



Loma Linda University  
School of Allied Health Professions

*Awards  
Ceremony*

March 3, 2017

# MENU

Our menu was created by  
Greg Sullivan, Director of Dining Services  
Food is served by University Catering

Vegan Smothered Veggie Chicken  
Tex Mex Stir Fry Veggies  
Jalapeno Blue Corn Muffins  
Smokey Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Smoked Carrot Planks  
Tossed Salad with Black Beans and Roasted Corn  
Vegan Cilantro Vinaigrette Dressing  
Churro Bar  
Watermelon Infused Ice Water

# PROGRAM

Welcome & Invocation

Craig R. Jackson, JD, MSW  
Dean, SAHP

Table Dismissal & Dinner

Dean's Welcome

San Bernardino Gateway College Video

Awards Presentation

Benediction



# RISING STARS

The Rising Star award is presented to a current student or alumnus(na) of not more than five years who has been part of advancing the profession, invention or leadership, entrepreneurship, research, mentoring, community service, and /or made an impactful contribution to the school.

# SARAH MURPHY

## CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCES RESPIRATORY CARE

Sarah Murphy is a Registered Respiratory Therapist, a graduate from Loma Linda University. Sarah has always had a passion for helping others – growing up asthmatic, she spent many of her childhood years in the hospital, and it was at a young age that she decided she wanted to help those who were sick like her. After a few years of working as a bedside therapist at Loma Linda University Medical Center, caring for a wide range of patients from premature infants to aging adults, she found a passion for teaching.



Sarah began teaching her patients the importance of understanding their disease process, ways they could better take care of themselves, and how to prevent future hospitalizations. Sarah enjoyed these interactions with her patients and soon decided that she also had a passion for education; specifically, the education of future Respiratory Care Practitioners. It was then that she decided to obtain her Master's degree and set her goals for teaching in a program where she could put her passion for the profession and education to good use.

Shortly after Sarah completed her Master's degree, she obtained a teaching position in the Cardiopulmonary Science Department at Loma Linda University. As an alumna, she knew she had big shoes to fill, and she currently enjoys pushing herself to live up to the many legacies of the Respiratory Care Program at Loma Linda University.

When Sarah is not working at the bedside of a sick patient or in the classroom, she loves to travel; her favorite destinations thus far have been Cancun, New Orleans and Chicago. The hardest part of traveling, she says, is leaving her three loving dogs behind.

# STEPHEN BISHOP

## CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Stephen Bishop graduated from Loma Linda University in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. During his time at LLU, he served as Executive Vice President of the Loma Linda University Student Association and was also the President of his class. At graduation, he received the Dean's Award from the School of Allied Health Professions. After



finishing at LLU, Stephen returned to the Clinical Laboratory Science program as a contract instructor for junior year CLS students while working as a generalist and laboratory supervisor for Riverside Community Hospital. In May of 2015, Stephen obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands where he is a fellow of the Whitehead Leadership Society.

Stephen is a California licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist with certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology. He is currently employed by Kaiser Permanente as an Area Laboratory Operations Manager for the San Bernardino Service Area. In addition, Stephen also serves as a clinical instructor to the senior LLU CLS students who rotate through Kaiser Permanente Fontana's Medical Center Laboratory.

Always learning, Stephen is nearly finished with a professional certificate in Lean Six Sigma from the University of California, Riverside, and aims to be certified in that field by the end of 2017. He will also be working towards membership and fellow status with the American College of Healthcare Executives. Because of his passion for leadership and service, Stephen has chosen to pursue a career in healthcare management.

# KARINA VEGA

## COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Karina recognized early in her undergraduate education that she had a passion for service. The Clearlake Project, which she became involved with while a student at Pacific Union College, was one of her earliest service experiences. This project provided packed food to the homeless and delivered it to their tented community. As a result of her involvement with this project, she realized that she was called to help underserved populations.



Soon after transferring to LLU in her junior year, she immediately involved herself with the Helping Hands Pantry. She also volunteered as a tutor and mentor to low-income Latino and African-American school age children through LLU's Community Kids Connection and Project Hope. Because Project Hope was a program geared toward pregnant high school teenagers, it was particularly special to Karina – her parents were still in high school when she was born, so she felt that she had a unique perspective to share with these teens.

