The LSU School of Medicine Alumni Association celebrated its 8th Annual Purple & Gold Gala on Friday, October 11, 2013, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Silent and Live Auctions featured artwork, sports items and vacation packages. Entertainment was provided by The Topcats. Photographs from the Gala are featured on the next five pages.

Welcome aboard!

left to right: Dewanna and Clyde Landrum ('68), Larry ('68) and Diana Hollier, and Beverly and Brian Jakes

Robert C. Batson ('71) and Dr. Susan McSherry

Standing: Steve Pillow ('81) (left) and Tim Johnson ('81); seated: Michelle Pillow (left) and Lori Johnson
Cruisin’ on the USS Tiger

left to right: Doctors Janice Hudson, John Morrison, Ihsana Ali, and Juzar Ali

left to right: Sridevi Reddy, Sanjeeva Reddy ('89), and Abhita Reddy (L2)

Ruth Foster (left), with Drs. Gregg and Tasheitha Anazia

left to right: Chad and Mimi Leingang, with Alicia and Keith Millet.

PHOTO, LEFT

left to right: James Brown III ('92); Rachel Chua Brown, M.D.; Mike Hayes; Pam Hayes; Janie Brown; and James Brown, Jr., PhD
Cruisin’ on the USS Tiger

PHOTO, LEFT
Jennifer and Henry Peltier ('90) embrace George Rodrigue’s “LSU 1” Blue Dog from the Live Auction.

Lee Engel ('01) (left), with Dr. Steve Nelson, Dean.

PHOTO, RIGHT
left to right: Adam Howell, Samantha Parker (L1), and Janine Parker ('86)

PHOTO, RIGHT
left to right: Lloyd Roberts, Keith Schroth, Ben Lousteau, and Ron Moreau

PHOTO, LEFT
James ('63) and Joyce Leonard display their winning Live Auction item.
Cruisin’ on the USS Tiger

PHOTO, LEFT
Standing (left to right): Wanguo Liu, PhD; Heather Shields; Ed Grabczyk, PhD; Diptasri Mandal, PhD (below Ed Grabczyk); Fern Tsien, PhD; Stephanie Laurent; and Andrew Hollenback, PhD
Seated (left to right): Paula Gregory, PhD; Judy Crabtree, PhD; and Kathleen H. McDonough, PhD

PHOTO, BELOW
Artist Virginia Howard stands with Tourist Tiger Mike, one of her creations for the 2013 LSU Gala.

Lee Monlezun ('69) (left) admires the aerial-view photograph found by Maurice Bercier ('68) (right) at a flea market in Lafayette and now up for auction at the LSU Gala.

left to right: Brooke Morrell, MD; Brian Guillot; and Bradley Spieler ('05)

left to right: Claude Pirtle (L4), Michael Modica (L4), and Jeff Vinet (L3)
Everyone danced the night away at the Purple & Gold Gala!

NEW BOOK RELEASE... Researching the original brand registration of his great-grandfather Pierre Cenac for his book Eyes of an Eagle, Christopher Cenac, Sr. (’71), discovered a trove of local history in the form of long-forgotten volumes in the Terrebonne Parish Courthouse in Houma, L.A. Through the efforts of the local Clerk of Court, three ledger books emerged that became, in themselves, a series of encapsulated glimpses into the area’s early agrarian foundations. In extraordinary condition, these ledgers held an unprecedented set of the original livestock brands and marks of bustling bayou cattle country. Each registration entry furnished a record of the progression of settlement of the parish. At the parish’s founding in 1822 and for decades afterward, virtually everyone owned livestock that needed identification. The registration of a brand thus often served as the family’s calling card on making Terrebonne Parish their home.

Dr. Cenac’s new book, Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History, published by University Press of Mississippi/JPC, L.L.C. (October 9, 2013), not only shares the actual registration treasures of all 1,140 brands in the brand books themselves, but also chronicles a short history of laws governing animal identification, documents advances in forms of ownership identification, and details both ancient and more recent livestock breeds that received brands and other marks recorded in those three ledger books. The book includes 300 black-and-white and color illustrations to illuminate the history.

