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SPRING 2024

nurse



The Next Chapter

Loma Linda University School of Nursing embarks on a historical journey to bring a new nursing education building to campus.



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

letter from THE DEAN

TRUST THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU WELL. I am humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of previous LLUSN Deans and looking forward to being a part of the bright future of the school. To that end, I am writing to share an exciting update regarding our upcoming School of Nursing building project, an initiative that harmoniously aligns with our mission to inspire, prepare, and empower the next generation of nursing professionals.

Our mission, as a diverse body of nurse educators, is to inspire and prepare nurses who embody caring, compassion, and excellence. The upcoming building project is a tangible expression of this commitment. The state-of-the-art facilities will provide an environment conducive to holistic care, allowing us to instill these values in our students from the very beginning of their educational journey.

The project will play a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of practicing nurses, advanced clinicians, educators, and researchers. The innovative design of the building will support various learning modalities, from traditional classroom settings to student-centric spaces, ensuring that our students receive a comprehensive and dynamic education.

Embodying caring, compassion, and excellence will be seamlessly integrated into the physical and educational aspects of the new building. The spaces will be designed to encourage collaboration, reflection, and a sense of community, fostering an atmosphere where students can embody these values in themselves and extend them to others.

Our aim is to empower both faculty and students to exemplify holistic care. The building will provide dedicated spaces for faculty development and collaborative endeavors, allowing us to nurture the growth of our educators and, by extension, the growth of our students.

Creating a supportive learning environment is at the core of our mission, and the new building will be instrumental in achieving this. From modern study spaces to comfortable common areas, we aspire to provide an atmosphere where personal and professional growth can flourish.

Furthermore, as we enable our nurses to engage with the global community through selfless service, the new building will serve as a hub for international collaboration. We envision partnerships with institutions worldwide, creating opportunities for our students and faculty to contribute to global healthcare initiatives.



In essence, the Nursing Education Building Project is a manifestation of our commitment to be global leaders in transforming lives through nursing education, professional practice, and scholarship. It symbolizes our dedication to creating a supportive learning environment, fostering personal and professional growth, and enabling our nurses to engage with the global community.

As we embark on this transformative journey, I invite each member of our community to embrace the values embedded in our mission. Your participation, enthusiasm, and dedication will play a vital role in the success of this endeavor, reinforcing our position as leaders in Seventh-day Adventist nursing education.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared mission.

Warm regards,

Shawn Collins, PhD, DNP, CRNA,
FAANA
Dean

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ON THE COVER

A artistic rendering
of the future home
of the Loma Linda
University School of
Nursing.

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THE NEXT CHAPTER —

Loma Linda University School of Nursing enters a new era as the campaign for its new building begins.

By Nancy Yuen

Each issue of Loma Linda NURSE highlights stories of skilled and compassionate nursing students, faculty and alumni. The education the School of Nursing provides stays with School of Nursing students after graduation. It continues throughout their careers, reaching far beyond the Loma Linda campus to impact communities throughout the United States and around the world.

“The School of Nursing was our first school,” says Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president, Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) “along with a School for Cooks and Bakers, beginning in 1905, four years before the School of Medicine.”

“In my view,” says Dr. Hart, “nurses establish the culture of hospitals more than any other discipline. It is critical that we train Loma Linda nurses sufficient for the many Adventist hospitals in this country, and around the world. Our School of Nursing will continue to lead the way in this endeavor.”

Internationally, the School of Nursing is a critical part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s health care work. “Our School of Nursing now anchors over 100 schools of nursing in the Adventist Church around the



world,” says Dr. Hart. “We provide advanced degrees at the masters and PhD levels to develop their faculty and leadership. Our nurses have also helped to start over 100 hospitals in various countries.”

Home to the School of Nursing – West Hall and the critical need for expansion

When alumni from the School of Nursing look back on their training at Loma Linda University, they recall the many “firsts” that took place in West Hall’s classrooms and labs, home to the School of Nursing for a half century. They may remember the first time their class met together; the first time they practiced drawing blood, or the calming wisdom shared by a caring faculty member that provided them with the confidence to continue and to succeed.

West Hall has undergone significant changes over the decades as programs such as the Doctor of Nursing Practice (Nurse Anesthesia) were added, not only increasing the number of students at the School but requiring dedicated classrooms and office space for faculty.

While space in the School of Nursing has been thoughtfully and carefully managed, “We do not currently have the physical space at West Hall for the whole class to meet together at one time,” says Shawn Collins, PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAANA, dean of the School of Nursing.

The need for additional space at the School of Nursing became critical when, due to the shortage of nurses in California following the COVID-19 pandemic, Loma Linda University was asked by the state to increase the School’s class sizes. “We’ve committed to expand 25 percent, which will take us from 168 to 210 students,” says Dr. Collins. “With additional classroom space we could expand another 43 percent, from 210 to 300 students.”

Faced with these realities, School of Nursing leadership began to dream—What if? What if, for the first time since its beginning in 1905, faculty could design a space that would serve as an idyllic educational and research space? What if a new building could be constructed and how could the building’s design make it easier to teach? Could the building be located in close proximity to West Hall?

According to Dr. Collins, a School of Nursing Building Committee worked diligently to address these questions, while creating plans for the expansion.

The dream became a reality when construction of the new building was approved by the Loma Linda University Health Board in 202_. The decision was made to allocate space for the new structure next to West Hall, adjacent to Barton Road.

The expansion addresses the pressing need to increase class size and will create classroom spaces

where larger groups of students can gather on campus. The new building and its design also support future plans for the School of Nursing. With its growth beyond West Hall, the School will have the ability to facilitate new and enhanced connections among students, faculty and alumni both on site and virtually.

As they met, members of the Building Committee weighed and documented resources necessary for faculty and staff to excel in their roles. Always at front of mind: how could the building best accommodate the growing number of students and faculty, and what elements would be needed to benefit students, faculty, and staff?



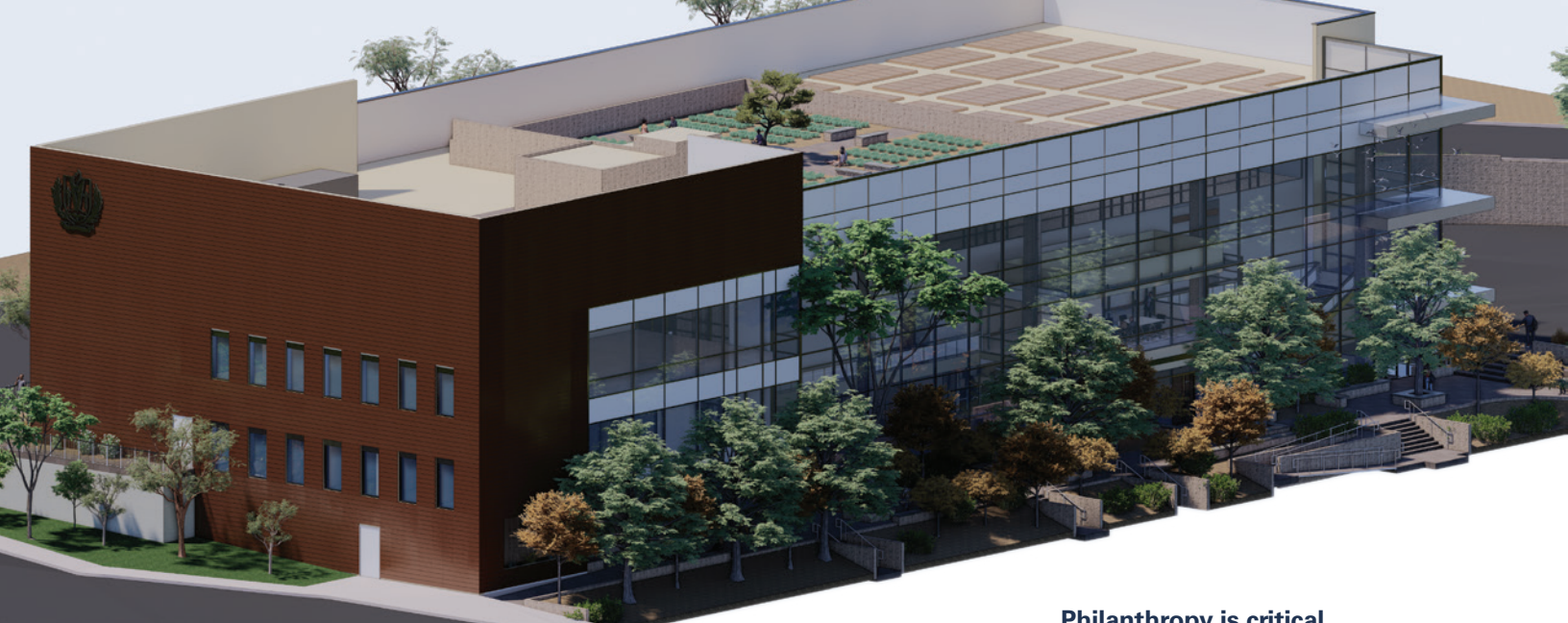
A courtyard walkway will connect West Hall to the new building as well as provide a safe outdoor space for students to congregate.