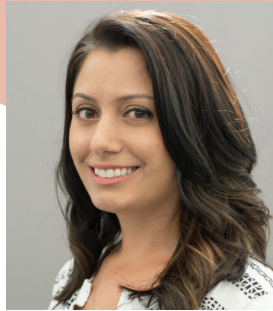
As a scholarship recipient of the Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund (SALEF), Karina also mentored high school students at a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) high school. Some of these students would be the first in their family to attend college. She was happy to share her insight and experiences with each of them.

Although Karina is passionate about service, this in no way diminishes her academic performance. She has maintained a 3.8 GPA across both her undergraduate and graduate studies in speech-language pathology. Karina embodies the LLU values not only in her educational pursuits by displaying excellence, integrity, and compassion, but also by continuing to share her skills and gifts while at the same time sharing her faith. These qualities are exemplary among most, but compulsory in a Rising Star.

# GINA MARTINEZ

## HEALTH INFORMATICS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Gina Martinez began her college journey with the goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. During her studies, she worked as a Store Manager of a school uniforms store where she thrived at creating a team-based atmosphere. Gina quickly realized that Health Information Management was the direction she wanted to go, as it would allow her to combine her passion for healthcare with her experience in management.



Being a mother of two girls, Gina is driven to do the best she can in her program to show them that, with hard work, they too can accomplish anything they put their mind to. Gina has proven her value in the classroom where she has performed magnificently. She was awarded the Davidian Scholarship from the HIIM department during her junior year. She continues to delve into all aspects of HIM in an effort to truly understand the profession. In August 2016, Gina was chosen to serve on the Student Advisory Committee for AHIMA, the premier association of Health Information Management professionals. One of her responsibilities for this committee was to speak in front of 200 HIM students in Baltimore, Maryland during AHIMA's 2016 annual convention – Gina represented Loma Linda University with poise and grace.

Gina will graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Information Administration in the spring. Her goals for the future include working in Health Information Management, where she can utilize her strengths to further encourage the growing trend of patient advocacy and empowerment.

The HIIM faculty is proud of Gina and look forward to her future accomplishments. She is an exceptional candidate for the Rising Star Award.

# KENDRA GRAHAM

## NUTRITION & DIETETICS

Kendra Graham currently works as a clinical dietitian on the adult clinical team at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Loma Linda University in 2015. During her time as a student, she was awarded the Martha Miller Scholarship, as well as receiving student sponsorship from the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. During her senior year, she was secretary of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society.



Kendra has continued to demonstrate leadership skills in her current job; serving as a care plan champion, LLEAP super-user, and providing mentorship to countless students. She has taken the initiative to develop an updated charting template to better fulfill the guidelines set by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Even though Kendra has been cross-trained in many areas, the primary patient populations she works with are ICU, Cardiology, and Oncology. Besides working at LLUMC, she also teaches outpatient classes at the Loma Linda Diabetes Treatment Center.

When not at work, Kendra enjoys playing music and staying active – completing her first half marathon in December of 2016. She also volunteers to feed the homeless at Crosswalk Clinic. Kendra plans to obtain her Certified Nutrition Support Clinician credential in the coming year, and she continues to advance her knowledge in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics.



# ALEXANDRIA ROBINSON

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

We are pleased to honor Alexandria Robinson, class of 2017, with the Rising Star Award, Department of Occupational Therapy. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Azusa Pacific University, and it has been a pleasure to have her in our OT program since then. She has done very well on her fieldwork experiences and during her service learning project at Westside Kinship Services. Her strengths include her ability to think on her feet and communicate with a variety of individuals – with compassion and without judgment.



Her passion for service led her to Malawi, where she was pivotal in the implementation of the Champions Club at Passion Center for Children. This program provides spiritual, educational, and occupational therapy to children with special needs and their families. She was responsible for fundraising and physical plant construction. She also provided education to in-country interns on the assessment process and the development/implementation of treatment plans. The Champions Club project is one she will continue to develop and, as faculty and staff listened to her presentation, one could truly feel the passion she has for the people in Malawi.

