Onward

The School of Nursing begins its 110th year celebrating a new dean, new programs and a clear vision for the future.
Dear Nursing Alumni,

In January 1978, when I started teaching pediatric nursing for the Loma Linda University School of Nursing, I could not imagine that in January 2015 I would assume the deanship.

The school has been a good place to work and to grow as a nurse educator for the past 37 years. During that time I have had the privilege of working for three deans: Marilyn Christian Smith, Helen Emori King and Marilyn Herrmann. I learned much from each of them about Christian leadership and the role of the dean. Now it is my turn to continue as we move further into the 21st century.

I have been thinking about the role of our school in preparing the next generation of Loma Linda nurses. I think it can be summarized in three phrases:

• Preparing for the future of nursing
• Continuing the outreach of the School of Nursing
• Demonstrating God’s caring

In preparing for the future of nursing, we will focus on clinical excellence in whatever settings our alumni encounter in their careers; we will focus on research to create knowledge and use existing knowledge to determine the best methods to reach the needed health outcomes; and, finally, we will focus on educational approaches that will best help our students learn, not just information, but critical thinking and clinical reasoning.

By continuing the outreach of the School of Nursing, we will purposefully move forward in our engagement with the health needs of our local, national and international communities.

By demonstrating God’s caring, we will continue the unique focus of the Loma Linda nurse, concentrating on the needs of the whole person whom God has entrusted to our care.

I am glad that you are a member of the “Loma Linda Nurse” family. Please continue to keep all our alumni, current students, faculty, staff and leadership of the school in your prayers as God continues to guide us toward the future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Becky) Bossert, PhD, MS
Dean, School of Nursing
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An unbroken line of skilled and compassionate leadership at the Loma Linda University School of Nursing continues with new dean Elizabeth (Becky) Bossert, PhD, MS.

She began her position Jan. 1, ushering in both a new year and a new era for the school, for which 2015 marks its 110th anniversary.

Bossert was previously associate dean for academic affairs and graduate programs in the School of Nursing, where she has worked since beginning as an instructor in 1978. Becoming dean was not something she originally dreamed of, but over the past few years she has felt God preparing her for such a role.

“I believe He is leading and guiding in this school,” she says.

As university administrators considered who the next dean should be, Bossert rose to the top of a field of candidates from both within and outside of the organization, noted Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president, when he announced her appointment at a special luncheon Dec. 15 at the School of Nursing.

Bossert succeeds Marilyn Herrmann, PhD, who served as dean since 2006 and retired in January. The Board of Trustees has named Herrmann dean emerita for the school.

“Dr. Herrmann has provided extremely valuable leadership to this school and nurtured it,” President Hart said. “Now we’re delighted to have Becky Bossert accept this mantle.”

Bossert thanked Herrmann for her service, noting that she plans to continue leading the school in a similar manner as Herrmann.

“The school is building on a very rich history,” Bossert says. “Moving forward, we must prepare our students for the future of nursing. In the next few decades we are going to see some major changes in the role of nurses.

“Hospitals will become even further high tech, and nurses working in hospitals will focus on the most critically ill,” she adds. “Additionally, other nurses will become very involved in ambulatory care and outpatient settings, concentrating on health promotion and keeping patients from needing admission into acute-care facilities.”

The school will prepare students for those roles while imbuing them with the values that set an education at LLU School of Nursing apart.

“Our school combines Christian values with the nursing ethos of care, and with the combination of these two, people come here and they see something different,” Bossert explains.

“People who transfer here are amazed at the support faculty have for students or at the way students carry themselves as professionals. Being Christian simply makes a difference in the way we live our lives.”

Since joining the school in 1978, Bossert, in addition to her professorial capacity, has developed strong experience in research, including working on two RO1 grants from the National Institutes of Health. She has published in numerous refereed journals, and she has served as reviewer for the Journal of Pediatric Nursing, the Journal of Nursing Scholarship, the Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing and the journal Pediatric Nursing, as well as presenting at national and international conferences, among other activities.

