

nurse



Be His Light

Artist Victor Issa's sculpture at the Loma Linda University School of Nursing is a tribute to every Loma Linda Nurse living the mission "To continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ."



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing



letter from THE DEAN

NOVEMBER 2020, Loma Linda University School of Nursing dedicated a brand new campus sculpture, *Be His Light*. It is located at the front entrance of our school. The plaque reads:

This scene, set in the 1950's depicts the eloquent blending of a nurse's faith and clinical practice that together provide compassion, hope and the promise of wholeness.

Jesus exemplifies compassion for nurses beginning lives of serviced to their patients. His lamp represents the dedication ceremony—a milestone in each nurse's journey.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." John 8:12, and "You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14. As our alumni live the university's mission, "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ." May they share His light, illuminating the way as they care for a hurting world.

Honoring all "Loma Linda Nurse" alumni
Artist: Victor Issa
Donor: a thankful "Loma Linda Nurse" Alumna

This is an important addition to the School of Nursing, a reminder of our history and a tribute to our calling reflected through the words of our Creator. You can now often see students, individually and in groups, taking photos with the sculpture. Please stop by and enjoy it the next time you are in Loma Linda.

Helen King, PhD, RN, Dean of the SN for over 23 years, exemplified "Be His Light." In her tenure as Dean, she

moved the School forward to legitimate status as a University School of Nursing. This included more than doubling the number of the undergraduate students, promoting the beginning of the nursing practitioner and clinical nurse specialist programs, supporting the development of the PhD program, encouraging faculty to earn doctoral degrees and finding SN funds to pay for their tuition; encouraging research which has resulted in many publications and funding from various organizations; international outreach including working with sister schools across the globe and starting an off campus international masters program in nursing education; and envisioning and publishing the first edition of this *Loma Linda Nurse* magazine in 1991!

In addition to this impressive work, she and her family quietly contributed funds for a major scholarship for students, known as the Emori Scholarship. In just the last 5 years, over 30 students have received significant support from this gift. In appreciation of her service to the School, an area of the building was remodeled and dedicated as the King Conference Room, a lovely room that serves the School well for many purposes, including meetings and receptions.

Dr. King's vision and wisdom have continued to make a difference in the School since her retirement and will do so through the coming years. We already miss the opportunity to talk with her and clarify past questions and gain insight into current direction. She is missed, but clearly is a significant light of the School of Nursing.

Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, RN
Dean

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ON THE COVER

The 'Be His Light' sculpture created by artist Victor Issa, as it stands in front of the Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

Natan Vigna

“Be His Light” sculpture

*provides a visual
representation
of the nurse’s role
in a hurting world*

By Nancy Yuen



YOU MAY NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR STORY WILL TOUCH SOMEONE,” says JoAnn Shaul, MS, CPA, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration at the School of Nursing.

JoAnn has close ties she with the School of Nursing. Her grandmother, Mirta Hernandez, was a member of the class of 1950 and she treasures a photo of her wearing her nursing uniform. Her grandfather graduated from the School of Medicine in 1952.

JoAnn’s understanding of the meaning a nurse’s care deepened when her husband, who was just 27, was in a car accident that left him permanently disabled. He passed away in his sleep 10 years later, at 37, following outpatient surgery.

“None of us know if we will be the last person caring for someone, the last person to touch them. Nurses can be a light in a dark place—they can Be His light,” she says.

JoAnn also recalls seeing the compassion shown by a nurse when her daughter was a newborn in the NICU. “Patients and their families may not remember how an IV was placed or treatments they have been given,” she says. “They will remember how their nurse made them feel.”

As she reflected on these experiences that had happened during the most trying parts of her life, JoAnn imagined a sculpture with three figures: Christ, a nurse, and a patient. She began sharing her idea with people visiting her office, and



over time the significance became clear. A sculpture could say to students, “We wish you to be a compassionate nurse; we want to train you to be a strong nurse; the world needs more caring nurses.”

When she described her idea to LLUSN Alumni Director, Jackson Boren in 2016, he spontaneously began drawing a sketch that depicted a child in a wheelchair, a nurse standing behind the patient, with Jesus standing next to the nurse.

The eloquent, but simple line drawing brought to life the idea for a sculpture that would be placed in front of the School of

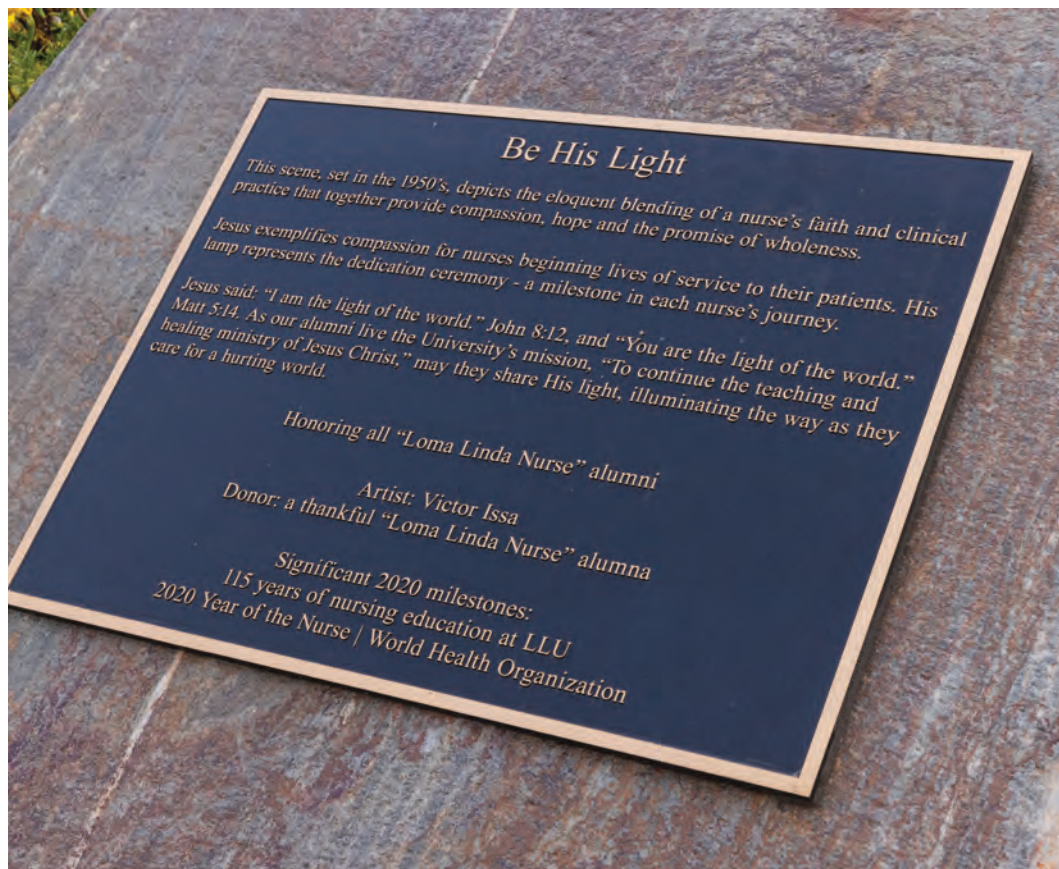
Nursing. The piece would reflect the importance of nursing in healing, reflecting the ultimate goal: for the School’s students and alumni to receive Christ’s light, sharing it with the world.

Adding to the significance of the project, in 2020 the School of Nursing would celebrate 115 years of nursing education; it was also recognized by the World Health Organization as the “Year of the Nurse.” Additionally, Loma Linda University Health celebrated as both Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital and Loma Linda University Medical Center were awarded the highest honor of healthcare nursing excellence: Magnet Recognition, included in the American Nurses

Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program.

As they discussed the commissioning of the sculpture, the School’s Student and Alumni Relations team identified details to be included in the piece that would help make its message clear and memorable.

One of the details they wrestled with was the nurse’s clothing. The School had opened more than 11 decades earlier and over the years both the practice of nursing and the uniform associated with the profession had changed. The challenge: how to identify the nursing figure in the sculpture as a nurse, as medical scrubs are now worn by nursing students and students in many of the University’s schools.



Be His Light

This scene, set in the 1950's, depicts the eloquent blending of a nurse's faith and clinical practice that together provide compassion, hope and the promise of wholeness.

Jesus exemplifies compassion for nurses beginning lives of service to their patients. His lamp represents the dedication ceremony - a milestone in each nurse's journey.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." John 8:12, and "You are the light of the world." Matt 5:14. As our alumni live the University's mission, "To continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ," may they share His light, illuminating the way as they care for a hurting world.

Honoring all "Loma Linda Nurse" alumni

Artist: Victor Issa

Donor: a thankful "Loma Linda Nurse" alumna

*Significant 2020 milestones:
115 years of nursing education at LLU
2020 Year of the Nurse | World Health Organization*



The final proposal called for the nurse to wear the '50s-era nursing uniform which would both honor JoAnn's story and would enable easy identification of the nurse.

Members of the student and alumni relations team posed for a series of photos which captured their vision for the piece and worked with an artist who created a more detailed illustration.

Then, with the following words, the introduction to the formal appeal was made:

"Imagine a life-sized sculpture where Jesus' arm wraps in toward the nurse holding a lamp. A student

could place themselves in the sculpture next to the nurse within Jesus' arms or sitting on the bench. The student could then have their light symbolically lit by Christ as they go on their journey, 'to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.'"

As the project advanced beyond the School of Nursing to University committees, it began to pick up traction.

