

# From the Alumni President



Dear Fellow Alumni:

Since our last letter, we have a new governor and new legislature. Change is in the air, especially in the months to come. Governor Jindal states that he is committed to building the LSU VA Teaching Hospital in New Orleans.

The Isidore Cohn Jr., MD, Student Learning Center was destroyed by the hurricane. Through your generosity, the equipment was replaced and our students have enjoyed the benefits of simulation. The Student Learning Center will be rebuilt soon on the sixth floor of 2020 Gravier Street.

We are going through a transformational change in medical education from strictly knowledge-based to competency-based education and evaluation. The Cohn Learning Center made it possible to go from reliance on multiple-choice tests to competence-based education and evaluation with the patient simulator.

This year's project is the Center for Advanced Practice, i.e., CAP. The Center for Advanced Practice is located on the 5th floor, one floor below the Cohn Learning Center and comprises 20,000 square feet. It presently is 98% complete. It will also house the new Dean's Office and our own Alumni Office. The target audience will be residents and physicians in practice and the focus is the use of all educational modalities incorporating evolving technology into medical practice in all specialties.

Doctors who must employ these advances in real patients can't afford to be less than completely familiar with the technology. But how will we learn this and who will assure that the physicians have the chance to learn these new techniques in an unbiased and (almost certainly to become) accredited setting?

This is the real advantage of the Center for Advanced Practice. We are poised like no other site in the United States, and perhaps the world, to teach use of emerging technologies into actual practice. A major device manufacturer, who has just completed a learning center in the corporate headquarters, stated that our new center of advanced learning makes their new center practically obsolete.

Once again, it was Medical Alumni who answered the call, secured the financing to start and to finish the project. It was your Alumni Board and supporters who sponsored the Second Gala, an evening that was enjoyed by all and raised greater than \$180,000 for CAP.

June 13 & 14, 2008 – Alumni Weekend – our Chancellor, **Larry Hollier ('68)** has authorized the dedication of the Center for Advanced Practice. The center will be directed by **Charles Hilton ('76)** with the intent and purposes for which it was built.

As history has recorded in the 1940s and 1950s, New Orleans was one of the most prominent graduate medical education training sites in the United States. We had something no one else had – Charity Hospital. Due to the generosity and foresight of the LSU Medical Alumni Association, we now stand at the threshold of reclaiming that position with the continuing evolution of our competency based, technology driven center for medical education. The Center for Advanced Practice is a crucial part of this evolution as we can and will embrace the entire continuum of learners and techniques.

Your support and financial generosity has made all of the above possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Lee J. Monlezun ('69)**  
President  
**LSU Medical Alumni Association**

## Purple Blues and Gold

### 2007 Gala Grand Success

**I**t was listening to the warm up provided by Alex Pena's musical group. It was dancing to the music of Irma Thomas and her band. It was silent auction. It was live auction. It was food and drink and fellowship of 800 faculty, alumni and friends of LSU School of Medicine. It was the result of hundreds of hours of staff and volunteer efforts.

It was "Purple Blues and Gold" the Alumni Association's Second Annual Fall Gala. All event proceeds, \$180,000 were earmarked for the Center for Advanced Practice, but more than that it was another opportunity for the large and extended family of the School of Medicine to have a good time.

Perhaps a letter from the "Faculty Assembly" said it best: "In our discussion of the event at our most recent meeting, the Faculty Assembly delegates praised the event as a wonderful evening and opportunity to contribute to an important cause. Occasions such as this are also of tremendous value in the post Katrina era where faculty and staff are incredibly busy and dispersed to numerous locations. This event brought our faculty and many students together for fun, food, and terrific music."



Irma Thomas and her band add to the festive mood.

Your Alumni Association is already planning to stage its Third Annual Gala on October 18, 2008.

### *At the Patron Party...*



The Rozas family, left to right, daughter **Jeannine Rozas Cook ('84)**, **Earl Rozas ('64)**, and **Beth Rozas**



At the Patron Party (left to right): **Cathi Fontenot ('84)**, **Gray Stream**, **Anne Monlezun**, and **Lee Monlezun ('69)**



**Leslie Stokes** and **Dr. Harold Stokes**



**Dr. Steve Nelson**, Dean, LSU School of Medicine, and his wife **Julie Nelson**.



**Curtis Duplechain ('63)** and **Donna Duplechain**

## October 2007 Gala

### *At the Patron Party...*



Diana Hollier (*left*), wife of Chancellor **Larry H. Hollier ('68)**, and Anne Monlezun, wife of **Lee Monlezun ('69)**, President of the Alumni Association



**Fred Rodriguez, Jr. ('75)** (*left*), Representative of the Committee of 100 in the Alumni Association, Susan Rodriguez, and **Lee Monlezun ('69)**, Alumni Association President



Joyce and **Jim Leonard ('63)**, President-Elect of the Alumni Association.