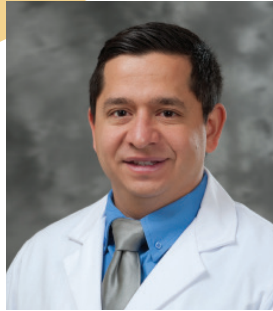
Alexandria has given a presentation at the Occupational Therapy Association of California conference entitled, "A Community-Based Fieldwork Model for Domestic Violence," and she has also presented multiple times at La Sierra University about opportunities in Occupational Therapy.

We are very proud of Alexandria's many accomplishments and are pleased to present her with the Rising Star Award.

# ANDREW GOLEY

## ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS

Andrew Goley was adopted from Guatemala and moved to the United States as an infant. He has lived in seven states and three countries, and he is now happy to consider Santa Fe in New Mexico his home. In 2014, he graduated with the inaugural class of the Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics program. After successfully completing his dual-discipline,



18-month residency in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he is now managing the Hanger Clinics located in Santa Fe, Espanola, and Taos in that same state. "We see patients from all different walks of life – rarely are individuals super-excited to receive a brace, but when it comes to receiving a prosthetic limb they are very eager. The orthotics and prosthetics field is evolving, and it is a very rewarding career as we see quick, gratifying results for the patients we assist on a daily basis." The daily goal is providing a nurturing, efficient, and caring environment in the community for all patients and staff.

While in school, Andrew enjoyed fundraising for the Challenged Athletes Foundation, volunteering at Camp No Limits and Ossur running clinics, as well as receiving the 2012 PossAbilities Volunteer of the Year award. Prior to beginning his current career, he and his wife Adrienne cycled from Virginia to Colorado, and this past summer they ventured on their mountain bikes from Durango, Colorado to Moab, Utah. In his free time, Andrew enjoys mountain biking, hiking, photography, and road trips throughout New Mexico with Adrienne and their two dogs, Honey and Saige.

# DUSTIN WILLIS

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

Although Dustin Willis grew up in the shadow of Loma Linda University (LLU), all he knew about it was that it was a world-class health science institution. Arriving on campus, he immediately aligned with the values and mission of the university. He became a leader in creating “wholeness” experiences for his Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) classmates. During his tenure at LLU he participated in a departmental SIMS trip to Haiti. This experience greatly impacted his life – not only did it give him a desire to serve others, but it also inspired him to become an educator. While a student, Dustin earned the 2014 School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) Dean’s Award, the Fred B. Moore Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance, and the 2014 Global Mission Award.



After graduation in 2014, Dustin continued his involvement in Haiti by serving as an instructor for the SAHP Rehabilitation Technician Training Program. He completed the LLU Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program in December 2015. Next he applied to, and was accepted into, two Fellowship programs. He completed the University of Southern California Lower Quarter Biomechanics Fellowship in December 2016, as well as the Kaiser Permanente Orthopedics Fellowship in March of 2017. Despite three years of continual post-professional education (residency and fellowships), his thirst for advanced knowledge was not satisfied. In September 2016 he began the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physical Therapy program offered at LLU, Department of Physical Therapy. His research interests include Pain and Movement Science. He is currently employed at the Movement Performance Institute in Los Angeles, the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Hollywood, and is preparing to team up with the Institute for Precision in Movement in San Bernardino, California. Dr. Willis’ life goal is to be a master clinician, an effective educator, a researcher, and a mentor to others.

# MEGAN CARTER

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Megan's commitment to volunteering within the medical realm started over ten years ago when she went on a mission trip to Niger while in nursing school. She was able to provide basic wound care and taught health classes. This opportunity really fueled her desire to serve the underserved. In Africa, she witnessed the disadvantaged state in which some people live, and what a profound impact volunteering can have on their situation. Each year that she attended nursing school, she volunteered as a teacher at the Migrant Farm Workers Health Fair. At this event, she was able to teach first aid classes, as well as translating for other classes.



