



# AUXILIARY NEWS

FALL ISSUE 2025 Volume 87, Number 1

## Director's Message

As we continue into another year of service, the Loma Linda University Medical Auxiliary remains focused on our mission—with special emphasis on supporting our students through scholarships. These scholarships, currently awarded to students completing their first year of medical school, make a tangible difference. With tuition and living expenses increasing each year, every gift we receive helps lighten the burden and fuels the dreams of a future LLU alumnus.

You can read about this year's inspiring scholarship recipients on page 9. We are deeply grateful for your generosity, which makes these awards possible.

We also invite you to join us for our Fall Luncheon, "Celebrating Missions," on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the Mitten Building in Redlands. Our featured speaker is Dr. Gillian Seton, an LLU School of Medicine graduate (Class of 2008) and Deferred Mission Appointee. After completing her general surgery residency at the University of Utah, Gillian served six years as a young surgeon at Cooper Hospital in Liberia, beginning in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak. In 2020, while awaiting immigration after adopting her son in Liberia, she relocated to Malamulo Hospital in Malawi—arriving just in time to face the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, she lives and practices in John Day, Oregon. Her story of resilience, service, and faith promises to be unforgettable.

Adding to the day's inspiration, we are pleased to welcome Alessandra Sorace, a gifted Christian recording artist, singer, and speaker. Since age four, Alessandra has shared God's love through music in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, performing across 30 states and six countries. She is also the singer and narrator for the Christian TV series "Love Me."

And looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our APC Homecoming Mission Vespers on February 28, 2026, and Homecoming Luncheon on March 1, 2026. We hope to see many of you there as we continue to celebrate our mission and community.

With warm regards,

*Merle Hildebrand*

Director, LLU Medical Auxiliary

## Meet Dr. Jaime López

Jaime López, EdD, became the associate dean for student affairs at LLU School of Medicine in July 2024. His office is responsible for student scholarships, among other aspects of student life, including student support services, campus life and student development programs.

We spoke with him recently to find out more about the man behind the title. Dr. López was born, raised and largely educated in Puerto Rico. He previously was the associate dean of student affairs at the School of Medicine, Universidad Central del Caribe in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Before that, he served for 13 years at Antillean Adventist University in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. His wife Esther is an accountant and they have a six-year old daughter who is the "princess" in their household. He loves food, cooking AND cleaning, and keeps a supply of snacks in his office for visitors. He likes listening to music to relax although he does not play an instrument. He is a great collector and giver of stickers; if you visit, you will receive one. He believes that communication is best when people meet "around the table." The Auxiliary looks forward to sharing many more years working with Dr. López and the medical students.



Merle Hildebrand, Auxiliary Director, and Dr. Jaime López, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, LLUSM

## From the Editors

As editors of Auxiliary News, we warmly invite you to join us in reaching out to our diverse membership by contributing articles, historical anecdotes, and alumni stories of interest. Your insights help preserve our shared legacy and strengthen our community.

We are deeply grateful for your encouragement and financial support- it sustains and inspires the work we do.

Blessings,

*Lynda Chan and Karen Wat Nielsen*

## DUES REMINDER 2025-2026

Dues are payable now online at [www.llumedaux.org](http://www.llumedaux.org) or by check to our address below.

Regular Dues \$55

Retired, Widowed or Divorced \$35

Life Membership \$1,500 or

4 payments of \$375

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## Cookbooks



## New Prices for Cookbooks Shipped

Due to numerous postage increases, it is necessary to increase our shipping prices effective January 1, 2025. Purchase price remains the same.

