I am working jointly with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine (UTCOM) and the Department of Internal Medicine at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga collecting data for an upcoming publication.

UTCOM has instituted a new holistic healthcare program into their academics. Residents now participate in empathy classes, and chaplains have been incorporated into rounding teams in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Working with Dr. Mukta Panda, Assistant Dean for Medical Student Education and Professor at UTCOM, and Chaplains Greg Daniel and Jeremy Lambert, has been a fun and educational experience. Once a week, I interview patients in the hospital and collect qualitative data regarding their visit by a chaplain.

The first time I knocked on a patient’s door, it felt like my heart was about to go into ventricular tachycardia. Thank goodness I was already at the hospital if I should need defibrillation! I’ve had the opportunity to sit in on meetings, to present my data to a departmental chair, to work with UTCOM professors on refining our data collection, and, most beneficially, to spend time on the hospital floors talking to patients.

Overall, I have been quite blessed by this opportunity and have found it to be a valuable exposure into the medical field and community.

By John Hannah, senior biology major

My research project is analyzing the necessity of scheduled repeat CT scans for patients with mild, isolated, traumatic intracranial hemorrhage.

I’ve had the opportunity to work under Jessica Whittle, M.D., Ph.D., at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

Learning the basics of how to write an Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposal for a research project at a large hospital, and being able to shadow Dr. Whittle in the Emergency Department, have been fascinating. I am involved in a research project that can make a difference in the medical community.

By Krista Bonney, senior biology major
As we set off for Peru, I had no idea what types of experiences or procedures I was going to take part in. Our excitement escalated when we realized that we arrived in Peru to do medical mission work. Prior to this trip to South America, I was struggling with the real reason why I wanted to go to medical school and kept asking God to make it clear to me if medical school is the right choice for me. During my time in Peru, there were three patients that influenced my life personally and I will forever hold these memories throughout my future career.

The first patient was a young boy who was in a motorcycle accident. I saw him walk into the clinic limping, and it was evident that he was in a lot of pain. I was helping in the injection area of the mobile clinic that day, and the nurse in that area asked if I wanted to give a shot. Now, we had practiced giving shots to each other, and I knew that I was going to have the opportunity to give a shot on this trip, but I didn’t think that it was going to be so soon and with a young boy in an immense amount of pain. As I was getting ready to give the shot, I looked at the boy’s face, and I will never forget how scared he was. All I could remember was to do it fast, like a dart, and don’t forget to pull back to make sure the needle is not in a vein. Fast and quick. I said a quick prayer for God to steady my nervous hand. I gave the shot as fast as I could, and he flinched some at the beginning, but it was over before I knew it. It was then that I realized I have to step out of my comfort zone if I want to go into medicine, and I must trust God completely if I want to become a doctor. Not solely with academics, but in what I can do physically as well. Though this was not a life-threatening procedure, I may be in a situation someday where I will need to lean on God for everything that I do so He can steady my nervousness and lead me to help others in whatever career I choose.

The second patient was a young woman who had a cyst located on the back of her head. I was fortunate enough to observe and assist in this surgery. At first, I assisted by injecting Lidocaine around the area where the surgeon was going to cut. We had previously practiced this; however, this patient needed a higher dosage. The surgery went well, and at the end I had the privilege of helping with sutures. I had never even practiced doing a suture before, so I had no idea what I was getting into. I remember them telling me to go down to the skull and then come up. I wanted to give up so badly because I could not figure out how deep I was going, and I didn’t want to hurt this poor girl with her head open on the table. Though I was ready to give up, I kept going and finished it. It was not the prettiest ever done, but I didn’t give up, which helped me to see that I can’t give up if I want to go into this profession. There are going to be so many times that I want to quit, but there is always a solution, and I learned that perseverance will help me get to where I want to go.

The final patient seen on our last day of clinics was a young girl who came in with a protrusion that the doctor figured to be a tumor. This case broke my heart. Throughout my experiences of shadowing and learning, I had never seen something like this. This girl was so young and clearly in so much pain. Prior to her surgery, I was able to talk with this patient. Despite her horrible circumstance, she remained one of the most positive people I have ever met. She was about to go into a surgery with complete American strangers, yet she asked me about where I was from, my favorite color and other small talk. I put myself in her shoes and imagined how challenging her situation must be, but it was still positive.
What are some highlights of your time at Southern?

Friends! I unfortunately lost touch with my high school friends pretty quickly, but the relationships I made at Southern have lasted. I have some very fond memories with my guy friends in the dorm, socializing in the cafeteria and at vespers, church, worship, etc. Even though studies could be pretty grueling, I feel like my science classes were solid and prepared me well for medical school.