During 2012 and 2013 Megan spent over five months living in Mexico. While there, she volunteered at a free daycare for working mothers with an attached health clinic. The clinic provided care to mothers and children ages 6 weeks – 4 years, completely free of charge, so that these single mothers could work and provide for their family. Prior to attending LLU, she was a volunteer nurse at Riverside Life Services, a free crisis pregnancy center, and she represented RLS at outreach health events.

Before and during her time in Physician Assistant school, Megan has been able to assist at Siloé Ministries in Mexico. She assisted in translating for medical teams, and also assessed and assisted in treating patients of all ages. She is deeply committed to continuing to use her skills to help those less fortunate, and she hopes to serve, long term, in the medical mission field in Latin America.

# GENESSA GESLER

## RADIATION TECHNOLOGY

Genessa Gesler graduated with a Certificate in Radiation Therapy in Fall of 2016. During her clinical rotations she received high marks from all of her clinical supervisors. Words such as professional, responsible, dependable, motivated, and empathetic came up consistently. Many of her preceptors expressed the desire to hire Genessa for their team, if only she were staying in the area.



Carol Davis, Radiation Therapy Program Director, had these words to say about Genessa... "She is a kind, thoughtful individual who has a lot of compassion and empathy for other people. As soon as she joined the class she was instrumental in forming one of the most cohesive and supportive classes that we have had in a long time. Genessa has great skills at managing difficult situations and is able to see both sides of any given problem. She is a great team player, but she also has many attributes of leadership."

Genessa grew up on a farm in Manteca, California and has a deep love of all animals. Her dachshund Noodles, however, is her favorite! Genessa just passed her ARRT Radiation Therapy boards in December 2016, and is currently interviewing for a therapist position in Northern California.



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

This award is presented to an alumnus(na) whose accomplishments exemplify the aims and aspirations of the SAHP and Loma Linda University. The individual must have been distinguished in humanitarian service or in academic pursuits including peer review research and/or education and have maintained spiritual commitment.

# ANTHEA GIBBONS

## CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCES RESPIRATORY CARE

Anthea Gibbons is currently the Director of Respiratory Care at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. A three-time alumna of Loma Linda University, she graduated with an A.S. degree in 1987, a B.S. degree in 1989, both in Respiratory Therapy, and a M.B.A. in Health Care Administration in 2016.



She began her professional career at Loma Linda University Medical Center and has spent the past 28 years of her employment involved in multiple clinical roles in the Respiratory Care Department. These roles have included Lead Respiratory Care Practitioner in the Surgical ICU, Hyperbaric/Bronchoscopy Respiratory Care Practitioner, Respiratory Discharge Educator, and Department Manager. She was also honored to accompany the Loma Linda University Medical Center Pediatric Heart Surgery Team to Nepal in 1993.

Anthea is a member of the BS Respiratory Care Advisory Board of Loma Linda University, the California Society of Respiratory Care (CSRC), the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC), the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC), and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

# KATHERINE DAVIS

## CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Kathy's professional career began as a graduate of the LLU Medical Technology (now CLS) program. She has worked in clinical practice and also in industry at Beckman Coulter, Inc. She returned to LLU serving as a beta-site evaluator for the company by conducting 510K data collection for submission to the FDA. She then assumed a teaching role at LLU and eventually became Program Director.



Kathy earned her MS in Health Professions Education at LLU, receiving the Dean's Award and gaining a passion for innovative and active learning techniques in the classroom and lab. She created the first on-line course in the CLS department and pioneered the use of "clicker" quizzes in SAHP. She developed interactive case studies and board review sessions for the seniors in the CLS program, and also for international participants studying for the national certification exam.

She was accepted into the Western Association of Senior Colleges and University Commission's (WSCUC) Assessment Leadership Academy (ALA). Her ALA project uncovered a new path for assessment at SAHP and led to her seeking to have this research published. Kathy and her fellow assessment specialists are looking at a new assessment strategic plan to help SAHP move forward to the next WSCUC site visit in 2020. She has recently been invited to serve as a member on a WSCUC site visit team in the Fall of 2017.