Cookbook	Price	Shipping	Total
1 Apple A Day	\$16	\$14	\$30
Set of 2 Apple A Day	\$28	\$16	\$44
Set of 3 Apple A Day	\$36	\$18	\$54
Open Table	\$34	\$16	\$50

## Auxiliary News Sponsors

### Friend

Drusilla Heidar

### Partner

Darilee and Elmar Sakala

Karen Wat Nielsen

## In Loving Memory

Marti Baum Hardesty SM'79B,  
wife of Robert Hardesty SM'78A

Joan Harding,  
widow of George T. Harding SM'53-B

Charlotte Hartman,  
wife of Cyril Hartman SM'61

Fran Johnson, Friend of the Auxiliary

Frances Layland,  
widow of Calvin Layland SM'48

Mary Stokos, former Auxiliary Board Member

Nancy Wernick,  
wife of Gary Wernick SM'73B



*The Auxiliary News* is the newsletter of the  
Loma Linda University Medical Auxiliary.  
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Loma Linda, CA 92354

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Facebook: llumedaux • YouTube: Auxiliary TV



**LLU Medical Auxiliary**

*We are pleased to welcome*

*Invites you to our*  
**Fall Luncheon**  
**Celebrating Missions**



Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Mitten Building  
345 N. Fifth Street  
Redlands, CA

Doors open at 11 a.m.; Program begins at 11:30 a.m.



- ☼ Deadline to register and pay: October 7, 2025
- ☼ No RSVPs accepted without payment
- ☼ For more information, visit our website:  
llumedaux.org or call 909-558-4639



**Gillian Seton, MD**  
LLU SM'08

Dr. Seton has served at SDA Cooper Hospital in Liberia and Malamulo Hospital in Malawi. She has traveled around the world, visiting various hospitals, which reaffirmed her commitment to global medical missions.



**Alessandra Sorace**  
Guest Artist

Alessandra has inspired many with her music and feels it is her passion to help others experience a genuine friendship with God.

*Come hear stories of service and share in a spirit of compassion*  
*Be inspired as we reveal our 2025-2026 Mission projects*



**LLU Medical Auxiliary Fall Luncheon**

Doors open at 11:00 a.m., Program begins at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$75/person; \$77/person if using credit card

*Mail this form with check payable to: LLU Medical Auxiliary*

11245 Anderson Street, Suite 230 | Loma Linda, CA 92354 | 909-558-4639



Ticket(s) Qty \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75/\$77 if using credit card TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sit with: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to register and pay is October 7, 2025. No RSVPs without payment.