What are some highlights of your time at Loma Linda?

Meeting my wife is, of course, No. 1. When I wasn’t busy in the books or on the wards, I enjoyed socializing and getting outside. I had never been to that part of the country prior to starting school there, so it was fun to have easy access to the beach and mountains.

What was your residency specialty in and where did you go?

Emergency Medicine at Winston-Salem, North Carolina (Wake Forest).

What advice do you have for students looking to get into medical school and for how to survive medical school once they are accepted?

I could say a lot on this subject. To keep it short: (1) It is a huge time commitment—not only during school and residency, but usually for your entire career. You can’t have too much exposure prior to going into it. It is a HUGE decision. I have known people to quit two weeks into medical school, two years into medical school, and two years into residency. Everyone’s experience is different and valuable in its own way, but better to find out sooner rather than later if it is or isn’t for you. (2) As long as it is under your control, keep the Sabbath and don’t study on it. If you have to be in the hospital taking care of patients, that is, of course, an exception. But if you are stressed about a test the following Monday, the worst thing you can do is freak out and spend all of Sabbath studying instead of resting and keeping your focus on what is really important. I developed the biggest appreciation ever for the Sabbath during my first two years of medical school. (3) Keep a balanced lifestyle in medical school. It is really important to try to sleep, eat, and exercise right. It will make your studying more efficient, and you will be happier!

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Krystin, is a beautiful and very supportive spouse. I couldn’t have gotten through residency without her! We have a three-month old daughter, Amelia, who is growing fast and is cuter than ever.

Overall, this experience was definitely one that will stay with me my entire life. I will use the lessons I learned in Peru not only in my future career, but in my daily life as well. I am so thankful that I got to be a part of the healing that went on there. While the physicians and my fellow students acted as healers during our time in Peru, it was such an amazing experience to share with people the love and compassion of the True Healer. That is the main message I will take with me wherever I go throughout my career. These experiences have helped me to understand that the real reason to become a physician is not only to heal others, but to show the love of Christ to every patient.

By Emily Scriven

Alumni Spotlight

Jackson Henley, Biology/Medical Science, Class of 2007

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By Valerie Lee
Congratulations
Seniors

Allied Health Graduates 2014-2015

Giselle Aszalos
AS Occupational

Sarah Bailey
AS Physical Therapy

Kiri Bardsley
AS Physical Therapy

Morgan Barrow
AS Physical Therapy

Jessica Bayer
AS Dental Hygiene

Karine Benedicto
AS Speech Lang Path

Estefania Cantu
AS Speech Lang Path

Joshua Carrazana
AS Physical Therapy

Jesse Congo
AS Speech Lang Path

Fairlyn Ditta
BS Medical Lab Science

Russell Drapiza
AS Physical Therapy

Mackinsie Flores
AS Dental Hygiene

Anotte Gedeon
AS Speech Lang Path

Hillary Gow Sujo
AS Physical Therapy

Katrina Grant
AS Nutrition/Dietetcs

Dillon Hamilton
AS Physical Therapy

Allison Handel
AS Physical Therapy

Emil Harty
BS Medical Lab Science

Kacey Hawkins
AS Physical Therapy

Andrey Ivanov
BS Medical Lab Science

Bernadine Malqued
AS Physical Therapy

Roy Mendizabal
AS Physical Therapy

Ervin Mitra
BS Medical Lab Science

Rachel Norman
AS Dental Hygiene

Loran Ong
BS Medical Lab Science

Christian Pinango
AS Physical Therapy

Pablo Ruano
AS Physical Therapy

Kristen Schwindt
AS Speech Lang Path

Eunice Sham
AS Physical Therapy

Edy Sosa
AS Physical Therapy

Elise Theodore
BS Medical Lab Science

Aki Tsuchiya
AS Physical Therapy

Amanda Uribe
AS Speech Lang Path

Congratulations
Seniors
Drs. Tim Trott, Keith Snyder, Bruce Schilling (Chemistry), and Randy Bishop spent almost three hours with approximately 100 alumni from Southern who are currently in school at Loma Linda. Promise of Marie Callendar’s pies may have brought some of them, but it appeared that everyone was happy to see the professors as well. Additionally, it was a great excuse for the alumni to see each other, since they often are stuck in their own professional silos during the week.

Over and over again, the professors heard comments like “We were well prepared.” and “We had an edge by going to Southern.” The most-appreciated classes taken at Southern in preparation for Loma Linda were Animal Physiology, Immunology, Human Anatomy, Biochemistry, Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology. The professors were asked questions such as “What is new at Southern?” and “So good to see you.” This reunion has been alternate years up to this point, but we may need to have it yearly in the future.

By Keith Snyder