In 2019 approval was given, and work on the "Be His Light" sculpture began.

In a video, "The Sculptures and the Mission," Victor Issa, who was commissioned to create the sculpture, shared





“As our alumni live out Loma Linda University Health’s mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, may they share His light, illuminating the way as they care for a hurting world.”

his process to achieve his goal: depicting pain, joy, and inner peace in his work. “As I prepare to sculpt, I feel the emotions [of the characters]. I have to go there myself.”

“The design came from the School of Nursing,” he said. “There was romanticism around that era [the 1950s]. The clothing very distinguished: the cape, the nursing cap. Nurses wore a real uniform that was starched.” Issa borrowed a cape to get the weight of the clothing right—“it was made of heavy wool he recalled.” In the end *Be His Light* is the most succinct description of what the work is about, facilitating God’s healing to the suffering, to the underserved

On November 5, 2020 “*Be His Light*,” sculpted in bronze, was unveiled at the front of West Hall in a virtual dedication ceremony. The finished sculpture is the realization of the first line drawing that was made in 2016.

At the unveiling Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, highlighted its significance. “It is nurses who set the culture of the hospital,” he said. “They determine the heartbeat of each institution.” The School of Nursing was the first of the University’s Schools to open. It has graduated more than 10,000 students since it began training nurses shortly after Loma Linda was purchased in 1905.

During the ceremony Dean Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, RN, shared the Bible texts that served as the inspiration

for the sculpture: “Jesus said: I am the light of the world.” John 8:12, and “You are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:14.

“Jesus’ light is represented in the sculpture as an oil lamp that is a part of students’ nursing dedication ceremony, a milestone in each nurse’s journey,” she said. “As our alumni live out Loma Linda University Health’s mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, may they share His light, illuminating the way as they care for a hurting world.”

“When I saw the sculpture for the first time it was emotional for me; it definitely brought tears,” says JoAnn. “Despite the trials and tribulations in life, God says. ‘I’m here.’ When I arrive at work and walk past the sculpture I feel His presence—‘I am here with you. I’ll be handling all of your problems today.’”

On June 13, 2021, after receiving their diplomas and still wearing their caps and gowns, graduates of the School of Nursing made their way to the School. Because of the pandemic, their time at the School had been limited. Memories were made as they formed a line to take photos with the sculpture, images that will forever more closely connect them with the School and the mission of Loma Linda University, “to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

In Memoriam

Helen Emori King, PhD, RN

Dean from 1981 to 2005

By Nancy Yuen

H ELEN EMORI KING, under whose leadership the School of Nursing flourished for nearly a quarter of a century, passed away June 20, 2021. During her tenure as Dean the School's academic offerings were expanded, a program was initiated to recruit a diverse student body, and the School's international influence was established.

The year Dr. King became Dean the first millennials were born and the personal computer was invented; it would be almost 10 years before the faculty were assigned personal computers connected to the School's network. Over the next 24 years, unprecedented advances in medicine and major changes in how health care was delivered took place.

In the late 1990s, the School of Nursing implemented a new and revised curriculum as it transitioned to a nursing model based on wellness that replaced the prior medical model of illness.

In the early 1980s, the healthcare system in the United States was strained by a shortage of nurses. At the time more than 80 percent of America's hospitals were not able to fully staff their nursing positions, resulting in about 100,000 openings for nurses.¹

Under Dr. King's leadership, the number of faculty at the School of



Nursing increased and the number of graduating nurses grew from 143 to more than 200. In 2001, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing recognized the School of Nursing as one of the few of the 548 nationally surveyed schools to significantly increase its enrollment.

Under Dr. King's careful watch, the School's postgraduate programs expanded to include degrees in nursing administration, adult and aging and the growing family (1984). In 1989, the MS degree program was revised to offer majors in nursing administration, adult and aging, and the growing family. In 2002, a PhD program in nursing was added, as were MS/MPH and MS/MA (ethics) dual degree programs.

Dr. King is remembered by faculty for her quiet, but firm insistence that they pursue advanced education. "If anything earmarked her tenure as Dean," says her sister, Grace Emori-Elder, MS, RN, "It was to ensure doctorally prepared nurses were on the faculty, prepared to not only work in the United States but in the international arena."

"Because of Dr. King's encouragement and support, many faculty went to different Universities to complete doctoral degrees and returned to add research to their teaching at Loma Linda. During these years several of the faculty became more deeply involved in research and some were successful in obtaining grants to fund their research," recalled Marilyn Hermann, PhD, Dean Emerita, during a memorial service for Dr. King.

As it grew, the School's student body was diversified as students from underrepresented ethnicities recruited through the School's Success in Learning: Individualized Pathways Program. The program, which gave priority to first-generation college students and single parents, was an extension of the Learning Assistance Program that had been established in 1982 to provide academic support and resources to students to help ensure their success in school.

The year 1987 was a milestone in the School of Nursing's international influence. It was then that Dr. King successfully recruited Patricia S. Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Director, Department of Education and Health, Far Eastern Division of the Adventist Church, to join the School of Nursing faculty. Dr. Jones had worked internationally as a nurse; she was founder of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital School of Nursing and had established the master's degree program in nursing at Philippine Union College.

The National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR) had recently been established, and as she interviewed Dr. Jones for a faculty position at the School Dr. King outlined her vision. "Dr. King envisioned LLUSN as a place where original funded nursing research could take place," recalls Dr. Jones. "Soon after it was formed, NCNR became a National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). Dr. King was serious about supporting faculty to obtain funding. In time, enough faculty had successfully obtained grants that the School of Nursing was among the first schools to receive the label, 'Friend of NINR.'"

In 1998, the Global Partnerships in Nursing Program was formed. Under its auspices, international conferences were organized to help increase interaction and sharing among Adventist nurses internationally—including nursing administrators, educators and practicing nurses.

One of the program's main goals was to help nurses access advanced education when courses were taught on the Sabbath. A separate program, the off-campus Master of Science degree program, was developed to meet



this need. Since its inception nurses from 25 countries traveled to sites in South America and Asia to complete their MS degrees.

Dr. King was born on April 10, 1936, in Stockton, California, and lived with her family on Macdonald Island in the San Joaquin River delta. The family lived on an isolated farming settlement on the island where her father was foreman of a potato farm. Both sets of her grandparents immigrated to the United States from Japan in the 1800s.

"As I look back over our family's life," she shared during a vesper talk, "I marvel at all the places God intervened to keep us connected to Him and to the Adventist Church."

Her mother, who had been baptized into the Adventist Church just before marrying her father,



lost touch with the Church due to the family's remote location. Dr. King recalled experiencing an early childhood on the island without the benefit of church or the promise of a good education.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Dr. King, her sister, two brothers and their parents were among the 140,000 Japanese Americans placed in internment camps. They left the island after being instructed to go to the state capitol to register as aliens.

Dr. King wrote of the trip, "I remember that drive to Sacramento. I was hiding out in the back seat, afraid to be seen by the soldiers guarding all of the bridges along our route. We had been given three days to sell our household belongings or find a friend we could leave them with. We were each allowed to pack one suitcase. We didn't know where we were going or what was going to happen to us when we got there.

"A truck came to move us to the San Joaquin county fairgrounds, a temporary assembly center. Our family of six moved into a horse stall where we spread out blankets and got as comfortable as we could on the ground. We lived there long enough for me to start kindergarten in the racetrack grandstand. The only thing I remember about kindergarten were the milk and cookies."

In September 1942, the family was taken by train to a camp in Rohwer, Arkansas, where they lived in barracks in a 20-foot square space divided by partitions. The living space was furnished with six cots, a table and chairs, and was heated by a pot-bellied stove.

Dr. King attended first and second grade at the camp. Her mother worked at the camp while her father was sent to work on an apple farm in Michigan and later to New Jersey, where he worked at the Birdseye plant that processed frozen fruits and vegetables.

It was at the camp that Dr. King's family connected with Adventists interned at the same location. In January 1945, when internees were repatriated, the Adventist pastor at the camp arranged for her father to work at Beasley Farms in Pomona, California. The company was owned by the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University).

In August 1988, The United States government made restitution to the Japanese Americans who had been sent to internment camps. Dr. King's family was at the ceremony when President Ronald Reagan signed the bill which gave each person who had been interned \$20,000.

She later recalled, "As a family we talked about what we would do with the [family's combined] \$120,000. It symbolized something important to our family and it seemed a shame to just spend it like ordinary money. It would have been gone in a few days and we probably wouldn't have had anything to show for it, so

Dr. King chose to concentrate on the good, and not the things that can pull you down.

our family decided to establish an endowment in the School of Nursing for scholarships and for School of Nursing operating expenses. With the help of friends, the endowment has grown to over half a million dollars. It will be used in the years to come to help the School of Nursing whenever things get difficult or to provide scholarships for students. Our family has been greatly blessed and we wanted to share our blessings.”

Dr. King chose nursing at a time when the main career choices available to women were becoming a secretary, a teacher, or a nurse. She chose nursing because it sounded the most interesting to her. She was a member of the class of 1959A; the School of Nursing had been in operation for just 54 years at the time. Following graduation, she worked in the emergency room and the delivery room at White Memorial Hospital (now White Memorial Medical Center). She then worked on a medical unit at Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital before being promoted to head nurse.

From 1951 to 1953, she taught at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) before returning to Loma Linda to pursue her master’s degree in nursing. She completed the program in 1965, returning to Southern Missionary College where she taught until 1966.