Dr. Gerald Berenson, left, and **Joseph Biundo ('64)**



**George Lyons ('54)**, left, Betty Lyons, and John Lombardi, President of the LSU System

### *At the Gala...*



*PHOTO, LEFT*  
At the Gala (*left to right*): Marianne Cohn; Dr. Isidore Cohn, Jr.; Susan McSherry, MD; **Robert C. Batson ('71)**; and Diana Hollier, wife of Chancellor **Larry H. Hollier ('68)**



**Cherie Niles ('87)** and Stewart Niles

# October 2007 Gala



John Lombardi, President of the LSU System, speaks at the Gala



LSUSM-NO medical students enjoying the festivities at the Gala (left to right): Jordan Romero, Andrew Nakamoto, Janna Alfery, Toby Nageotte (guest), Erika Vogel



Russell Klein ('59), Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs and Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association, speaks to the attendees at the Gala.



Jim Leonard ('63) (left), President-Elect of the Alumni Association, with Jennifer Peltier and Henry Peltier ('90)



Blanche Frances and Dr. Norman Frances, President of Xavier University.



Candice Leduff Knight (L4) and F. Collins Knight, MD

## Gotta dance!



Dancing couples, left to right: Diana and Larry Hollier ('68); Susan and Fred Rodriguez ('75); Elizabeth Hall and Domenick Grieshaber; Haydee and Nicolas Bazan



Irma Thomas and her band set toes to tapping.

## October 2007 Gala



A pirogue, custom-made by **Harold Bienvenu III ('79)** was one of the more unusual items available in the Silent Auction



*PHOTO, RIGHT*  
**Fred Lopez ('91)**  
(left) with **Leslie Tenney** and **Justin Tenney ('02)**



*Left to right:* **Mack Thomas ('62)**; **James D. (Buddy) Caldwell**, new Attorney General of Louisiana, and **W. Chapman Lee ('69)**.

### *The Silent Auction...*

The Gala's Silent Auction was enriched by an impressive array of artistic works created by alumni, LSUHSC employees, and family members. Those who contributed their own work, and the pieces up for auction, were as follows:

**Harold Bienvenu III ('79)**: cypress and mahogany pirogue, custom-made, 18-1/2 feet long, with epoxy laminate.

**Burt Bujard ('58)**: "Happy Cross of Life" (wood and brass cross on stand)

**Bradley Chastant ('83)**: hand-turned rare kingwood bowl.

Laura Cressy, mother of former pulmonary resident, **David Cressy, MD**: "LSU Tiger Lily" (hand-painted silk floral arrangement)

Mary Ann deBoisblanc, mother of alumnus, **Ben deBoisblanc ('81)**: "Acadiana Wedding Scene" (mixed-media-on-board painting, elaborately framed)

**A. J. Friedman ('76)**: "Storm Trees" (mixed media painting)

**Jeffrey Joseph ('86)**: "Can't Hold That Tiger" (mixed media painting)

Donna Klein, wife of Alumni Director, **Russell Klein ('59)**: "Mike V in His Den" (two artist-signed framed 16" x 20" photographs)

Diego Largaia, husband of GME staff member, **Kelly Sherman**: "Daisies" (framed oil on canvas painting)

**Nell K. Mabry**, mother of student, **Carl Mabry ('10)**, "There's Still Next Year" (acrylic on canvas painting)

**Joe Wascome**, brother-in-law of alumna, **Jessica Montegudo ('76)**: handmade wooden bowl from an old Metairie pecan tree that fell due to Hurricane Katrina.

**Warren Plauché ('57)**: "The Olde Absinthe House" (matted pen and watercolor: French Quarter Series #3 - Aug 2001)

**Ulysses "Hank" Stoer ('43)**, three paintings: "Enchanted Rock" (framed and matted watercolor painting); "Magnolia Leaves" (framed and matted watercolor painting); and "Croton Leaves" (mixed media painting)

**Sharon N. Weilbaecher**, wife of alumnus, **Bob Weilbaecher ('63)**: "Madewood Plantation" (framed ten-color original signed and numbered lithograph)

# Faculty News

## Appointments

### Recent Appointments:

*Dr. Christopher Baker  
Chair, Department of  
Surgery*

*Dr. John England  
Chair, Department of  
Neurology*

*Dr. Augusto Ochoa  
Director, the Stanley S. Scott  
Cancer Center*

*Dr. Frank Opelka  
Vice Chancellor  
for Clinical Affairs*

*Dr. Bazan receives grant  
from the EENT Foundation.*

*Dr. Helm is recipient of the  
GSA-MAS Service Award.*

*Dr. Fontham named  
president-elect of the  
American Cancer Society*

Dr. Christopher “Chip” Baker, a Harvard Medical School graduate, has become chairman of the department of surgery as LSUHSC. He had been serving as a professor of surgery at his alma mater, and directed the residency program in that specialty there, but when he was offered the LSUHSC surgery chairmanship this year, he was eager to move to New Orleans even though it meant leaving the resource-rich Harvard environment for a medical sector struggling to recover from a historic flood. “My wife and I got excited about getting involved in the process of rebuilding,” Baker said. He succeeds the retired J. Patrick O’Leary, MD.

