Fulfilling the vision

Summer 2005
2005 Administration

John Burdens received this telegram in 1905 from a church officer advising him not to purchase the Loma Linda property.

On the front cover:
Top left: Beginning construction on the new hospital on the hill in 1924. Now called Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. On the right: The hospital that was under construction. On the back: The hospital that was under construction.

On the back cover:
Top left: Beginning construction on the new hospital on the hill in 1924. Now called Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. On the right: The hospital that was under construction. On the back: The hospital that was under construction.

SCOPE
Fulfilling the vision
4
Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center celebrate 100 years | JM

Breaking the bond that ties
16
Convinced things separated at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital | PCS

Giving life to Afghanistan
20
Loma Linda University Works to Give Life to a Country That Has Nothing But Its Will | JRM

No small enterprise
24
Research at Loma Linda University makes strides toward improved health for all | HR

Newspoe | PET
28
Alumni notes | NRC
36
Rising from the valley floor south of San Bernardino, California, the low hill was of such modest elevation that its late-19th-century developers dubbed it only a “mound.” They would call the town Mount City, where they intended to build surrounding the hill. New owners would later change the name of this place to the more euphonious “Loma Linda”—Spanish for “Beautiful Hill.”

To the south of the Beautiful Hill were nearby hills no one could ever have mistaken as simply mounds. At a distance to the north, looming thousands of feet above the great inland valley, stood the San Bernardino Mountains, high enough to wear the snow sofwinterform on the high peaks.

But it would be the Beautiful Hill and not its loftier neighboring prominences from which, early in the 20th century, a light began to shine that would signal hope and healing. Over the next century, this commitment to the restoration—the healing of humanity—would radiate outward from the Beautiful Hill like rings from a pebble dropped into a quiet pond, ultimately reaching the farthest corners of the world. This commitment would include more than treating the body—more than just physical healing—but would focus on the healing of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

As early as 1875, a group of Southern California investors discovered the small prominence surrounded by a broad valley and—nurturing dreams of creating a new planned city—called themselves the Mount City Land Association. Low interest rates, a burgeoning citrus industry, and new rail connections fueled optimism for the speculators, who foresaw a possible boomtown in the making.

But not all dreams come true, and plans for Mount City failed. Within a year, the postoffice closed, and in 1882, a Mr. H.E. Hills bought 267 acres from the Mount City association. Mr. Hills (no irony intended) built his home on the mound itself and turned much of his remaining land into a large farm he called “Mount City Ranch.” By late 1886, deteriorating health led Mr. Hills to sell his property to yet another investor group for $30,500. They quickly formed a corporation called the Mount City Land and Water Company.

This new investor group also dreamed of creating a boomtown. Farmers all through the valley were growing rich—not so much from their farming as from buying and selling land. It wasn’t a rarity for a parcel of land to double in price and change owners several times in a single day. In early 1887, the two big railways—Southern Pacific and Santa Fe—began a fare war on the Kansas City to Los Angeles route. Ticket rates fell steadily and swiftly from $125 to just $1.

The developers of the old Mount City Ranch were convinced their investment would pay off handsomely. They would retain the name “Mount City,” and intent on luring business to the new development, they invested $40,000 to build an ornate, five-story Victorian-style wooden hotel on the summit of that mound.

But no investment is without risk, and hardly had the Mount City planners finished the hotel, than the building boom collapsed, owing at least in part to the arrival of a prolonged, intermittent drought. Then came the Depression of 1893, forcing Mount City’s developers to abandon their plans and put the land on the market. By the turn of the 20th century, Mount City and its hotel stood vacant.

In time, yet another group—this one comprised of 80 physicians and 40 businessmen—saw new possibilities as they looked over the parcel of land with a mound in its midst that had aroused the dreams of so many others before them. This consortium of doctors and business investors decided to convert the hotel and its surroundings into a health resort. The 120 investors renamed Mount City as “Loma Linda.” In September of 1900, the Loma Linda Association filed its Articles of Incorporation, and the next month, they began transactions to purchase the land for
$15,000. Once in their possession, the investors poured an additional $35,000 into Loma Linda, intending to bring their new health resort to the front ranks of the many such developments in Southern California. Aggressively promoted, a Loma Linda brochure touted the resort as “The pleasure are twain—swimming, boating, andgeneral recreation.” Switzerland of California, where health and pleasure are twins.

It seemed as if fortune was finally ready to smile on the mourned tract of land in the great inland valley. But again, success slipped from the grasp of yet another group of optimistic owners. Sometimes, the resort had no guests at all. Amazingly, in 1904, the owners reluctantly offered the property for a price that represented a major loss on their investment: $100,000. In April of 1905, the doors of Loma Linda closed. Area residents called the place “Lonesome Linda.”

Might it be that Lonesome Linda, beset by the serially dashed dreams of its successive owners, would even yet realize some special destiny? As it happened, half a state away to the north near the Napa Valley’s little town of St. Helena, the eventual destiny of Loma Linda was staring in the mind and heart of a woman named Ellen G. White. In 1901, she had described a Southern California property called the place “Lonesome Linda.”

Elder John Burden was one of the few that believed, as Ellen White did, that Loma Linda would one day become a successful educational institution.

Invested in the land and its buildings (an astonishing $3,100,000 in the currency of a century later), it could be purchased for $110,000.

It was out of the question for an already debt-laden membership. Only recently, they had purchased two other Southern California properties that would become today’s Paradise Valley Hospital and Glendale Adventist Medical Center—and they were now under strict direction to get out of debt. Later, the price for the Loma Linda property came down to $85,000. At this point, Ellen White wrote a letter dated April 12, 1905, to the Church members in Southern California, in which she urged them: “Anosée, and avail yourselves of the opportunities open to you.” Soon afterward, the price dropped again to $45,000. When Pastor Burden relayed this information to Mrs. White, she advised him to stay close to the situation and keep her posted.

Proactive by nature, the young pastor approached the owners again to see if he could determine their rock-bottom price. They quoted him a price of $40,000, firm, with only a few days option to buy at this price.

“What shall we do?” he asked Mrs. White. “We must act at once at the [Loma Linda Association] is anxious to sell, and there are others who want it.” Pastor Burden suggested that she confer with conference leaders.

Based on a confirming vision he had received the night before, she asked her son, W. G. (“Willie”) White, to telegram Pastor Burden to immediately secure the option to purchase the Loma Linda property. “I advise Willie to send you a telegram without spending time to ask the advice of the brethren. Secure the property by all means, so that it can be held and then obtain all the money you can and make sufficient payments to hold the place.” This is the very property we ought to have. Do not delay, for it is just what is needed... We will do our utmost to help you raise the money.

Meanwhile, members of the local conference committee, who were meeting at the time in Washington, D.C., wired Pastor Burden to say, “Developments here warrant advising do not make deposit on sanitarium.” John Burden found himself caught squarely in the middle between Mrs. White and “the brethren.”

With money donated by a Los Angeles farmer, Pastor Burden put down a $5,000 deposit to hold the property and on May 29, 1905, signed papers. Additional payments were due in July and in August, with the balance to be secured by a three-year mortgage.

In urging the acquisition of the Loma Linda property, Mrs. White had promised that God would bring funds from “unexpected sources” to complete its purchase. On July 26, 1905, the due date for the second payment, the conference committee of the Southern California Conference met in emergency session in Los Angeles. The second installment, $5,000, was due at 2:00 p.m. They didn’t have the first dollar of it. Some members again were openly critical of the plan to purchase the property. John Burden later reported that “the intensity of feelings was running high,” and that they were “in deep perplexity.”

Someone suggested that the troubled group wait for the morning mail. Soon they heard the postman walking up the stairs. The mail included a letter from a woman in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The sender was unknown to anyone on the committee and is unknown to this day. The letter had traveled, possibly for weeks, completely across the North American continent. Inside was a note saying, “I do not know just what your immediate need is, but if this will help, use it”—and a bank draft for $5,000, the exact amount needed four hours later on that deadline day. Suddenly, there wasn’t a dry eye in the place. John Burden later reported, “It was as solemn as the judgment day... We then took new courage, as we felt that our Lord was going before us.”

Just as Ellen White had predicted, more money had come from “unexpected sources.” Through a series of truly remarkable providences, the entire sum was actually paid in full within another six months, bringing a discount of $1,100. Thus, for a purchase price of $38,900 (plus $7,000 in interest and taxes), Southern California Adventists now possessed their third property for medical work.

Two weeks after John Burden signed the first papers on Loma Linda, Mrs. White on June 12, 1905, visited the property for the first time. Arriving with her son by express wagon from Redlands, she looked at the main building and said, “Willie, I have been here before.”

“No, Mother,” Willie responded, “you have never been here.”

Above is a postcard featuring Burden Hall. Built by Larry C. Havstad for a mere $22,000, it served as a chapel for college students for almost a quarter of a century.

The $40,000 purchase price, later reduced to $38,900, included a herd of healthy dairy cattle.
on to become the College of Medical Evangelists—and would be known by that name for more than 50 years. From the beginning, the story of the place that would come to be known as Loma Linda was to be a continuing record of divine Providence and intervention linked with human vision and faith, effort, and sacrifice. No human enterprise begins in strength and maturity, of course. As it progressed from its infancy through childhood and youth, Loma Linda—vulnerable and finding its way—needed the protection and guidance of its founding Parent. And because the healing and teaching mission of Loma Linda was so firmly aligned with the forces of good in the universe and just as unequivocally entrenched against the forces of evil, for this reason, too, Loma Linda needed divine protection and intervention.

While the time would never come when divine providence was no longer needed or evident, during Loma Linda’s earliest years, God’s protecting and intervening hand was perhaps most apparent. Once its twin ministries of healing and teaching were established, new challenges frequently arose to test the faith of Loma Linda’s leadership—challenges that often became crises that seemingly threatened the very survival of the newly opened Sanitarium and College.