Several years later she was accepted into Boston University’s (BU) nurse scientist program, completing her PhD in 1973. She joined the BU staff as an adjunct faculty member; she also joined the faculty of Boston College (1975-1977).

From 1978 to 1981, Dr. King chaired the Department of Nursing at Atlantic Union College. She joined the LLU Board of Trustees in 1975, serving as a board member until she was named Dean of the School of Nursing.

She married William King on August 5, 1973. Dr. Emori-Elder recalls the important role he played, serving as a sounding board while she spent many hours talking about challenges she was facing. “He was crucial in her ability to navigate the deanship as she wrestled with decisions that would affect student lives,” says Dr. Emori-Elder.



Dr. King chose to concentrate on the good, and not the things that can pull you down. She lived by this motto: “Living life with joy is the essence of true life.”

In 2005, Dr. King was recognized with Loma Linda University’s Distinguished Service Award. She was the fourth Dean of the School of Nursing and when she retired, she had served longer than any of the deans of all of Loma Linda University’s Schools. Under her guidance the School’s endowment funds had grown from less than \$1 million to more than \$10 million.

Her influence is continuing to make a difference in students’ lives. The Helen and William King Endowment Fund, which was established in 2002, provides awards to students who have demonstrated excellence in prerequisite courses and who have leadership potential. Since September 2017, there have been 27 awards given totaling just over \$39,000.

“Always a student advocate she had an open door to all. What she is remembered most for, however, is her quiet Christian dignity. Those of us who worked with her were blessed,” says Dr. Herrmann.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing blue scrubs, stands in a field of dry grass. In the background, a large mountain with snow-capped peaks is visible under a clear blue sky.

Sevanna Baghramyan

*Coming
Home*

by Jackson Boren

SEVANNA BAGHRAMYAN, '17 knew she wanted to be a nurse from a young age; citing her earliest memories of her mother, an ICU nurse in their family's native country of Armenia, as the seminal inspiration for her own journey. Years later, while finishing up another degree at the University of California-Riverside, Sevanna was introduced to Loma Linda University where she instantly fell in love with the campus, the culture and the people of LLU. It wasn't long after that she decided to pursue a nursing degree and follow in her mother's footsteps. Sevanna reflects on the decision to take on a nursing career, saying, "I knew I wanted to work in the medical field and be caring for a vulnerable population of critical care patients."

Sevanna is currently working in the Surgical/Trauma ICU at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and credits Loma Linda University School of Nursing with preparing her to provide care at the top of her field. "Being the prestigious hospital that LLUMC is (Level 1 trauma center and now magnet status), the transition was very smooth for me taking all of my knowledge and applying it to this hospital." She goes further in acknowledging LLUSN for building a firm foundation to her skills and instincts as a nurse, saying "The exposure I received to various clinical areas helped me choose the site that best challenged me and made me happy to go to work every day. [The content of my education] helped me formulate an understanding of the disease processes and appropriate nursing interventions that have helped me to this day when making suggestions to residents and physicians."

Framed by her passion for nursing, Sevanna expresses that over the years she has had a longing to serve her home country of Armenia in a medical outreach capacity. In 2020 when a traumatic conflict erupted between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey, the war left countless soldiers injured and in critical condition. "Being part of the American Armenian Nurses Association, I learned of the need for diasporan Armenian nurses to head to the hospitals in Armenia to provide aid. Without question or hesitation, I booked a flight and went for 2 weeks to the main hospital centered in Armenia known as Erebuni Hospital. I was inspired to help out because I had enough knowledge and practice as a surgical/trauma nurse to be of aid to the patients in critical condition."

Her first trip home since moving to the United States in 1999 was one driven by the heartache of seeing her people suffering in large numbers and urgent opportunity to make a difference where she could. In addition to hands-on support with patient recovery, Sevanna was prompted to offer administrative advice on operating the brand-new ICU which had opened during the war. She assisted in everything from wound care to medications to helping the wounded soldiers eat. "There were 6-7 patients per nurse in the ICU and the majority were in very critical condition. One nurse to plan all the care for 6-7 patients was excessive so we initiated the communication of moving towards electronic charting and how it would look for each patient."

Returning home and treating patients in such a vulnerable environment cut to the core of Sevanna's vision for herself as a nurse. "It is hard to explain the deep soul connection and gratification I felt treating my people in my homeland. Everywhere I turned, I heard my language. It was humbling to me and made me proud to be an Armenian." She continues to describe the bond formed among the nurses she worked with, saying, "[As nurses working together], the love for our country grew and the unity it brought



among us was indescribable. I got to experience my culture on a deeper level as an adult and it felt like I was in the right place at the right time to provide medical aid to my loved ones in pain and suffering."

Through the experience of delivering care in Armenia during such a hostile time, Sevanna states that it has connected her to the mission of her career to make a holistic difference in patient's lives. When even the smallest thing can improve the quality of life for a patient, she sees that as a step in the right direction, even if the final outcome is uncertain.

Even after returning to work in the United States, Sevanna makes it clear that her mission work in 2020 was just the beginning. She shares her dream of educating her nursing peers in Armenian on more effective ways to deliver care in the ICU environment. "The next initiative is to create a video of peripheral IV placements and demonstrate them to our ICU nurses in Armenia, along with other useful practices that we do in the States. I plan on returning to my country and continuing to provide medical aid in the hospitals, ideally every year. There is still so much work to be done."

A NEW ERA BEGINS

The completion of the Dennis and Carol Troesch Medical Campus ushers in the next chapter of healthcare, research and education in Loma Linda.

By Nancy Yuen



side of the building facing Anderson Street, one block away from the School of Nursing,

Move-in day took place two days later, with hundreds of staff and volunteers from throughout Loma Linda University Health working together to move more than 300 patients into their new, private hospital rooms.

Two years of preparation led up to the Sunday, August 9, 2021, when the 9-story Children's Hospital tower opened and the adult hospital transitioned from the iconic cloverleaf towers to the new 16-story complex.

Following a carefully orchestrated plan that took place over six-and-a-half hours, 239 adult patients and 62 pediatric patients were moved. As the facility's inaugural patients, they would be the first to receive care. In preparation, Allison Ong, Executive Director of the Campus Transformation Project, oversaw intense planning and practice sessions to ensure that the many pieces of complex equipment needed to provide lifesaving treatment for hundreds of patients were tested, and that the staff and facilities were ready.

Contributed report

The new campus was made possible by Vision 2020 – Loma Linda University Health's Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow. The complex is named after Dennis and Carol Troesch; the announcement of their \$100 million gift in support of the new facility was made seven years ago, on July 15, 2014.

No single photograph can capture the exact look of the Dennis and Carol Troesch Medical Campus because as the sun rises, the color of the dichroic glass on the Children's tower changes throughout the day. The colors vary as the sky and seasons change, sometimes brilliant, sometimes muted. As guests and staff enter the complex they are greeted by a beloved and familiar sight: the "Come Unto Me" sculpture that was originally stationed in front of the iconic cloverleaf towers.

In preparation for opening day fencing that surrounded the construction area for the Dennis and Carol Troesch Medical Campus was removed, revealing lush, tree-filled landscaping that surrounds the new buildings, one of the carefully planned benefits for patients, guests and staff. On Friday, August 6, a joyous virtual ribbon cutting ceremony for the campus was held on the

Opening day

On August 9, 2021, the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Complex accepted its first patients, 1,905 days after ground for the new campus was broken on May 22, 2016.

6:30 a.m.: The sign that will direct ambulances and people needing immediate, lifesaving care to the new Children's Emergency Department and Adult Emergency Department is covered.

In front of the sign, Loma Linda University Health administrators and staff in business attire mingle with employees wearing scrubs. The group applauds and cheers as the tarp is dropped, revealing the new signage. For the first time the Adult and Children's Emergency services are separate—the Children's Emergency Department entrance is to the left of the sign, on the southwest side of the building and the Adult Emergency Department is to the right, on the building's southeast side.

History is made as the Medical Center's original emergency department closes, replaced by the new Adult and Children's Emergency Departments, each separately licensed. No patient stories have happened yet in the new spaces; no ambulances have arrived, no trauma patients have been treated.

Everything in the new spaces is ready, and following the unveiling of the new signage, the emergency department staff enter their new work spaces, beginning their first shift.

The first Medical Center walk-in patient arrives at 7:14 a.m. followed by the arrival of the first ambulance at 7:20 a.m. At Children's Hospital, the first ambulance arrives at 8:20 a.m. and the first walk-in patient at 8:39, and with them the first of many thousands of stories begin to unfold.

Patient transport begins

Patients had been divided into four tracks, each color coded. Shawn Collins, PhD, DNP, was one of hundreds of volunteers. He was stationed at the Schuman elevators, overseeing the movement of patients as they were transported by bed and wheelchair, with as many as four people accompanying a single patient, maneuvering IV poles and carrying belongings. The atmosphere was celebratory, with applause from administrators lining the hallways.

9:00 a.m.: The first Medical Center patient left their unit; arriving at 9:11 a.m.

In the new complex, every room is private and every room has family bedroom furniture. "It's part of the healing, so that your loved ones are by your side and you can actually rest a little while they are with you," Heinrich shared with a reporter prior to the opening.

9:03 a.m.: The first Children's Hospital patient left the unit, arriving at 9:15 a.m.

Child life staff, assisted by clowns, helped to make the move

comfortable for the hospital's youngest patients.