Bossert is an alumna of Pacific Union College (AS), Walla Walla Col-
Lege (BS), and Loma Linda University, where she received a master’s of science degree in nursing in the year 1977 with a focus on maternal–child nursing and nursing education. She went on to receive her doctorate in nursing science with a focus on clinical research from the University of California at San Francisco in 1990. (UCSF recently converted this research-focused degree to the PhD designation.)

**A new associate dean**

Susan Lloyd, PhD, has stepped into the position of associate dean for graduate programs that Bossert filled prior to accepting the role of dean. Lloyd has taught in the School of Nursing since 2005 (as well as for three years in the 1980s).

In addition to her role as an associate professor, she was director of the doctor of nursing practice degree program and coordinator of the pediatric track of the clinical nurse specialist program.

Lloyd also has experience as a nursing faculty member at Pan American University, Pacific Union College, Western University of Health Sciences, California State University at San Bernardino and Victor Valley College. She has served as a staff nurse, prenatal educator and business owner and manager.

*By Heather Reifsnyder*
Honoring Dr. Marilyn Herrmann

Marilyn Herrmann, PhD, has been named dean emerita upon her Jan. 3 retirement after serving the School of Nursing as dean since 2006. She joined the faculty of Loma Linda University School of Nursing in 1980, becoming assistant dean for undergraduate programs in 1989, and then associate dean for undergraduate programs in 1992.

Since 2006, when she became dean, the School of Nursing has continued to grow in enrollment, added two new degrees, undergone sizable physical expansion and successfully passed review by several accrediting bodies.

Her story as a nurse began in 1965, when she graduated with a BS in nursing from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Maryland. She became a staff nurse at Washington Adventist Hospital before spending two years as a public health nurse in Floyd County, Virginia, while her husband, Cliff, completed a PhD in biochemistry. When their son was born in 1968, she began her career as a full-time mother and did not return to nursing until the children were in school. The family moved to Houston in 1969, where her husband did a post doc at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and then they moved to Loma Linda when Cliff Herrmann began teaching biochemistry in the School of Medicine in 1971.

When it was time to return to her career, Marilyn Herrmann decided to pursue a master’s degree in nursing with an emphasis in public health and education. She began her teaching career at Loma Linda University in 1980. Later she earned a PhD in higher education from Claremont Graduate University in 1992.

In addition to her teaching and administrative roles in the School of Nursing, Herrmann kept involved with research and professional publishing, as well as community service.

Teaching and mentoring have been the greatest joy to Herrmann throughout her career. As she puts it, “There is no greater reward than to see former students excel and make a difference in this world and help prepare others for the future.” She feels that working at Loma Linda University has been a privilege and that the results of this institution will not be known until Christ returns.

The School of Nursing gratefully thanks Dr. Herrmann for her service.
New BS-to-DNP program to start this fall

The program will prepare the next generation of nurse leaders.

Nurses who already hold a bachelor of science degree now have the opportunity to earn their doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree in as little as three years. The first class of BS-to-DNP students will begin their studies this coming fall.

The degree is for students who want to become nurse leaders.

“We’re preparing our graduates to fill top-tier management and supervisory roles,” says Susan Lloyd, PhD, associate dean for graduate programs, LLU School of Nursing.

“They will be the ones who make decisions that raise the quality of patient care and improve the outcomes,” she continues.

The program will be directed by Shirley Bristol, DNP, JD, who also leads the school’s MS-to-DNP program, which had its first class graduate in 2013.

During the first year of the new BS-to-DNP, students will focus on core master’s-level nursing courses. Year two will consist of clinical coursework to meet state certification requirements specific to the chosen concentration in one of a number of nursing tracks.

Nursing practice (NP) tracks include family, pediatric, adult/gerontology, psychiatry and neonatal nursing specialties. Clinical nurse specialist (CNS) tracks include adult/gerontology and pediatric nursing.