In the decade leading up to the 1920s, no such challenge loomed larger than the need for the College of Medical Evangelists (CME) to obtain full official recognition and acceptance from the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association (AMA) in the form of advanced ratings. This would give Loma Linda’s medical graduates full legitimacy and acceptance by individual state medical boards and licensing agencies. To gain the needed ratings from the AMA Council on Medical Education, CME would need to provide its medical students appropriate clinical training and experiencing. This need was priority one at November, meeting of the Board. “Two very essential features of the medical college,” the minutes recorded, “are a clinical hospital and a dispensary. The law of the medical association requires that a hospital and dispensary be connected with each college that graduates physicians.”

A May, 1912, meeting of the Board had already approved construction of a clinical hospital on the Loma Linda campus. But funds were slow in materializing, and by January of 1913, Wells Ruble, MD, president of CME, felt it necessary to underscore to the Board just how serious the situation had become. The previous year’s survey from the AMA had pronounced CME deficient because of its lack of clinical facilities—a rating that would prevent its graduates from being allowed to sit for state board examinations.

“This means death to our college,” Dr. Ruble said in confronting the Board, “unless immediate steps are taken to provide what is necessary for giving a thorough medical course. One year has already passed since this matter was [first] placed before this Board, and what we see today was fully prophesied at that time. The question now before us is, ‘Are we to make good in establishing this medical college?’ If so, the hospital must be built at once.”

The next day, January 28, 1913, the constituency meeting responded to the urgent need by approving a new hospital, “at a cost not to exceed $20,000, including furnishings.” The Board was directed to arrange for “extensive solicitation for gifts” to finance the new medical building.

Meanwhile, public interest had begun focusing on the possibility of locating a dispensary (clinic) in Los Angeles to provide clinical experience during the final two years of medical training. Some had reservations about the Los Angeles option, and Mrs. White’s counsel was sought. Asked if it would be “right to give the last two years of instruction in Los Angeles or if we should hold all the work at Loma Linda,” she replied through her son Willie in early April of 1912, “that we do in Loma Linda just as much of the work as could be done acceptably there, and carry the remainder to Los Angeles.”

The way thus cleared, CME opened its dispensary, the First Street Clinic, at 941 East First Street in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles on September 29, 1913. This would become the first step in creating the clinical division at Los Angeles and what would, in successive stages, become what is today the White Memorial Hospital complex.

Alas, however, in the months following, it became apparent that the Loma Linda Hospital would serve its function and not become what is today the White Memorial Hospital complex. A November 10 mailing from the Sanitarium Temecula and College.

The next day, General Conference President A.G. Daniells addressed the issue in support of keeping the school open. “My brethren,” he said, “I am astonished and I must speak. If I do not say my mind, I will be a coward and unworthy of your confidence. Brethren, listen to me. We all profess faith in the spirit of prophecy, but we forget that one of the last things the prophet ever wrote was that our young men and women should be given their full training in our own school and should not be forced to go to worldly schools. And here we are, before the prophet is hardly cold in her grave, proposing that our young men and women shall only have half of their education from us and then shall be turned loose in these worldly schools. Now, I protest against it. That is all that I can do, but I do most earnestly protest it. We can build up this school. We can do anything God wants us to do.”
A patient receives hydrotherapy at Loma Linda Sanitarium. Sanitariums often catered to the chronically ill and those who suffered from an unhealthful lifestyle.

Also present at the meetings was Dr. Percy T. Magan, an acknowledged orator, found that he simply could not contain himself and launched a most eloquent plea for the college to continue as a full four-year school.

When the vote came, not a single hand was raised to close the school. The school would teach basic sciences at Loma Linda and provide clinical training in Los Angeles—at the new $61,000 Ellen G. White Memorial Hospital.

The onset of World War I posed a new threat to CME’s medical classes, as only students attending medical schools with the AMA’s highest rating—“B” or better—would be exempt from being drafted into the army. But in November of 1917, the AMA awarded CME its second-highest rating—a “B”—just in time to prevent CME’s classes from being emptied of their young men.

When Dr. Nathan F. Colwell, secretary of the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education, had first visited Loma Linda in 1912, he afterward recommended that—based on what he had seen—three promoting the idea of a medical school abandon their attempts. The AMA, he noted, was out to crush “one-horse medical schools,” and that is all he could conceive of Loma Linda ever establishing.

In its earliest years, the new medical college could barely merit the AMA’s lowest rating—a “G”—which wasn’t enough even to ensure that its medical graduates could sit for their various state board examinations.

Then, just in time to save its medical students from the World War I draft, CME earned its “B” grade. Nonetheless, CME continued to reorganize and strengthen many of its vital programs and departments as recommended by the AMA.

Invited in 1922 to a banquet in Los Angeles, Dr. Colwell shared his journey from skeptic to enthusiastic supporter.

“When the Seventh-day Adventists first started—a number of us felt they were doomed for defeat. I told them over and over again not to make a start. But today I must confess that their faith has triumphed over my unbelief. Some years ago, Dr. Magan took me over the place which their followers had come for treatment as well as to learn the secrets of better living. This transition, of course, was to the benefit of the medical students and staff, allowing them to study and serve a greater variety of medical cases.

Groundbreaking and construction on a new Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital had begun on the “Beautiful Hill” on April 22, 1928. The new 280-foot tall Spanish-style building—which over the years would come to be known simply as “The San”—opened for occupancy on March 20, 1929, after three days of moving patients, staff, and equipment.

In its practical use, the new Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital functioned more as a hospital than an extended-care facility. Surgical and obstetrical patients occupied most of the hospital area, while patients with nonsurgical problems occupied the sanitarium portion.

Repeatedly enlarged, the new Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital on the hill eventually could accommodate nearly 200 patients.

Loma Linda had accumulated hard-won experience at enduring hard times. Its leaders and workers now had not only well-developed survival skills but a strong will to succeed, rooted in the conviction that their mission was of divine origin. But the 1930s would bring adversity that would test the dedication of everyone associated with the Sanitarium and College—the Great Depression. No one could foresee the ever-greater sacrifices that would be necessary to ride out the lean years.

As the downward slide continued, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called for a major slashing of the College’s budget, with worker salaries to be pared by between 5 percent and 20 percent. “It is up to us to make the thing go or turn it over to someone who can,” said President Magan. The College, he added, must “get down to bedrock and put things on a better basis—eliminate extravagance and waste…and make personal sacrifices.”

By October of 1932, occupancy rates at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles plummeted to only 50 patients—the lowest-ever patient census. In response, physicians often accepted eggs, flour, chicken, groceries, and other goods as payment for services. A group of nurses from the White Memorial Hospital responded with compassion and formed the “Ellen White Nurses” to serve thousands of poor people in the surrounding community. They donated their time. The hospital provided food. And the County of Los Angeles provided transportation. At both Loma Linda and White Memorial, some nurses took less than full-time work so others could have at least a few hours of employment each week.

Despite the widespread financial failure that now permeated all of American society, the combination of divine blessing, workforce sacrifice, and Church support kept Loma Linda afloat during these bleak years—and not just afloat but actually moving steadily forward.

As the difficult decade of the 1930s closed, CME had not only survived a series of crises just as daunting as any it had encountered in its earliest years, but it had grown in size and strength. At Loma Linda, two new churches served the students and staff, and two parallel rows of new science buildings now faced each other across a wide, grassy campus mall. In Los Angeles, the White Memorial Hospital, which began as a storefront clinic some 25 years earlier, was now a fully equipped city hospital of 190 beds.

On the cusp of yet another decade, would that Loma Linda and its institutions could now dispense with so many struggles to survive—so many threats to existence—and focus fully on growth and service? But as all truly great institutions learn, in the very struggle to overcome threats and challenges lies the secret to strength and success. The combination of unquenchable divine providence and human dedication and commitment had by now brought Loma Linda from little more than a dream and a shrewing to a thriving two-campus center of education and healing.

But the arrival of the 1940s would not bring peace or ease for Loma Linda, the United States, or the world. Soon enough, the entire planet would convulse in the throes of conflict and death. Yet even as the incoming tides of a world at war spilled across the Loma Linda campuses, they would be answered by outgoing tides of service, sacrifice, and patriotism.

For the second time in its still-young existence, the College of Medical Evangelists was forced to confront and examine its relationship to its nation during a time of war. This time, though, the college was far stronger than it had been a little more than 20 years earlier when it had fought for its very survival, faced with the prospect of losing most of its students to the World War II draft. Now the school was successfully developed to position it to make a significant and highly valued contribution to the war effort. That contribution, however, was prepared to make only within the confines of its own principles—chief among them, noncombatancy.

During the First World War, various medical schools across the country entered agreements with the office of the U.S. Surgeon General to form their own military hospital units. Members of the teaching staff at these schools held reserve commissions in the U.S. Army.

Following the end of World War I, some of the younger physicians at CME proposed that as a gesture of cooperation and preparedness with the United States government for another World War, the school should provide an full-time staff to the government—a Seventh-day Adventist-staffed, standby military hospital. While this entity would exist during peacetime as little more than a paper organization, it would be ready for immediate activation in the event of another conflict.”
President Richard M. Nixon visits LLU in 1972 to announce construction of a veterans administration hospital. He is accompanied by Ronald Reagan, governor of California.

Loma Linda University Medical Center was constructed in three years, from 1964 to 1967, for $17,200,000.

Sandra Nelson Cannarella and Leonard L. Bailey comfort Baby Fae. Dr. Bailey performed radical surgery on Baby Fae in October, 1984, replacing the infant's ailing heart with that of a baboon.

Pecsy T. Magan, MD, at the time, dean of the School of Medicine, was so favorably impressed with the idea that he approached officers of the Ninth Corps Area of the U.S. Army in San Francisco and negotiated with them to establish the 47th General Hospital of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Under auspices of the army, CME officially organized the 47th General Hospital in 1920, with President Newton Evans, MD, as its first commanding officer, with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Reserve.