9:23 a.m.: Baby Mason, the first baby is born in the San Manuel Maternity Pavilion. Located on the new hospital's fifth floor, the Pavilion has 44 licensed beds, 11 labor and delivery rooms, three c-section rooms, and nine triage rooms.

In a video, President Richard Hart shared, "It has been an incredible day. Not just moving of patients, moving of hearts."

Just after 3:00 p.m., Allison announced: "We are done with the move."

As move-in day concluded, 62 Children's Hospital patients and 239 adult patients were in their new rooms. No events were reported. The experience brought memories for senior staff who recalled that many of the rooms in the cloverleaf towers had been occupied continuously by patients since the cloverleaf tower opened in 1967.

Kerry Heinrich summarized day's significance. "Today, at 3:21 p.m., we officially concluded our move to the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus — a transformational moment in the life of Loma Linda University Health. We have officially welcomed patients into the towers of the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus. For more than 10 years we have been planning, designing and building our new campus. Today those gleaming medical towers are transformed into places of hope, healing, and learning."

Services that have moved to the new towers include:

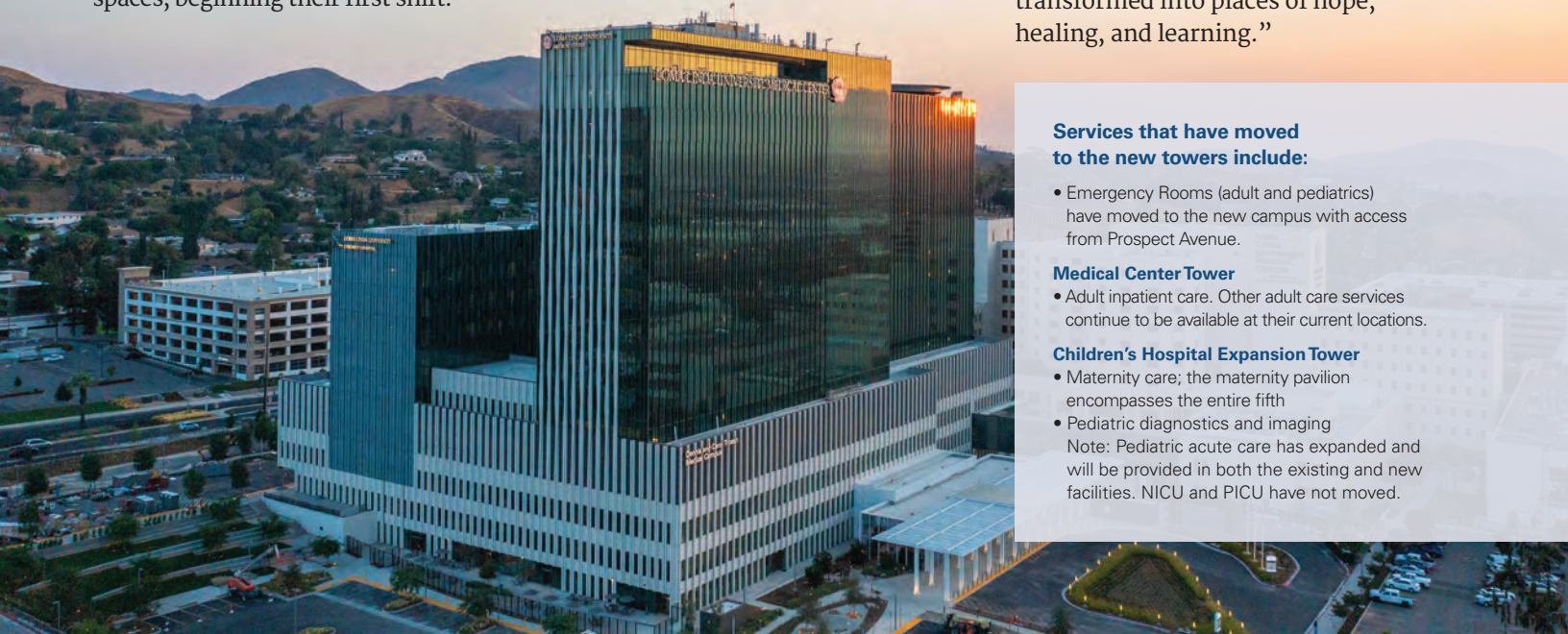
- Emergency Rooms (adult and pediatrics) have moved to the new campus with access from Prospect Avenue.

Medical Center Tower

- Adult inpatient care. Other adult care services continue to be available at their current locations.

Children's Hospital Expansion Tower

- Maternity care; the maternity pavilion encompasses the entire fifth
 - Pediatric diagnostics and imaging
- Note: Pediatric acute care has expanded and will be provided in both the existing and new facilities. NICU and PICU have not moved.



Clarissa Bussell Purkeypile, DNP, FNP-C, RN

*Recipient of the
President's Award
from the School
of Nursing*

By Nancy Yuen



EMPATHY, HUMILITY, PATIENCE, AND SINCERITY are traits that have defined Clarissa Bussell Purkeypile's educational achievements and career. They are also helping Clarissa, recipient of the 2021 President's Award for the School of Nursing, make a difference in the lives of others.

From a young age Clarissa knew she wanted to enter a profession where she could help others. After completing her pre-nursing courses at La Sierra

University, she entered Loma Linda School of Nursing in 2013.

In 2014, during her last year of undergraduate nursing school, she participated in a mission trip to Africa, volunteering at Buea Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Douala, Cameroon.

"Mission service opened my eyes to God's purpose for me," she says. "At Buea Hospital I worked in a clinic triaging patients and ordering their diagnostic testing and medications. It was on this trip that I first considered being a Nurse Practitioner because I enjoyed caring for patients in that role."

Clarissa worked as an Emergency Services Technician in the Emergency Department at Loma Linda University Health for five months before starting her first RN position on Unit 7200, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU). She worked on the unit, located on Loma Linda University Medical Center's cloverleaf towers, for more than five years.

As she cared for critically ill patients Clarissa began to hear similar sentiments from them—if they'd known they were at risk for heart problems they would have made better lifestyle choices, and that they could have made changes that would have helped them avoid hospitalizations.

"This inspired me to want to work with people before they needed to be hospitalized, providing education so they could learn how to make healthy changes to prevent and manage their heart disease," she says. She also wanted to work with patients and their families for longer periods of time than working with hospitalized patients permitted.

Clarissa applied to LLU's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Family Nurse Practitioner Program, which would create options for her to

transition to a position providing care in an outpatient setting. She entered the program while working full-time in the Cardiac ICU.

As the pandemic reached the Inland Empire, she witnessed the toll taking care of COVID-19 patients was taking on the nursing staff. “Nurses love their profession,” she says. “When they experience burnout, however, they can lose their passion; they can lose their motivation and joy.”

Inspired to explore burnout and create resources to combat the toll it was taking on her colleagues, she began working on her DNP Project, “Impact of Burnout Education and Resources on Nursing Call Offs and Emotional Exhaustion.”

In a video she produced titled “What does burnout mean to you? Nurses who cared for COVID patients in the Cardiac ICU share their experiences with burnout,” she interviewed nurses she had worked with. With candor and vulnerability, they shared personal stories as well as coping mechanisms they had developed to survive and thrive during the pandemic.

The video was made available as part of a staff training presentation she created, “Nurse Burnout: Solutions and Personal Resources.”

Results of the project demonstrated a significant decrease in nurse burnout scores as well as a decrease in nurse call-offs. “If one nurse benefits from the training it will have been worth it,” she says.

Clarissa’s intention is for the project to be a starting point to draw attention to the mental health and resilience of nurses. “My goal,” she says, “is for more resources and support to be provided to all nurses recovering from the toll of the pandemic.”

At work, Clarissa has compassion for new graduates who are transitioning to full-time patient

care and actively works to support them. “Training and mentoring new nurses takes time and energy, but it is so worth it,” she says. “I remember the nurses who encouraged and taught me as a student and as a new grad. They made me into the nurse I am today.” She keeps in touch with nurses she has mentored and provides them with recommendations when they need them.

Clarissa is currently working on the newly opened Unit 9A, Cardiac/ Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (Cardiac ICU) at the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus. “Now that I’m on Cardiac ICU, I’m looking forward to learning new procedures and protocols for post-op patients with the long-term goal of transitioning into a nurse practitioner position.

As she reflects on her experience in the School of Nursing’s undergraduate and postgraduate programs, she is grateful. A favorite text summarizes her experience. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Gal. 6:9.

She recalls requesting a meeting with her undergraduate advisor, Dynnette Hart, DrPH, to discuss a class that was particularly challenging. “I told her I was doing everything I knew to do, study group, recording and re-watching lectures, and studying daily. She listened carefully and told me when challenges come my way, I need to do my very best and leave the rest to God,” Clarissa recalls. “This motto has stuck with me since and strengthens me to this day.”

During that same challenging quarter she had support from her clinical instructor who did his best to instill confidence and competence in her nursing practice. “To this day, PK and Dr. Hart are mentors I keep in touch with,” she says. Clarissa completed the undergraduate nursing program in 2015.

During NP school, Clarissa’s advisor Dr. Huerta, was a great support to her. “From helping me arrange my course schedule so I could get married during the program to securing clinical sites in the middle of the pandemic, she did everything she could to help me graduate on time. It stood out to me that she always included Bible verses and worship songs in her lectures. I liked how she shared her faith with us,” Clarissa says.

“LLU poured into me and taught me how to pour into others,” she says. “I always saw myself as a learner with a long way to go. The School of Nursing and LLUMC gave me the knowledge and skill to train and educate others. I’m still learning and will be learning every day for the rest of my life, but I love that I’ve grown a passion for helping fellow nurses in their journey.”