“We also plan to add a certified registered nurse anesthetist track in the near future,” Lloyd says. The current CRNA program is a separate master’s degree, but in fall 2016 it will be incorporated into the BS-to-DNP. Nurse educator and nursing administration tracks will remain at the master’s level.

Year three will focus on doctoral nursing practice courses.

The length of the program for students will depend on how much time they can devote to their DNP program. Some students, for example, may continue to work during their studies.

“Most students should average four years,” Lloyd suggests. “However, those who need a little longer to complete the program for whatever reason will have that option.”

During the final year of study in the program, DNP students are required to develop a project that proposes changes in nursing practices leading to quality improvement.

“Even before they finish our program, they’re already thinking like a top-tier manager,” Lloyd points out.

“Our DNP graduates significantly increase their practice options with their doctoral degrees,” she adds. “They are prepared to tackle major issues that may stand in the way of quality and cost-effective patient care.”

DNP graduates are also eligible to receive state and U.S. certifications in nursing practice and leadership.

For more information about the new BS-to-DNP program, contact LLU School of Nursing at 909-558-4923 or graduatenursing@llu.edu, or visit www.llu.edu/nursing/.

–By Larry Kidder
Sending first class of CRNA graduates into the world

In 2014, the School of Nursing graduated its first cohort of nurse anesthetists. The 12 students composing the first class are shown above in their official graduation portrait.

**Back row, from left to right:** Aaron Vizcarra, Evan Perez, Wesley Easter, Kyle Rodgers, Giselle Schultz, Aaron Iverson and Byron Aprecio

**Front row, from left to right:** Rachel Metzger, Dana VanderWel, Shannon Dekalb, Jenny Sandy and Svetlana Welebir

**Congratulations!**
Loma Linda University Health has embarked on the biggest endeavor of its history, Vision 2020: The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow. It will greatly impact clinical care, education, research and wholeness initiatives at the organization, resulting in a more comprehensive strategy for the health of communities and the world.

The plans include building a new hospital complex and a research center, as well as strengthening education and research programs through scholarships, faculty development, endowments and new curricular approaches.

For the School of Nursing, Vision 2020 will mean more scholarship opportunities for students who need support through their educational journey. The need is particularly great for undergraduate nursing students, students in the nurse anesthetist master’s degree program and PhD students. The school would also like to establish endowed faculty and research positions.

The new hospital complex, slated to open in 2020, will provide the setting for Loma Linda University Health to practice a redefined vision of health care. Patients will receive whole person care for health of body, mind and spirit in the new facility, which will house both a children’s hospital tower and an adult tower rising from a shared base of emergency services, surgical suites and imaging departments. The facility will be designed to meet California’s stringent new earthquake standards, and it will expand clinical space for patient care and clinician training by almost 50 percent over today’s structures.

The new research building will be an interdisciplinary hub for the investigation and promotion of wellness for the Inland Empire and beyond. It will be the heart of wholeness activities and initiatives at Loma Linda University Health, where complete health includes not just physical wellness but also mental well-being, spiritual fulfillment and positive relationships in healthy communities.

The building will house the new Wholeness Institute, dedicated to understanding and promoting whole-person health and disease prevention.

The Vision 2020 campaign includes a $360-million philanthropic goal, with approximately $191 million raised so far. This includes a commitment of $100 million from Dennis and Carol Troesh of Riverside, California, to help build the new tower for the children’s hospital. Their pledge was announced at the July 2014 public launch of the Vision 2020 campaign. In total, Vision 2020 is a daring $1.2 billion step forward, supported by financing that includes public funding.

To learn more or become part of the campaign, visit lluhvision2020.org.

–By Heather Reifsnyder
Modernizing & Expanding

The School of Nursing upgrades its skills labs and expands to fill West Hall.