On August 11, 1941, leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with General Conference President J.L. McElhaney presiding, met at CME's Los Angeles campus for some concentrated study of the school's relation to the war now spreading over the globe. Some expressed concern over excessive entanglement between the Church and the military. But the 47th General Hospital had existed through 17 years of peace, and a decision was reached that it would continue. The college could hardly abandon its commitment now that America seemed threatened with early involvement in a second world war.¹

On June 30, 1943, the dormant 47th was activated at Hamilton General Hospital in Modesto, California. And in the spring of 1944, the S.S. West Point transported the 47th General Hospital to the South Pacific, where CME officers helped construct a military facility at Milne Bay on the southern tip of Papua New Guinea. In May of 1945, the 47th marked its first anniversary of foreign service. But by that time, the unit was already beginning to break up, as the U.S. Army transferred medical officers and enlisted personnel to shifting fronts in other theaters of the war.

As the war progressed, the United States War Department virtually communized America's medical schools. In part, this was to increase the number of physicians available for the war effort. But it was also in part to ensure that young men would not seek to escape induction into military service by taking a profession interest in studying medicine.

But one provision of the military's proactive effort to assure a sufficient ongoing supply of new physicians for the war effort created a looming crisis for CME. The military itself assumed the right to select promising college students for medical training. This took the selection process out of the hands of the schools of medicine. Each school was assigned a quota—an assigned number—of new freshmen medical students. This provision created consternation for CME's medical school administrators. Founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, CME operated in harmony with the unique principles of the denomination, including such Christian ideals as foregoing the use of alcohol and tobacco, advocacy of vegetarianism, and honoring the seventh-day Sabbath by holding no classes on that day. The prospect that CME could soon become a training center for students, the majority of whom would be ignorant of or unprepared to harmonize with those ideals, was deeply unsettling.

And what of Seventh-day Adventist young men who would normally seek medical training such as CME was ordained to provide? Suppose that under this new provision, some of these should be assigned to other, secular schools of medicine? They would find themselves having to forfeit either their religious convictions or the opportunity of becoming a physician. Faced with this possibility, the CME Board of Trustees sent its president, Walter E. Macpherson, MD, to Washington, D.C. Evidence seems convincing that divine providence had already anticipated this emergency and had been preparing the way to meet it. In Washington, Dr. Macpherson's first stop was to visit with one of his own CME classmate—S. Jensen, MD (class of 1924), who now served as a colonel in the U.S. Air Corps. Dr. Jensen could readily understand CME's plight, but he did not have the authority to mold military policies relating to medical schools. Nonetheless, he could open doors for Dr. Macpherson, and arranged for CME's president to see Col. F.M. Fitz in the Surgeon General's office. Col. Fitz was very receptive to Dr. Macpherson's appeal and said, "I will refer you to Colonel White, who is in charge of drafting plans for assignments to medical schools." At last, Dr. Macpherson had reached the man who did have the authority to get things done on CME's behalf.

What happened next, some might see as simple coincidence. Those familiar with the repeated evidences of divine involvement throughout the years in times of crisis at Loma Linda would see it as yet another providential intervention.

As Dr. Macpherson presented CME's dilemma to Col. White, a soldier entered his office, saluted, and delivered a sealed envelope to the colonel. Col. White returned the soldier's salute, accepted the envelope, and dismissed the counter. Momentarily, he interrupted his conversation with Dr. Macpherson to open the envelope, and discovered to his surprise and delight that he had just been promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Dr. Macpherson remained convinced after that meeting that the now-Gen. White's elation at that moment spilled over to the selection process out of the military's purview. Prompted from him a spontaneous promise: "I will keep you folks in mind." And that, he did. CME would become the only school of medicine in America allowed to choose its own students, starting with Seventh-day Adventist about to be assigned to other schools.²

During the war, more than 500 CME alumni performed military service for their country, including many physicians who served outside the auspices of the 47th General Hospital. Many received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Citation for Meritorious Achievement. CME's graduates attracted favorable attention wherever they went because of the quality of the service they rendered. Some became prisoners of war. And some died in service to their country.

If the dominant focus of the 1940s at Loma Linda were the war, during the 1950s attention returned to its own campus. And no story of that decade loomed larger than the establishment of the School of Dentistry. The idea of a Seventh-day Adventist school of dentistry dated back to Loma Linda’s earliest years. In fact, the original Articles of Incorporation for the College of Medical Evangelists in 1909 authorized it to grant degrees not only in medicine and nursing but in dentistry as well. But the idea would need till the decade of the 1950s to see reality.

Over those intervening decades, the idea would move forward by fits and starts. In 1914, Wells Ruble, MD, the president of CME, expressed his interest in the idea of a dental school on the campus. In 1932, Dr. R.G. Hosking, an Adventist dentist in San Francisco, California, believed—along with some other interested dentists and prospecive dental students—that the time had arrived when CME should have its own school of dentistry. Also in 1932, however, the possibility of starting a dental school was considered by the General Conference Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A smaller committee was appointed to study the question and bring in recommendations. The church's Autumn Council later that year acted on this committee's work, recommending that for the time being, arrangements be made with one or more existing dental schools for Adventist students to take their professional training there, while being granted the privilege of observing the seventh-day Sabbath.

CME still did not have a green light to launch its own dental school, but this definitely represented an interim step forward. As a follow-through on the 1932 Autumn Council recommendation, two Adventist dentists, also brothers, carried out this directive. J. Russell and Gerald A. Mitchell successfully persuaded the Atlanta-Southern Dental School in Atlanta, Georgia, to excuse Seventh-day Adventist students who would attend there from Saturday classes or tests. Atlanta-Southern accepted up to 10 Adventist dental students annually. A good number of other Adventist dental students succeeded in having their day of worship honored while attending such schools as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a proprietary school in San Francisco, California.

Early in 1938—the same year that the first Adventists graduated from Atlanta-Southern—CME commissioned Herbert G. Childs Jr., DDS, a Los Angeles dentist who had in 1935 been hired onto the staff of Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital, to prepare a proposal advocating a church-operated dental school.³ For a number of reasons, action on the proposal was deferred. Despite the urgent need, for the remainder of the 1940s, progress toward an Adventist dental school resembled the stop-and-go flow of rush-hour traffic that would in later decades become

SCOPE, Summer, 2005 13
...routine on Southern California’s freeways. By 1949, NASDAD—the association of Adventist dentists—increased the intensity of its efforts toward establishing a dental school. Twenty-three of its members pledged $50,000 to seed money. And that year, W. Webster Prince, DDS, who had helped found NASDAD and now served as its president, presented a paper stressing the need to forge ahead and take immediate steps toward founding an Adventist school of dentistry. A rising chorus of other voices joined in calling for the school’s creation.

In May of 1951, Dr. Prince made yet another powerful appeal for a denominational school of dentistry.24 In it, he concluded: “No, brethren, we cannot afford to let this decision be deferred. The value of the vote lies in its importance and help in carrying this Message. We need a dental school! And we need it now! It is your responsibility to decide.”

Momentum accelerated, and on October 15, 1951, a committee appointed by General Conference president William H. Branson returned a formal recommendation of $75,000 as its contribution to the project. 11

As the second millennium A.D. began, Loma Linda, now firmly established, was truly to live out its new mission to heal, teach, and bring hope to its patients who would have had no other options. Dr. Hadley, Dr. Fike, and Dr. James B. Lang, MBA, had courageously navigated the waters of partnership with NASA, the Proton Treatment Center to be able to assist in improving radiation shielding in space suit materials.

Fulfilling the vision
SCOPE, Summer 2005

University Church, one of the central campus buildings, has just undergone a major renovation. Through a partnership with NASA, the Proton Treatment Center is able to assist in improving radiation shielding in space suit materials.
Crystal and Cristina Molina share a bond closer than most siblings. Not only are the sisters identical twins, they were born July 16, 2004, joined at the head in one of the rarest types of conjoined twins. Parents Blanca Cabrera and Bernardo Molina of Coachella Valley delivered the girls at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital knowing this. An ultrasound in March, 2004, showed Ms. Cabrera was carrying craniopagus conjoined twins. Only 2 percent of conjoined twins are joined at the head. A little frightened, Ms. Cabrera and Mr. Molina, already with two other daughters, 5-year-old Wendy and 2-year-old Daisy, had good reason to be afraid. Even with the support of a 120-member team to deliver and care for their babies, they knew that only eight other craniopagus twins have been separated before. Not all of them have survived. “I was thinking and a lot of things came to my mind. I thought I would never see them again,” admits Ms. Cabrera. As the ultrasound at three months revealed conjoined twins, Ms. Cabrera did not understand what that meant for her babies. “We went and they did the ultrasound but it seemed like something was wrong and when they finished, they wouldn’t tell me anything. “At first [the doctor] told me there were two, then I started crying. As they explained, all I did was cry,” remembers Ms. Cabrera. Little did she know that all her tears would be forgotten after a very successful separation surgery just a year later. “I was in the delivery room, and it was probably the most amazing birth I’ve seen,” says Renatta Osterdock, MD, lead neurosurgeon for the Molina twins of the Cesarean delivery of the girls. “When the babies were actually delivered, I remember being in the ICU dealing with stabilizing the babies. They rolled mom by to see the twins, and the look on her face was just one of fear. It was like she was looking at something that didn’t belong to her.” Dr. Osterdock, along with one of the largest multidisciplinary teams ever assembled at Children’s Hospital, worked to meticulously chart a treatment plan for the girls from prenatal care all the way through post-operative care and discharge to prove Ms. Cabrera’s fear misplaced. “We had fetal imaging,” says Dr. Osterdock. “Before they were even born I could tell mom that it looks like the brains are normal. When we first got the imaging studies and had an idea of what was going on, we were able to say: Hey, you know, I think this is going to be okay and I think your girls are going to be fine. Still, we knew there were a lot of risks.” A lot of risks and an unexpected reward awaited the entire team. The twins captured the heart of every member involved with their care, spreading a compassion far beyond the confines of their hospital ICU room. The girls even touched those outside of their direct caregivers. Companies donated specialized equipment, allowing the surgery team to create 3-D models of the twins’ heads to practice on, and a unique bed for the twins’ surgery that would rotate 360 degrees and stabilize their heads during surgery. Parkview Community Hospital employees funded a van for the family’s transportation needs. KNBC Channel 4 reporter Mary Parks documented the entire separation process with the help of Medical Center audio/visual staff Ganim Hannah, Marlon Paley, Janis Toccer, and Robert Raee-Nielsen. The spirit of cooperation and compassion that bonded the twins’ team made a large impression on Dr. Osterdock. “It was truly remarkable to see how everyone came together to care for these girls,” Dr. Osterdock says. After a brief stay in the hospital following their birth, Cristina and Crystal spent five months at home in Coachella Valley, where Mr. Molina works as a custom tile layer, and Ms. Cabrera stayed at home caring for the four girls. Then, on January 2, the family brought Crystal and Cristina back to Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital to prepare for the separation. All
The imaging studies showed the twins’ skull bones were fused together, but no other major tissues were joined. Their brains were completely separate and even their blood vessels were apart.