## 2024 - 2025 Donations

Achiriloaie, Adina F.....	5	Guthrie, Patti & Todd.....	7	Masillamoni, Eva & Collet.....	5
Adams, Lin.....	5	H & O Barros Foundation.....	7	Mattheis, Wanda.....	2
Aitchison, Patricia.....	5	Habenicht, Debbie & Laurence.....	5	McKinney, J.....	5
Akamine, Marjorie.....	5,7	Hadley, Donna.....	2	McMillan, Kathleen.....	2,5
Alinsod, Ladelle.....	5	Hardesty, Jeff.....	5	Meelhuysen, Delbe.....	5
Allen, Janette.....	2,5	Hardesty, Robyn.....	5	Meyer, Michelle.....	5
Allen, Janette & Reginald.....	5	Hart, Judy.....	1,2,5,7	Mullen, Bethany & Tom.....	3
Altman, Teresa.....	5	Hart, Judy Rae.....	1,5	Murdoch, Jean.....	2
Anonymous.....	2,5,7	Hasselbrack, Sally.....	5	Murdoch, Rebecca.....	2
Bankes, Barbara.....	5	Hausted, Birgit.....	5	Murray, Alicia.....	2,5
Barnes, Susan F.....	5	Hayton, Ryan.....	5	Neergaard, Jayne.....	5
Barton, Brent.....	5	Heidar, Drusilla.....	1,5,7	Nicolay, Lynn.....	5
Batin, Patricia.....	3,4,5	Heidenreich, Robyn.....	5	Oalmer, Schubert & Yolanda.....	5
Baum, Carla Lidner.....	4,5,7	Hiersche, Peggy.....	5	Odell, Jeanne & Mike.....	5
Bennett, Jack & Sharan.....	2,5,7	Hildebrand, Merle.....	5,7	Ojeda, Debbie.....	2,4,5,7
Boksberger, Nancy.....	5	Hill, Rosemarie.....	5	Olson, Kellie.....	2
Bond, Georgene & Robert.....	5,7	Hilliard, Jolene.....	2,4,5,7	Oltman, Paula.....	5
Brauer, Carol.....	5,7	Hilliard, Tammy.....	5,7	Pauliah, Michelle.....	5
Broeckel, Judy.....	3	Hoch, Bobbi.....	5	Peverini, Ricardo.....	5
Burton, Jean & George.....	5	Holland, Melita E.....	2,5,7	Philips, Rosalind.....	5
Butler, Dan & Ellen.....	5	Hopper, Rita.....	5	Powers, Rebecca.....	5
Cady, Joyce.....	2,4	Hoxie, Danielle.....	3	Racker, Holly.....	5
Callender, Madelyn.....	5	Hsu, Lydia.....	5	Raines, Marina: in honor of Mr. Hernan R & Mrs. Orfi T Barros; in honor of the Hadley and Hildebrand Families.....	3
Cassimy, Clyde.....	5	Hsieh, Lena.....	2	Reese, Donna.....	5
Chan, Lynda.....	4,5	Jamieson, Donna.....	3	Reiswig, Joyce.....	2,4
Chang, Diane.....	5	Jenkins Wells, Ellie.....	5	Reiswig, Joyce & Philip.....	5,7
Cheek, Sharon.....	5,7	JMJ: in honor of William Murdoch.....	4	Retzer, Carol Ann & Darold.....	5
Chen, Irma.....	2,7	Jobe, Melanie.....	2,5	Rick, Laura & Calvin.....	5
Choo, Selina Chan.....	2	Johnston-Lashier, Nancy.....	2,4,5	Roeske, Carol.....	5
Chung, Helen.....	1,2,3,4,5,7	Kelln, Marilynn.....	5	Rouhe, Mellissa.....	2,4
Church, Stephanie.....	5	Kido, Elissa & Dan.....	5	Rowell, Reba.....	2,7
Clark, Ramona Richli.....	2,3	Kim, Marilyn & Paul.....	5	Rusch, Joyce K.....	5,7
Clegg, Jo Ann.....	2,3	Kimbrough, Nellie.....	5	Sakala, Darilee & Elmar.....	1,2,4,5,7
Codington, Jo Anna.....	5	Knutson, Susan.....	5	Salkey, Phyllis.....	5
Codington, Lois.....	5	Krick, Beverly.....	5	Scheult, Peter.....	5
Collins, Cindy.....	2	LaGourgue, Helen.....	2,5,7	Scranton, Tracy.....	4
Couperus, Cheryl & James.....	5	Lake, Karen.....	2,5	Shaffer, Audrey.....	2
Deming, Edith.....	5,7	Lang, Darice.....	5	Shasky, Ursula.....	1,3,5
Dinwiddie, Susan.....	2	Lang, Marcia.....	5	Sherry, Heather.....	5,7
Dunbar, Marcia & Richard.....	5	Lee, Sze-Ching.....	5	Simmons, D Jean.....	5
Eastvold, Ardeth.....	5	Leichty, Mary.....	5	Small, Nancy.....	5
Edwards, Vicky.....	2,5	Leon, Hugo & Yolanda.....	7	Smith, Carolyn.....	5
Eller, Cheryl.....	5	Lilly, Delynn.....	5	Smith, Dorothy Ray.....	2
Emori-Elder, Grace.....	5,7	LiVolsi, Sylvia.....	5	Snedaker, Sarah.....	5
Enix, Deborah.....	5	LLU Graduate Medical Education for RMA.....	6	Stecker, Rheeta.....	2
Evans, Joni.....	2,5	LLU Medical Auxiliary: in honor of Richard Rouhe, Edward Krick, Harold Howard Batin.....	5	Stewart, Sharon.....	2,4,5,7
Fisher, Samia.....	5	LLU School of Medicine.....	6	Stoehr, Janet.....	5
Fong, Alice.....	5,7	Loh, Samuel.....	3	Stone, Janice Schilling.....	7
Fontoura, Odineia.....	5	Lounsbury, Vonnice.....	3,7	Tamayose, Amy.....	3
Fromm, Barbara Ann.....	7	Lundstrom, Evangeline.....	5,7	Tarr, Beverly.....	7
Gaskill, Darlene & Dennis.....	5	Maier, Donndalee.....	5	Thomsen, Tina.....	5,7
Gerlic, Charleen & Richard.....	5	Mamoulelis, Menelaos.....	5	Totaro, Ann.....	5
Goral, Janice.....	2			Unterseher, Raleigh.....	3
Graham Family Foundation.....	2				
Greene, Judith & Randy.....	3				