Staff at the School of Nursing, Clarissa’s colleagues on Unit 7200, and her family encouraged her when she told them she was considering becoming a FNP. “They believed I could do it and told me I would not only succeed but would go on to do great things,” she says. “I didn’t know if I would be accepted into the program and I didn’t know if I’d be able to succeed. Now I’m finished with school and I still can’t believe I received the President’s Award. It is by the grace of God that I am where I am today I have my nurse mentors, God, friends and my family to thank for my success in the program. I’m excited to see what God does next in my life.”

Clarissa received the 2021 President’s Award in recognition of her academic excellence, exemplary leadership skills and her commitment to serve those in her profession and in her community. She graduated magna cum laude and holds membership in Sigma Theta Tau International. She has also been a member of the alumni board at the School of Nursing since 2017.

*Gloria Huerta, DNP, FNP-C, NHDP-BC, AGNP-C, CNS, RN

A MISSION DISCOVERED



*Marie Georges RN, PhD
reflects on her lifelong
journey in nursing, how
God has guided her
every step of the way
and what her focus is
for the future.*

By Brianna Bolaños

Marie Georges was the tenth child born to her family in the rural areas of Haiti. Her mother, a teacher, exposed her to the teaching world and love for it early on in her life. “As a child, I enjoyed grading my mother’s students’ homework and would travel with her the 3-4 hours to see her teaching. Up to high school, my best moments in life were when I was helping other students to understand their classwork.” After high school, Marie attended a bilingual secretarial school in the capital of Haiti and upon graduation was able to teach shorthand to youths who needed it.

Upon immigrating to the USA with her family in 1986, Marie says, “The Lord provided for me to attend Southeastern Regional Vocational Institute, in South Easton, MA, my first nursing school in the USA. There I obtained the license for practical nursing (LPN) under the compassionate teaching of dedicated professors in 1989.” From the time of her graduation, she worked in a variety of settings caring for the elderly in Massachusetts and Florida. Still passionate about education, including her own, she decided to pursue higher education. She was able to obtain her Associates at Florida Hospital Health Sciences followed by her BSN at Andrews University, where she truly learned to appreciate caring for her patients holistically.

Marie began her career in nursing, initially as a way to help meet her family’s financial needs, but quickly grew to discover her passion for the field. “As I continued in the profession, I understood better that it was a divine mission, a service for humanity, along with Jesus as the Healer par excellence. I believe that God drove me into the nursing discipline to serve all mankind with passion while delivering compassionate care, preventing diseases, and promoting health through teaching. His longsuffering kindness allowed me to understand how to care for His children holistically for His Glory!”

She found her desire to explore more about the nursing field fueled her to pursue her master’s degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the University of Maryland in 2005. Marie applied her knowledge in the field by working in several different clinics, but also continued her love of education by teaching nursing students on all levels from LPN to master’s degrees. During this time, her spiritual and educational mentor, Dr. Melva Joan Brown-Hendricks, advised her to get a Ph.D. in nursing. In 2006, Marie was accepted into Loma Linda University’s PhD program, but initially had to delay due to supporting her family. After pursuing her degree elsewhere for a time, she called LLU and was re-accepted into the PhD program in 2017 and finished in 2021. “It was here that I understood better the Godly global mission field calling.”

Marie’s passion for holistic education was fostered during her time at Loma Linda University. She credits the “dedicated and highly spirited professors/mentors” in helping shape who she has become as a nurse. “They helped shape my nursing and teaching career, my mission perspective in low-income nations, and particularly in making me a better human being. I pray that God continues to bless them in this sacred work that they are passionate about.” Doctor Lisa Roberts, research mentor, advisor, dissertation chair—traveled with me to Haiti and opened my mind to the mission world with the Haitian nurses. Oh my! That was a fantastic journey! I’ve never been so inspired by a determined Christian woman who guided me at every step of my Ph.D. career as a mother eagle teaches her eaglet for two whole years!” Dr. Lisa Roberts, expressed how Marie truly relied on God every step of the way in all aspects of her life. “Marie is passionate about helping others, committed to her nursing education, and her smile is contagious—spreading joy wherever she goes!”

Marie is determined in all that she does to give glory back to God. When advising future nursing students she shared, “Just let the Lord guide you in all aspects of your life and be very patient with yourself! It may take time to understand this divine calling and to study but hang in there! One must have the heart of service and self-sacrificing, compassionate love to work alongside the Master Teacher and Healer to do this sacred work for His Glory! Each nurse can make a difference for each soul cared for eternity with the Lord’s grace and mercy!” Next Marie will find herself serving in a variety of capacities at Haiti Adventist Hospital.

Catching up with **KURT CAO,**

Director of CRNA Services

By Amy Prindle



For Kurt Cao, DNAP, CRNA, the decision to pursue nursing came to him after serving as a student missionary in the Marshall Islands.

After teaching grades 1-5 in a two-room school, he realized how much he enjoyed working with people, becoming invested in their growth and success.

Up until then, Cao was studying Biology. He realized his current educational path would likely place him in a lab, so he looked at other options. After a recommendation from his advisor, he switched to nursing.

Starting the Journey

A long-time Loma Lindian, Kurt knew where he would find like-minded values and a shared overall purpose. He chose LLUSN and received his BSN in 2000.

“What really made the difference for me in undergrad was the faculty at the time, especially Dr. Marilyn Herrmann and Dr. Dee Hart,” said Cao. “They took time with me, keeping me accountable and holding me responsible. I’d give them a lot of credit for my success, both in nursing school and after.”

After graduation, Cao took a position in the step-down ICU at LLUMC. One of the nurses on that unit,

Kathy Dupper, introduced him to nursing anesthesia. Her husband, Ed Dupper, was a Nurse Anesthetist, and she arranged for Cao to shadow him in the OR for a day.

“That day I had my ‘lightning’ moment,” he recalled. “I knew this was for me.”

In 2006, he earned his MS in Nursing Anesthesia from the University of New England in Portland, Maine.

Then it was back to Loma Linda to work as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Finding a Calling in Education

One year after returning to LLUMC, Cao was asked to be Clinical Coordinator for Nurse Anesthesia students rotating through the medical center from outside institutions.

“This gave me an excellent opportunity to interact with students and start understanding the educational side of nursing anesthesia.”

Harkening back to his pivotal experience as a missionary, Cao felt at home while teaching. He had a knack for making difficult things easy to understand—“mostly because I need to be able to understand them myself!”

He became known for drawing cartoons to illustrate a complex process, or finding the right comparisons

I think Loma Linda produces the best health care providers because we're concerned about the whole individual.

years building the program and achieving accreditation. The first class of the program was in 2011. And it was a success! Loma Linda's CRNA program achieved 10-year accreditation in record time, and all of its students achieved 100% passing rate in Boards for three years in a row.

Cao admits that heading up this program was “an incredible amount of work,” but he thoroughly enjoyed how it demanded creativity and problem-solving.

The next few years were busy for Cao, both in personal and professional life. He and his wife would welcome their two children into the world, and in 2012 he earned his Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice from Texas Wesleyan University.

And he didn't stop there! Cao and his team members were instrumental in designing a new Doctor of Nursing Practice degree CRNA program, which became accredited in 2018.

In December of that year, Cao stepped down as Program Director to focus on clinical practice and the business side of nursing anesthesia, though he stayed on as Associate Program Director until 2020 and continues to teach for the program today.

Cao decided to move further into healthcare administration and accepted the position of Director of CRNA Services for Loma Linda University Health (LLUH). In many ways he serves as a liaison between

the school and the medical center.

“My goal now is to facilitate a high-quality clinical experience for our students, helping to ensure they're prepared to function as full scope of practice providers.

“We also want to facilitate implementation of our nurse anesthesia students' doctoral projects, which benefits our students and is in line with our facilities' Magnet designation and objectives.”

Loma Linda's Secret to Success

When asked about how his education at Loma Linda University influenced his overall career, Cao emphasized that it all came down to the people and the philosophy.

“The people make the difference. My fellow CRNA program faculty members are extraordinary individuals. They're clearly passionate about what they do and have made great sacrifices to help our students and program succeed.

“I know I'm one of many who appreciates how diverse our faculty and students are. From religion to ethnicity to the unique backgrounds many have come from, it's clear that each person's experiences and strengths are valued.

“But all in all, I think Loma Linda produces the best health care providers because we're concerned about the whole individual. Not just the patients but the students, the employees—everyone. And that's been Loma Linda's mission from the beginning. Whole person care.”

or demonstrations to make even the most daunting of concepts understandable.

Playing a Part in LLUSN Growth

Not long after Cao became Clinical Coordinator, Loma Linda decided to run its own CRNA program. It was established within the School of Nursing in 2009, initiated by Dr. Herrmann, the Dean at the time (now Emeritus Dean of the School of Nursing), and spearheaded by Dr. Elizabeth Bossert, who was Associate Dean of Graduate Programs for the School of Nursing at the time (now Dean of the School of Nursing).

Cao was appointed Program Director for this new endeavor. And alongside Associate Directors Vanessa Jones-Oyefeso and Eric Molina, he spent the next two

A portrait of Linda Carino, a young woman with long dark hair, smiling and wearing a grey off-the-shoulder sweater. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting.

“GO SAVE LIVES!”

Linda Carino Answers a Calling

By Amy Prindle

LINDA PHAM CARINO, a 2015 BSN graduate of Loma Linda University School of Nursing, has been enjoying a thriving nursing career upon graduation. But the path she took to get there was anything but easy.