West Hall, home to the School of Nursing since the early 1970s, has become a transformed space over the past couple of years. Formerly shared with the School of Pharmacy, the entire building became available to the School of Nursing when pharmacy moved to its own building in 2012.

Since then, the School of Nursing has been preparing the newly available space for nursing education. This includes 25 percent more space on the east side of the main level and a downstairs area of four large classrooms and numerous small class and conference rooms.

Prior to the expansion, some nursing professors had to share a small office with several colleagues. Now, no more than two people occupy any given office, and many don’t share at all.

The School of Nursing’s gains also include two new conference rooms, two ample study halls — one for graduate students and one for undergraduate — and a kitchenette.

The renovation has included detailed touches such as placing new power outlets in the floor for student laptop use.

The west side of West Hall will also receive some attention. It will be renovated this summer, completing asbestos abatement and the installation of new flooring.

A place to gain skills

Located on the south side of the building are several skills laboratories for students to practice patient-care and assessment techniques.

The more practice that nursing students have with performing procedures and assessments throughout their education, the better both they and their patients will feel when it comes time to do the real thing in clinical training and after graduation.

The School of Nursing undergraduate skills laboratory has several hospital-like rooms that are equipped with mannequins that allow nursing students to practice skills such as wound care, catheterization, nasogastric tube insertion and numerous other techniques.

These labs have undergone significant expansion recently, with most of the work done during summer 2014 in time for the beginning of classes in September. Planning for the construction began in 2013.

Three adjacent skills rooms consist of typical hospital rooms, each with a single bed containing a patient-care mannequin for scenario-based learning of a variety of clinical skills. An IV pole supports bags and lines. Drawers are stocked with supplies like needles and bandages.

A control area outside each patient care/skills room allows teachers to observe through one-way mirrors and control scenarios with the mannequins as student nurses inside the room practice patient care. Video cameras in the ceiling allow for recording, to both enhance the learning process — as students can later see their work — and to allow faculty to rate the students.

There are also new charting stations, consisting of computers for students to document their patient-care encounters in the medical record.

Another recently renovated lab, located downstairs, is for students in the nurse anesthetist master’s degree (CRNA) program. It includes anesthetic equipment and mannequins on which to practice intubation and anesthetic blocks.

A new graduate advanced health assessment lab provides simulated doctors’ office spaces, allowing these students the opportunity to learn advanced assessment techniques. Important equipment such as otoscopes and ophthalmoscopes helps create the feel of a clinic.

As the School of Nursing enters its 110th year, administrators and professors are constantly looking for ways such as these to enhance the student experience.

—By Jiggs Gallagher & Heather Reifsnyder
Three skills rooms each include a hospital bed with a patient-care mannequin that can be treated with interventions such as catheterization and nasogastric tubes while professors observe through a one-way mirror. In this photo, Michelle Sharp (left), assistant clinical instructor of nursing, watches several students work together.

One of the new classrooms seats up to 90 students.
A safety net for surviving nursing school

The School of Nursing offers a learning assistance program for students who need a little extra help with the rigors of their education.

The demands of nursing school are often higher than anything students have experienced before. Sometimes it’s all a little too much, even for the brightest student.

A safety net called the learning assistance program exists for those students, such as bachelor’s student Christina Rico. She became overwhelmed during her first year at LLU School of Nursing. The program offers students like her moral support and teaches them the life and study skills they need to succeed.

“I had never had trouble with school before,” Rico says. “The program gave me back the control that I had lost.” It helped her so much that she now leads a study group for the same course she had to repeat, “adult health I.”

Rico underwent the same transformation all students in the learning assistance program go through, according to program director Barbara Ninan, MN, a 1969 alumna of the school. “Christina always looked down and discouraged when she first came to us. Now I see her smiling a lot, and she’s so positive to help other students.”

The program is available to any student who either needs or wants help. The staff members see 20 to 25 students per day in individual appointments.