## 2024 - 2025 Donations

Vassantachart, Dale.....1,4,5,7	Weber, Doris.....5	Woodruff, Krista.....5
Vassantachart, Shirley.....2	Weber, Rollin.....5	Woolley, E. Jane.....2
Wagner, Marian.....3	Wedin, Sharon.....2,5	Wright, Cynthia.....5
Wallenkampf, Janet.....5,7	Wernick, Nancy.....2	Wysong, Tricia.....5
Wang, Marilene B: in honor of Betty	Wettstein, Patricia.....5	Youngberg, Wes & Betsy.....5
Wang.....4	Wical, Charles & Crystal.....5	Yutuc, Angeli.....5
Waring, Cynthia.....2,4	Wileman, Maralyn.....3,7	Zalsman, Ruth.....3
Wat Nielsen, Karen.....1,5	Wilson, Doug.....5	Zinke, Nancy & Ernest.....3
Watkins, Dixie.....2,5,7	Wongworawat, Alice.....5	Zumwalt, Barbara & Richard.....5
Weathers, Theresa.....5	Wood, Esther.....5	

1. AN Support  
2. DUO

3. General Fund  
4. Little White House

5. Missions  
6. Other

7. Scholarships

## Dues Paid Members 2024 - 2025

Abidin, Mariska	Collins, Cindy	Olson, Kellie	Tamayose, Amy
Allen, Janette	Davies, Nell	Reeves, Michelle	Teruya, Rose
Anderson, Beverly Joan	Foote, Debra	Reichert, Lynette	Thiel, Bonnie
Baum, Carla Lidner	Frykman, Annette	Robinson, Tina	Waring, Cynthia
Betlinski, Carolyn	Hayton, Cheryl	Rowsell, Reba	Wat Nielsen, Karen
Boskind, Helen	Holland, Melita E	Rusch, Joyce K	Wedin, Sharon
Boyko, Teresa Anderson	Killeen, Eileen	Shaffer, Audrey	Williams, Natalie
Cady, Joyce	Lake, Karen	Shahoian, Barbara	Woods, Mildred
Callender, Madelyn	Loredo, Beth	Shasky, Ursula	Zimmermann, Melba
Carritte, Deborah Chung	Lorenz, Angela	Small, Nancy	Zinke, Nancy
Chung, Helen	Lundstrom, Evangeline	Smith, Dorothy Ray	
Clark, Ramona Richli	Mattheis, Wanda	Stewart, Dona	
Clegg, Jo Ann	Munson, Laurel	Stone, Janice Schilling	

## LLU Medical Auxiliary Financial Report

### Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2025

#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

Checking/Savings	32,855.12
Accounts Receivable	603.98

##### Other Current Assets

Inventory	10,167.80
LLU Foundation	895,652.47
Prepaid Expenses	1,000.00

**TOTAL ASSETS** **940,279.37**

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

##### Current Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities	1,963.18
Accrued Sales Tax	199.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,162.76</b>

##### Equity

Unrestricted Funds	101,434.20
Other Designated Funds	836,682.41
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>938,116.61</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **940,279.37**

# Tree of Angels

## Given By

Allen, Janette  
Cummings, Kandice  
Deming, Edith  
Evans, Joni  
Gosney, Kari & Wallace  
Hilliard, Jolene

Hoag, Joel & Johnna  
Hodgkin, Sheila  
Hszieh, Lena  
Jenkins Wells, Ellie  
Knutson, Susan  
Krick, Beverly  
Meelhuysen, Delbe

Murdoch, Jean  
Murray, Alicia  
Murray, Alicia & Rick  
Odell, Jeanne & Mike  
Rosario, Carolann  
Schumann, Frederick & De Vona  
Sherry, Heather  
Simmons, D. Jean  
Stewart, Sharon  
Stoehr, Janet  
Tarr, Beverly  
Wat Nielsen, Karen  
Wedin, Sharon  
Wettstein, Patricia  
Wright, Cynthia