Conference rooms will provide much needed space for staff and faculty to hold meetings.



The first floor lobby will be designed for student life, offering a variety of different spaces accommodating to the various study needs of our students.



Plans come to life: The new building

The new School of Nursing building will be 55,214 square feet. Its design and plans include state-of-the-art learning spaces with thoughtful integration of technology that will accommodate classroom and lab needs while supporting the growing number of programs offered by the School via distance education.

The School of Nursing has already started a number of online programs, including the RN to BSN program and the global PhD program for adventist nursing educators around the world.

Virtual learning and the use of technology such as virtual reality to train groups of students together in a single setting are integrated into the expansion plans.

Following instructions from the Building Committee, an architectural design and renderings of the three-story building were completed. The design is currently undergoing an internal review process for approval before it goes to the city of Loma Linda for approval.

Initially, the new building will accommodate 800 undergraduate students. Graduate students, administration and faculty offices will stay in the current West Hall

building. “Care was taken to create spaces that enhance the student experience,” says Dr. Collins.

Just as important as classrooms, offices, conference and meeting rooms and student study rooms are places for students to connect. The ground floor of the building will serve as the student lounge/student commons area and study rooms, facilitating student interaction and relaxation outside of class.

On the building’s second floor, a 9,200 square foot classroom will make it possible for entire classes to meet together in one space. Then, as needed the larger classroom can be divided into four smaller classrooms.

Also on the second floor a smaller 3,540 square foot classroom will be located which has the option to be divided into two classrooms. The remainder of the second floor is comprised of office space for the undergraduate dean and faculty, and three conference rooms that can accommodate 8, 10, and 20 people.

“While initially the building’s third story will be built as a shell,” informs Dr. Collins, “we are hopeful that we will ultimately raise enough funds that the School will also be able to complete that space.”

On the busy Loma Linda campus where parking can be challenging, 72 parking spaces will be available behind the structure.

Philanthropy is critical

“Our biggest challenge now,” says Dr. Hart, “is raising the funds for the building. This is part of our Stronger Together campaign, with several other major projects included.”

While cost for the new School of Nursing building will be between \$50 to \$60 million, according to Dr. Hart, completion of the new building will be made possible through the generosity of donors, with a philanthropic goal of \$15 million.

Nursing leadership is grateful for the loyal alumni donors whose gifts over the years have provided scholarships, funded remodeling of classrooms and supported international nursing initiatives, among many projects.

Philanthropic gifts needed to complete the new School of Nursing building are included in the Loma Linda University Health campaign, “Stronger Together.” The \$15 million goal will be fulfilled through generous gifts of all amounts including personal and family legacy gifts that can be realized over five or six years. For more information or to make a gift, visit: lluh.org/giving/stronger-together-campaign.

Impact of the expansion and gratitude

The influence of caring School of Nursing alumni in their professional practice reaches well past the borders of Loma Linda and beyond

California. “Patients tell us that they can feel the whole person care from the Loma Linda nursing alumni,” says Rachelle Bussell, CFRE, MA, senior vice president for advancement, Loma Linda University Health. “After graduation, many of our alumni relocate all over the country, sharing the mission and values that are an integral part of the training they received here.”

She is inspired by the gratitude donors who have no direct personal connection to the School of Nursing have shown. “A patient who experienced the care given by one of our alumni,” she says, “made a substantial gift to ensure that the training her nurse had received at the School of Nursing continues.”

According to Bussell, many areas in the new building are available for naming opportunities, recognizing the generosity of donors. Architectural renderings depict the building surrounded by ample green space; the interior is marked by its openness. Expanses of glass windows add to the ambiance, and throughout the building accent walls of natural material, wood floor and ceilings create a modern yet organic feel. Naming opportunities are available throughout the facility including for the classrooms--open and spacious; and for exterior areas that will contain greenery and trees.

Funding for the expansion will also be made through grants. According to Dr. Hart, many advances in education over the years have been championed by the School of Nursing. “The School,” he says, “recently received another grant from the Guenther Foundation for \$275,000 to expand and upgrade their skills lab, enabling many students to develop solid skills before ever interacting with live patients. They have held conferences around the world to share these skills with many others.”

Dr. Collins anticipates many benefits that the new building will have for students, faculty, and staff. “We are thrilled about the new space’s potential,” he says. “We have worked hard to create an amazing experience—building in spaces and features to bring joy to those studying and working there.”

He looks forward to the larger classrooms, creating space for faculty and special guests to speak to entire classes of students. “The students will experience the inspiration that comes from being part of a larger group,” he says.

The expansion will also help with faculty recruitment and retention, he says, further enhancing the education offered by the School.



A large kitchen and smartroom will offer additional student life resources on the first floor.



A large conference style space will take up most of the space in the second floor, with the option of being partitioned into three smaller classrooms (holding up to 110 students each when enclosed).



Study rooms will provide a private space for small study groups. Students will be able to reserve these spaces for use. With floor to ceiling white board paint, students will literally be able to write on the walls.



Conference rooms will allow for clinical instructors and faculty to have a debriefing place after clinicals.

From planning to reality

With the excitement and anticipation surrounding the School’s expansion, how soon might the new building become a reality?

“It is true that developing complete program plans, designing the building, selecting the site, raising the funds and actually constructing the building can take considerable time,” says Dr. Hart. “It is hoped that this project can be started within two to three years and it would be expected to take about a year to complete.”

The impact made by School of Nursing locally, regionally and globally, would not be possible without the continued support of the alumni and friends of the School who have given so graciously. It will be strengthened more as even greater numbers of students study and learn in the new building, preparing to begin their careers in nursing.



50 Years OF WEST HALL

Looking back on five decades in Loma Linda University School of Nursing's current home and celebrating the journey that brought us here.

By Nancy Yuen

Over many decades, an institution's motto and mission can powerfully guide its vision and path. Loma Linda University Health's mission has helped guide the story of the School of Nursing from its faculty, staff and students, to its very foundation.

Loma Linda's mission states that it is committed "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ." The intent goes further. "We are committed 'To make man whole,' in a setting of advancing medical science and providing a stimulating clinical and research environment for the education of physicians, nurses and other health professionals."

The Loma Linda University Health campus is comprised of iconic buildings named for characters from its history: Burden, Shryock, Evans, Prince, Lindsay, Hinshaw, each with its own story and place in helping to fulfill the university's mission.

One building of significance in the University's history is West Hall, home to the School of Nursing.

In 1973, the U.S. ended its involvement in the Vietnam war, gasoline was 39 cents a gallon; nursing

students were anticipating changing their uniforms from pinafores to pantsuits. It also was the year that the School of Nursing moved into the Linda Valley Convalescent Hospital building. The building was renamed West Hall the following year.

A brief history

The School of Nursing at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) was originally housed in the basement of the Sanitarium Complex (known as the Annex) – the original Mound City Hotel. The college's nursing, physical and occupational therapy programs were the final three to call the facility home.

Seeking to fulfill the University's promise to provide a stimulating clinical environment, the school stretched to oversee training in Los Angeles after CME established training programs at White Memorial Hospital and L.A. County General. The new sites provided a greater variety of patients for the nursing and medical students to see. At the time, LA County General allocated half of its 3,400 beds to the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) and half to USC.

In 1966, less than 10 years before relocating to West Hall, the School of Nursing was consolidated from the two campuses – moving from offices in a basement of the Nurses Home at White Memorial Hospital (known as "The City") and "the farm," in the more rural Inland Empire.

The School of Nursing was central to the success of the new University Hospital, and its students and faculty moved from the previous locations, some 60 miles removed, after a key decision made by the presidents committee in 1967. In June of that year, the president's committee, at the request of hospital administration, voted to encompass the



Hospital's nursing services into responsibilities of the dean of the School of Nursing.