Many students visit either as needed or wanted for a little extra help. They may ask for assistance preparing for an exam or tackling a specific topic they find tricky.

Photo above: Beth Cordero, instructor in the learning assistance program, teaches a session of the “strategies for academic success” course to students sitting across the table from her. Facing the camera with her are fellow staff members, from left to right, Barbara Ninan, MN, program director; Alysse Larsen, faculty mentor; and Ashley Bowen, faculty mentor.
Some just need to borrow a book or talk.

Other students are there because they failed a class or withdrew from one for poor performance. For them, the program offers a structured way to learn skills for thriving in nursing school. Each student gets a weekly one-on-one appointment to work on individual needs, and they also take a one-unit course called "strategies for academic success," which the school has offered since 2002.

“What I see is that they’re all very discouraged at the beginning of the quarter because they have to repeat a class,” Ninan says. But meeting together weekly — over a lunch donated by the program staff — begins to lift them out of the doldrums. Just being given a meal is a boost in and of itself, according to Rico. But the lessons and discussions nourish them, too.

“We talk about how to take care of yourself — including rest, sleep and exercise — so that the brain can learn well,” Ninan says.

And they learn study skills.

“I had trouble prioritizing, organizing my time and learning how to study by myself, for myself,” Rico says. The staff taught her how to schedule her time. “They made sure I included everything — work, school, family and friends, and time for myself.”

Each person taking the “strategies for academic success” course is also assigned a buddy to share goals and celebrate achievements with.

The course was like a support group, according to Rico.

She says, “A lot of us had failed a class. It’s embarrassing, and you feel this shame. The staff were there to let us know that it happens to a lot of people and that they will make sure we succeed in the future.”

Ninan explains, “These students often feel alone because they are no longer part of the group they originally started classes with. Their work in the learning assistance program helps them find new connections, and they often continue to support each other all the rest of the way through school.”

And the students also form a connection with the staff. Rico still stops by the desk of Alysse Larsen, the faculty mentor who met individually with Rico each week. Larsen is also an alumnus of the class of 2011 and is currently working toward her master’s degree in the School of Nursing.

For students who take the “strategies for academic success” course, their progress is tracked through assessments at the beginning of the course and then again at the end on 10 different measures. Data for the last three years shows that 100 percent of the students make statistically significant progress.

“We all have compassion to make a difference for these students,” Ninan says. “We want them to be the best nurses they can, and we want them to feel supported, knowing that someone is in their corner to help them succeed.”

The learning assistance program began in 1983 as a learning resource center started by Vaneta Condon, PhD, emeritus associate professor, LLU School of Nursing, as well as a bachelor’s and master’s degree alumna of the school. In addition, Condon developed an exam analysis still used to help students understand why they had trouble on a test and how to avoid those pitfalls in the future.

—By Heather Reifsnyder
Alumnus Dexter Emoto honored by grateful patient with Healing Hands recognition

Dexter Emoto, a post-anesthesia care unit/recovery room nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center and 1977 graduate of the School of Nursing, was recently honored with Healing Hands recognition. The Healing Hands program invites grateful patients to donate a gift to Loma Linda University Health in honor of an employee who provided exceptional care during their patient experience.

"Dexter was the kindest, most loving, most compassionate individual," writes former patient Kathryn Bernardo. "Through my many procedures, he was there for me. He comforted me and prayed for me. I was so thankful just to have someone to talk to, as my husband was ill and not able to be there with me. Thank you for allowing him to work for your organization!"

Caring for patients as if they were family is a way of life for Emoto, who views his work as much more than just a career.

"This is my 38th year as a nurse," he says, noting that he worked as a volunteer nurse in the operating room of Kobe Adventist Hospital in Japan for four years before joining the Loma Linda team in 1984. "I don't look at my work as a job. I look at it as a ministry for Jesus Christ. I'm very grateful to the medical center for giving me the opportunity to serve."