## Given By

Reiswig, Joyce & Philip  
Rosario, Carolann  
Rusch, Joyce K.  
Shasky, Ursula  
Sherry, Heather  
Vasantachart, Dale  
Wright, Cynthia

## In Memory of

Richard Rouhe  
Candace Hadley  
Rick Jordan  
Bill & Jean Hankins  
Rollin & Eileen Gosney  
Candace Hadley, Frieda Roos, Richard Rouhe, Stan Appleton  
Jean Marie Hoag SM'41 & Elvin W Hoag SM'47  
Steven Hodgkin & Georgia Hodgkin  
George Hszieh, MD  
Al Voth  
Shirley Olson  
Ed Krick  
Shirley Thomas, Griffith Thomas, & Michael Meelhuysen  
William Murdoch, Grace Rittenhouse  
Frieda Roos, Candy Hadley  
Dr. Rick Hill, Dr. Richard Rouhe, Dr. Stan Appleton  
Ollie Mae Giles  
Ted Shankel, MD  
Sandra Kay Schumann  
Mr. Son Dang Phan  
Cheryl Diane Horner  
Cheryl Kerschner  
Naor U Stoehr  
Corlene B Lambeth  
Margaret Wat  
Dr. Alvin & Charlyn Dahl  
Richard Damer  
Kathy Runge

## In Honor of

Pam Timothy  
Stewart Shankel, MD  
Janette Allen  
Donald Shasky  
Pastor Andy Timothy Phan  
Mrs. Ganelle Davis  
Kathy Runge



## Donors

Bloomquist, Carol  
Boyko, Teresa Anderson  
Brauer, Carol  
Carritte, Deborah Chung  
Choo, Selina Chan  
Chung, Helen  
Clark, Ramona Richli  
Emery, Marilyn  
Fedun, Paula  
Fromm, Barbara Ann

## Donors

Hadley, Donna  
Hildebrand, Merle  
Holland, Melita E  
Kelln, Marilyn  
Lake, Karen  
Lemley, Melanie  
Oliver, Jennifer & Daniel  
Rowell, Reba  
Sakala, Darilee & Elmar



## Life Members

Abu-Assal, Mitzi  
Akamine, Marjorie  
Alison, Rosemayne  
Andreasen, Demeree  
Ask, Ladan  
Bailey, Doralee  
Bailie, Rita  
Barker, Gwen  
Barruga, Pam  
Behrens, B Lyn  
Bennett, Jack  
Bennett, Sharan  
Benson, Lois  
Bensonhaver, Bonnie  
Bokovoy, Sandra  
Boksberger, Nancy  
Botimer, LaJean  
Botimer, Jacque  
Brandstater, Beverly Chilson  
Brauer, Carol  
Bray, Lois  
Brockmann, Brendon  
Brockmann, Dana M H  
Bryner, Darlene  
Bylsma, Jackie  
Cavin, Janece  
Chan, Lynda  
Chen, Irma  
Ching, Beverly J  
Colburn, Sandra  
Concepcion, Rosie

Cossentine, Roberta  
Cotton, Maggie  
Cotton, Shery Lynn  
Craig, Virginia  
Davidson, Cynthia  
Deming, Edith  
Domke, Carol  
Downs, Marcella  
Duerksen, Rosemary  
Edwards, Vicky  
Emery, Marilyn  
Ermshar, Arlene  
Fredricksen, Carol  
Garbutt, Leonor  
Gardner, M June  
Gil, Cyndi  
Goral, Janice  
Gosney, Kari  
Greene, Amy  
Greene, Judith Schnepfer  
Hadley, Donna  
Hall, Patti Batin  
Hardesty, Robyn  
Harding, Joan  
Hart, Judy  
Heidar, Drusilla  
Heidenreich, Cherrie  
Hein, Lisa Greene  
Herber, Katherine  
Hildebrand, Merle  
Hill, Nadia