Dr. Cenac is a practicing orthopedic surgeon and served as Terrebonne Parish coroner. His book Eyes of an Eagle, published in 2011, was a selected book of the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission. Both books are featured at the Louisiana State Library and Museum, and are also in the libraries at universities throughout the state. They may be purchased at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com and eBooks.com.

GOTTA DANCE! Lee (’69) and Anne Monlezun put Gene Kelly to shame.

Priscilla Baughman and Charles H. Baughman (’56)
Profiles in Planned Giving

Planned giving allows you to make major donations to your school through bequests and trusts. Wills are relatively uncomplicated and easy to set up. Trusts are unique financial vehicles which hold assets for later disbursement. They allow a variety of payment mechanisms and offer attractive tax advantages.

Herman E. Walker, Jr. (’64) has set up a Charitable Remainder Unitrust which will pay Dr. and Mrs. Walker income and then, upon their death, the principle will be distributed to several different educational or charitable institutions. The LSU Medical Alumni Association has been selected as one of those beneficiaries. Dr. Walker states that “When I applied to medical school, there was only one choice for me and that was LSU.” Dr. Walker has two siblings, Leslie (’65) and Craig (’77), one niece, Angela Feyerabend (’84); one daughter, Anne (’91) and one son-in-law, G. Jude Bares (’90-Shreveport), who are all LSU Medical School graduates. His son, McCall (L2) is currently in his second year of medical school at LSU. Dr. Walker is an outstanding example of a grateful alumnus who states “I owe a large part of my life to LSU Medical School.”

Billy Beer was 25 when he arrived at the Charity Polio Unit in New Orleans in the acute stage of polio. After arriving at the unit breathless, Billy depended on an iron lung to survive. He stayed in the Charity Polio Unit for 13-months. “It seemed like there were iron lungs as far as I could see,” Billy said. “I don’t care if you were a Rockefeller, if you lived in New Orleans, you went to Charity.”

Billy’s friends say that if you want to impress Billy, be straightforward and real, like he is.

A living example of what impresses Billy is embodied in the person of Marcia, his loving wife of 44 years. Marcia, a transplant from Alabama, worked her way into top jobs at brokerage houses and local banks in New Orleans. “She held important positions” Billy says, “but she showed as much respect for the man who parked her car, as for the Chairman of the Board. That’s one thing that drew me to her.”

Billy currently has Post-Polio Syndrome and depends on a portable respirator but doesn’t let that dampen his “insane curiosity.” He is one of the oldest polio survivors with respiratory illness.

Billy and Marcia have decided to leave the majority of their estate to the LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation to fund medical student scholarships for students with the request that each student repay this gift by offering one free day of medical care per month for those patients unable to pay, after the new physician enters practice.

Whether you are a grateful alumnus, a grateful patient or friend of LSU Medical School, leave a legacy to the School of Medicine. You don’t have to be wealthy, all you have to do is care – like Marcia and Billy Beer and Dr. Herman Walker.

By making a planned gift, you can contribute to the long-term prosperity of the Medical School. Your gift may be designated to a department, scholarships, professorships or chairs, or designated for “areas of greatest need” as determined by the Dean. For more information regarding planned giving please contact the Alumni Office at 504-568-4029 or go to the website at: www.lsuhsclegacy.com.

Faculty shares inside knowledge in book to develop nation’s research scientists

In his first book, Andrew D. Hollenbach, PhD, Associate Professor of Genetics at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, shares his insider knowledge of how applications for one of the nation’s most prestigious and sought-after series of training grants are reviewed, the biases that influence the process, and invaluable tips, insights and key suggestions. A Practical Guide to Writing a Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Grant by Andrew D. Hollenbach is published by Academic Press, an imprint of Elsevier. The book is available at the Elsevier Store, Amazon.com, eBay, and a number of other booksellers.
Faculty News

Dr. Michael Levitzky, Professor of Physiology and Director of the Basic Science Curriculum at LSUHSC SoM, has been elected to the Administrative Board of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS). The 15-member board leads the Council’s activities. Dr. Levitzky will serve a three-year term. Kurt Varner, PhD, Lederle Laboratories/David R. Bethune Professor and Chair of Pharmacology, and Robin McGoey, M SGC, M D, Associate Professor of Pathology, are the LSUHSC SoM representatives to the CFAS.