Aside from nursing, Emoto cherishes three other passions in life. The first is his family. He met Hiroko, his wife of 34 years, while volunteering in Japan. The couple has two grown daughters: Naomi, a licensed vocational nurse at the Loma Linda University Faculty Medical Offices; and Esther, an IT technician for the United States government in Tampa, Florida.

The second is running. Emoto really got into the sport after his first marathon on November 2, 2003. Since then, he has completed 116 full marathons, 115 half marathons, two ultra marathons and two relay races.

Emoto’s third passion is photography. He has been pursuing a sideline as a professional photographer since 1978, specializing in sports, portraits, nature, social events and weddings.

He sees important parallels in his work and hobbies and gives God all the credit for the enjoyment he finds in life.

"The success of what I do in nursing, running and photography all goes hand in hand," he concludes. "Perseverance and endurance are two important words that apply to everyday life. Finishing the race is the most important thing. It's not how fast you run. Don't give up! The Christian life is a marathon. We can't lose with Christ running with us."

For more information on Healing Hands, go to advancement.lluhealth.org/giving/healing-hands.

—By James Ponder
Student Christian Rawlon dedicates his all to his dream of becoming a nurse

Christian Rawlon came to America with his family from Indonesia at age 6, settling in Ontario, California. His father is a Seventh-day Adventist pastor who serves an Indonesian congregation.

After the family later moved to Loma Linda, young Christian attended public schools, graduating from Redlands High School.

“At first I thought of becoming a physician,” he says, looking back on the path that led him to the School of Nursing at Loma Linda University. “But I thought of how long it would take. My friend encouraged me to think about the nursing profession, which he was entering as well.”

Christian attended Riverside Community College for his general education requirements and later went to California State University, San Bernardino.

“I applied to LLU three times,” he recalls, smiling. “After I was turned down the second time, I prayed especially hard to be accepted. I thought, if they reject me the third time, I’m going to do something else. Then my third application was accepted.”

He entered the pipeline program for students who have potential but whose grades need improvement. “I studied medical terminology, mathematics for medication, report writing skills and science principles, among other classes.”

The hard-working nursing student transitioned into the regular program, and in winter 2015 he is completing his fourth academic quarter. “I hope to graduate in June of 2016,” he says. He works one day a week as a patient care assistant (PCA) at Loma Linda University Medical Center, assisting nurses with their duties. “I have a floating schedule so that if I work all night on a 12-hour shift, I can do it on a night when I don’t have classes or labs the next day.”

He also serves as the social vice president for the junior class in the School of Nursing’s student association.

As an international student, Christian was not eligible for U.S. federal (FAFSA) government aid. So he was especially grateful to be considered for scholarship assistance from the school.

“JoAnn Shaul, the assistant dean, was very helpful to me in applying for the scholarship,” he says. He received the Dean’s Scholarship, which began last year and allows him to continue his studies uninterrupted. “If I hadn’t chosen Loma Linda University, I know I would never have been able to become a nurse and realize my dreams,” he says.

Now he is completing rotations on the neurology and surgery units, as well as seeing geriatric patients and patients in the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center.

His long-term goal is to work in cardiac care, ICU or an emergency department. “I also think I might like to work as a nurse practitioner or certified registered nurse anesthetist someday,” he adds.

Big dreams, aided by generous help from donors to the Dean’s Scholarship.

—By Jiggs Gallagher
Message from the alumni association president

“We do not remember days; we remember moments.”
~Cesare Pavese

As we come to our 110th year of being a school of nursing, we invite you to remember your special moments as a nursing student. Many of your moments here shaped the nurse and person you have now become.

We look forward to seeing many of you during our alumni weekend, April 10 and 11, 2015. Come and celebrate being an alumna or alumnus of the oldest school at Loma Linda University. Come and celebrate with classmates you have not seen in a while. Come and worship at the school that believes in God’s blessings to keep it going for His honor and His glory. Come and celebrate your moments!