Hilliard, Jolene  
Hodgkin, Sheila  
Hopper, Rita  
House, Kay  
Hoxie, Danielle  
Hoxie, Paul B  
Hoxie, Philip S  
Hoxie, Russell  
Hsieh, Lena  
Jobe, Melanie  
Johnson, Trudy  
Johnson, Odette  
Johnson, Kitty  
Johnson, Erika  
Johnston, Angelica  
Johnston-Lashier, Nancy  
Jones, Barbara P  
Kafrouni, Denise  
Knutson, Susan  
Kon, Phoebe  
Krick, Beverly  
LaGourgue, Helen  
Lang, Marcia  
Lau, Esther  
Lawson, Lucinda  
Lewis, Benita Welebir  
Lonser, Priscilla  
Lowe, Patricia  
Lui, Anita  
Luke, Chintana  
Manchur, Mary Kaye

Matiko, Frances  
Mayor, Judy  
McCaffery, Mary Ann  
McHan, Carolyn  
McKinney, Phyllis  
McMillan, Kathleen  
Meelhuysen, Delbe  
Meyer, Michelle  
Murdoch, Rebecca  
Murdoch, Jean  
Murray, Kelly  
Mushik, Betsy  
Nelson, Marilyn  
Nerness, Yvonne  
Ojeda, Debbie  
Opsahl, Betty  
Parks, Dolores Harris  
Paw, Cay  
Peterson, Myra  
Raines, R Marina  
Reeves, Beverly  
Reiber, Mariellen  
Reiswig, Joyce  
Reves, Diana  
Ross, Mary  
Rouhe, Mellissa  
Sakala, Darilee  
Schafer, Glenda  
Schaffner, Mavis  
Schumacher, Bonnie Joan  
Shankel, Joy

Sherrill, Margaret  
Shockey, Mavis  
Simmons, D Jean  
Simpson, Vicki  
Soeprono, Lorraine  
Sogioka, Patsy  
Stanhiser, Ruth  
Stoehr, Janet  
Tan, Shirley  
Taylor, Carlene  
Tsao, Amabel  
Vasantachart, Dale  
Wagner, Marian  
Wagner, Mickie  
Walters, Carmen  
Wareham, Barbara  
Watkins, Dixie  
Wernick, Nancy  
Westphal, Elaine  
Westphal, Carlla  
White, Linda  
Whiting, Carol Johnson  
Wilson, Catherine  
Woodruff, Krista  
Woolley, E Jane  
Yamashiro, Naomi  
Yeo, Alice  
Young, Madeline  
Zalsman, Ruth

## 100 Years of Healing at Kendu Adventist Hospital, Kenya

Dr. Denny Hong SM'15, who was the featured speaker at our 2023 Fall Mission Luncheon, sent this update about the Centennial Celebration of the SDA medical mission work in Kenya. The Auxiliary gave Kendu Adventist Hospital \$20,000 in funds for their ICU conversion that year.

The June 2025 event at Kendu Adventist Hospital was celebrated by over 1000 people, including government and national leaders, LLU SIMS, SDA church representatives, ADRA Finland, and previous hospital workers. The Carscallen family (grandson of the first SDA missionary to Kenya) also attended.

After the first SDA church in Kenya was built in 1906, a grass-thatched hospital with six beds was started in 1925 at Kendu Bay. This has now become Kendu Adventist Hospital with 170 beds. The complex includes a School of Medical Sciences, an elementary school and a Comprehensive Care Center.



Kendu Adventist Hospital leaders celebrate 100 years of service to Kenya; LLU's President Richard Hart attended (far right).



## Mission Update from Moundou, Chad

Dr. James Appel SM'00 wrote to us after a visit to Moundou Adventist Surgery Center, Chad, in January 2025. (Letter summarized)

The Moundou Adventist Surgery Center opened in 2010 thanks to a \$70,000 gift from the Medical Auxiliary. Dr. Appel and his wife Sarah worked in Moundou from 2012-2014, beginning with mainly surgical and obstetrics cases. The SIGN orthopedic nail program allowed them to treat long bone fractures and brought in new cases. From 2014-2016 Scott SM'85 and Becky Gardner took over. As a general surgeon, Scott increased the Center's reputation for quality surgery and orthopedics until it became the referral center for Southern Chad.