On June 9, 1967: in a scheduled disaster practice, 40 U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marine medics from General Patton U.S. Army Reserve Center in Maywood, moved 125 patients by bus and ambulance into the new Loma Linda University Hospital.

The School of Nursing moved into its new home on the hospital's sixth floor in the Kathryn Jensen Nelson Wing. Nursing faculty moved into offices throughout the hospital, and classes were held on different floors of the hospital.

A home of its own: West Hall: 11262 Campus Street

In 1973, in order to make additional hospital space available for medical research, the School of Nursing moved into a former convalescent hospital located on the west edge of campus, across the street from the Medical Center. Interestingly, the building's new name, "West Hall" made it the only building on campus to be named not for a person, but for its location!

The school was given half of West Hall, sharing the space with the department of psychiatry. The new location had features which were an improvement over the hospital quarters. The faculty, staff, and students were finally in close proximity, in one place. There was

space for an entire class to meet.

West Hall offered amenities that not many offices have. Due to building's original design as a convalescent facility, many of the faculty offices had a restroom. Faculty teaching in the early days remember challenges—heavy rains caused portions of the building to flood.

Deans including Drs. Marilyn Herrmann and Becky Bossert made it a practice to walk the hallways of West Hall, connecting with faculty outside of formal meetings.

Each office was unique, with faculty decorating their space to create a comfortable place to work and a welcoming environment for students.

Dean Helen King used her love for architecture, to envision and transform what had been described as a dry, outdoor central space at the center of the building into a peaceful courtyard with a garden at the far end. Faculty offices overlooked the courtyard.

The addition of a kitchen provided opportunities for the school to be more hospitable. After challenging committee meetings, faculty often paused to connect over meals they prepared together. School staff and students enjoyed potlucks, snacks and refreshments that marked numerous celebrations.

Care and attention to students' needs have also made an imprint on West Hall. Current faculty, students and many alumni recall how they were empowered personally, and

went on to continue and complete their nursing program through the school's Academic Center for Excellence (ACE). The setting for the ACE came to life in a space created after a dusty storage area was transformed to create its location.

The addition of programs such as the Nurse Anesthesia program also called for dedicated space for faculty.

As requests to partner with the School were received from nursing educators, clinics and hospitals around the world, space at West Hall was allocated for international nursing, with dedicated office space for faculty and support staff so that the school could respond.

In the 1990s, the previously used mimeograph machines and Scantrons were made obsolete with the introduction of computers at the school. This necessitating office space for IT support; and the building space changed to accommodate the new technology.

Through the years, generous gifts from alumni and friends of the School of Nursing have assisted in renovating and improving the school with state-of-the-art classrooms and faculty offices.

Alumni will continue to come home to the school during Alumni Homecoming, and with each visit, West hall will also continue to change to accommodate new programs, new students and to meet the School's needs as it continues to fulfill its vision.



MEETING OUR NEW DEAN

Shawn Collins,

PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAANA

By Meghann Heinrich

Shawn Collins, PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAANA, is no stranger to firsts. In the spring of 2023, he was appointed Dean of Loma Linda University School of Nursing (LLUSN)—the first male to hold this position in the school’s history. And just a few years ago, when Dr. Collins first joined LLUSN faculty as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, he was the only male dean at a Seventh-day Adventist nursing school in the nation. Throughout his career he has resonated with the compassionate element of nursing and sought ways to nurture new generations of caring, adept nursing professionals.

Dr. Collins’ journey to nursing, and ultimately to LLUSN and his current leadership position, is one marked by God’s providence and a hunger to learn. A fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist, Dr. Collins was born in Massachusetts and spent his childhood years in New Hampshire. He grew up watching his mother practice the art of nursing, even accompanying her to the hospital on occasion to witness her craft up close. These visits sparked an interest that would blossom into a calling. “I was

exposed early on and consistently to the caring side of the profession, the side where nurses are the patient advocates for hours-long shifts,” Dr. Collins recalls. Following in his mother’s footsteps, he attended Southern Adventist University’s nursing program where he met his wife, Beverly. Today, Beverly is a geriatric nurse practitioner and they have two children.

While still relatively new to the nursing profession, Dr. Collins’ interest was piqued by the ability to prevent and take away pain. This curiosity led him to earn a Master’s in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Recognizing the doors that education opens and the life-shaping power of learning, his educational pursuits did not end there. Dr. Collins went on to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Rush University and a PhD in Leadership from Andrews University. On the subject of formal education and the degrees he pursued, Dr. Collins shares, “Each of those brought a unique perspective, but all of them an appreciation for education. My wife and I are firm believers in education as critical to the path forward in life’s journey.”

While completing his first postgraduate degree, Dr. Collins came to the realization that nurturing and educating students was a life goal of his. A goal he has met several times over serving in various instructional and leadership capacities at several institutions including Western Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Andrews University, and LLUSN.

The decision to come to Loma Linda University in 2019 was made possible through God’s guidance. Dr. Collins recalls seeking change after serving at Western Carolina University for over ten years. At that time he was impressed to apply for a position at LLUSN, feeling it was time to give back to the Church and work in a faith-based institution. However, prior to applying to LLUSN, he had applied and interviewed for a different position at University of Tulsa. Job offers were extended from both institutions that required answers on the same day! Dr. Collins and his family put out a proverbial fleece, praying for the right door to open and the wrong door to close. Dr. Collins remembers feeling quite certain the answer would point toward University of Tulsa, but to his surprise, “God clearly demonstrated we were to come to Loma Linda.”

With a wealth of experience in both the theoretical and practical applications of leadership, Dr. Collins has had time to reflect on his own approach to leadership in the context of nursing education. He describes his leadership style as, “...primarily situational servant leadership, all stemming from a desire for social responsibility.”

Dr. Collins steps into the dean position with clear goals in mind. At the top of the list, he emphasizes the primary goal of his tenure will be to maintain a Christ-centered focus in all aspects of the School of Nursing.

He expands this definition to describe a culture of accountability that begins with the individual and ripples outward through words and actions. He strives to identify and encourage the strengths of team members while providing ample resources to enable success.

Dr. Collins steps into the dean position with clear goals in mind. At the top of the list, he emphasizes the primary goal of his tenure will be to maintain a Christ-centered focus in all aspects of the School of Nursing. Prior to joining LLUSN, Dr. Collins served at a secular university where expressions of faith were not allowed. Now, he is grateful to be in a position where faith plays a central role in all aspects of his work, “...the ability to freely share your faith in the work environment is liberating,” he says. While keeping Christ at the center, Dr. Collins’ goals for the School of Nursing include: strongly advocating for faculty and staff, maintaining board pass rates at or above 90% in all programs, building capacity through construction of a new building, working toward National Institutes of Health funding, and solidifying and expanding LLUSN influence through a strengthened Office of Global Nursing.

With a spirit of collaboration and vision for the future, Dr. Collins looks forward to the coming years and new chapters for LLUSN, “I believe God has a special purpose for LLUSN. Those serving in the school have an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I look forward to what God has in store.”

Gloria Mattson Huerta

New Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs

by **Nancy Yuen**

Dr. Gloria Mattson Huerta has been named Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs at the School of Nursing. The degrees and certifications that follow her name attest to the knowledge she brings to the position: DNP, FNP-C, NHDP-BC, AGNP-C, CNS, RN.

In her new role, Dr. Huerta oversees the School of Nursing's doctor of nursing practice (DNP), MS degree programs, the BS to PhD, and the MS to PhD programs.

In 1997, Dr. Huerta completed her Master of Science in Nursing at the School of Nursing. "When I returned in 2015 to join the faculty as Masters and DNP Program Director, it felt like I was coming home," she says.

Dr. Huerta is passionate about the importance of faculty-conducted research. "Our faculty add to the science of nursing through their research," she says. Having experienced the challenges of pursuing research while teaching, Dr. Huerta is determined to support faculty as they conduct scholarly activities such as evidence-based practice and research. She plans to evaluate the role of the faculty so they have time to participate in evidence based-practice and research projects. "External funding from philanthropy has the potential to help us add faculty and lower teaching loads, providing time for them to conduct scholarly work and collaborate with colleagues," she says.

She is grateful for the School's strong network of alumni. "They make the School of Nursing stronger,"

she says, noting that Loma Linda graduates working in the field provide a wealth of knowledge. "As our students become immersed in learning experiences in the real world, the time alumni donate to educate them is invaluable."

"It's something to think about—a faith-based education is expensive," she continues. "Serving as a clinical preceptor is hard work. A special skillset is required to teach and mentor students. We are grateful for the time and resources our alumni share. It's a gift they give back to the School."