Carino grew up in the Chinatown district of Los Angeles with immigrant parents and five older brothers—all crammed into a three-bedroom apartment. Her parents owned a struggling restaurant and spent most of their waking moments managing it, so she was often home alone or in the care of her brothers.

While the idea of nursing wasn't always on her radar, she knew she was interested in science and healthcare. So she started at UC Santa Barbara, intending to major in biology. But things changed when her grandfather became ill. She remembers sitting in the cardiac ICU while his cardiologist came by on rounds.

“How are you today, Sir?” the cardiologist asked.

“I’m good,” her grandfather replied.

The cardiologist nodded, scribbled some notes, and left.

While she knew her grandfather was receiving good care, the shortness of that encounter stuck with her.

“I remember thinking, ‘That’s it? A two-second greeting then he’s onto the next patient?’”

That moment pointed her toward nursing. She wanted to spend more time with each patient, being involved with multiple aspects of their care.

Taking a Leap of Faith

When Carino was accepted to LLUSN, she was hesitant at first; she grew up in a Buddhist household and didn’t know much about Christianity, let alone Seventh-day Adventism. Adding to that, she didn’t have the best first impression of church-goers.

“I was curious about Christianity in eighth grade, when my friends talked about their youth groups. They would do the coolest activities. Coming from a poor family who didn’t do much together, this appealed to me. Then a friend asked me to go with her to a youth retreat. At first I loved it. There was a lot of energy and great music, but then came the long sermon. At the end, the pastor stood up to encourage us to accept Jesus. But if you didn’t... you’re going to hell. Next day, same message. And the people there were pushy! With this being my first real experience with church, I thought to myself, ‘Wow, is this what it’s all about? No wonder she was wary about attending a Christian educational institution. But little did I know it would be one of the best experiences of my life.’”

Inspiration and Support During Tough Times

It didn’t take long for Carino to feel at home at LLUSN.

“While worship services and classroom prayer were new to me, the points they talked about were realistic and helpful. And everyone showed me kindness, accepting me as I was. I felt like we were all just trying to be good people and serve others.”

And her studies went along smoothly...until third quarter. Her grandfather was back in the hospital with serious concerns, and she was in the middle of MedSurg and Pharmacology.

“I remember being in and out of patient surgeries all morning near East Campus. Then I called my grandfather as I walked to my car. Suddenly I noticed feet sticking out between two cars, so I told him that it looked like someone fainted and I should help them.”

“Go save lives!” he said.

And that was the last time she heard her grandfather’s voice. He passed away the next morning.

Carino was crushed that she didn’t get to see him again before he died. She missed a week of school, right before her second MedSurg test.

“I wasn’t prepared. I couldn’t focus even though I knew it could make or break my grade. I was so grateful for the kindness of my professor, Dr. Zelne Zamora, and my clinical instructor at the time, “PK” Kittipha. They helped me through that difficult time.

She continues, “I appreciated the understanding they showed toward me, validating what I was going through. They kept me grounded and encouraged me, letting me know it was OK to take breaks and to keep things in balance.”

Wisdom Beyond the Classroom

After graduating, Carino was accepted into the new graduate program at Cedars Sinai, where she worked on the neuro/stroke floor for three years and the medical ICU after that. And she continued to benefit from the advice of her instructors. One certain quote would often come to mind:

“I remembered Dr. Zamora saying, ‘You know that funny feeling in your stomach? That’s not gas, it’s your gut! So follow it!’”

Carino recalls several times she was glad she did just that. Whether it was double-checking on potential medication side effects or knowing just the right time to start CPR, she was thankful for the encouragement to act decisively when the situation demanded.

But that’s not all she carries with her from her education. Thinking back to her grandfather’s two-second check-in with his doctor, Carino found it especially meaningful that LLUSN faculty would emphasize how each patient is a unique individual, not a case study or a problem to solve.

“I’ve found the most rewarding thing about being a nurse is getting to impact people from all walks of life. You can make a difference personally with each patient you meet.”

And in this way, Carino continues on the mission within her grandfather’s last words.

A portrait of Joyce Johnston Rusch, an elderly woman with short, reddish-brown hair, wearing a blue textured top and a watch. She is resting her chin on her clasped hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Heart to Heart

**Joyce
Johnston
Rusch**

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Historically, the Loma Linda University School of Nursing Alumni of the Year honoree is selected by their classmates based on the criteria of great work they have done within the field of nursing. When Joyce Johnston Rusch, RN was nominated by her peers from the Class of 1971 as this year's Alumni of the Year it may have come as a surprise to her, but the trajectory of Joyce's career tells a story that reflects this honor appropriately. Joyce was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia as the eldest of four siblings. Several young Adventist neighbors who were LLU alumni inspired Joyce at a young age to one day come to Loma Linda and begin her nursing journey.

While she was a student at LLUSN, she worked as a unit secretary at the Medical Center and became familiar with the nursing environment. Her nursing school peers recall Joyce

being a warm spirit and voice of leadership in her class. Upon graduating in 1971, Joyce accepted a position on the cardiothoracic surgery unit. During this time, Dr. Leonard L. Bailey's own renowned career in surgery was just beginning and would parallel Joyce's early days as a nurse until they worked together again years later. Joyce recalls, "Those were the days when Dr. Bailey was a resident. We were all young people then and it was a wonderful time to be involved in medicine." She and her peers in the heart surgery team participated in many mission trips overseas growing their skills in primitive operating environments. "Those kinds of experiences were really great because I had been trained where there's all the technological support. We had to do without that and just use our common sense and rely on each other—and it worked."

The next chapter of her career found Joyce serving as the Director of cardiac transplant for the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital from 1986 to 2000. This was when Joyce reunited with Dr. Bailey and a professional partnership began that would mark the most prominent era of her career. Even before she became a formal member of the transplant team, her role as bedside nurse for the first two infant heart transplants at LLUMC was formative in the direction her career would take. "I was there when Baby Faye was transplanted in 1984. I worked at the bedside then and I was quite taken back by all of the attention that it generated." The following year Joyce was once again immersed in the developing transplant program at Loma Linda, when a child received the first infant-to-infant heart transplant. "It took me a while before I realized that I really loved transplantation. Then, the program took off and it [was a] wonderful

adventure the whole way through because all of us were beginners."

Dr. Bailey, the pioneer of infant heart transplantation, credits Ms. Johnston with defining the details that made Loma Linda's program the world-renowned one that it became. Joyce invested her heart and soul into the program, providing substantial support and resources to transplant patients and their families. Of the nearly 400 transplant patients served at the time of her retirement from LLUCH in 2001, Joyce could name every one. She knew countless things about each one and was familiar with their families; sharing in both their joy and pain. Although Joyce never had children of her own, she claimed every one of the transplant recipients as her own, an indication of the strong bond she formed with every child and family she served. "You get a tremendous reward in helping people," says Joyce. "Going through something like [a heart transplant] is one of the worst things a family can endure. It's out of everyone's control; they are waiting for a donor that may never come. But saying that, I know the system... and how to make their lives easier." Ultimately, the most important gift Joyce gave patients over the course of her career was making sure they didn't have to go through the process alone.

With her role as a part of the world's first infant heart transplant program came unique opportunities to dialogue with the global transplant surgery community. Joyce remembers on one occasion questioning whether she, a nurse with no formal training in transplantation, should be participating in the discourse and presenting to surgeons. Dr. Bailey reassured her that while she may not have trained in the 'medical' specifics, her exposure and experience had garnered her more knowledge on the subject than

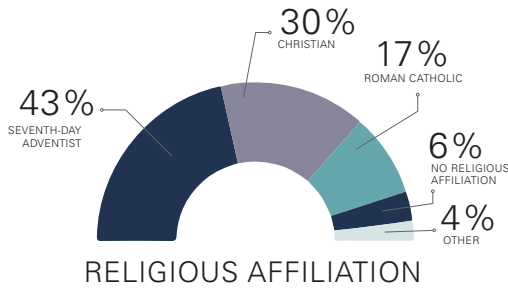


even some physicians she would be interacting with.

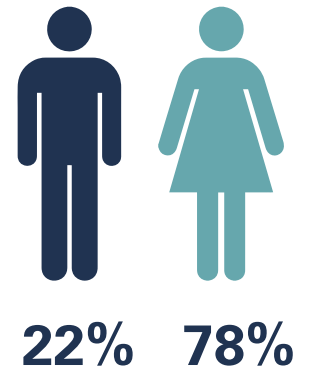
Joyce was instrumental in spreading the global awareness of the transplantation program, organizing conferences and publishing the Loma Linda team's outcomes in medical journals. Clinicians, surgeons, pediatricians and cardiologists from around the world sought out Joyce and her team as a resource when they began pursuing infant heart transplants in their respective countries. Her efforts influenced the development of transplant programs around the world.

Not only was she involved with educating the globe with infant heart transplantation, Joyce was a crucial resource for new physicians joining the LLUH team. And although Joyce insists that the program's success was due to the hard work and commitment of every team member, her colleagues echo the opinion that it would not have been the same without her involvement. When Joyce retired from her role in the program in 2001, Dr. Bailey shared his perspective on her impact, saying, "I valued her inspiration, her dedicated professionalism, and the innumerable kindnesses that she has shown over the years to the families of the transplant recipients... I am forever grateful for the extraordinary job she's done in coordinating the program and bringing it to its fulfillment."