Kathy has presented at national meetings and has also worked with national accreditors as a self-study paper reviewer and site visitor at several CLS programs across the country. Although recently semi-retired, Kathy remains active in her profession, continues to volunteer in professional society activities, and finds time to be active in many University-level committees.



# TAMARA KECK

## COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Tamara completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Speech-Language Pathology at Loma Linda University in 2007 and 2009, respectively. In only seven years, she has quickly become a distinguished alumna. Tamara owns and operates SenseAbilities, Inc. which provides speech and language therapy to clients 3-21 years of age. The private practice started in Riverside, but has recently expanded to Corona, where it also provides contract services to local schools and hospitals. Hospital and school-based Speech Pathologists working in the Inland Empire know and respect Tamara and her company.



Tamara is proficient in American Sign Language and mother of an energetic 4-year-old daughter. Tamara actively serves on multiple advisory boards, both for the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CMSD) department at LLU and for the local district 10 of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA). Tamara's meaningful contributions are being recognized. This past year she received the CSHA District 10 Volunteer of the Year award and is now being honored as the 2017 CMSD distinguished alumna. She is respected by many faculty and students in the LLU CMSD program, as she consistently provides clinical placements, employment after graduation, and mentorship whenever needed.

In addition to giving back to LLU through her support of students, contributing to the professional community through her work with CSHA, and supporting the local community by providing speech and language therapy, she has been working on her clinical doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology as a member of the first SLPD cohort. She is expected to graduate in September 2017, with her work focusing on individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Congratulations, Tamara! We are so proud of you!

# MICHAEL LA FRANO

## NUTRITION & DIETETICS

Dr. Michael La Frano graduated in June 2007 from Loma Linda University with a degree in Nutrition & Dietetics, later passing the credentialing exam to become a Registered Dietitian. He credits his education, supervised practice experiences, and the faculty at LLU for providing him with the knowledgebase, support, and direction necessary for his subsequent educational and research endeavors.



After beginning classes the following Fall at the University of California, Davis, he later graduated with a PhD in Nutritional Biology in 2012. During his time as a graduate student, he researched vitamin A. Serving as Co-PI, he and his colleagues worked with the HarvestPlus program that is focused on alleviating nutritional deficiencies by biofortifying (cross-breeding) staple crops with increased concentrations of micronutrients for food-based interventions. After providing evidence that beta-carotene biofortified cassava is an efficacious source of vitamin A, seeds of this crop have since been distributed to farmers in Africa.

As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Davis, he worked in the field of metabolomics, the large-scale study of metabolites within the body. In this role, he supported collaborative research in nutritional and disease metabolomics funded through the pilot and feasibility grant program, as well as developing analysis methods for the NIH West Coast Metabolomics Center (WCMC). Specifically, he investigated diabetes, obesity, lung disease, environmental toxicants, and micronutrient deficiency, among others.

This past September, he began a faculty position as Assistant Professor at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. Here he is continuing his research in both metabolomics and comprehensive nutrient analyses. In addition, he is lecturing classes in introductory nutrition, nutrient metabolism and the metabolic and molecular aspects of vitamins.

# PENNY STACK

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

We are pleased to honor Penny Stack with the Distinguished Alumni Award, Department of Occupational Therapy. Penny received her Associate's degree in OT in 1989 and has continued to advance her OT education, graduating in December 2016 with her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She is currently employed at the Tulsa Community College as a professor and academic fieldwork coordinator.



Penny has developed a keen interest in working with individuals with dyslexia and demonstrating how OT can improve their functional abilities. She has presented on the topic in numerous arenas.

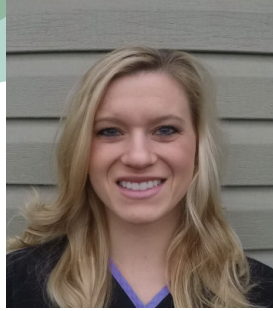
Her professional accomplishments are numerous and include the following: YWCA co-grant writer for special needs children; member of a task force on child abuse prevention/coalition on substance abuse; area manager for SunDance Rehabilitation; co-author of a cardiac OT protocol; certification as a lymphedema therapist; and presentations on dyslexia for the Oklahoma OT Association. Most recently, she was a co-presenter for the 3rd annual Huecker Lecture, part of the MOT Research Colloquium at Loma Linda University. She also presented a poster entitled "The Occupational Therapy Connection: Exploration of the Lived Experiences of Persons with Dyslexia."