She is a strong advocate for lifelong learning. "Exploring advanced degrees can lead to career advancement or a change to a new field," she says. As nurses inquire about postgraduate programs, Dr. Huerta's advice springs from her own life. "I encourage them to follow their passion, to follow their heart," she says.

"The goal isn't to increase enrollment in every one of the graduate programs," she says. "It is important that we do our best to ensure there will be job openings for our students after completing their degree." To accomplish this, Dr. Huerta is assessing the changing health care needs and trends, interfacing with the School's clinical partners—health care providers located in multiple counties throughout Southern California.

As Dr. Huerta traces her career path working in the fields of nursing, education and emergency medicine, she warmly and openly shares stories that helped define her journey. A theme she touches on is that it's OK to question and to explore during one's career quest. Trying different things can create a stronger, more resilient nurse who is able to connect deeply with patients and families.

She is the first person in her family to complete an undergraduate degree. Her mother wanted to become a nurse but fainted at the sight of blood. This didn't discourage Dr. Huerta, whose initial aspiration to enter the health care field as a physician led her to her calling. She is certain of God's leading in her life. "Keep your eyes and ears open for God's path," is advice she often shares with students.

After completing her bachelor's in nursing with a minor in sociology at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas, in 1975, Dr. Huerta accepted her first nursing position. "As students we were taught to go by the book, to follow processes," she says. When she discovered that the workplace didn't always ascribe to the processes she had been taught, she left to pursue graduate study at Texas A&M University.



Her coursework in sociology and anthropology provided wisdom that stayed with her when she reentered the nursing profession. “When a patient doesn’t follow medical advice, sociology taught me to look for reasons that may originate from their personal life or socioeconomic status,” she says.

Dr. Huerta’s testimony contains a powerful message for students, faculty and graduates as they face challenging roles. She says, “Each time I finished a degree program I was certain that I knew enough; I

was good enough. No one person can know it all, and people around me were there to support me. As I stepped into professional roles, I was confident about what I’d learned and what I had kept in my brain.” A constant throughout her roles in patient care, administration and with the county is that she thought on her feet and cared about each patient. “With each job I felt that,” she says.

These skills are critical to her role as a member of one of the nation’s 80 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams. She is deployed

by the U.S. Health and Human Services’ Department of Disaster Medical Services three to four times a year after federal disasters requiring health care support have been declared. In late August she traveled to Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia. She also was on duty when the first passengers traveling from China arrived at March Air Force Base as news of COVID-19 escalated in the global media.

When asked what brings her joy, she replies, “Regalia worn by the students and faculty at graduation is a symbol that the faculty have done their job. Passing national licensing exam is the evidence. I feel joy when I learn that our students have passed their licensing exams.”

Dr. Huerta sees potential for future educational offerings-- Emergency Nurse Practitioner Program and a Nurse Midwifery / Women’s Health Nurse program may provide needed candidates for openings in the region.

She acknowledges the strong leadership of the immediate past associate dean, who developed and implemented several new advanced degree programs. Dr. Shawn Collins is the School’s new dean.

How to learn more about School of Nursing Graduate Programs: Nurses from throughout the United States enter the School’s graduate programs; 50-70 percent of the programs are hybrid and do not require students to relocate to Loma Linda. Informational Zoom sessions are scheduled on an ongoing basis, and potential students can talk with staff who are available to provide information and to answer questions. nursing.llu.edu/programs

Understanding Adventist Nursing Theory

A conversation with Dr. Patricia Jones.

by Brianna Bolaños



Dr. Patricia Jones has always had a love for global nursing. In 1966, she and her husband John moved to Hong Kong to teach at South China Union College (now Hong Kong Adventist College) in what was then the Far Eastern Division of SDAs. While there, Dr. Jones developed a nursing program jointly operated by the college and Hong Kong Adventist Hospital. Later, they relocated to the Philippines, where she helped to open a Master of Science in Nursing program at the Adventist University of the

Philippines (AUP). She spent the next eight years at AUP teaching in the master's degree program and, for two of those years, serving as an associate director in the Far Eastern Division Departments of Health and Education.

In 1987, Dr. Jones accepted an appointment to the faculty of Loma Linda University School of Nursing (LLUSN). Concurrently, she received external sponsorship to do a part-time post-doctoral program at the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Afaf Meleis, a leading expert in nursing theory

development, was her mentor.

In 1997, the General Conference approached LLUSN to appoint a faculty member to function as a liaison between the Health Ministries Department and the global SDA nursing network. Such a position had a long history at the General Conference, starting with the appointment of a full-time nurse with a bachelor's degree in 1921. That position lasted for 59 years and led to the development of a progressive global network of SDA schools of nursing and hospital nursing departments.



As of 1990, the position was no longer funded, leaving the network without leadership. The new leadership in the Department of Health Ministries chose to fill this gap through a collaborative arrangement with LLUSN wherein a faculty member would be appointed to assume the role on a part-time basis. Based on her previous work with the departments of health and education in the Far East Division of SDAs, Dr. Jones was invited to assume this role. With an appreciation and recognition of the emerging substantive global

network, she took on the role with full commitment while maintaining her research program and teaching responsibilities at the School of Nursing.

As Professor Jones began this new venture, she delved into historical documents on Adventist nursing worldwide, including the work of ASDAN, the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses that began in 1967 in the United States. One of the goals of ASDAN had been to clarify what was distinctive about SDA nursing. In her visits to various countries in Asia, Jones often heard comments from nursing leaders who were not associated with the SDA church that, historically, the Adventist school of nursing had been the most outstanding in their respective country for many years. Graduates of those schools were highly sought after for employment. “There was clearly something distinctive about Adventist nursing education!” Jones says.

Jones encountered a deep desire from SDA nurse educators and leaders to feel connected with the larger SDA nursing mission and vision and to understand what was distinctive about their education and practice. This motivated her to investigate these questions further and share her findings with colleagues globally. “I didn’t do it alone,” she says. “Dr. Edelweiss Ramal had a similar interest in answering these questions. Being fluent in three languages and having a broad international background of experience, she was well-equipped to partner in this endeavor. She and I worked together closely in designing a global research project and collecting and analyzing the data.”

“We wanted to learn from Adventist nurses around the world how they would describe the distinctiveness of their practice and their education. We didn’t start by selecting a theory and using it to describe Adventist nursing. We used an inductive approach in which we documented participants’ responses to our questions and then analyzed their comments to identify key concepts and constructs that were descriptive of Adventist nursing.” Interview data were collected from 213 nurses and nurse educators using three languages, English, Spanish and French, often at conferences where these nurses were present.

The concepts and constructs identified became the ‘building blocks’ of an integrative global framework for nursing education and practice as described by Adventist nurses and nurse educators from 29 countries. “The wonderful thing about the framework is that it’s all about whole person care—the hallmark of Adventist healthcare. Accordingly, it’s not a framework that will change in relevance over time.”

The framework has already been published in the *Journal of Adventist Education* (Jones, et al., 2017), and is available in three languages: English, Spanish, and French. A collective volume co-edited by Patricia Jones, Edelweiss Ramal, and Anne Berit Petersen, *Whole Person Care: Adventist Nursing in Action*, is in press and will be published soon by Safeliz in hard copy and electronic form.

Jones concludes: “The history of Adventist nursing education now spans 140 years, and the number of programs is rapidly approaching 100 worldwide. It is a privilege to be associated with this vibrant, growing network.”

Jones, P. S., James, B. R., Owino, J., Abemyil, M., Paredes, A., & Ramal, E. (2017). A distinctive framework for Adventist nursing. *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 79(5), 4-13. <https://jae.adventist.org/2017.5.2>.

KAILEY DOTY

The Nurse I Want to Be

By Jackson Boren

When Kailey Doty, '23 started the undergraduate nursing program at Loma Linda University School of Nursing at the height of the pandemic she knew she was in for a unique challenge. But she learned quickly that she was not alone in her nursing journey and that she had a support system that stretch from the front of the classroom to the seats on either side of her. Kailey cites that her peers were a big part of surviving and thriving in the program, saying, "Nursing school offers a distinct experience, understood best by those in trenches beside you, navigating it firsthand. The friendships made during this time are special; its like having another family made up of people going through the same tough stuff as you."

The early origins of Kailey's nursing journey actually stem from a health scare she had as a child, she explains, "Nursing has been my passion since childhood. My early encounter with bacterial meningitis profoundly influenced me after hearing my parents' stories and witnessing their challenges. I became fascinated with the medical field."