The twins went through several operations once back in Children’s Hospital. Andrea Ray, MD, lead reconstructive plastic surgeon for the Molina twins, inserted skin expanders into the girls’ heads to prepare them for surgery. Skin expanders were inserted into the girls’ heads to prepare them for surgery. The expanders, filled with saline solution, stretched the skin to provide the extra tissue needed to cover each of the girls’ heads. These expanders, balloons filled with saline solution, stretched the skin to provide the extra tissue needed to cover each of the girls’ heads.

The twins’ heads were completely separate and even expanders were used instead of the more traditional approach of skin grafts for two main reasons.

“We felt [using skin grafts] would increase the chance for infection,” says Dr. Ray. “And the result we could get from the standpoint of their final appearance we felt would be better if we could avoid using skin grafts.”

Cristina and Crystal also spent time with Dr. Osterdock in the operating room before separation. She and the surgical team needed to implant three bolts into each of the girls’ heads that would fasten to rods on the rotating bed, immobilizing their heads during surgery.

Dr. Osterdock devised the three implants especially for the infant girls.

Normal methods for fixing the head apply 60 pounds of force to the skull, something an infant simply cannot endure. Once all the procedures leading up to the separation were completed, the work was still not done. With the 3-D models and bed in place, the surgery team performed a mock operation, a complete run-through of the separation procedure to help the physicians practice what none of them had ever been involved with prior.

At the end of February, after two months of pre-operative care, the infants were ready. An infant’s small size only holds so much blood. A full-grown adult can safely lose more blood than is in an infant’s entire body.

The main reason for performing the separation surgery on children so young came from imaging. The cranial sutures appear closed, giving an appearance that the head is fixed. If the sutures are connected to the skull bone, a separate operation would be required to divide them, according to Dr. Ray. Normal methods for fixing the head apply 60 pounds of force to the skull, something an infant cannot endure.

Ms. Cabrera and Mr. Molina were able to tell Cristina and Crystal separate for the first time. The girls spent the next three weeks at Children’s Hospital recovering and winning over the affection of the nurses and administration.

Dr. Osterdock is still amazed at the spirit of cooperation and compassion that surrounded the team caring for the Molina twins.

“The nursing staff did a tremendous job—we didn’t have one infection the entire time,” Dr. Osterdock remarks. Crystal and Cristina don’t know it, but they were so popular during their stay at the hospital that they inspired two scrapbooking events, resulting in three memory books for the parents and the girls. Alane Allbee, RN, and Jeannie Martinez, RN, case managers for the twins, organized two Monday night scrapbooking sessions for all of the team members who wanted to share photos and stories of the twins. Ms. Martinez was also instrumental in keeping such a large team communicating and working smoothly together throughout several months.

On March 22, the staff held a going-home party for the twins on the day of their discharge. Full of a tearful room of well-wishers, Mr. Molina used the opportunity to cement his love for his family. Everyone and to Ms. Cabrera’s great delight, he got down on one knee and proposed to her. Amidst tears and smiles she said yes.

“I just decided on that day,” says Mr. Molina. “I just felt something good; I think it was the perfect day.” And at the end of the perfect day, the Molina family took Crystal and Cristina home, separately, for the first time.

Children’s Hospital that they inspired two scrapbooking events, resulting in three memory books for the parents and the girls.

As far as the twins are concerned, they are developing well considering they are still adapting to being separate.

“They’re a little bit slow, in that they’re not sitting up independently yet, which they probably should be doing, but they’re going to get caught up by the time they’re a year old,” says Dr. Osterdock.

Blanca Cabrera and Bernardo Molina look over their daughters, Crystal and Cristina. Molina. They were born conjoined at the head, one of the rarest types of conjoined twins.

While most conjoined twins suffer some sort of neurological damage to one or both of the individuals, the Molina girls’ unique situation of only a skull connection left them both with normally functioning brains.

“It depends a lot on the connections in the brain,” says Dr. Osterdock of the possibility for neurological damage after separation. “If the brains are connected then they will have problems. But the Molina twins’ brains were separate.”

The separation went so well it is difficult to tell Crystal and Cristina went through a major surgery.

“They have a full head of hair already, and if they wear these little hats, you can’t even tell they’ve had a major surgery,” says Dr. Ray. The family loves having the girls back home again.

“It’s just wonderful, hugging and playing with them. We got so lucky,” says Mr. Molina.

After the twins left the hospital on March 22, when a luncheon was held to celebrate the successful surgery and complication-free post-operative care, KNBC Channel 4 aired a 10-part series throughout Southern California documenting the girls’ stay and the care received during the week of March 28 to April 1. The story, titled “Journey of Hope,” told of Crystal and Cristina’s hospital care to their first days at home after separation.

On March 3, after nearly a year of preparation, Crystal and Cristina Molina were successfully separated at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.
Afghanistan was once a place only a few Westerners vaguely knew about. Many people could not locate this intriguing country on a world map. In the 1960s, Afghanistan was a place for Americans to land who wanted to “drop out of society.” Today, the realities of 9/11 have brought images of this land-locked country into households around the world on an almost daily basis.

Slightly smaller in area than the state of Texas, Afghanistan is bordered on the south and east by Pakistan, on the west by Iran, and on the north by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Afghanistan’s recent history is a story of war and civil unrest. The former Soviet Union invaded the country in 1979, but was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-Communist mujahideen supported by the United States.

Subsequent fighting among the various mujahideen factions gave rise to a state of warlordism that eventually spawned the Taliban, which seized power in 1996. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., the United States, assisted by Afghan Northern Alliance resistance forces, toppled the Taliban regime.

For all of their 100-year history, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center have been involved in international health care initiatives. The roots of the Adventist health message in Afghanistan began in the early 1920s. Pastor J. E. Fulton of India, writing in the September, 1920, issue of the Loma Linda Medical Evangelist, reported that one of the leading officials in the Afghan government had urged members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church working in India to come to Kabul to investigate the opening of a limited sanitarium. In his article, Pastor Fulton noted that “this Afghan delegate is an influential man and has promised to help us in various ways to get our health work started in his country.”

It was in this setting that in 1962, Loma Linda began its official involvement in Afghanistan. Anchored by G. Gordon Hadley, MD, dean emeritus of the School of Medicine, and assisted by Loma Linda physicians including Bernard Briggs, Roy Jutzy, Benjamin Herndon, and John E. Peterson, this effort has provided faculty and consultation resources to the leading medical school in Afghanistan and other similar facilities throughout the country. This effort temporarily stopped when the Soviet Union invaded the country in 1979. In 1996, at the request of national and medical school officials in Afghanistan, a team from Loma Linda, headed by Joan Coggin, MD, MPH, immediate past vice president for global outreach for Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center; Michael Ryan, PhD, director of Global Mission for the General Conference; and Dr. Hadley returned to Afghanistan to assess the needs of the medical school curriculum and see what help could be provided.

Maranatha Volunteers International, with funds from the Euro-Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Global Mission, and private donors, constructed a four-bedroom home and three one-bedroom apartments for Loma Linda in Kabul. A teaching center, named the Loma Linda Center, was constructed at Kabul Medical University in existing space. This center consists of teaching laboratories, a medical library, and a computer center for students and faculty.

The Loma Linda efforts progressed rapidly. Previously, the medical school’s library consisted of books and journals dated prior to 1972. Now this has changed. Books and journals donated by Loma Linda, various international entities, and publishers have vastly improved the holdings in the medical library.

On September 11, 2001, all of Loma Linda’s efforts in the country came to a halt. “Fortunately, no Loma Linda personnel were in-country during the time of the terrorist attacks on the United States,” says Richard H. Hart, MD, DPH, Loma Linda University chancellor. “We were concerned about possible damage to our housing complex in Kabul with the overthrow of the

Giving life to Afghanistan
Loma Linda University Chancellor Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, visits with children at a hospital daycare center. Several health-care facilities in Kabul operate their own daycare center for children of employees.

Taliban government and the resulting invasion of Afghanistan by the United States and its coalition forces. But miraculously, largely because of the efforts of our Afghani staff employed by us, the property remained untouched.

“The entire medical school complex was severely damaged during the struggles within the country,” says Dr. Hart, who is coordinating Loma Linda’s efforts in Afghanistan. “Currently, the medical school has almost been completely restored due to the efforts of the United States military using local contractors.

“A primary need of the health-care system in the country is for qualified personnel in multiple disciplines. This includes a variety of individuals in the ‘intermediate’ categories such as nurses, midwives, and other allied health support personnel.”

As peace returns to Afghanistan, medical students have returned to school. The medical curriculum is a seven-year program after a student completes the equivalent of a high school education. Previously, any student admitted to Kabul Medical University could choose to enroll in the new medical curriculum. Consequently, approximately 6,000 students were enrolled in the medical curriculum—many more students than they adequately could teach. Efforts have been underway to institute a more selective process in the admittance of students. This year, approximately 70 students were admitted in the new selection process.

Loma Linda is also working with the Afghanistan Ministry of Health to enhance the health-care system in Kabul, according to Dr. Hart. Currently, physicians and dentists headed by Roy V. Jutzy, MD, retired chair, department of medicine, have traveled to Kabul to hold continuing medical education programs.