Dr. Rebekah Gee, Assistant Professor LSUHSC Schools of Public Health and Medicine, has been selected to receive the 2014 Women Leaders in Medicine Award from the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). LSUHSC medical students identified her as a source of inspiration, leadership and support during their medical training. In addition to her teaching and clinical activities at LSUHSC, Dr. Gee is also the Medicaid Medical Director for the State of Louisiana.

Paulo C. Rodriguez, PhD, Assistant Professor – Research – of Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology at LSUHSC-NO’s Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, was selected as the 2013 recipient of the Presidential Award by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC).

Upcoming Event...
March 28, 2014
CAMP TIGER Benefit Auction
New Orleans Museum of Art
7:00 - 11:00 pm
The Camp Tiger Auction is a major beneficiary of the Camp Tiger Program, which is organized and staffed by first-year medical students at LSUHSC School of Medicine in New Orleans. For more information, visit www.lsuhsc.edu/no/organizations/camptiger/index.php/auction

Dr. Colin Goodier Endowed Scholarship

An endowed scholarship was established in memory of Colin David Goodier ('05), a bright, young physician who is remembered fondly. At the time of his death, Colin was completing his third year as a resident in the LSU surgery residency program and received a match into a plastic surgery residency at LSU. This memorial scholarship has funded three more bright young careers. The most recent recipient is Adam J. Tosh.

Mr. Adam Tosh graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics. His dedication to learning has manifested itself throughout his academic career with such achievements as high school valedictorian, selected to Phi Beta Kappa while at North Carolina, and an academic performance in medical school which lead to his being selected, as a junior student, to membership in the only national medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. With his varied interests outside the curriculum, Adam has proven himself to be more than just an academicians. Such extracurricular achievements include qualifying for the Boston Marathon, hiking over 500 miles of the Appalachian Trail in one outing, and becoming conversationally fluent in Spanish after studying abroad in Argentina for six months.

His dedication to service is a consistent part of his life. During medical school he volunteered with the Student Run Homeless Clinic, a program open to only those truly committed to serving the less fortunate in society and in high school he was awarded the Father Pedro Arrupe Service Award for his effort to help rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. While in college, Adam was elected by his peers to serve as captain of the novice crew team. This robust quality, coupled with a desire to teach, as evidenced by his history of tutoring others in the basic sciences, will certainly make him an excellent educator as well as an outstanding clinician in his chosen field of internal medicine.

Past recipients were Carl Giffin III ('12) and Ryan E. Rebowe ('13).

The relationship between the alumni and the Foundation has always been particularly important to the continued success of the LSU HSC. This type of discretionary support is vital to the continued excellence of the LSU HSC’s medical education and research programs. Despite budget cuts our success is driven by the activities of our first-class faculty and the achievements of our many illustrious alumni, friends, and grateful patients.

Donations can be made payable to the Foundation by check or credit card and sent to LSUHSC Foundation, 2000 Tulane Ave., 4th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 or online at www.lsuhealthfoundation.org. The Foundation is a 501 C -3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. If you have questions please call (504) 568-5727.
Capital Campaign: Cardiovascular Center of Excellence

The Committee of 100 – Champions of Excellence has decided to complete the remaining Chair (Charles V. Sanders Chair in Medicine) and Professorship (Brian Jakes) and then committed to raise $2.5 million to support the LSU School of Medicine Cardiovascular Center of Excellence at the request of Dean Steve Nelson. The financial commitment of the Committee of 100 and Alumni Association allows for renovation of an area in the Clinical Science Research Building (CSRB) here on campus to create a cardiovascular laboratory to enable research and enhance hands-on medical education.