Once she was started as a student in the nursing program, Kailey found the support of the faculty

to be a tremendous asset to her journey, saying, "Throughout the program I always felt genuinely supported by the faculty and that they really wanted the best for me and my classmates." Doty feels that the mentorship offered during her transition into the workforce was a vital asset to her success. "I've been fortunate to have incredible mentors and preceptors during nursing school and through the new grad program who have significantly shaped my perspective and guided me." This guidance also put into perspective the kind of nurse she wanted to be, which she described, saying, "Apart from being skilled and competent, my desire is to embody compassion as a nurse. Nurse burnout is real, and I'm committed to never becoming complacent. I want to do what I need to do outside of work so that when I come into work I can be the best nurse for my patients."



Another area that Kailey found growth in while at LLUSN was her spiritual walk, citing the influence from her professors as profoundly preparing her to support her patients as well as herself. Kailey said, "My professors were there to help and pray with me when things got hard. It surprised me how much I changed spiritually. Now I can offer prayers to my patients, something I couldn't do before." She points to this as one way she has become more well rounded as a nurse, benefitting her on both a personal and professional level.

One thing that significantly impacted Kailey's spiritual walk as a student was the experiences she had participating in international mission trips offered by Loma Linda University. "Not only did [the mission trips] lead me back to Christ and going to church, but I also got to see and do things most nursing students don't get to experience, all while seeing the beauty of other countries." Doty quickly became a proponent for student mission trip experience, saying "They take you out of your comfort zone and teach you about diseases we might not typically experience here in the states. I always came back refreshed and ready to take on the next quarter and maybe even apply what I learned on a trip."

While she was a student Kailey was also a recipient of the prestigious Daisy Award that



is given to nurses to recognize excellent care and service in their profession. “This is an award that all nurses talk about and strive for and to receive it before even starting my career as a nurse was truly amazing. It was certainly confirmation that our actions really do make a difference no matter how small.”

Doty points to a healthy balance being the key to what helped her succeed as a student and now as a nursing professional, saying “There are times when it gets hard, but you must remember your why. You can’t give your best when you aren’t feeling your best. You have to find that balance in nursing school so that when you transition into nursing practice you don’t get burned out.”

It has been a year since graduating and Kailey is working in the Pediatric ICU at Loma Linda Medical Center and finding true fulfillment in her work. “Getting to work with these kiddos and their parents during the most difficult times in their lives is very rewarding and I honestly couldn’t picture myself anywhere else.” Doty finds satisfaction in seeing the journey of her patients’ recovery, saying “The most meaningful part for me is seeing the kids improve and getting to build a relationship with them and their families. I go into every shift with the mindset that if I can just make their ICU stay a little bit easier, I have succeeded.”



2023 PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT

NORIE BENCITO ACAAC DNP, MBA, RN, CENP

by Nancy Yuen

Norie Bencito Acaac, DNP, MBA, RN, CENP, was co-chairing the Association of California Nurse Leaders' (ACNL) Nurse Leadership Development Committee when colleagues began calling her "Dr. Bencito."

In her personal statement Dr. Bencito says that her work with ACNL had enabled her to join her voice with others in support of the profession, equipping nurses with leadership skills and influencing the future of healthcare. It also sparked her interest in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the School of Nursing. It was when she first heard the honorific "Dr." before her name for the first time that she decided to pursue the DNP degree.

Dr. Bencito is assistant vice president for clinical operations at Loma Linda University Medical Center. While she had successfully completed hundreds of projects during her career, the DNP program provided structure as she completed coursework requirements, she says. In addition, the program made it possible for her to expand her platform, sharing her research with a much wider audience.

For her research project, Dr. Bencito chose to examine resiliency and mid-level administrative staff in the healthcare setting. When she examined the literature, she didn't find much about resilience and managers. This piqued her interest. "Managers set the tone for the unit," she says. "They are the captain of the ship."

Her research, conducted at Loma Linda University Health, revealed that implementing coaching for mid-level managers over a three-month period has the potential to increase managers' resilience and emotional IQ. Her research findings have been shared as a poster at the 2023 Western Institute of Nursing Conference, the 2023 LLUH Evidence-Based Practice Conference, and the 2023 SoCal Sigma Theta Tau Odyssey Conference. Even more Loma Linda University Health staff will benefit when the program she designed is offered next year.

Dr. Bencito offers advice to students and colleagues who are pursuing research. "Choose a passion project," she says. "It will make it easier to keep going when the process becomes tough and draining."

She faced challenges while completing the program. In addition to her studies, she was working full-time as a vice president during the pandemic, when the number of COVID-19 units at the LLU Medical Center increased from one out of nine to seven out of nine. The wife and mother of two sons persevered, and when she learned she had been chosen to receive the President's Award, she chose not to share the information with her husband, family or friends in advance of the honor. "The Adventist world is small," she says. Somehow the word got out, and her parents and former classmates learned of the honor on several social media groups they were members of.

Throughout her life, Dr. Bencito's journey has been led by her faith and her belief in God's leading. She decided to move from the Philippines to the United States when she saw a recruiting ad that proclaimed, "Come to Loma Linda. Be a Nurse," on the back cover of the Adventist Review. After moving to Loma Linda, she experienced the global commonality of the Adventist subculture. As an example, she had eaten haystacks, the traditional Adventist meal that is featured at Sabbath lunch each year during LLUH Homecoming, as a child in the Philippines.

After arriving in Loma Linda, Dr. Bencito planned to work for one year on the cardiac intensive care unit, complete her master's degree, and then possibly teach at the School of Nursing. Her course changed, however, when her nurse manager said, "You have natural leadership abilities, you should consider changing your plans." During her next performance evaluation, her manager again mentioned her leadership potential, asking: "Have your plans changed?"

After interviewing for her first managerial position, she couldn't sleep. She wondered "How will I know what to do?" She found clarity in a sermon on the Psalms

given by Pastor Blunt. “If God called you to be a leader, He will provide everything you need to succeed. There is nothing to worry about.”

The guidance led her to consider new opportunities, which led to her accepting a succession of increasingly significant leadership positions. Prior to her current position as vice president she served as executive director of acute care, inpatient and outpatient dialysis, and wound care. Before that she was a nurse manager for LLUMC acute medicine unit and acute/intermediate medical unit. While she had been happy and successful in each prior position, she was open to God’s leading and direction. “He puts your passion into your heart, so you can meet your purpose and serve others,” she says.

Throughout her career, she says, she has not strayed far from her very first career goal—to become an architect. “I am building—I build people, I build teams.” She pauses. “I wouldn’t be content in my leadership position without paying it forward.” She explains that as she mentors staff she honors her own mentors who saw her talents and strengths and encouraged her to try increasingly challenging roles.

Dr. Bencito is active in her church. She assists with Adventurers and Pathfinders, teaches Sabbath School classes, volunteers with Vacation Bible School and other church activities.

The President’s Award, the highest award given to a graduating senior, is presented in recognition of academic excellence, and active participation in the student community within the context of Christian commitment. It was presented to Dr. Bencito during the conferring of degrees ceremony for the School of Nursing.





Haircuts and Mental Health

JOSHUA J. MASIH,
DNP, PMHNP

by Meghann Heinrich

For Joshua J. Masih, DNP, PMHNP nursing is more than a profession, it is an avenue through which he expresses compassion and care for the most vulnerable among us. He approaches nursing as a daily invitation to ministry. As he puts it, “Above being a nurse and an educator, I am called to be an ambassador of Christ.”

Dr. Masih’s family hails from Pakistan, though he was born in Kuwait and moved to the United States when he was three years old. He was raised in Redlands, California, a stone’s throw from Loma Linda University where he would one day work, earn his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, and eventually teach. Born to a family of nurses, Dr. Masih grew up hearing stories from his father of working in mission hospitals in Pakistan. “These hospitals provided training and jobs for the Pakistani Christians who were persecuted and not provided with the same opportunities as others in the Islamic country because of their faith,” he shares.

Seeing his father's passion for the field inspired him to pursue nursing as well.

Upon earning his Bachelor's of Nursing degree from West Coast University in 2013, Dr. Masih took his first nursing job in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). Knowing this position would be a foundational stepping stone for his career, he seized the opportunity to learn as much as he could. However, his time at the SNF was cut short by an invitation to join the nursing team at Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center (LLUBMC) on the child and adolescent unit. "Although my plan was to eventually transfer to the ER or ICU, I quickly fell in love with mental health nursing and realized that it was the field God was calling me to. In mental health nursing, I had countless opportunities to provide spiritual care and present patients with the hope that only comes from Christ," he said.