Class of 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



CLASS GENDER

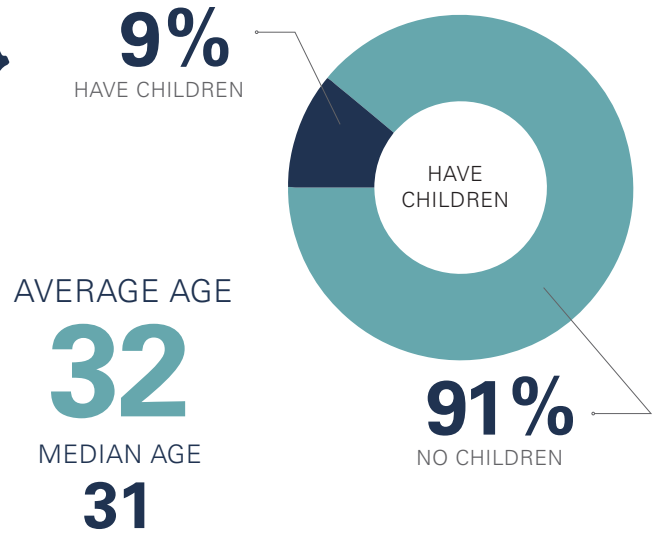
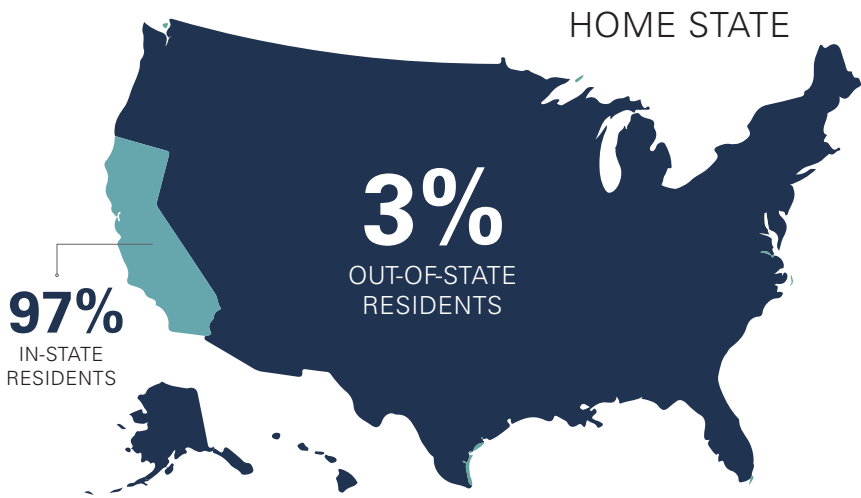


MARITAL STATUS

91% SINGLE
9% MARRIED

SECOND DEGREES





COMMENCEMENT 2021





Loma Linda University School of Nursing graduates

experienced commencement a little differently on the morning of June 13, 2021. For the first time in the school's 116 year history, graduates participated in a drive-through ceremony where they received their diplomas on an outdoor stage, with the Loma Linda University Medical Center as the backdrop to the ceremony and their families cheering safely from their vehicles. This year the school had 222 students graduate from its various graduate and undergraduate programs. In the caravan line up of cars that ran from the Centennial Complex parking lot all the way up to the University Mall, some graduates came in convertibles while others opted for buses. It was an event that acknowledged the safety standards of the current pandemic while still paying tribute to the hard work and commitment our graduates put into their nursing education; which is something truly worth celebrating.



graduation

GRADUATION WEEKEND 2021





Two of the time-honored traditions of graduation weekend for the Loma Linda University School of Nursing graduates are the Undergraduate Pinning Ceremony and the Graduate Hooding Ceremony. These events are significant milestones reflecting the unique transitions into the next stage of each graduate's nursing journey. Both ceremonies were held this year in the Loma Linda University Church and offered graduates and their families a warm reunion, as a few of the first in-person events hosted by the School of Nursing since March of 2020.



2020-2021

NEW FACULTY UPDATE



MEGAN ANDERSON, RN, PHN, DNP, FNP-C

Megan graduated with her BS and MS degrees from Loma Linda University School of Nursing. She is currently working in the emergency department at LLUMC and Eisenhower Medical Center as a nurse practitioner. She is

joining LLUSN Faculty as the instructor for Advanced Pharmacology in the DNP programs.



DARREN MOON, MSN, RN

Darren completed his undergrad at Cal State University Long Beach in School Health followed by his RN at Cal State San Bernardino. He followed with his MSN at Grand Canyon University where he is currently working on his DNP. He spent seven years

working in the LLUMC ER and is currently SSN while serving as Loma Linda University School of Nursing's course coordinator for NRS 303, Advanced Med Surge.



CORRIE BERK, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC

Corrie received her BSN, DNP, and MBA all through the University of Pittsburgh. She has run the Las Vegas campus of Loma Linda's Transplant Institute for the last four years. Prior to that, she worked in liver transplant from 2008-

2018 at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She currently will be joining us as an associate professor in our FNP program.



GEMMA PANGAN, BSN, RN, PHN

Gemma is a 1998 undergraduate alumna of Loma Linda University School of Nursing. She spent almost 23 years working on 9100 at LLUMC as a bedside Registered Nurse, Preceptor, & Team Leader, 18 years of those in

Medical Intensive Care Unit and 4.5 years in Neurology Unit. She started working with LLUSN in 2020 as a contract clinical instructor for Non-degree, Adult Health Nursing III (Med Surg 3) lab and is now joining us full time for both Health Assessment Lab & Public Health Nursing Lab.



SAMANTHA HERNANDEZ, BS

Samantha graduated from Loma Linda University School of Nursing and is currently planning to attend LLUSN again for her CNS. In addition to being a undergraduate Fundamentals clinical instructor and skills lab instructor, she currently works

for Loma Linda University Medical Center.



MANSI PATEL, BSN, RN

Mansi graduated in 2014 from West Coast University with her BSN and is currently working on her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner DNP. In addition to joining us as co-coordinator for our undergraduate Adult Health 1

class she is also serving as a clinical instructor.



MINDY POTTER, RN, MSN, CEN, CPEN

Mindy received her ADN from Victor Valley College in 2000 and went on to receive her BS in Nursing from Loma Linda University School of Nursing in 2009. She spent her first 20 years of nursing in the emergency department at LLUMC. She completed her MS in Education in 2019 from Grand Canyon University and is currently enrolled at Capella University for her PhD in Nursing Education.



TAD WORKU, BBA, BSN, CEN

Tad attended Pacific Union College for his BSN degree and is currently enrolled in the FNP program through Vanderbilt University. He has worked in the LLUMC Emergency department for the last six years but has stepped away to focus on his FNP program. He is joining us as a clinical instructor for Med Surg 1 and is helping with our Professionalism course. Tad organizes a weekly well-being program that is open to all students called “Well-Being Wednesdays.”



RACHEL REIDINGER, RN, BSN, MSN, CRNA

Rachel completed her nursing undergraduate program at California State University, Long Beach, and then completed her graduate studies with a Nurse Anesthesia Concentration at Loma Linda University. Along with teaching at LLUSN in the CRNA program, she also is practicing anesthesia at Kaiser Permanente, Fontana and Ontario, and also provides anesthesia in private practice. She will be working specifically by assisting with students’ simulation experience, along with board preparation and anesthesia lectures.



RACHEL TOHM, RN, BSN

Rachel graduated from Loma Linda University School of Nursing in March 2017. She is currently finishing her MSN in Education this month at Western Governors University and works bedside RN shifts per diem for LLUH’s SSN department. She is currently serving at LLUSN as the co-course coordinator for Fundamentals of Nursing since January 2021.



KATHY VALDEVERONA, APRN, MSN, FNP-BC

Kathy is an undergraduate alumna of Loma Linda University School of Nursing. She received her FNP, MSN degree at UCLA and is currently enrolled at Duke University in their DNP program. She works in LLUMC’s emergency department and also part time in a primary care private practice clinic in Hemet, CA. She is joining as faculty in the FNP, DNP program.



NATALYA VIRKH, RN, BSN

Natalya graduated from Riverside Community College with her ASN, then went on to complete her BS at Western Governors University. She has previously worked on 2100 at Loma Linda’s Surgical hospital and is now going on 10 years working at LLUMC. She is currently serving as a Clinical Instructor for our undergraduate Fundamentals of Nursing course.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS



Laura Becker



Shirley Tohm Bristol



KC Carrigg

Laura Becker BS, RN

LAURA BEGAN WORKING FOR LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING in 2005 when she was invited to be a psychiatric clinical instructor for the school of nursing. She readily agreed knowing how much she had enjoyed working with students in the clinical setting at two previous nursing schools in Georgia. She found working with students always brought fulfillment, satisfaction and enjoyment. She loved the challenge of encouraging the students in the importance of not only good care, but also good communication with their patients and families. Students frequently stated how much they enjoyed and appreciated the stories she shared with them for worship and how applicable they were to what they were learning in the psychiatric clinical area. Her support, encouragement and professionalism, consistently was mentioned by the students in the evaluations they completed each quarter. Laura felt blessed

and very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for Loma Linda University over the last sixteen years.

Shirley Tohm Bristol MS, JD, RN

SHIRLEY BRISTOL GRADUATED FROM ANDREWS UNIVERSITY with a BS degree in Nursing in 1976 and from Loma Linda University School of Nursing (LLUSN) with an MS degree in 1979. She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of LaVerne College of Law in 1990, and her DNP from Western University of Health Sciences, in 2012. Over the course of her career, she held several national and state professional and health care certifications, including CCRN, Medical/Critical Care CNS, and the American Hospital Association Risk Management recognition.