In 2016 the first Chadian Adventist physician, Odei Abdou, moved to Moundou. Dr. Odei, a generalist, began learning and doing surgery with Appolinaire, a nurse's aide who had been the surgical scrub assistant to both Drs. Appel and Gardner. In 2020 Dr. Odei left to do an orthopedic residency but a string of Chadian general practitioners has since rotated through Moundou, doing surgery and orthopedics with Appolinaire. Doctors Without Borders and other international agencies working with Central African Republic refugees have partnered with the Center to care for trauma victims. The majority of the practice is orthopedics.



James and Miriam Appel examine a young patient on their recent trip

Recently, a 1.5 acre property across the street from the Center became available and was fenced with a wall funded by Adventist Health International. After his January visit, Dr. Appel began working with the current Center administrator and a US architect to develop a site plan for the new compound. There are critical needs for a new Emergency Department and Operating Theater, as during his visit Dr. Appel saw the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit being used as an ER and the single operating room overloaded with 6-10 major orthopedic surgery cases a day.

What the Auxiliary started in 2010 has provided life-saving and life-changing surgeries for thousands of patients.

Thanks for all you do and God bless,  
James Appel and Sarah Andersen, Miriam, Noah and Isak



### 2025 Board of Directors

*Front row:* Patti Batin Hall (Missions Chair), Lynda Chan (Co-Editor, Programs Chair), Merle Hildebrand (Director, JMA Sponsor), Sharon Stewart (LWH Co-Chair), Alice Yeo (RMA Sponsor), Karen Wat Nielsen (Co-Editor, Parliamentarian)

*Back row:* Beverly Collins (Decorations), Danielle Hoxie (Hospitality Chair), Janette Allen (Tree of Angels Chair), Jolene Hilliard (LWH Co-Chair), Tina Robinson (Missions Associate), *not pictured,* Verlon Strauss (Finance Officer)



## Auxiliary Scholarships

By Karen Wat Nielsen, SM'76B

Thanks to your generosity, the Auxiliary awarded three \$10,000 scholarships this year to the second-year medical students below. As you read their profiles and letters of thanks, we ask you to continue your support for our mission to these future physicians.



Jasmine Cha SM'28

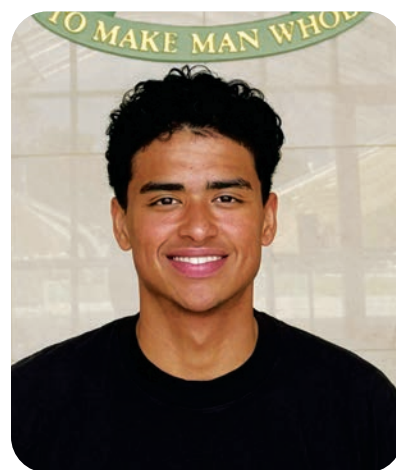
Jasmine Cha is a graduate of Andrews University where she majored in biology. While there she gained experience in cancer biology research and presented multiple academic posters. She was a leader in her university's Korean American Student Association. She served on mission trips with her church and looks forward to participating in medical mission trips here at LLU.

*She writes: "Thank you very much for the Auxiliary scholarship. This will help me tremendously with my tuition expenses and I will remember this award as an opportunity to dedicate myself to patient care and fulfilling Jesus's healing mission. Once again, thank you!"*

Asael Sabetai Isaac graduated from Walla Walla University, the youngest of four and the only child in his family to complete college. His Chilean-immigrant mother and second-generation Haitian SDA pastor father made many sacrifices to provide for his education. He is interested in orthopedic surgery, volunteers as a tutor and assists with the Doctor Me program.

*He writes: "As someone who could not afford a prep course for the MCAT, I am especially grateful for the opportunity this scholarship provides—the opportunity to maximize my Step 1 preparation. This scholarship will also sustain me as I commute to Glendora during my orthopedic summer internship . . .*

*I am very excited for the day I can pay this blessing forward. Just as I have been blessed, I am committed to supporting future students in need who, like me, are striving with limited means but unlimited determination. Thank you again for investing in me!"*



Asael Sabetai Isaac SM'28



Molly Ahola SM'28

Molly Ahola is a graduate of Walla Walla University. She has a deep interest in orthopedic surgery and has been involved in multiple clinical research projects including a current project at the Loma Linda VA Hospital exploring fat deposition in bone marrow. She has been the Association of Women in Surgery MS1 representative this year and has mentored pregnant and parenting teenagers through Project Hope.

