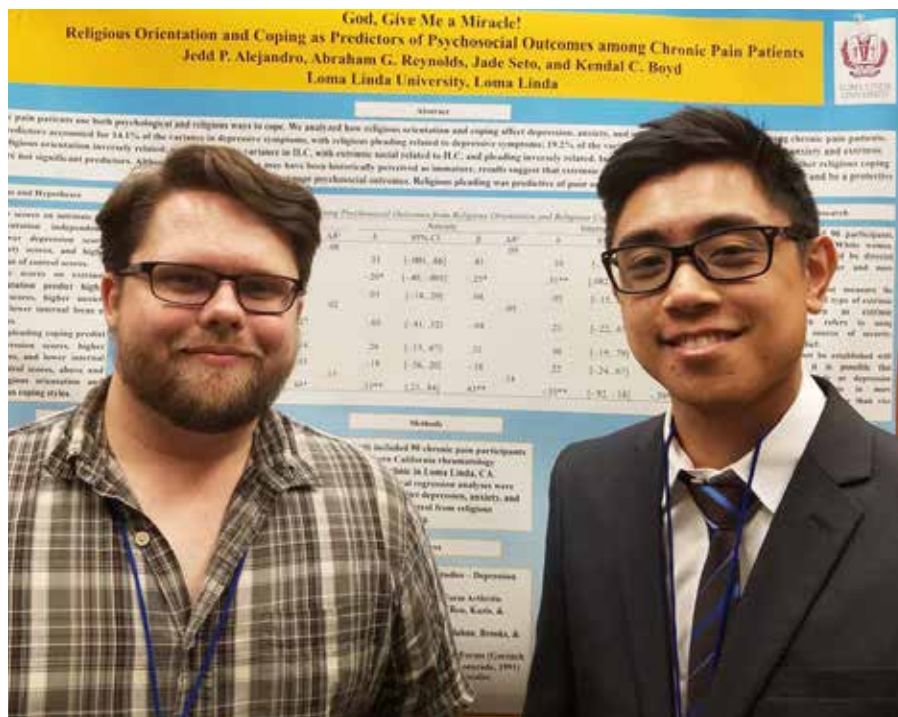
Psychology Student Takes Top Prize in APS/Psychology of Religion Poster Contest

Jedd Alejandro, Clinical Psychology PhD student attending the Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health, won the Society for Psychology of Religion and Spirituality/American Psychological Association - Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) Student Poster Award. The award was announced during the Society's mid-year meeting held in March at University of California Riverside.

Alejandro's poster was titled, "God, Give Me a Miracle! Religious Orientation and Coping as Predictors of Psychosocial Outcomes among Chronic Pain Patients." His research focused on the influence of religious coping on various psychosocial outcomes such as depression and anxiety.

According to Alejandro, those with an intrinsic religious orientation, people who truly believe their religion and use their beliefs to guide them through life, had less depressive symptoms, while those with extrinsic religious orientation, people who profess to follow a religious ideology in order to maintain social networks while minimally adhering to the religion's teachings, displayed less anxiety. They also found that people who tended to cope through pleading showed greater symptoms of both depression and anxiety.

"One of my interests is to see how chronic pain patients cope, and what specific religious characteristics were beneficial or harmful for coping," Alejandro said. Kendal Boyd, PhD, professor



Jedd Alejandro (right) received the top student poster award during the 2018 Society for Psychology of Religion and Spirituality meeting.

in the School of Behavioral Health's psychology department, supplied the study's data set, which he had collected in collaboration with the School of Medicine's Rheumatology department on the coping strategies of chronic pain patients.

Judges for the competition noted that Alejandro's poster was singled out for its quality and unique population for a psychology of religion research project. They poster expressed to Jedd that they were "impressed with the quality and importance of [his] work with chronic pain patients."

Coauthors of the study were SBH students Abe Reynolds and Jade Seto, along with Boyd. Three additional posters were presented by School of Behavioral Health students: two by Alex Larson and one by Albert Ly.

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Need some good news today? Well here it is:
chocolate is good for your mental health!



Lots of exciting construction projects on campus! Check out what's next for the Loma Linda University Church and watch their livestream of the building project here: <http://bit.ly/2qPnF9X>



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Behavioral Health

Keep up with the latest School happenings by following our new blog:
<https://behavioralhealth.llu.edu/blog>



Check out the progress on the new hospital!
#nofilter
#vision2020



A question for our alumni for
#FlashbackFriday!



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"People start to heal the moment they feel heard." -Cheryl Richardson #mentalhealth #recovery #resilience

Your gift matters to Melody Ezpeleta

God continually reminds me that He is watching over me by sending people into my life to encourage and guide me. In receiving this scholarship, I feel that it is only through God that I could have earned an award like this. Thank you so much for believing in me and supporting me through your thoughts and prayers.

**Hometown:**

Vancouver, Washington

Program:

Marital and Family Therapy, MS

Why she chose Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health:

Attending LLU was a necessary step to pursue my goals. As a result of that decision, I have had the opportunity to not only expand my academic knowledge, but to also be challenged in ways that I never imagined.

Career Goals:

I want to make an impact within the private and public educational school system by developing an intervention that will enhance the communication between children and anyone involved in their family system. I want to continue advocating for children's voices to be heard and to help fill in the gaps between schools and the home environment.

Education Future:

Recently, I have been accepted into LLU's Doctorate of Marital and Family Therapy (DMFT) program. It is an

honor to be a part of the LLU family and to experience the unraveling of God's plan together.

The Impact of a Scholarship:

I am incredibly honored and thankful to have been chosen for the Christian Excellence Award. The more I go along this life journey, the more I realize how integrated God is in every part of it. God continually reminds me that He is watching over me by sending people into my life to encourage and guide me. In receiving this scholarship, It is only through God that I could have earned an award like this. No words could fully describe how thankful I am for this.

Melody is the first recipient of the School of Behavioral Health Ian and Shirani Chand Christian Therapy Excellence Award. We are grateful to Drs. Chand who are committed to supporting this new Scholarship. The Scholarship is available to students within the Marital and Family Therapy program who embody Christian therapy and clinical excellence.

For information on how you can provide scholarship support for future School of Behavioral Health students, contact Kemi Adeoye at oladeoye@llu.edu or 909-558-3585. Or donate to SBH online at <https://advancement.lluhealth.org/SBH>