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.”
Philippians 1:3-5

See you in April,

Zelne Zamora, DNP
BS class of 1987
Alumni association president
Alumni weekend 2015

April 10 and 11
Loma Linda, California

Start making plans for a weekend of memories — recalling old ones and creating new ones.

The weekend will include tours of the newly remodeled and expanded school; special Sabbath church services; a lunch for alumni, faculty and students; and an evening vespers and banquet Saturday night.

For more information, please contact Lisa Butler at lsbutler@llu.edu or 909-558-1000, ext. 85056.

Honored classes

1955 – 60 years
1965 – 50 years
1975 – 40 years
1990 – 25 years
2005 – 10 years
2014 alumni weekend highlights

The Loma Linda University School of Nursing welcomed more than 100 alumni to campus for the 2014 homecoming weekend, which took place on campus April 11 and 12.

The honored anniversary classes were 1954 (60 years), 1964 (50 years), 1974 (40 years), 1989 (25 years) and 2004 (10 years).

The golden anniversary class of ’64 was commemorated during worship services at Loma Linda University Church on April 12, and a special Sabbath school service honored the silver anniversary class of ’89.

That evening, the homecoming banquet followed an alumni vespers hosted by the class of 1954 and the senior class. During the banquet, the Alumna of the Year was named (see special feature on page 21), and several students were awarded merit scholarships (page 20).

The official photos of the members of the 2014 honored classes who came to alumni weekend appear on these two pages.

Thank you to those who attended alumni weekend 2014, and we hope to see you for this year’s homecoming, April 10 and 11.

Mary LaGrone Artress, Arlene Calvert Hoppe and Carolyn Scott Leslie (listed in alphabetical order)
First row: JoEtta Houck Gentry, Beverly Marcia Steele, Arlene Taylor Christensen, Virginia Allen Cummings and Marjean Horning Mathiesen
Second row: Jann Blue Abrams, Christine Krueger Cumming-Burks, Janice Tyler May and Carol Hewitt Sleeth
Last row: Dorothy Dick, Beverly Rowland Sandquist, Joyce McCormick Constantine, Anita Pearson Schultz and Vaneta Mabley Condon

Class of 1964 (50 years)

Class of 1974 (40 years)
Robin McCluskey and Marsha Booth

Class of 1989 (25 years)
Starlie Luna
Scholarship recipients

Seven students received merit scholarships during alumni weekend 2014. They are, from left to right, Brittany Juergens, Courtney Tran, Alyssa Paquini, Annika Jensen, Karina Brinckhaus and Kelsey Ehlers. Congratulations to these promising young women as they go on to their nursing careers.

Share your news with NURSE magazine.

Loma Linda NURSE is interested in sharing stories about your life after graduation from LLU School of Nursing. We would like to know about your professional achievements, research, awards, graduations, career and family news, travel, moves, marriages, births or deaths. If you have a current picture of yourself, we’d appreciate receiving that too. Or if you have been featured in local newspapers, send us a link or copy of the clipping.

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www.facebook.com/lluSchoolofNursing
Alumna of the Year 2014: 
Dr. Beverly Steele

During last year’s homecoming weekend, the golden anniversary class of 1964 proudly named Beverly M. Steele their Alumna of the Year 2014. They noted the honor she has brought to her alma mater through a lifetime of outstanding personal and professional conduct.

Steele’s connection with Loma Linda University began at birth; her parents brought her into this world at Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital (now Nichol Hall). She grew up for her first 12 years in Loma Linda, and, seeing the student nurses in stiffly starched uniforms, ruled out nursing as a profession.

Music was her passion early on and something the whole family was involved in. Steele began singing up front with her two brothers at the Campus Hill Church of Seventh-day Adventists before the age of 6, and she also studied piano and violin.

She remained involved with musical activities and performing as she attended Sandia View Academy in New Mexico and Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Adventist University) in Texas, and she cherished those times.