Penny received a California Foundation of Occupational Therapy grant for her research on dyslexia and its impact on occupational participation. We are very proud of Penny's many accomplishments and are pleased to present her with this award.

# JEANA OLDHAM

## ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS

Jeana Oldham was raised in McDonald, Tennessee, and she attended Southern Adventist University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She was accepted early, after 3 years of college, into the graduate program of Orthotics & Prosthetics at Loma Linda University in California. She was part of the very first cohort



of Orthotics & Prosthetics at Loma Linda and graduated with her B.S. in Health Science, and then the Master of Science in Orthotics & Prosthetics in June 2014. She graduated magna cum laude, moved back to Chattanooga Tennessee, and married her husband Kellen Oldham in November 2014. In Chattanooga, she completed a fast-track dual-specialty residency program compacted into 18 months, and she was the first of her class to receive dual certification in Orthotics & Prosthetics by the American Board for Certification.

Since her residency, Jeana has become specialized in pediatric care, scoliosis, and lower extremity prostheses. She has also had the unique opportunity to work with animals, and is currently beginning the patenting process for a canine orthotic. In addition, she has worked with a variety of amputee athletes, ranging from beginners to paralympic athletes. She plans to establish one of the first non-profit foundations for amputee athletes in Tennessee. Jeana has been a personal trainer since 2008, and has competed in national and international fitness competitions since 2011. She placed top seven in the world for her height in 2013. She and her husband own their own personal training business while both working in the medical field. Her love for physical fitness and whole person care are her passions and, with these, she aims to provide quality care, motivation, inspiration, and fitness opportunities for her patients.

# COURTNEY MACIEL

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Courtney Maciel grew up the eldest of two girls in San Juan Capistrano, California, and she feels fortunate to have been blessed with a loving mother and father. She knew from a relatively early age that the medical field was in her future, but as she entered into college at UCI, it was through her work at an orthopedic clinic that she found her calling. She had the good fortune to be able to work directly with a Physician Assistant, who opened her eyes to the wonderful field she now considers herself lucky to be a part of.



She applied to various PA schools; however, she distinctly remembers the difference she felt during her interview at Loma Linda. She says she never felt so at home in her entire life – she felt in her heart that Loma Linda was where she was meant to be. She found that these feelings were only further affirmed throughout her education at LLU. Not only did the faculty prepare her and her fellow students for the mental challenges that they would face in this demanding career, but they were also dedicated to the spiritual and emotional health of the students. The faculty truly embody the mission of Loma Linda, which has been Courtney's most important lesson to date, and one that she continues to strive to emulate to this day.

She now considers it her greatest honor to be able to give back to the University some small part of what was given to her, and every day she accomplishes this by having become a clinical preceptor. Her greatest goal for her students, when they leave a rotation with her, is not just for them to be better prepared for some test, but for them also to understand how, through compassion and understanding, they can gain the most important gift of all – the trust of their patients.

# AIMEE GALLEGOS

## RADIATION TECHNOLOGY

Aimee Gallegos, R.T. (R) (ARRT), graduated from the ASMR program at LLU in 2005 and immediately went to work at LLUMC. She became the PM x-ray supervisor quite quickly, and excelled at this position for several years, earning the respect of her peers. She then became the Radiology Department Educator, working closely with the Chief Technologist for Diagnostic Radiology on everything from Joint Commission survey preparation to staff schedules, as well as supply ordering and all education for the department.