Dr. John England has returned to New Orleans as chairman of neurology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. He was a member of LSUHSC’s medical faculty from 1992 to 2001, when he moved to Montana to become chairman of neurology and medical director of neurosciences at the Deaconess Billings Clinic. He earned his medical degree at West Virginia University and is a member of two scholastic honor societies, Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha.

Dr. Augusto Ochoa has accepted the position as Director of the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center. With this appointment, Dr. Ochoa will be responsible for the research, teaching and administration of the Cancer Center and for shepherding the clinical and translational research opportunities that arise in conjunction with the Section of Hematology/Oncology in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, as well as other departments. Dr. Ochoa has served as Interim Director of the Cancer Center since 2006.

Dr. Frank Opelka was appointed Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs in December 2007. His previous position was Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs in the School of Medicine. Dr. Opelka will help integrate clinical activities, both public and private, with the statewide Electronic Health

## Dr. Helm honored



Dr. Helm

Edward Helm, MD, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Health Education at LSUHSC New Orleans’ School of Medicine, is this year’s recipient of the Association of American Medical College’s Group on Student Affairs-Minority Affairs Section (GSA-MAS) Service Award. The award, which is presented at the AAMC annual meeting in Washington, DC, is the most prestigious honor made to an individual who has provided substantial contributions to the Minority Affairs Section and its educational mission. The Minority Affairs Section first presented the award in 1975.

Records initiative, national quality assurance efforts, and physician performance measurement and standards.

## Grant

Nicolas Bazan, MD, PhD, Boyd Professor, Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Professor at LSUHSC, New Orleans, and Director of the LSUHSC Neuroscience Center of Excellence, has been awarded \$850,000 by the EENT Foundation to purchase two Mass Spectrometers and related equipment for use in scientific research and development at the Neuroscience Center, particularly Dr. Bazan’s work in retinal degeneration. Dr. Bazan’s research has led to significant advances in the understanding of retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. Among his most recent findings is that a substance discovered in his laboratories, neuroprotectin D1, protects against damage to retinal pigment epithelial cells. Over the past several decades, Dr. Bazan has attracted more than \$100 million in grants from the National Institute of Health.

Elizabeth “Terry” Fontham, MPH, DrPH, professor and dean of the School of Public Health, LSUHSC, has been named president-elect of the American Cancer Society. Dr. Fontham has been volunteering for the Society for more than 25 years.



## The Kline Festschrift

**T**he Kline Festschrift, an International Symposium on Nerve, honoring Dr. David G. Kline, was held October 19-20, 2007, at the Neuroscience Center for Excellence. Organizers and Chairs for this event were Frank Culicchia, MD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at LSUHSC, and Nicolas G. Bazan, MD, PhD, Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence. The event was well attended, with more than 100 participants from around the world.



Dr. David Kline savors a delicious moment at the

Dr. Kline, Boyd Professor, headed the Department of Neurology from 1972 to 2006. Because of his expertise in his specialty, his worldwide reputation and his teaching and mentoring skills, LSUHSC is recognized as a world leader in neurosurgical research, training and patient care, especially in the area of peripheral nerves, Dr. Kline's major interest. In 2005, an endowed chair in neurosurgery was established in his name.



Honoree Dr. David Kline, center, is flanked by the program's organizers, Drs. Nicolas Bazan (*left*) and Frank Culicchia, newly appointed Chair of Neurosurgery at LSU (*right*).



*Left to right:* Bernadette Moerschbaecher, Jane Sumner, Austin Sumner, Haydee Bazan, Nicolas Bazan, Joseph Moerschbaecher, Perry Rigby, and Roger Smith

## Nobel-winner Edmond Fischer visits Neuroscience Center

In November 2007, Dr. Edmond Fischer, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1992, presented the Chancellor's Award Lecture in Neuroscience. The title of the lecture was "The Origin of Cellular Regulation by Protein Phosphorylation." Pictured in the photograph, right, are (*left to right*): Nicolas G. Bazan, MD, PhD, Director Neuroscience Center of Excellence; Joseph Moerschbaecher, PhD, Dean of Graduate Studies, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; and Edmond Fischer, PhD, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine 1992 and Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry, University of Washington, receiving a plaque as Chancellor Award Lecturer.



Dr. Fischer, far right, receiving plaque (*see text, left, for complete details*).