Dr. Masih stayed at LLUBMC for six years, during which time he continued his educational pursuits and earned his DNP through LLUSN. Shortly thereafter, a new door opened and Dr. Masih began his current position of caring for patients at SAC Health in San Bernardino, California, as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). This position allows him to work in outpatient psychiatry and addiction clinics, an area he has truly come to love.

Working with mental health patients at SAC Health exposed Dr. Masih to the most vulnerable populations in San Bernardino County. In his words, "[It has] opened my eyes to the health disparities present in my own community. Many of my patients are jobless, homeless, and haven't been dealt the best cards in life. I have had several patients tell me they used the last of their gas money to come see me for their psychiatry appointment. I have had countless patient encounters which are forever etched in my heart that continue to fuel my passion for psychiatry and addiction medicine. As my passion for this population continued to grow, it led me to move outside of the walls of the clinic and into the streets to serve these individuals right where they are."

And move outside he did! A man of many talents, Dr. Masih has been giving haircuts to friends and family members for many years and thought his barber skills might be a practical way to connect with and care for his homeless neighbors. In October 2021, he began giving free haircuts to homeless individuals he met around town. Finding he always gained more than he gave, Dr. Masih founded the nonprofit organization Street Shaves. Street Shaves consists of a team of barbers who regularly go into the community to offer haircuts to homeless individuals, free of charge. Three times per



month (more if requested), Street Shaves partners with community organizations, community members, and churches to offer their services to underserved people in the Redlands area. They also commit to regularly going out on the street to meet people wherever they might be. "This is my favorite way of serving because we get to meet them right where they're at, both literally and figuratively," Dr. Masih said.

Dr. Masih is grateful for the mentorship and education he gained through LLUSN. As the PMHNP Program Coordinator, a position he took in 2022, he strives to support his students in the same way he was supported. He likens educating students to caring for patients, "I have learned how to best support my patients during the most difficult seasons of their lives. In many ways, working as an educator can be a similar experience. Most graduate students are experiencing some of the most stressful seasons of their lives as they try to juggle taking very challenging graduate courses, completing clinical hours, working in nursing to pay their bills, and for many of them, raising small children at the same time." He finds the empathy necessary to be an effective nurse has informed his approach as an educator.

To Dr. Masih, being a Loma Linda nurse means caring for patients beyond their physical needs. Whether that means addressing their emotional state, the state of their hair, or their spiritual needs, the concept is the same. Dr. Masih believes, "A Loma Linda nurse sees their patients as much more than just their diagnosis and treats them with a kindness and compassion that reflects the love of Christ."

Simran Sougu

The nursing graduate shares about how she came to the School of Nursing for an education in whole person care and found a place where she could feel comfortable in her own faith as she learned about another.

by Brianna Bolaños



Simran Sougu, Loma Linda University School of Nursing, BS class of 2023, knew from the moment she began her high school Human Physiology class, that the nursing field was her calling. “I was immediately inspired by how each unique system serves a vital function in every-day life. Learning about each of them and how they relate, while also serving at my local nursing facility, cemented how important it was to care for others at this level.”

As she grew up in Riverside county with her brother Rohit, (BS class of 2020), Sougu credits the support felt from her parents to pursue a career she was passionate about, as vital in her decision making. “As a close-knit family, my parents have played such a positive role in my life, but especially in my educational journey. My parents have shown me that I can truly accomplish anything when I set my mind to it and strive for the best. Based on my spiritual origins and development, I was introduced to the beliefs of Sikhism at a young age and it has enabled me to strengthen my relationship with God and my family. I knew that as I looked into universities, I needed to find an institution that mirrored the values my family had instilled in me from the start.”

Sougu’s research of schools, helped her to discover that La Sierra University fit exactly what she was looking for. “Their commitment to serving their local community through their mission and their pre-nursing program, was what sold me. As I began taking my pre-requisite courses, I knew I had found my place.” La Sierra University was the first private religious school that Sougu had ever attended. “When attending a faith-based community, I feel like there is more of a special connection with fellow peers, professors, and staff because of our similar goals and aspirations. I believe that this was of special benefit to me because I was constantly trying to find out what I can do to become a better individual spiritually.”

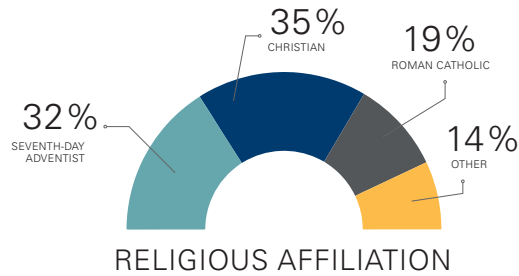
Sougu’s time at LSU allowed for her to consider where she wished to pursue her degree in Nursing. Already attending a university that matched her values and passion, she knew she needed to continue in this direction. During her studies, Loma Linda University recruiters often visited La Sierra University’s campus to discuss options within health care field with potential

students. “Loma Linda University first sparked my interest because it offered a bachelor’s of science in nursing and opportunities to perform clinical experiences at a Level 1 trauma center right on their campus. However, ultimately, I decided to attend Loma Linda University because of the values and motto, “To Make Man Whole.” The Loma Linda University core values of compassion, teamwork, and wholeness encouraged me, and it was something I could see myself being a part of long term. To me, these values are crucial because it is a reminder that each of us have the power to help heal one another.”

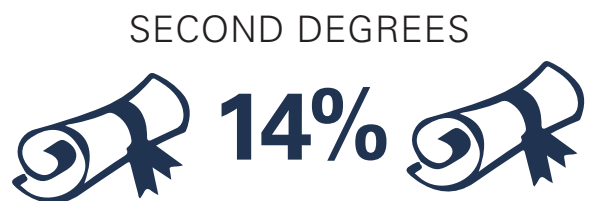
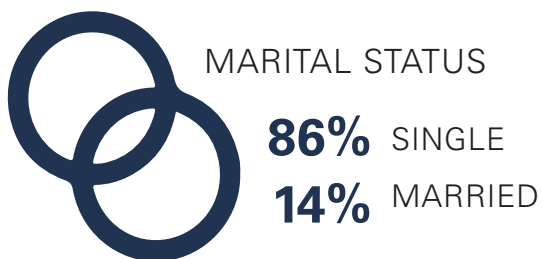
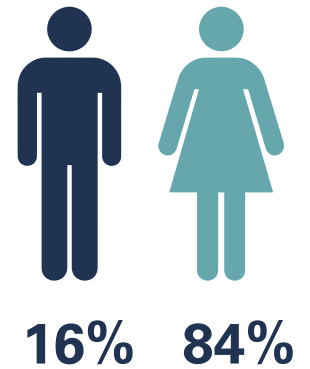
Sougu was admitted to the BS in Nursing program in March of 2020, at the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. After just a few weeks on campus, Sougu and her cohort transitioned to hybrid learning. “I found the faculty and instructors to be very informative and always answered questions when we needed help. They continued to be willing to provide study sessions after class to help for better understanding. One specific mentor of support, was Professor Gemma Pangan (class of 1998). She helped me gain confidence and knowledge through the program. My classmates were so supportive of one another as we tried to complete our journey.” Sougu also stressed the importance of asking for help when going through the program, “Don’t be afraid to seek guidance and ask questions when necessary. Improve your time management skills and set goals for each quarter. It’s important to do all of this, but also to remember to maintain a positive mindset!”