When there was a need to split the adult and pediatric hospitals at LLUH, Aimee was selected as the Radiology Manager for LLUCH. In this capacity, she manages multiple departments, technologists, and ancillary personnel. In addition to her responsibilities at the hospital, she is part of a team from LLUH that has partnered with AGFA Healthcare to develop and co-design a multi-purpose dynamic imaging unit. In the past year she has traveled to Germany and Belgium to participate in workshops for this project. This team was able to give a clinical perspective of what the technologists and radiologists need in an imaging unit. Most recently, she traveled to Chicago to attend the RSNA Conference and be a part of the unveiling of the DR 800 dynamic imaging unit.

She married her high school sweetheart Anthony, and they have three young children. She and her husband spend many hours as volunteers and are board members for Redlands Jr All-American Football and Cheer program. Aimee is a great product of the SAHP- she leads her team with compassion, grace, and clinical skills.





# ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Presented to an alumnus(na) whose accomplishments exemplify the aims and aspirations of the SAHP and Loma Linda University. The individual must have been distinguished in humanitarian service or in academic pursuits including peer review research and/or education and have maintained spiritual commitment.



# MARILYN DAVIDIAN

## HEALTH INFORMATICS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Marilyn Davidian, Ph.D., is a consummate professional who has dedicated over thirty years to educating and preparing health information professionals. Her efforts have cultivated countless students while nurturing the health information profession as a whole. As the Chair of the department of Health Informatics and Information Management, Marilyn has worked diligently to implement enhancements to the educational offerings at Loma Linda University. She served as the Program Director for the Bachelor of Science degree program for many years. Owing to the vision and guidance of Dr. Joyce W. Hopp, Ph.D., she pioneered the development of a Master of Health Information Systems (MHIS) program in 1993 and served as its Program Director. Her inspirational leadership also led to the development of a distance education program for RHIT progression students.



The passion and dedication Marilyn has for the health information profession extends into the wider community. She has volunteered in numerous capacities at the local, state, and national levels in an effort to advance the health information profession. In 2001, she worked with Audrey Shaffer and began an annual clinical affiliation scholarship and program to send students overseas to Hangzhou, China. Not only was Marilyn volunteering to advance the cause for others, she was also continually working on her own educational edification. She earned her Master's Degree in 1997 and her Ph.D. in Education in 2010. In doing all of this, Marilyn maintained a strong commitment to mentoring colleagues and students. Under her guidance, numerous faculty members completed graduate degrees, and she has guided the careers of countless graduates over the years.

Marilyn's doctoral research study focused on the value of mentoring Health Information Management students, and she continues to contribute to this aspect on a regular basis. Ongoing mentoring of these students will significantly contribute to enriching the profession.



# ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Presented to an alumnus(na) whose accomplishments exemplify the aims and aspirations of the SAHP and Loma Linda University. The individual must have been distinguished in humanitarian service or in academic pursuits including peer review research and/or education and have maintained spiritual commitment.

# STEVEN D. NEWTON

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

Coming from a home with a single mom and six siblings, Dr. Steven Newton was the first in his family to attend college. He went on to earn Bachelor and Doctoral degrees in Physical Therapy from Loma Linda University, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands.



Dr. Newton has continuously taught in the Department of Physical Therapy at Loma Linda University since 1989, on either a full-time or part-time basis, and in multiple degree programs. In addition, he serves as a senior consultant for the Fox Group, developing marketing strategies, designing and implementing organization systems, and assisting in feasibility audits for medical groups. He has served as an advisor for ESPN and as the interim CFO for Call Denver, a telemarketing firm where he expanded operations from seven to seventy-five employees in less than nine months. He has established multiple physical therapy companies and currently is the founder/owner of the PerformaX Physical Therapy and Wellness Center in Burbank, CA.

With his gift for teaching and inspiring excellence in others, Dr. Newton has developed safety and wellness programs for the FBI, presented at national physical therapy conferences, created the Honor Your Earth Tour -- the largest two-person grass and sand volleyball tour in California -- and served on the medical crew for Mark Burnett's *The Eco Challenge*. Practicing strong mentoring skills within physical therapy, Dr. Newton has seen ten former employees achieve either PT or PT Assistant degrees. In addition, he serves as an active advisor for minority students at University of North Texas, and continues a 14-year commitment as a "Big Brother" in his local community.

## STAY CONNECTED

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