“The Ministry of Health identified continuing education topics for the local physicians,” Dr. Jutzy notes. “Our coursework focuses on the development of clinical skills, using interactive teaching methodologies. The Ministry of Health is extremely interested in developing continuing medical education programs for the entire country that will help upgrade the quality of physicians now practicing in Kabul and throughout the rest of the country.”

In March, 2004, a team of five Loma Linda personnel, headed by Dr. Hart, traveled to Kabul in response to a request made by the Ministry of Health to explore the possibility of Loma Linda operating the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, a major teaching facility in Kabul.

The hospital, operated by the Ministry of Health, was constructed approximately 35 years ago. The hospital is located in an affluent quarter of town and is surrounded by a cluster of medical facilities including the Indira Gandhi Children’s Hospital, a physical therapy clinic, and an allied health educational complex. Located on an adjacent piece of property is a military hospital operated by the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

In early 2004, the then-deputy minister of health, Abdullah Sherzai, MD, on a trip to Loma Linda, asked if Loma Linda would consider operating the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital and upgrading the facility to the equivalent of a progressive American community hospital.

During his visit to Loma Linda, Dr. Sherzai noted that if “Loma Linda University is able and willing to take on this task, this collaborative effort could play a significant role in changing the way the Islamic world sees the United States. What better way to change the world view and the world direction than to give life to a country that has nothing but its will?”

Loma Linda recently received a one-year, $3-million grant from the United States government to operate the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital. This grant will hopefully be renewed annually to assist in the operation of the hospital, according to Dr. Hart.

“The Norwegian Red Cross, operating under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has completely renovated the hospital,” Dr. Hart says. “The 200-bed hospital is almost like new. Prior to the closing of the facility for renovation, the hospital could accept only the most poor patients. Elective surgeries could be scheduled only one or two days a week because of lack of adequate medicines.”

“Without a doubt, human resource development is the biggest challenge we face,” says Jerry E. Daly, MA, MSLS, assistant vice president for global outreach for Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, and coordinator of the logistical support system for the Afghanistan project. “Great emphasis needs to be placed on training of allied health personnel.”

In a recent survey, when 227 nurses and midwives were asked for an examination of 100 multiple choice questions—one only nine passed at the 70 percent level; 13 passed at a 69.5 percent level, and 25 passed at a 65 percent level. “We must keep in mind that in a post-conflict environment, scores like this are to be expected,” Mr. Daly notes.

Equipping the facility poses another set of challenges. Dr. Daly says, “Outpatient medication can easily be obtained. Obtaining inpatient medicines is far more challenging.

“Even though we may be allowed to buy medications through Loma Linda, the approval process is lengthy,” Mr. Daly says. “Waivers must be granted from the United States Agency for International Development for the purchase of medicines outside their standard list of essential medications. In addition, a waiver must be obtained to purchase medications outside normal channels.”

In addition to the renovated hospital, current plans call for the construction of an outpatient facility and living quarters for expatriate employees. These facilities will be located on vacant land adjacent to the hospital.

Many challenges lay ahead. Hospitals in Afghanistan have limited resources. Many of those located in regions outside Kabul do not have stable electricity or running water in the facility and lack modern medications.

“We estimate that it will take approximately $2 million for equipment and supplies to bring the hospital up to the standards that the Afghan government wishes,” Dr. Hart says. “Additional funds are needed for staffing, construction of the outpatient clinic, and housing for expatriate hospital staff.”

It is anticipated that 7 to 10 overseas personnel will play key administrative and medical roles in the immediate future, according to Dr. Hart.

“We are very interested in assisting Afghanistan with this facility,” Dr. Hart says. “In addition to working with Kabul Medical University, we recognize the additional value of establishing a solid teaching hospital. We expect to have local medical students and residents, as well as nursing students and other students in the allied health professions working and learning in the facility.

“Tremendous challenges lay ahead. We are pleased that Loma Linda can be a part of this effort to rebuild the health-care and medical education systems of Afghanistan.”
While once a minor focus at Loma Linda University, research is today a growing component of the University’s efforts to serve and heal mankind. Research at Loma Linda has grown from a $4-million-a-year enterprise in the early 1990s to $35 million in 2004.

Funded increasingly by federal grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), faculty research projects range in scope from paleontology to sociology to the biomedical sciences.

“Research at Loma Linda develops innovative medical therapies but people now recognize that it has also provided support for the health mission of the Adventist Church which began the institution in 1905,” says Barry Taylor, PhD, vice chancellor for research affairs.

Loma Linda University is a United States leader in developmental research, a field few in the general population understand, but one that is literally of vital importance. LLU’s Center for Perinatal Biology is world-renowned, attracting numerous postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars.

Young scientists come from all over the world to study and work here,” says Lawrence D. Longo, MD, director of the Center for Perinatal Biology.

Perinatal biology is the study of the biological processes and development of the fetus and newborn infant. Sound dry and dull? It isn’t.

The work has practical applications for everyone. The conditions a fetus experiences in the womb can predispose him or her as an adult to diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Known as fetal programming of adult disease, this is one of the center’s research thrusts.

For example, the center has helped to establish that fetuses exposed to hypoxia (lack of oxygen) can subsequently endure lifelong effects. Smoking and drug use during pregnancy are important contributors to fetal hypoxia.

Lubo Zhang, PhD, and other center members were recently published in The Journal of Physiology for their discoveries on the effects that prenatal cocaine exposure in rats has on the heart in their adulthood.

While Drs. Longo, Zhang, and others focus on the very beginnings of life, others on campus are studying life at the other end.

Wolff Kirsch, MD, professor of surgery, and the team at the Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education are trying to discover the roots of Alzheimer’s disease. They are focusing on the role the metal iron plays in Alzheimer’s; people who suffer from this disease tend to have more iron in their brains.

Now in its fourth year, the study is following 64 adults with memory impairment and 31 control subjects.

The neurosurgery center team is also active in developing new surgical devices, not all of which are used in neurosurgery itself. A recent example is a device used for closing the femoral artery after it has been catheterized in cardiology procedures.

“Without research, medicine cannot advance,” says Dr. Kirsch. He further explains that a research presence on the Loma Linda campus balances the institution.

“It points to this institution as being on the cutting edge,” he says.

Cutting-edge research at Loma Linda also looks at how oxygen receptors sense hypoxia, how harmful bacteria become pathogenic, and mechanisms of radiation damage to tissue. The School of Dentistry is a leader in developing biomaterials for use by dentists.

The Proton Treatment Center at Loma Linda University Medical Center has long been a leader in treating prostate and other cancers. Now, the center is testing a new spot scanning proton beam that will allow it to treat additional types of cancer, such as lymphoma.

The spot scanning technology will allow doctors to treat tumors with greater, three-dimensional precision. Jerry Slater,
Leonard Brand, PhD, professor of earth and biological sciences, School of Science and Technology, poses for a photo next to a fossil whale he discovered in the Peruvian desert. More than 100 fossil whales are located in that area.

The Adventist Health Study-2, now in its fourth year, continues to strive toward its goal of 105,000 Seventh-day Adventists. Making it one of the largest nutritional studies of African Americans—and white Americans—to be done.

“We’ve plowed a lot of new ground in this study,” says Gary Fraser, MBCIB, PhD, director of the project.

The University administration has also created some financial incentives to encourage faculty to embrace research.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is uniquely positioned to study such dietary issues because its members embrace a wide range of diets, from total veganism to regular meat consumption. Furthermore, as a group, Adventists eat a lot of soy products.

While Loma Linda’s mission statement is “to make man whole,” not every research project is health focused. Faculty in the earth and biological sciences work to broaden our knowledge of the Creator’s handiwork in the world.

The team is studying several molecules that they hope can inhibit the pim-1 enzyme. Such agents could then be given along with chemotherapy or radiation to enhance antitumor effects. The most promising of these is called quercetagetin, a molecule found naturally in citrus and other fruits. The Loma Linda team has shown that quercetagetin is a potent selective inhibitor of pim-1 activity and can inhibit the growth of prostate cancer cells in culture.

As Loma Linda’s focus on research continues to grow, other faculty may be able to look forward to what a few already experience—a workload composed primarily of research. Dr. Kirsh is one of the campus’s faculty who spends a majority of time in research, while still teaching a few basic science courses in the School of Medicine. It’s a good time in his career.

“I’ve never had it better,” he says.

The University administration has also created some financial incentives to encourage faculty to embrace research.

With so many research interests on campus, the faculty have earned grants on projects ranging from sensory transduction in bacteria to culture and cancer: the case of Latin women.

A recent example of a new grant awardee is Lois Van Cleve, PhD, RN, professor and an associate dean in the School of Nursing, who recently learned that she won a three-year grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Nursing Research to study quality of life, symptoms, and management in children living in advanced stages of cancer.

Loma Linda’s focus on basic research is currently stronger than clinical research, which involves testing on patients.

“We need to expand our clinical research base,” Dr. Taylor says.

One way the University is considering doing so is to establish a clinical trial center that would help support clinicians’ research efforts. Help in securing project permission and funding and collecting data could greatly advance a clinician’s ability to advance modern medicine.

A center could possibly be established within two years, Dr. Taylor estimates.

Closely related to clinical research is translational research, a field that picks up where basic research leaves off. (Basic research concerns itself with understanding how healthy cells function. It explores how nature operates without seeking to turn discoveries into medical treatments.)

One team at Loma Linda heavily involved in this field is led by oncologist Michael Lilly, MD, director of the Center for Molecular Biology and Gene Therapy.

The team is researching a gene called pim-1 kinase, a stress response gene that can help tumor cells develop resistance to cancer drugs and radiation.

The team is studying several molecules that they hope can inhibit the pim-1 enzyme. Such agents could then be given along with chemotherapy or radiation to enhance antitumor effects. The most promising of these is called quercetagetin, a molecule found naturally in citrus and other fruits. The Loma Linda team has shown that quercetagetin is a potent selective inhibitor of pim-1 activity and can inhibit the growth of prostate cancer cells in culture.