She also began to realize that making a career of music could mean a hard life of long hours and little pay, and she looked for something more practical to pursue professionally. Nursing started to sound like a good option.

Bringing five of her classmates with her, Steele returned to the College of Medical Evangelists, as LLU was known at the time, to earn a BS in nursing.

After graduating in 1964, Steele started her career at Loma Linda University Medical Center and moved on to serve in a number of leadership positions in both practice and academia. In her teaching life, Steele taught at Southern Adventist University, Andrews University, Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin. Her practice included serving as a staff nurse, nursing researcher, coordinator and manager of nursing divisions, director of nursing, nurse practitioner and faculty practice nurse in inner-city clinics.

During these years, Steele obtained a number of advanced degrees — a master’s degree in med-surg with an emphasis in long-term care from Loma Linda University (1969), a PhD with an emphasis in rehabilitation nursing from Rush University (1988), and a postdoctoral family nurse practitioner certificate from the University of Wisconsin (1993).

Among her nursing educators at Loma Linda University, Steele counted Professor Lucille Lewis, MS, and Associate Dean Maureen Maxwell, EdD, as major positive influences on her life and career.

Steele’s other professional accomplishments include being a member of numerous nursing organizations and serving as president of the Wisconsin State Chapter of the American Association of Rehabilitation Nurses.

As a person who valued independence and educational and professional achievement, Steele established a list of priorities she would want in a man if she ever agreed to marry. She met a man like this, Richard Mueller, at the age of 40 and married him. They reside in a home on 10 acres of woods on the south shore of Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin and have enjoyed being aunt and uncle to many nieces and nephews as well as grandnieces and great-grandnieces.

Throughout her life, Steele has continued singing in solo and choral performances, as well as directing church choirs. She enjoys cooking and entertaining.

Steele retired from nursing in 2013, but she continues to work as chairperson of the town of Clover, Wisconsin.

In addition to her service to the profession of nursing and to her community, Steele has served her church in a number of capacities.

Steele’s life of service is summed up in the following statement: “I worked all my life to learn how to give away my time, utilizing every process and skill acquired thus far in my lifetime.”
More struggling students in the Loma Linda University School of Nursing will receive life-changing scholarships thanks to recently established endowments from generous donors.

The Robert D. and Mary Ann Taylor Endowment Scholarship will support students who demonstrate the greatest financial need. It will be awarded three times yearly to two students, with each of the six students receiving approximately $2,500.

The Dora and Zacker Elloway Nursing Scholarship Fund will be given to one student annually who maintains a high grade average, has financial need and demonstrates a community-service orientation and leadership skills.

The School of Nursing Obby and Alison Agins Endowment Scholarship will support Seventh-day Adventist students who face educational challenges such as having a family to support, being a single parent or being a first-generation college student. The approximate $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to three students per school year.

The Sherri Rae Rasmussen Scholarship Endowment Fund will annually support a graduate student in financial need with approximately $1,500.

For students with tight finances, a scholarship can save them from having to quit school and end their dream of becoming a nurse. Scholarships also give students confidence to continue working hard toward becoming skilled and compassionate nursing professionals who exemplify Loma Linda University’s motto “to make man whole.”

“Scholarship donors make a meaningful impact not only on individual lives but also on the future of the nursing workforce,” says Nikki Gaitan, school development officer. “We thank them for helping students study at Loma Linda University School of Nursing.”

For a firsthand account of the impact scholarships make, view the handwritten thank-you note below from a student who received a scholarship from the previously established School of Nursing Lam Endowment for Nursing Students Fund.

—By Heather Reifsnyder
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“I give to the Angel of Care Scholarship at Loma Linda — it encourages nursing students to give the best they possibly can to help patients by providing care, compassion and comfort. It's important to me to support this program as much as I can, even after I'm gone. Leaving a bequest makes it easy to do just that.”
— Richard Bennett

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