*She writes: "Thank you so much for your generous scholarship award. Your support is an incredible encouragement to me as I continue toward my goal of becoming a Christ-centered physician. Being a student here at LLUSM has been a wonderful opportunity so far, and I am so grateful to have your support along that journey. . . Thank you again for investing in my medical education, your gift is greatly appreciated."*



# Little White House Summer Opening

By Lynda Chan

The LLU Medical Auxiliary was delighted to host the summer openings of the Little White House on July 24 and 28. Thanks to generous community donations, students and their families enjoyed shopping for furniture, kitchenware, linens, and clothing—all at no cost to students. From sofas and dressers to patio sets, rugs, and boutique finds, the Little White House offered treasures to help students feel more at home.

The evenings were filled with connection and hospitality, complete with fresh salads, homemade focaccia, a charcuterie spread and cookies. The goal of the Little White House is to help students feel welcomed, settled, and supported as they begin their new chapter in Loma Linda. Heartfelt thanks go to our donors and volunteers, whose generosity and hard work make these events possible.



Jolene Hilliard, LWH Co-Chair





## RMA Update

By Emily Mitchell

The Resident Medical Auxiliary (RMA) at Loma Linda University exists to support medical families during the challenging and rewarding years of residency. Our goal is to foster community, connection, and encouragement for spouses and children of residents and fellows. Over the past year, we've hosted a variety of family-friendly and seasonal events — including a Harvest Festival, holiday potluck, Easter Egg Hunt, and a special Valentine's Date Night — to bring our community together through food, fun, and shared experiences.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue offering these family-friendly events, twice-monthly park days with coffee, and more! Our hope with these events is to give families a chance to relax, connect, and build lasting friendships. RMA is here to walk alongside you during this season of life, reminding you that you're not alone.



**JMA 2025-26 Officers:**

Amanda Ulam (President), Alyssa Wolf-Collins (Communications), Kimberly John (Volunteer Coordinator), Hannah Klein (Events Coordinator & Historian)



JMA members at Corona Del Mar



**"The RMA Is Growing!" 2025-26 Officers:**

Emily Mitchell (Co-Leader), Julia Buell (Co-Leader), Anna Salisbury (Treasurer), Jennifer Travoulsi (Secretary)



End of the Year Ice Cream Night at Nicho's on June 17

## JMA Update

By Hannah Klein

JMA sent off their residency and Florida program-bound members/retiring officers in March with a dinner at The Cutting Board restaurant! They reminisced and passed around cards to sign with words of affirmation to those moving onto their next chapter. In May new officers were appointed and got to planning!

JMA hosted a June social event at Corona Del Mar Beach where they snacked, soaked up the sun, and even saw dolphins! In July they gathered for a potluck picnic at Prospect Park. The August JMA Welcome dinner hosted by Merle Hildebrand was a huge success with lots of new faces! JMA is planning to do volunteer work with SAC Health this upcoming year, along with their biannual bake sale fundraisers and weekly fellowship meetings.



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## Save the Date

- ✱ **FALL 2025 LUNCHEON**  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025
- ✱ **APC MISSION VESPERS**  
Sabbath, February 28, 2026
- ✱ **APC HOMECOMING**  
**LUNCHEON & BUSINESS MEETING**  
Sunday, March 1, 2025

## 2025 Freshman Welcome Picnic

The Alumni Association of the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University welcomed the new freshman medical class at the traditional Welcome Picnic on Tuesday evening, July 29. Medical Auxiliary officers Merle Hildebrand, Danielle Hoxie and Beverly Collins provided dessert, including cookies and frozen treats.



Auxiliary leaders Merle Hildebrand, Danielle Hoxie & Beverly Collins serve cookies to the incoming first-year medical students.



The mission of the Loma Linda University Medical Auxiliary is to demonstrate God's love through benevolence and shared service. The Auxiliary promotes the mission work of its Alumni; the education and welfare of medical students, residents and their spouses; and the intellectual and spiritual growth of its diverse membership.

The Auxiliary is committed to continuing a heritage of unselfish dedication to service, beneficence and healthful living, as well as to responding to humanitarian needs in today's changing world.