As Loma Linda’s focus on research continues to grow, other faculty may be able to look forward to what a few already experience—a workload composed primarily of research. Dr. Kirsh is one of the campus’s faculty who spends a majority of time in research, while still teaching a few basic science courses in the School of Medicine. It’s a good time in his career.

“I’ve never had it better,” he says.

The University administration has also created some financial incentives to encourage faculty to embrace research.

With so many research interests on campus, the faculty have earned grants on projects ranging from sensory transduction in bacteria to culture and cancer: the case of Latin women.

A recent example of a new grant awardee is Lois Van Cleve, PhD, RN, professor and an associate dean in the School of Nursing, who recently learned that she won a three-year grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Nursing Research to study quality of life, symptoms, and management in children living in advanced stages of cancer.

Loma Linda’s focus on basic research is currently stronger than clinical research, which involves testing on patients.

“We need to expand our clinical research base,” Dr. Taylor says.

One way the University is considering doing so is to establish a clinical trial center that would help support clinicians’ research efforts. Help in securing project permission and funding and collecting data could greatly advance a clinician’s ability to advance modern medicine.

A center could possibly be established within two years, Dr. Taylor estimates.

Closely related to clinical research is translational research, a field that picks up where basic research leaves off. (Basic research concerns itself with understanding how healthy cells function. It explores how nature operates without seeking to turn discoveries into medical treatments.)

One team at Loma Linda heavily involved in this field is led by oncologist Michael Lilly, MD, director of the Center for Molecular Biology and Gene Therapy.

The team is researching a gene called pim-1 kinase, a stress response gene that can help tumor cells develop resistance to cancer drugs and radiation.

The team is studying several molecules that they hope can inhibit the pim-1 enzyme. Such agents could then be given along with chemotherapy or radiation to enhance antitumor effects. The most promising of these is called quercetagetin, a molecule found naturally in citrus and other fruits. The Loma Linda team has shown that quercetagetin is a potent selective inhibitor of pim-1 activity and can inhibit the growth of prostate cancer cells in culture.

As Loma Linda’s focus on research continues to grow, other faculty may be able to look forward to what a few already experience—a workload composed primarily of research. Dr. Kirsh is one of the campus’s faculty who spends a majority of time in research, while still teaching a few basic science courses in the School of Medicine. It’s a good time in his career.

“I’ve never had it better,” he says.
Centennial Gala inaugurates 100th anniversary celebrations for LLU & LLUMC

Approximately 2,500 guests attended the Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center Centennial Gala honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the two institutions. The Centennial Gala, held at Drayson Center, was the third of three events held during the weekend of February 11, 12, and 13, celebrating Loma Linda's beginnings. Hosting the evening were B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, president and CEO, Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, and Lowell Cooper, MBBS, MPH, vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and chair of the Boards of Trustees for the Loma Linda institutions. Serving as master of ceremonies for the gala was William Johnson, editor of the Adventist Revue, the general magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of Centennial Global Vision Awards to a number of individuals honoring their local and global service. Those receiving awards included Joan Coggins, MD, and Ellsworth E. Wachan, MB, co-founders of the Loma Linda University Overseas Heart Surgery Team. The two received the awards for their contributions in establishing heart surgery programs in various countries around the world. Individuals representing four nations received the Centennial Global Vision Awards. Receiving awards on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan were Khushal Stanisai, MD, president of the Afghan Medical Association of America; Ibrahim Saraj, MD, associate clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Loma Linda University School of Medicine; and Mohammad Ahad, country manager at the Loma Linda University Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Receiving awards representing the People’s Republic of China were Ba Danian, MD, from the Ministry of Health of the People’s Republic of China; Louis Page, from the Sir Run Run Shaw Foundation, Hong Kong; He Chao, MD, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou; and Zhen Shu, MD, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.

Shantharam Pai, MD, from Manipal University, Manipal, India, accepted the award for his institution, signifying the close cooperation that Loma Linda University and Manipal University have had during the past several decades.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was Joyce W. Hopp, PhD, former dean, School of Allied Health Professions. Dr. Hopp had close relationships with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the late 1980s and into the 1990s. During a 15-year period, Dr. Hopp made numerous trips to Saudi Arabia, where the School of Allied Health Professions offered a respiratory therapy degree program in Saudi Arabia’s capital city, Riyadh.

Receiving awards representing local service were Jack Brown, CEO of Stater Bros. Markets; Judith Valles, mayor, City of Sun Bernardino; Richard Hunt, MD, DPh, chancellor, Loma Linda University; and Michael Jackson, MPH, senior vice president, Loma Linda University Medical Center.

These individuals received awards for their health and educational contributions they have made to the citizens of the Inland Empire.

Five individuals received the awards representing alumni in global service. Receiving the awards were James Appel, MD, and Sarah Appel, RN, missionaries to Bere Hospital in Tshad; Ronald Forde, DDS, director of learning, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Five individuals received the award for their institutional service to the world. Receiving awards on behalf of the University of Arizona were James Appel, MD, and Sarah Appel, RN, missionaries to Bere Hospital in Tshad; Ronald Forde, DDS, director of learning, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

People’s Republic of China were Ba Danian, MD, from the Ministry of Health of the People’s Republic of China; Louis Page, from the Sir Run Run Shaw Foundation, Hong Kong; He Chao, MD, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou; and Zhen Shu, MD, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.

Shantharam Pai, MD, from Manipal University, Manipal, India, accepted the award for his institution, signifying the close cooperation that Loma Linda University and Manipal University have had during the past several decades.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was Joyce W. Hopp, PhD, former dean, School of Allied Health Professions. Dr. Hopp had close relationships with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the late 1980s and into the 1990s. During a 15-year period, Dr. Hopp made numerous trips to Saudi Arabia, where the School of Allied Health Professions offered a respiratory therapy degree program in Saudi Arabia’s capital city, Riyadh.

Receiving awards representing local service were Jack Brown, CEO of Stater Bros. Markets; Judith Valles, mayor, City of Sun Bernardino; Richard Hunt, MD, DPh, chancellor, Loma Linda University; and Michael Jackson, MPH, senior vice president, Loma Linda University Medical Center.

These individuals received awards for their health and educational contributions they have made to the citizens of the Inland Empire.

Five individuals received the awards representing alumni in global service. Receiving the awards were James Appel, MD, and Sarah Appel, RN, missionaries to Bere Hospital in Tshad; Ronald Forde, DDS, director of learning, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Five individuals received the award for their institutional service to the world. Receiving awards on behalf of the University of Arizona were James Appel, MD, and Sarah Appel, RN, missionaries to Bere Hospital in Tshad; Ronald Forde, DDS, director of learning, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

School of Medicine receives $2.3 million grant

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), awarded $2.3 million to the School of Medicine to fund a biomedical research education and training program to reduce health disparity.

The four-year grant supports programs in the basic science departments and is administered through the office of minority student development in the biomedical professions. The purpose of the LLU-NIH initiative for minority student development is to increase the number of students that belong to groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research.

Marino DeLeon, PhD, associate professor of physiology and associate director of the Center for Molecular Biology and Gene Therapy, announced that the National Institutes of Health approved a grant to support the initiative for minority student development on Thursday, March 17. Dr. DeLeon is the principal investigator for the grant. The grant supports a four-year research and educational training program based in the basic sciences departments of the School of Medicine.

Carlos A. Casiano, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and co-investigator for the undergraduate research component.

Daisy DeLeon, PhD, associate professor of physiology, assistant dean of diversity, and co-investigator in the application, coordinates the medical student component. Sandy Hiltiker, PhD, instructor in biochemistry and microbiology, and Susan Gardner, PhD, associate professor of English at La Sierra University, Riverside, offer enrichment activities through workshops. Scientists in the basic sciences departments and research centers of the School of Medicine served as research mentors for the students.

Karen Espinosa, MSHSA, is the administrative assistant and program coordinator for the program.
The first ever Biology of the Rattlesnakes symposium took place at LLU from January 15 to 18, 2005, bringing more than 500 participants from around the world to learn the latest, cutting-edge discoveries. The event featured more than 100 presentations, five rattlesnake exhibits, a presentation by Animal Planet's "Venom ER" producer, a radio-telemetry exhibit, a banquet, an emeritus panel, and much more.

"I genuinely feel that our collective understanding of rattlesnakes and their interactions with humans advanced a huge step during this last few days," shares Sean Bush, MD, emergency physician and workshop, a banquet, an emeritus panel, associate professor, School of Medicine. "LLU holds symposium "Venom ER" producer, a radio-telemetry exhibit, a presentation by Animal Planet's Dr. Stieb. It was almost like 300 brains synapsed together. We really connected the dots between laboratory basic science, field research, and clinical medicine."

A number of events took place during the four-day symposium. Saturday evening, January 15, featured an author's book signing and social mixers including a slide show of photographs by Manny Rubio, a well-known rattlesnake photographer and author.

The highlight event, the Sunday night banquet and emeritus panel, opened with a 30-minute presentation by Janet Klauber, granddaughter of Lawrence Klauber, whose two-volume book, Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind, and Influenceon Mankind, speaks with Robert Stebbins, PhD, associate professor, earth and biological sciences, LLU.

The remainder of the program featured a panel of retired research experts who were honored for their significant contributions in rattlesnake biology. The six-man panel included Henry S. Fitch, PhD, professor emeritus, University of Kansas; Fendly E. Russell, MD, professor emeritus, University of Arizona, and an alumnus of LLU; and Robert C. Stebbins, PhD, professor emeritus, University of California, Berkeley; among others.

"The panel members were an inspiration to all of us. Their passion was infectious," expresses William Hayes, PhD, associate professor, earth and biological sciences, LLU. "It was very special for us researchers to meet those whose work we've studied."
Japanese students learn more than academics while studying at SAHP

The School of Allied Health Professions is making an impact on the occupational therapy and physical therapy workforce in Japan. The School’s partnership with Humanitate Rehabilitation College in Yokkaichi, Japan, brings several Japanese students to the Loma Linda campus each fall, where they learn about more than just physical and occupational therapy.