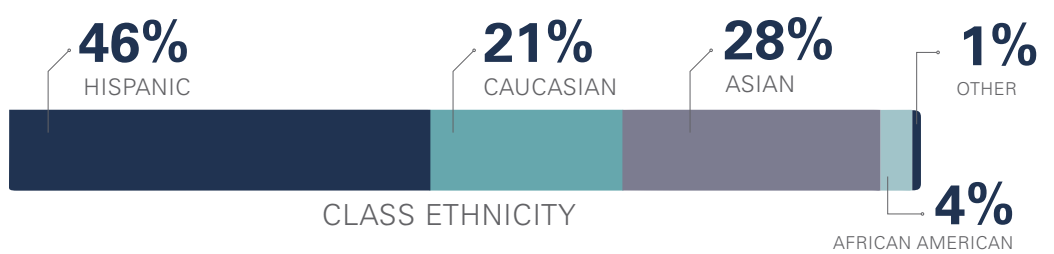
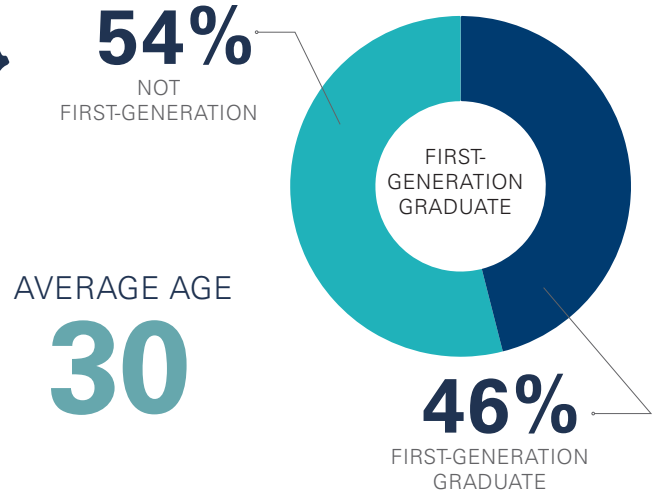
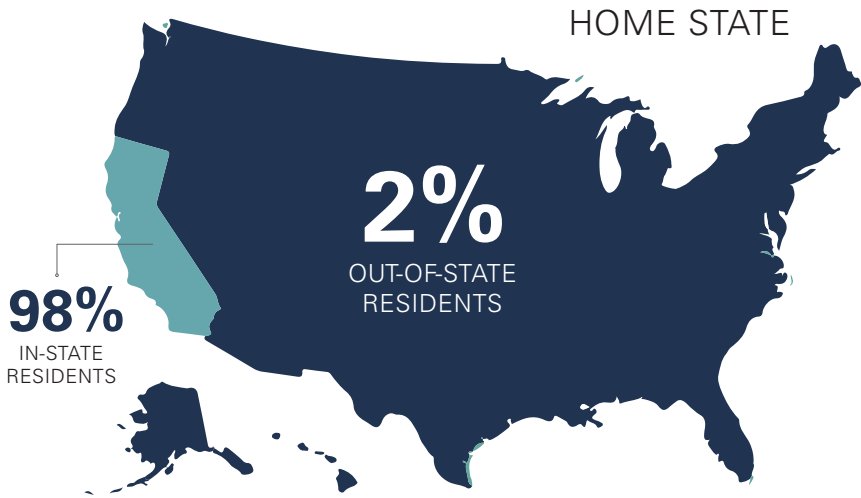
Sougu’s time at Loma Linda University and pursuing religious education proved to be one of her best decisions for her future career. “I believe that even though we might all have different values and beliefs, each leads up to the ultimate path to find the one divine Lord. God has provided us with our own unique toolbox, and I believe that it is up to us to find the missing pieces. Having a faith-based education is something I admire because it not only provides an excellent education, but it personally guided me in the correct direction. When learning about the Seventh Day Adventist beliefs, I could connect them with my practices of Sikhism. Both religions believe in a God that is caring and truly wants us to lead a good moral life through positive actions. It is important to value God and the human creation, while remembering to be appreciative and grateful for the things we have. I truly believe this references more than just the physical body and health, but also the spiritual health we have. I am truly thankful for the many opportunities and welcoming support from faculty and classmates at Loma Linda University.”

Class of 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

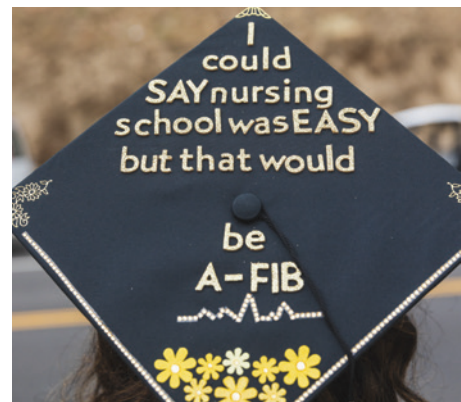


CLASS GENDER





COMMENCEMENT 2023





In June 2023, Loma Linda University School of Nursing celebrated the Class of 2023 graduates with the commencement ceremony held in the Drayson Center Opsahl Gymnasium. This tradition took on new shape this year, as the School of Nursing hosted two ceremonies for the first time ever due to the growing size of the graduating classes. This new format allowed for more guests to comfortably attend each ceremony and support their graduates. This was the 117th class to graduate from the school since its founding in 1905 and consisted of 213 students from its various graduate and undergraduate programs. Commencement speaker and former LLUSN faculty member Tad Worku shared a special message for the last class of nursing graduates to experience nursing school during the pandemic. Worku declared that this class was particularly prepared to take on the uncertain nature of the new medical landscape. The day's events were an exciting new rendition on the LLUSN commencement ceremony tradition and a worthy celebration of this year's graduates.



HOMECOMING 2023





Loma Linda University School of Nursing was once again filled with a special energy over the 2023 Homecoming Weekend. The combination of nostalgia and discovery permeated the halls, as alumni shared memories with peers and faculty as well as met current students for the first time and learned about the new developments of their alma mater. In addition to revisiting West Hall, LLUSN's alumni family celebrated the school's 118th year with a host of class reunions and capped the weekend off with the LLUSN Homecoming Brunch at the Mission Inn Hotel in Riverside to honor the classes of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1999 and 2014. It was a special experience for all, celebrating our school's history and the tradition of excellence it has become known.





2023 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Cedric Caagbay

by Jackson Boren

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This quote does very well to epitomize the narrative of Cedric Caagbay, who graduated with the LLUSN Class of 1998. This was a little different from his high school thoughts of going into medicine. Being born to Filipino immigrants, he thought “I cannot go through 11 years of medicine as a burden to my parents. I need to get a degree in 4 years and support myself, STAT!” Nursing provides the opportunity to move to almost every single specialty in the field, and if he could find an area he fell in love with, he thought, “I could go back to school and become a nurse practitioner or maybe back to med school on my own dime!”

Cedric’s journey would begin in nursing school and to his surprise it was not as easy as he expected, especially after the first quarter of Fundamentals of Nursing was over. He couldn’t keep up on his own and needed a tribe of peers to lean on. He and his peers collaborated on developing study strategies as a group that would prepare them for success and it soon began to pay off. This was the beginning of going farther, and for Cedric, faster, by going together.

Early in life, he was told “If you want to lead, first learn to follow.” So, service was always something that Cedric enjoyed. He was blessed with being elected class president each year while he was at LLUSN, 1995-1998. With great officers to work with, he would often follow

their lead to serve his classmates and developed some exciting programs and events for the nursing student body like the Back to Basics retreat at Pine Springs Ranch. One of Cedric’s favorite memories in his last year at LLUSN was participating on the mission trip to Iquitos, Peru with Students In Mission Service (SIMS). Not only did it allow him the opportunity to practice medicine in a mission setting but it also required him to improve his Spanish speaking abilities which were put to the test daily.

Shortly after graduating in 1998, Cedric took on a job as staff nurse on a med-surg unit at the Loma Linda University Medical Center but quickly learned that it was not his preferred area of care. Luckily, the Emergency Department at LLUMC had just created its very first new grad program. Cedric interviewed, got hired, and fell in love with the ER. While he worked in the ER, he made the big decision to move to Hawaii for the next chapter in his nursing journey.

So, after his second year of Level One Trauma action at LLUMC, he took the opportunity to work at the premiere trauma center of the pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii: The Queen’s Medical Center (QMC). He interviewed, got in, and fell in love with island life. As fate would have it, shortly after his arrival, the nursing union went on strike. That strike lasted long enough for him to travel to the other islands of Hawaii, and

to drain most of his bank account. This provided an opportunity to work at these other islands as well. And as he promised himself, a few years later he would graduate with his MSN in Clinical Systems Management in 2005 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Shortly after graduation, one of his professors asked him to become a Project Coordinator with the Kalihi Palama Health Center. “Because Filipinos have the highest prevalence rate of diabetes compared to any other migrant races in Hawaii, we published a research project to improve the education and management of diabetes in the Filipino communities in Hawaii.” This project was of special interest to Cedric because his parents migrated from the Philippines to the USA.

After that project he would focus on life in the ER again. He soon asked the Vice President of Nursing for a shot at managing the ER. So, in 2009, he interviewed, and joined the administrative team as a Clinical Operations Manager in the ER at the Queen’s Medical Center (QMC) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The learning curve was exponential. Taking care of patients was not the same as helping to manage 150+ employees, hiring, firing, educating, disciplining, while working on a 7-digit budget for the ER. This was all during a time in which QMC was applying to become the first Magnet Status hospital in the Pacific Rim. He really felt he made a difference to the hospital as a change agent. This type of work was also quite the change agent for his work-life balance. After three years, he decided to go back to becoming an ER staff nurse and started a new adventure in real estate investing.