As we all recall, the LSU School of Medicine has a long and respected history of cardiovascular research. Dr. Gerald Berenson (Honorary Alumnus) joined the LSU faculty in 1954 and quickly became a favorite cardiology attending – Who can forget those Saturday Cardiology rounds on the wards of Charity Hospital? His hypothesis that adult heart disease has its origins in childhood was tested by his internationally recognized Bogalusa Heart Study, started in 1972. His pathology colleague, Jack Perry Strong ('51), who led the Pathology Department for over 40 years as Chairman, also made history in cardiovascular research at LSU. His focus was on atherosclerosis. When Dr. Strong taught baboons to smoke cigarettes, he was the first researcher to link smoking to heart disease. In 2009, Dr. Richard Vander Heide, a noted cardiovascular researcher, was tapped to serve as Chairman of Pathology at LSU and succeed Dr. Strong and continue the excellence in cardiovascular research. Dr. Vander Heide's primary research interest is myocardial cell injury and adaptation, specifically in response to ischemia and reperfusion injury.

Most recently, Dr. David Lefer has joined the faculty and serves as the Director of the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. Dr. Lefer will direct the multidisciplinary efforts to advance cardiovascular research at LSU, including basic scientists as well as clinical scientists and bring basic research to the bedside of the patient.

This capital project perfectly complements past alumni accomplishments, the Isidore Cohn, Jr., M.D., Student Learning Center and the Russell C. Klein, M.D., Center for Advanced Practice. These centers serve as major recruitment tools for our school and training programs. Because of our alumni, our school continues to advance medical education in state-of-the-art facilities, of which we can all be proud. Please consider a donation of $10,000 or more to this project.

As always, donations for this or any other purpose made to the LSU Medical Alumni Association are tax-deductible and recognized in future publications.

Research at the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence discovers new treatment target for heart attacks

Research led by David Lefer, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the LSUHSC Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, demonstrates for the first time cross-talk between two protective signaling molecules during a heart attack. By providing new and important information about the mechanisms involved in heart attacks and organ transplantation, the research identifies a potential new treatment target for heart disease.

Previous studies found that hydrogen sulfide protects cells from damage caused by a number of diseases, including cardiovascular, in a similar manner to that reported for another protective gas, nitric oxide. Though hydrogen sulfide and nitric oxide are biologically similar, it was thought that they protected cells via distinctly different mechanisms. The LSUHSC research team found that, instead, they interact and “talk” to each other, and it is this interaction that produces the protective effect during heart attacks. They found that hydrogen sulfide regulates the body’s production of nitric oxide which, in turn, protects the heart muscle against cell death.

To see color images, go to http://www.lsuhsc.edu/chan_notes/chan_20140221.pdf
Vascular surgery faculty developing 1st skill exam to train US surgeons

The skill exam LSUHSC faculty are helping to develop to better train vascular surgeons in the United States was tested in the Klein Center for Advanced Practice during the Second Annual Fundamentals of Vascular Surgery Symposium. Residents from more than half of the 40 vascular surgery residency programs in the nation participated in the symposium developed and hosted by Dr. Malachi Sheahan, vascular surgery program director and associate professor of surgery and radiology at LSUHSC.

Dr. Murtuza J. Ali (’01), associate professor of clinical medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center’s School of Medicine, has been named one of only 16 fellows in this year’s class of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Leadership Education and Development program.

According to the AAMC, the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Certificate Program is an intensive, two-year, group-based leadership development program that provides the knowledge, skills, values, and practical experience educational professionals in academic medicine need to be successful leaders. This program is designed primarily for early to mid-career faculty responsible for or aspiring to educational leadership in academic medicine.

Dr. Ali joined the faculty of LSU School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in 2013. In addition to a clinical practice in general and interventional cardiology at several locations, he teaches students, residents, and fellows who rotate with him on rounds or during angiography and angioplasty procedures. He holds a number of leadership positions in the educational mission of the school – with involvement at all levels of the medical education process.

Dr. Ali also chairs a statewide workgroup for the Louisiana Emergency Response Network tasked with creating an integrated system of care for heart attack patients across the state.

The skill exam will provide the ability to test US surgeons’ technical skills during training for the first time; the ability to continue training may be contingent upon passing this exam. This is the first step toward adding a skill exam to the oral and written exams currently taken by physicians seeking to be certified in Vascular Surgery by the American Board of Surgery.

This symposium is unique in that it provides technical instruction to vascular surgeons still in training while also providing outside feedback to their respective residency programs regarding their surgical skill level. The hope is to catch and fix technical deficiencies away from the stress-filled environment of the operating room to improve patient safety and surgical outcomes.