From 1979 to 1986, she taught Nursing Leadership and Medical Surgical Nursing in the Undergraduate program. Following a move and return to Loma Linda

in 2005, she taught Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing in the Undergraduate Program and further developed, coordinated, and taught in the Clinical Nurse Specialist Adult Gerontology program. Beginning in 2010, Shirley taught in the newly established post-masters DNP Program, and became the Program Director/Director of Implementation for the new hybrid DNP Program in 2015.

KC Carrigg EdD, RN

KC CARRIGG GRADUATED WITH A MS FROM LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING in 1972. Her emphasis was in Psychiatric Nursing and Community Health Nursing. She fell in love with teaching and taught at LLUSN until her retirement. She also completed a MS in Marriage and Family Therapy and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from LLU. Dr. Carrigg was a founding member of Sigma Theta Tau and was Certified as a Master Health Education Specialist. In the beginning years of her career she was awarded a grant that focused students' learning on



Susan L. Tohm Lloyd

Kathi Wild

Community intervention for high risk parents. She worked with Riverside Social Services and developed an innovative program “Living with Children” which was led by students taking Community Mental Health Nursing. She taught courses at the BS level in Psychiatric Nursing, Community Nursing, Community Mental Health Nursing, as well as Graduate level course work in Psychiatric Nursing. Dr Carrigg described her teaching at LLUSN as stimulating and challenging with many exciting adventures. She admired the creativity and richness students brought to their clinical learning experiences. She reflected that observing students become more confident, professional, caring and compassionate was a highlight of her teaching. What she will miss the most is the dynamic student-teacher interactions during clinical. She will cherish the many memories of her time at LLUSN.

Susan L. Tohm Lloyd PhD, RN

SUSAN LLOYD GRADUATED FROM WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY with a BS degree in Nursing in 1975 and from Loma Linda University School of Nursing (LLUSN) with an MS degree in 1978. She also received a Clinical Nurse Specialist certification in 1999 and a PhD degree in Nursing in 2000 from the University of San Diego. She has worked in a variety of inpatient/ outpatient clinical and university settings over the course of her career. She focused on the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role in Community Maternal Child Health, Pediatrics, and Academic Education.

From 1982-86 she taught leadership at LLUSN. In 2005, after developing, directing, and teaching in the new Master’s in Nursing program at California State University San Bernardino. She was recruited to come back to LLUSN. She first worked as Coordinator and Associate Professor of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Pediatrics track. She also worked to develop, direct, and teach in a new hybrid-format (face to face & online) post master’s to doctoral program (MS-DNP).

Later in her role as Associate Dean for Graduate Nursing, the hybrid clinical (NP, CNS, CRNA) Doctorate of Nursing Practice (BS-DNP) program

and the hybrid Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing (BS-PhD) program were developed and successfully implemented. All three new programs continue to grow and strengthen at present.

During the past three years, Susan developed a plan to work towards improving Quality Improvement and Assessment processes for the School of Nursing.

Kathi Wild, MS, RN

KATHI WILD BEGAN TEACHING AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING in 1979 after working as a psychiatric nurse and completing a Master’s in Science degree in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing. She taught Community Mental Health nursing for five years, before taking some time to be a full-time mother to her three children. She spent eighteen years as a public health nurse with Inland Regional Center’s Early Start Program, serving first as an Infant Service Coordinator and later as Program Manager. Kathi returned to LLU’s School of Nursing Baccalaureate program in 2012, coordinating the Capstone Nursing Practicum course, Capstone Leadership and Management Course and finally Public Health Nursing course. During her years at LLUSN, Kathi was active in leading out in the Spiritual Care Committee and working with the University’s Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice, serving as faculty for Interprofessional Learning Lab and the yearly Critical Event Learning experience.

THE ROAD TO WELL-BEING

Understanding the Nursing Journey of Tad Worku

by Jackson Boren

FOR MANY, TAD WORKU is already a familiar face on the Loma Linda University campus; whether it be from the active role he has played as a nurse in the emergency department or his musical talents being shared in the occasional concert or community event. But the various chapters of his story that detail his arrival in Loma Linda, his transition into teaching at Loma Linda University School of Nursing and his continued ministry of music may be less storied.

A first generation Ethiopian-American, born and raised in Northern California, Worku cites his parents' journey of faith, education and immigration from rural Ethiopia to the United States as one that set the foundation for his own story. "When I looked at their story, I really saw something impossible and it made me feel like I was free to figure out my own purpose."

Tad originally went to college for business and marketing with the intention of pursuing a career as a pop/soul musician. After graduating, he spent several years honing his craft, recording music and preparing to launch a national tour and ultimately his music career. "I wanted



to travel the world and sell out shows. At that point, I would have never considered becoming a nurse.” Ultimately a personal lack of peace in his journey led Worku to step away from music in search of his calling. “I wanted something that connected my hands directly to the purpose. The door that opened was nursing.”

With the peace that God was leading him down the right path, Tad went back to nursing school to complete his BSN and begin his career which would eventually lead him to Loma Linda University Medical Center. After several years of working in the Emergency Department at LLUMC, Tad found himself with new emerging opportunities in music, including the chance to record his debut album and finally go on tour, all while still working as a nurse. When the coronavirus pandemic sidelined these plans, Tad was faced with the question of what God wanted him to do next. “After 6 years in the ER I was ready for a change. I always

loved teaching in the ER; staff education and precepting of students, so I decided to try clinical instructing while still working in the hospital.” Tad took to instructing so well, he left the ER and began teaching full time a few months later.

Starting a teaching career in the middle of a pandemic wasn’t a simple transition. But with a circle of mentorship and guidance around him, Tad was able to not only find a place of comfort in the diverse faculty at LLUSN, he was able to extend that support to his students in new and innovative ways; overcoming the challenge of distance learning in the process. “Nursing school is so busy and full of information that has to be learned. Its easy to forget we are working with human beings not disease processes.” He continues, “That philosophy has been foundational to my experience as a nurse [and now a teacher]. The information is necessary to thrive in healthcare, but it’s the human connection that makes it a meaningful environment.”

A meaningful theme that has followed Tad from the emergency room to the classroom has been resilience. He reflects on this, saying, “The pandemic has challenged us in ways we never could have imagined. [The nurses I worked with] are some of the strongest people I have met. The fact that you wake up multiple times a week and go back into the fire is something that takes a special person.” Amidst this journey, Tad found solace in his music to process the challenges of the pandemic, saying, “Music contributed to my resilience and I wrote quite a few songs processing my experiences in 2020.” Tad continues, adding, “I also had the opportunity to start a well-

being initiative with coworkers in the ER, which I eventually brought to LLUSN.” This well-being initiative, known appropriately as Well-Being Wednesdays, was launched at the school in Spring of 2021 and quickly became a cornerstone in the quality of life for many within the LLUSN Student and faculty body, pursuing a seachange of attitude and outlook. “I had a realization that to be truly successful in life, well-being would need to be at the foundation of everything. So much of life seems to encourage chasing an unattainable goal of status, wealth, position, or power.”

When Tad arrived at the school he knew he wanted to invest in creating a well-being initiative for students. It was a live speaker series, hosted over the Zoom platform like a digital fireside chat with various guests discussing topics directly related to personal and professional well-being. “During nursing school, students develop so many skills in order to care for others and yet, I think they are unprepared for the realities of the hospital. It’s crucial to invest in well-being just as much as critical thinking.”

Well-Being Wednesdays now sees a regular virtual attendance averaging anywhere from 50 to 100 participants and Tad plans to continue making the content more relevant and accessible to its audience including the development of a companion podcast. And while music is still a big part of his life (his debut album was finally released earlier this year), his career in both nursing and teaching has taught Tad that sharing his outlook and perspective can have just as fulfilling of an impact as sharing his song. “I love that nursing is broad enough to grow and change as I continue to pursue purpose and calling. Each step in my journey has contributed to the bigger story and that has been the most fulfilling part for me.”

2020-2021

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LLUSN Receives \$1 million in scholarships for psych NPs

The Loma Linda University School of Nursing was recently awarded \$1 million in student scholarships for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNP) for those wishing to work in the Inland Empire. The grant from the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) is the second consecutive such grant LLUSN has received from the organization and aims to address the shortage of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in the region through a loan forgiveness program.

"This generous offer from IEHP is a win-win," said Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing. "First it helps those who live in the Inland Empire who are dealing with mental health challenges, and with the increase in stress in society, this is an increasing problem. And second, it helps students by providing a way to complete the PMHNP without major tuition debt. We are glad to work with IEHP in benefiting the community through this partnership."

The following students are the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner DNP student awardees for 2020-2021.

April-Dawn A. Sapigao, BSN, RN, PHN
Ashley Linlo-Syriotis, BA, BS, RN, PHN
Daniel Lucero BSN, RN
Dominic Castillo BSN, RN
Jennifer Jeong BSN, RN-BC
Jennifer Tapia, BSN, RN
Linh Tran BSN, RN
O'Neil Preschel, BSN, RN
Patricia Boyle BSN, RN

LLUSN is grateful for this opportunity from IEHP and is honored to announce that this scholarship will continue for a new group of students next year as well. For information, contact the Loma Linda University School of Nursing at 909-558-4923 or graduatenuising@llu.edu. More information about the school is available at nursing.llu.edu.



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School of Nursing

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