In 2011, he joined the Moanalua Kaiser Permanente Medical Center

To be considered for alumnus of the year is an honor that can only be celebrated by including the rest of the Class of ’98. I may have been nominated, but I am the one that was honored to be amongst my classmates.

in Honolulu. He thought that if he would ever move back to California that he should work at KP while in Hawaii. Cedric became involved with unit projects again. He also became an instructor for ACLS, PALS, BLS, and Crisis Prevention Intervention. During his time at KP Moanalua, he received a Daisy Award in 2016, and was recognized for his extraordinary clinical skills and compassionate service.

In 2017, Cedric and his girlfriend, Jennifer were married and things did not slow down from there. “In 2018 we welcomed our first daughter, Emilia. And 14 months later we were blessed with our second daughter, Ciana.” As a family they knew that there may be a time when they would have to move to California to help take care of Cedric’s aging parents. “We also wanted Emilia and Ciana to really know their last living grandparents more intimately.” Unfortunately, in late 2020, Cedric’s mother passed.

So, in 2021, the Caagbays made the move back to California to Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento, CA. “We are closer to most of our family and friends that live in Southern California. Our kids are very happy attending Sacramento Adventist Academy. And while living in Northern California, it is a family

goal of ours to take the kids on many road trips.” Today, Cedric is returning to some educational goals. He has started precepting RN students again and enjoys speaking on webinars about real estate investing.

Cedric shares that “to be considered for alumnus of the year is an honor that can only be celebrated by including the rest of the Class of ’98. I may have been nominated, but I am the one that was honored to be amongst my classmates. I admired the courage demonstrated when some entered our class on their third career journey. I was impressed to hear some transition out to multiple nursing fields while some have found success in other industries. I love hearing that many have climbed the leadership ladder and have proven their abilities. Some are published authors contributing to nursing. Many are fearless advocates for vulnerable patient populations and are experts in their fields. And some of them are the most compassionate caregivers I have ever known. The stories of my classmates motivate me. But I think my favorite thing about our class is that we have always been able to just smile out loud together. I guess that’s how 25 years have gone by so fast.”

Homecoming Honor Classes & Merit Scholars



1963: (From left to right) Audrey Thompson Anderson, Bonnie McCaffery, Patsy Ponder McCarthur, Catherine Heath Wesenburg, Georgann Kindsvater Vankirk, Sharon Anderson, Judy Altman Bixel

Class of 1963



Class of 1983

1983: Ideliza Contreras, Marilyn Sanders, Roberta Bronson



Class of 1972

1973: (From left to right) Beth Guthrie Thompson, Beverly Neff, Cheryl Hayton, Marie Hodgkins, Sharon Ford, Nancy Lynn Hosek, Robin Young Ashcraft, Bunnie Lucille Ford, Diane Oliver Bock, Elisabeth Majestic Pastrama, Danene Mercill, Christie Winter, Edith Kreuder Deming, Pam Bracker



Class of 1997, 1998, and 1999

1997, 1998, 1999: *Front:* Jennifer Nunez, Ysis Mercado, Ted Mercado, Cedric Caagbay, Marfe Arcenal Hutson, Deseree Palafox; *Back:* Gleandy Adlaon, Yolanda Hernandez, Cherrie Hernandez-Chilom, Millie Quan, Lori Carter, Faith Liv, Gemma Pangan



Class of 1998

1998: (From left to right) Yolanda Hernandez, Jennifer Nunez, Cedric Caagbay, Gemma Pangan, Gleandy Adlaon-Gott, Cherrie Hernandez-Chilom, Millie Quan, Lori Carter, and Deseree Palafox



Undergraduate Merit Scholarship Winners

Back Row: Janet Donnelly, Kathie Ingram, Noelle Maksoudian, Irene Park, Joanna Lopez, Heather Hagerman, Adeline Hallen, Tiffany Carbajal, Tanya DuMas, Marc Nathaniel De Castro Celestino, Sean Santos; **Front Row:** Savannah Lopez, Lorena Holbrook, Jia Chen, Yuan "Wendy" Wang, Liliana Golchehreh, Shariq Syed, Kristina Alav, Nayeli Rios; **Not Pictured:** Sanjuana Rangel



Graduate Merit Scholarship Winners

Back Row, left to right: Janet Donnelly, Kathie Ingram, Louiedette Maling, Amanda Edwards, Justin Matar, Marisol Ornelas; **Front Row, left to right:** Annika Daphne Bilog, Amyela Adarlo, Rachel Chanmany Pastor, Carolyn Wilder, Xochitl Torres; **Not Pictured:** Ann Marie Aquino, Leon Smith, Marlynn Banta, Nicholas Ryan Topoleski

LLUSN Introduces Entry Level Master's

The School of Nursing accepted its first ten students into the Entry Level Master's (ELM) Population Health program in winter 2024. This program allows for bachelor's degree students in other disciplines the opportunity to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Interim Director, Dr. Gloria Mattson Huerta is working closely with two Undergraduate Program Directors, Dr. Angel Ashburn and Erin Heim, to prepare them to take the Next Generation NCLEX and clinical needs to develop nursing competencies.

"There is a critical need for Registered Nurses to meet the healthcare needs of a very diverse population – both with the aging population and the increased focus on primary care to encourage health and wellness. With the need to provide more complex healthcare and the opportunity to address preventive

health care needs, it makes sense to develop a program for the education of students from other disciplines that would best prepare them to manage population health issues while earning a graduate degree," according to Dr. Mattson Huerta.

Future graduates of our Entry Level Master's program will be eligible to work in any setting once they graduate with a Master of Science in Nursing degree and pass NCLEX. While they will graduate with a Master's degree, they are still new graduate nurses and need to gain clinical experience as a RN caring for patients. This opportunity to grow from a novice nurse to an experienced RN will ensure that these nurses are ready to enter administrative and leadership roles. The graduate courses that are part of our curriculum provide a more

extensive education in nursing leadership than baccalaureate nurses receive. This may offer the ELM graduates the opportunity to move into administrative roles more quickly than baccalaureate prepared RNs.

The current nursing leadership team in the School of Nursing, as those before us, want to continue to be innovative as we work to identify ways to increase the number of well-educated and skilled nurses to care for people around the world. We want to be known as an academic center of excellence in preparing our students to be RNs and Advanced Practice RNs (APRNs) who are skilled in serving diverse populations.

ELM applications will be accepted from February through July, classes begin in January. For more information please contact us at 909-558-4923 or via email at nursing@llu.edu.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program Re-Opens

Loma Linda School of Nursing is excited to reopen the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) concentration. This is only one of two neonatal programs in the of California. Candidates in this program will receive training in one of the largest neonatal intensive care units in Southern California at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Dean Shawn Collins shared "we are thankful for the support given to us by Loma Linda's Children's Hospital in helping us start this program and by providing a full-time director who is one of our graduates." The NNP Program Director is Dr. Toby Richards, DNP NNP-BC (MSN '06 LLUSN alum).

A neonatal nurse practitioner is a highly qualified registered nurse with an advanced degree who specializes in providing high-quality care to premature and critically ill infants with gestational ages ranging from 22 to 42 weeks. They provide comprehensive care, administer medications, monitor vital signs, and work closely with other healthcare professionals to ensure the best possible outcomes for the infants under their care. The acquired expertise would enable the NNP to function competently in a range of clinical settings and to

work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals to achieve optimal patient outcomes. The NNP would be proficient in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of neonatal patients, utilizing evidence-based practices, and adhering to established clinical guidelines.

Although NNP's practice mostly in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) at levels II through IV, other settings include newborn nurseries, high-risk infant follow-up clinics, and consultancy positions. Additionally, NNPs can be involved in entrepreneurial research and development ventures; academic institutions, as well as governmental agencies.

According to Dr. Richards, "despite the demanding nature of the job, which may entail prolonged working hours, the role of an NNP is immensely gratifying. Contributing to the enhancement of infant health and, in some cases, being a significant factor in saving lives, is a compelling reason to consider a career in this field."

Applicants have the option of being either a full-time or part-time student. Rolling admissions is offered twice a year. For more information, please contact us at graduatenuising@llu.edu or calling 909-558-4923.

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