Last fall, the 15 students composing the third cohort from Humanitate were exposed to a world of new ideas and habits during their stay, in addition, of course, to completing their college degrees. By spending their final quarter at Loma Linda, the students earn a bachelor’s degree in health science from LUU’s School of Allied Health Professions, specializing in either occupational therapy or physical therapy.

When finals week arrived, the program’s director, Keiko Kho, MS, MA, conducted a group exit interview. The students mentioned many new ideas and experiences that captured their enjoyment, including:

1. Weekly chapel. While it may surprise some students who have such opportunities year-round, these students said they felt the blessing of “newsfound peace” in their hearts.
2. Classes with American students, specifically, observing their learning styles and willingness to tutor strangers from a foreign country.
3. Eating breakfast.
5. A cigarette-free lifestyle;
6. Trips to galleries, museums, gardens, the zoo, and the Crystal Cathedral;
7. Sabbath services. Even though none were Christians, the students never missed a week.
8. Praise songs. The group learned several favorites, arranged a couple of songs, and sang them at the Japanese Adventist school and the church service at Universal Church, followed by a potluck in West Hall.

After the century of caring, the School of Nursing celebrated its 100 years of existence with an alumni weekend held March 31 to April 3.

The weekend began with a research conference. As a gift to commemorate the School of Nursing’s centennial celebration, the golden anniversary class of 1955 sponsored a research conference, “Global Health: Providing Quality Care with Evidence-Based Nursing Practice.”

Conference objectives were to give examples of research evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in health care; discuss the impact of health disparities on global health; describe nursing strategies to improve health care in vulnerable populations; explain how using evidence-based nursing practice can improve the process and outcomes of patient care; and examine ways practitioners can make health care decisions that are equitable, accountable, and effective.

“This conference was a generous gift to the School of Nursing from the class of 1955,” remarks Helen King, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing. “We appreciate the opportunity this conference gave us to highlight nursing research and its contribution to the science of caring.”

Friday afternoon, alumni were invited to an open house held at West Hall. Guests registered for the weekend, and were then treated with a tour of the school, highlighted by a centennial display presented by the Heritage Room. Richard Schafer, LUU historian, was on hand to give brief historical vignettes to visitors. Friday evening featured “A Century of Caring: The LUU School of Nursing Journey.”

Zelma Zamora, MSN, RN, assistant professor of nursing, and president of the Alumni Association, presented a slideshow featuring the highlights of each of the honored years.

On Saturday, the golden anniversary class of 1955 hosted both the Sabbath school and the church service at Universal Church, followed by a potluck in West Hall.

The students enjoyed visiting the Grand Canyon during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Two months after the students left, Ms. Kho was reunited with them when she visited Japan to interview prospective students. At the end of a long day, Ms. Kho discovered them waiting for her in the school’s rotunda. They asked her to pray for them. Ms. Kho willingly agreed, giving thanks for their spiritual growth and petitioning for success on their Japanese licensing board examinations, which they took in February.

The partnership with Humanitate Rehabilitation College began in 2000 at the request of Masayuki Ohashi, who is now chair of the board. Mr. Ohashi read LUU’s mission and was impressed by the School’s work for the good of people and the community and not just for money. This inspired his confidence and trust that LUU would train his students honestly. The first group of 17 students studied on the LUU campus in 2002 and was followed by 19 students in 2003.

“Partnersing with Humanitate, a non-Sunday Adventist school that sought us out because of our mission, allows students to experience values in an academic environment that upgrades their skills and helps them contribute to their profession when they return home,” says Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. “I am proud of our commitment to whole-person care and education.”

SP runs national awards program

The School of Pharmacy has been named to administer a new grant program sponsored by a major pharmacy consulting firm. Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions (PHS), an Amneioncorse/Bergen Company, will sponsor the Innovations in Pharmacy Practice awards program to encourage pharmacy research and innovative pharmacy practices.

Applicants must describe new procedures, or modifications of existing procedures and/or technology, aimed at enhancing current pharmacy practices. Projects may adapt existing technology from other industries or they may focus on new and unique approaches to aspects of pharmacy operations. Methods of implementation, description of critical issues involved, and expected outcomes must also be included in award applications.

The program is the brainchild of Gamal Hussein, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Hussein himself is a winner of the Innovations in Teaching Award presented by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The recognition serves a similar purpose but is limited to pharmacy faculty nationwide. Hussein is also the winner of the health system practitioner award offered by the National Pharmaceutical Association.
Stater Bros./KFRG radiothon raises $386,495 for LLUCH

Inland Empire radio listeners pledged a total of $386,495 during a two-day radiothon benefiting Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. The annual radiothon was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 19 and 20, 2004. Heavy rains during morning drive-time did not dampen the spirits of loyal KFROGGERS who kept phone lines ringing at the San Bernardino 4th Street Stater Bros. market. The Stater Bros. location served as a remote broadcast site for the two-day Stater Bros./KFRG “KFROGGERS for Kids Radiothon.”

Stater Bros. and KFRG-95.1 FM joined forces to sponsor the radiothon benefiting pediatric cancer patients at Children’s Hospital.

“The response of KFRG listeners was incredible,” says Patti Cotton Pettis, executive director, Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Foundation. “We are so grateful for the wonderful partnership that we share with Stater Bros. and KFRG to benefit the children in our community.”

“We can’t say enough about the wonderful KFRG listeners who made this possible.”

During the two-day event, people listening to the broadcast heard testimonials from pediatric patients and their families. Employees from the various Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center entities, along with local Inland Empire service organizations, volunteered their time to staff the phone lines on each of the two days.

Additionally, KFRG listeners donated funds to provide a total of 1,019 bicycles and safety helmets for fourth-grade Inland Empire students who have never had a bicycle. A special bicycle presentation ceremony was held on Sunday, November 14, at the Arrowhead Credit Union Stadium in San Bernardino, home of the San Bernardino Stampede baseball team.

SACHS receives $307,000 grant from California Endowment

The California Endowment, a private foundation that facilitates access to health care, recently approved a $307,000 grant to the Social Action Community Health System (SACHS) clinics. Specifically, the endowment’s grant will assist SACHS staff to implement a group treatment and health education program aimed at clinic patients who suffer from diabetes.

“Typically, uninsured or underinsured patients do not have access to health promotion and education services,” says Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, chancellor, Loma Linda University, and president of SACHS. “Since many of our clientele are uninsured or underinsured, all they can afford is seeing a physician for common illnesses. "Typically, uninsured or underinsured patients do not have access to health promotion and education services,” says Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, chancellor, Loma Linda University, and president of SACHS. "Since many of our clientele are uninsured or underinsured, all they can afford is seeing a physician for common illnesses."

“We are trying to do at SACHS, through this endowment grant, is to facilitate access to health care, recently approved a $307,000 grant to the Social Action Community Health System (SACHS) clinics. Specifically, the endowment’s grant will assist SACHS staff to implement a group treatment and health education program aimed at clinic patients who suffer from diabetes.

“The bottom line is that addiction is a chronic disease. When we treat it, it gets better,” says Don Kurth, MD, medical director of recovery services at BMC and CSAM president. “It needs to be viewed as a public health issue, not a criminal issue.” According to Dr. Kurth, $4 billion is spent every year on the national level for addiction treatment, while $400 billion is spent every year for enforcement/misuse/overdose due to the disease. A total of 353 physicians and health care professionals attended scheduled visits with more than 30 newly elected legislators to educate them about a variety of topics. Issues discussed included support for addiction treatment parity, continued expansion of the very successful Proposition 36 treatment-in-lieu-of-incarceration initiative, education for expansion of the needle exchange program, and a voice against compromising the department of substance abuse programs with the department of mental health programs.

“Generally, our points were well received,” shares Dr. Kurth. “But, it was clear that a great deal more education of our policy makers would be necessary for all of them to really understand the magnitude of the issue at hand.”

Stater Bros./KFRG listeners answer telephones during the two-day radiothon for LLUCH.

Teachers and school administrators from San Bernardino and Riverside counties also selected students who were positive role models, and who previously owned a bicycle.

“It takes a special person who gives of himself to make this possible,” says Ms. Pettis.

BMC participates in CSAM Legislative Day III

In California, 1,000 people die every month from chemical dependency. To add to that problem, insurance benefits for addiction treatment were cut 75 percent between 1990 to 2000. On February 2, 2005, Behavioral Medicine Center (BMC) professionals took part in the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) Legislative Day III to educate legislators about this brain disease—addiction.

“The bottom line is that addiction is a chronic disease. When we treat it, it gets better,” says Don Kurth, MD, medical director of recovery services at BMC and CSAM president. “It needs to be viewed as a public health issue, not a criminal issue.” According to Dr. Kurth, $4 billion is spent every year on the national level for addiction treatment, while $400 billion is spent every year for enforcement/misuse/overdose due to the disease. A total of 353 physicians and health care professionals attended scheduled visits with more than 30 newly elected legislators to educate them about a variety of topics. Issues discussed included support for addiction treatment parity, continued expansion of the very successful Proposition 36 treatment-in-lieu-of-incarceration initiative, education for expansion of the needle exchange program, and a voice against compromising the department of substance abuse programs with the department of mental health programs.

“Generally, our points were well received,” shares Dr. Kurth. “But, it was clear that a great deal more education of our policy makers would be necessary for all of them to really understand the magnitude of the issue at hand.”

School of Dentistry holds 15th annual Clinic with a Heart

Sunday, April 10, well before dawn, members of the community began gathering under tents near the Good Samaritan sculpture on the campus mall. They were on campus to attend the 15th annual Clinic with a Heart, a day of dental care provided at no cost to those in financial need.

Though patient registration did not begin until 8:30 a.m., individuals began arriving before 4:30 a.m., warmed by hot chocolate, tea, and apple cider that had been set up in front of the Good Samaritan sculpture.

This year, the School of Dentistry screened 115 adults and 26 pediatric patients. A total of $24,223 in dental care was provided at no cost to the patients.

Volunteers included 41 faculty, 25 staff, 200 dental and hygiene students and faculty, and students from Baldyview Regional Occupational Program Dental Assisting School and Chaffey Junior College dental assisting program. Najwa Medina, director, campus catering, donated hot drinks for the patients and campus engineering donated chairs, tables, and tents. Dynnette Hart, DrPH, RN, associate professor, School of Nursing, organized and supervised nursing students who took blood pressures during the prescreening. Staff from University housekeeping also provided assistance for the event.

Procter & Gamble (Crest) provided toothbrushes, toothpaste, and funding for T-shirts for the volunteers. Each year at the clinic a child in immediate need of care is selected, and the company provides funding for more extensive dental work to be completed.

“Typically, uninsured or underinsured patients do not have access to health promotion and education services,” says Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, chancellor, Loma Linda University, and president of SACHS.

“We don’t know of any community clinic system that has tried a group treatment approach linked to health education. At SACHS, this project potentially will create a more comprehensive health education and promotion program for the patients that SACHS serves.”

“We call this program "Amigos Para Vivir."” Dr. Hart notes “This Spanish phrase has at least two relevant connotations—friends for life, and friends for life or living.”

“We would like to see whether group-based treatment and health education work with the Hispanic patient population, a group with whom this approach has not been tried," Dr. Hart continues. “If this works, we may in the future implement it with other patients that share common diagnoses such as cardiovascular disease, teenage pregnancy, obesity, or asthma.”

Beginning in 2005, the grant award is being disbursed over two years. The California Endowment’s mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians.
Alumni notes

1920s

Bernice Sandness Palmer (SN’29) passed away on April 24, 2004, just short of her 96th birthday. She had worked as a nurse until turning 65. Her daughter, Judith Palmer Miller, writes, “Bernice enjoyed a wonderful life. She was loved by all, as she was always helpful and giving.”

1940s

Viola Friesen (SN’42) passed away on February 5, 2005. She was born in Lemo, California, to Gerhardt and Agatha Friesen. After receiving her RN degree from White Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Ms. Friesen and a few of her classmates moved to Seattle, Washington, to work together at Swedish Hospital. After a year, she went to Dinuba, California, to work in the office of Dr. Walter Raminson. Four years later, she moved to Fresno, California, to be near her family. She worked at St. Agnes Hospital for the next 35 years. She traveled extensively across most of the United States and visited all the continents, except Antarctica. She was an avid photographer and collected many pictures from around the world. Ms. Friesen was very compassionate, thoughtful, generous, and kind to all. Viola is survived by her sister, Clara Laukin; brother, Lavem Friesen; and many nieces and nephews.

Virginia Marie Saxich (SN’42) currently lives in Apison, Tennessee. At age 83, she has no physical ailments and can drive anywhere she wishes to go. Virginia’s husband died three years ago, and she now lives in a comfortable and our community is very compassionate, thoughtful, generous, and kind to all. Viola is survived by her sister, Clara Laukin; brother, Lavem Friesen; and many nieces and nephews.

1950s

Barbara (Babieco) Sturges (SN’50) is now fully retired in Woodland, California, after living in Ethiopia, Kentucky, Ohio, Colorado, and Arizona. Her husband, Hubert F. Sturges, MD, worked at the Turlock Medical Clinic for 20 years while Barbara raised their three children: Lynn Del Newbold, Sylvia Barton, RN; and Paul H. Sturges (SN’58). Barbara and Hubert are enjoying their retirement years and are still very busy.

Andrey Quay Hou (SN’51) was born in Bogorasi, New South Wales, Australia, on October 25, 1926, and died on September 25, 2001, of cancer in Bradbury, California, at the age of 76. In 1948, she married Edward H. Hou (SN’51). She had worked for many years as a laborer and delivery nurse at various hospitals. She also volunteered as a Red Cross from 1945 until she became ill. Among her other accomplishments, Ms. Hou received a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1975 from California State University, Los Angeles, and a master’s in social science in 1981 from Aranu Pacific University, Arana, Arizona.

Alice A. Breech Dachary (SN’49) attended the esteemed Costa Mesa Seventh-day Adventist Church. She enjoys her garden, five children, and 12 grandchildren. Two of her four sons, Wayne and Bruce, are current students of LLLU School of Medicine. Mike, an orthodontist, received his dental degree from LLLU; and Gary is an attorney. Virginia Marie Saxich (SN’42) currently lives in Apison, Tennessee. At age 83, she has no physical ailments and can drive anywhere she wishes to go. Virginia’s husband died three years ago, and she now lives in a comfortable and our community is very compassionate, thoughtful, generous, and kind to all. Viola is survived by her sister, Clara Laukin; brother, Lavem Friesen; and many nieces and nephews.

Virginia Marie Saxich (SN’42) currently lives in Apison, Tennessee. At age 83, she has no physical ailments and can drive anywhere she wishes to go. Virginia’s husband died three years ago, and she now lives in a comfortable and our community is very compassionate, thoughtful, generous, and kind to all. Viola is survived by her sister, Clara Laukin; brother, Lavem Friesen; and many nieces and nephews.

1960s

Harriet E. (Dinsmore) Johnson (SN’63) is still enjoying opportunities to serve in her Avon Park, Florida, community through parish nursing and the local hospital. Since graduation, Charlotte (Awe) Macaulay (SN’68) has lived in Sunnyside, California, and Moskau, Hawaii (for three years), where she worked with a native Hawaiian man who required home hemodialysis. Ms. Macaulay now lives in Santa Barbara, California, where she works at the local blood bank. Previous blood bank experience includes five years she spent at Stanford University along with years at other private blood banks in California. She writes, “I enjoy helping others as they help save lives thus giving people another tomorrow.”

1970s

Born May 19, 1915, in Los Angeles, Califor- nia, Donald Arthur Newbold (SN’74) died November 11, 2004, in Doloma County, California. He spent much of his career as a medical technologist managing medical lab- oratories in Grenada, Mississippi, St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, California, Missouri, and Turlock, California. In 1995, he began examining medical laboratories for the California Department of Health Ser- vices and conducting investigations of fraud in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1999, Mr. Newbold became an attorney and stayed with the
Gaye (Orenderen) Butler (SN’76) and her daughter, Betz Butler Bodd (SN’11)

Gaye (Orenderen) Butler (SN’76) has worked in the operating room for 24 years. She is currently the specialty lead for general gynecology and urology services at Anzaheim Memorial Medical Center, where she has worked for the past 22 years. Ms. Butler is a member of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses and has received her AORN certification. “The education I received at LLUSN has proven to be a great blessing to our efforts as missionaries.”

Catherine Joy Rotua Siahanna (SN’85) passed away September 25, 2004. She was born in Penang, Malaysia, on April 20, 1963, to Evelyn and Jan Hatauruk. After finishing her nursing degree in 1985, she began working at LLUHSC. In 1993, she married Thomas Siahanna. Joy, as she was known to many of her friends, was involved in prayer and uplifting God’s name as a musician at local churches in the late 1980s and early 1990s. A wonderful and creative writer, she enjoyed expressing herself in journals and poetry. She loved to cook and entertain her friends with food from “Joy’s Kitchen” and would experiment and try new and different recipes. She was very involved with the “Hands of Hope,” a support group for breast cancer survivors. She especially valued relationships and treasured the moments she spent with friends and relatives. But most of all she was devoted to her husband and her beloved boys, Joshua and Ian.

Henkie P. Tan, MD, PhD (SN’86) was recently made director of the living donor kidney transplantation program at the Thomas E. Starrf Transplantation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Kimberly (Smith) Bradbury (SN’94) is currently working per diem, after many years of working full-time at a rehabilitation hospital in Connecticut. She and her husband have one daughter, Madison, 2, and welcomed a baby boy in February.


Department of Health Services as staff counselor before moving on to the California Department of Corporations. Survivors include his wife, LynnDeSturgies Newberg of Woodlands, California; daughters Rachel Newberg of St. Helena, California, and Stephanie Green of Gresham, Oregon; brothers Dudley Richard of Sacramento, California, and Daniel of Loma Linda, Cali- fornia; and twin sister Linda Thorpe of Donovanington, Pennsylvania.

Gaye (Orenderen) Butler (SN’76) recently transitioned from working in the pediatric field to working with seniors. She is the program director for three programs: the Memory Center, the Driving Center, and Low-Vision Rehabilitation, which provide services to people who suffer from memory loss or dementia. Ms. Butler also enjoys spending time with her two children, Jon Marc, 13, and Desiree, 15.

Jennifer Centerwall Dysinger (SN’82) and her family returned to the United States after 15 years overseas in 2001. For the past three years, Ms. Dysinger, her husband, Edwin, and their three children: Evangeline, 20; Caroline, 18; and Paul, 14, have been living in Silver Spring, Oregon, taking care of her father. Recently, Jennifer and family moved to Amity, Arkansas, where she and Edwin will teach at Ouachita Hills College. And Caroline and Paul will attend Ouachita Hills Academy. Evangeline married during the summer of 2003 and is now living in Northern California with her husband.

Catherine Joy Rotua Siahanna (SN’85) graduated from the University of North Dakota. After more than 20 years, Debbie Ricker (SNAP’78) recently transitioned from working in the pediatric field to working with seniors. She is the program director for three programs: the Memory Center, the Driving Center, and Low-Vision Rehabilitation, which provide services to people who suffer from memory loss or dementia. Ms. Ricker also enjoys spending time with her two children, Jon Marc, 13, and Desiree, 15.

1980s

Kimberly (Smith) Bradbury (SN’94) and her family returned to the United States after 15 years overseas in 2001. For the past three years, Ms. Bradbury, her husband, Edwin, and their three children: Evangeline, 20; Caroline, 18; and Paul, 14, have been living in Silver Spring, Oregon, taking care of her father. Recently, Jennifer and family moved to Amity, Arkansas, where she and Edwin will teach at Ouachita Hills College. And Caroline and Paul will attend Ouachita Hills Academy. Evangeline married during the summer of 2003 and is now living in Northern California with her husband.

Catherine Joy Rotua Siahanna (SN’85)