

October Gala for the Diamond Jubilee

It was billed as “The First Day of School For The Next 75 Years” and was the final celebratory event of our Diamond Jubilee year 2006. The site was the Astor-Crowne Plaza Hotel. The date was October 7, 2006, an auspicious day since the school opened for business on October 1, 1931, and for the 448 attendees it was nirvana in the “The Big Easy.”

Featuring a silent auction of over 160 items and a live auction of five luxury items including: a trip to Las Vegas and a diamond ring, the evening began with cocktails, then dinner, and ended with dancing. Also featured was the dedication of three professorships and an appearance by guest auctioneer, the Honorable Huey Pierce Long (John Paul de la Houssaye).

As a fund-raiser the Gala was a huge success, raising \$250,000 to reconstruct and reequip the Learning Center. As the capstone of the Association’s efforts in 2006 it was even more wonderful and meaningful given all the adversity caused by Hurricane Katrina. The program cover featuring “Mike the Tiger” striding across a pool of



Senator John Breaux receives a Diamond Jubilee poster from **Larry Hollier** ('68), Dean of LSU School of Medicine



Paul Azar ('70) (left) and **Keith Van Meter, MD** (center) congratulate **Nicolas Bazan, MD, PhD** (right).



Photo, left: **Lee Monlezun** ('69), **Diana Hollier** (center), and **Anne Monlezun**. Anne was responsible for designing the decorations for the event.

water from the purple haze of night to the golden dawn of a new day. Okay, so we used a little computer enhancement for the background but it was the real tiger wading in his real pool. The effect of the evening continued with all the guests receiving tiger-stripe lanyards for their name tags, and gold tiger book marks as souvenirs. The theme continued with purple and gold flowers and diamond decorations on each table set atop a tiger stripe runner. With napkin rings made to resemble large gold diamond rings, it was purple gold and diamonds to wretched excess.

It was also Senator John Breaux acting as Honorary Chairman accompanied by wife Lois welcoming everyone, followed by System President, Dr. William Jenkins, and LSUHSC Chancellor **Larry Hollier** ('68). It was the dedication of the **Nicolas Bazan, MD, PhD**, Professorship of Emergency Medicine, the **Eduardo Marvez-Valls, MD**, Professorship of Emergency Medicine and the **Brian P. Jakes, Sr.**, Professorship of Rural Health Care. Dr. Bazan is the Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence. The Late Dr. Marvez-Valls was a long-time faculty member of the Section of Emergency Medicine. Mr. Jakes is the long-time director of the Southeast Area Health Education Center based in Hammond, LA.

It was hundreds of donors, dozens of volunteers, a bow to the past, and a look to the future. It was a glorious close of a remarkable year.



Beverly and Brian Jakes, Honoree of Professorship, dancing at the gala

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Items of the silent auction await bidders.



Volunteer Yolanda Lundsgaard discusses a painting with A. J. Friedman ('76) at the Silent Auction



Left to right: Donna Klein, Diana Hollier, Mihoko Strong, and Pat Magee



Paul Azar ('70) (*left*), Pamela Halter, and E. Ralph Lupin ('56)



Left to right: Stewart Niles [husband of Cherie Niles ('87)], Charles Schibler II ('92), Beth Schibler, and Bo Sanders ('64)

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Speaker Keith Van Meter, MD, Chief of the Section of Emergency Medicine



Left to right: Larry Hollier ('68); Diana Hollier; Susan McSherry, MD; and Bob Batson ('71)



Lois and the Honorary Chair John Breaux with Anne Monlezun.

Tête á tête discussion between **Bill Roeling ('54)** and volunteer Pam Lyons, daughter of **George Lyons ('54)**.



Dr. Haydee Bazan, dancing with honoree, Dr. Nicolas Bazan



Dr. Robert Daniels, emeritus dean of the School of Medicine, with Joy Osofsky (Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Public Health, Head, Division of Pediatric Mental Health) and Howard Osofsky, MD (Chair, Department of Psychiatry), and Dr. Vikki Ashley

Faculty News

Maurice Sholas, MD, PhD, becomes first physician in Louisiana to be board certified in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine

First certified in PRM in state

Maurice Sholas, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Director of the Pediatric Rehabilitation Program, has become the first physician in Louisiana to be board certified in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine and one of only 103 with this credential in the United States.

Dr. Sholas' singular achievement will improve the quality of care for Louisiana's children. In addition to rigorous educational and clinical experience requirements, candidates for board certification in this subspecialty must be recommended for admissibility to sit for the examination.

The introduction of this new subspecialty is further evidence of the Health Sciences Center's leadership and innovation in bringing high caliber services and signature programs to Louisiana.

Evacuating hero honored

Because he kept the Louisiana State University's residency program in child and adolescent psychiatry going after Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Bert Quintana of the Department of Psychiatry has received two honors. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has named him a recipient of its Catcher in the Rye Award, and the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education has given him one of its ten Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach awards.

After evacuating LSU's Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Quintana worked with the Baton Rouge Mental Health Center and hospitals in Louisiana's capital to set up rotations for residents and set up a clinic. He also restarted his clinical research trials, using his own money to equip the clinic.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Lee J. Nesbitt, the Henry Jolly, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, has received the Lifetime

Dr. Bert Quintana receives two honors for post-Katrina work.

Two New Orleans-based LSUHSC scientists have been named to health-related advisory positions in the federal government

NIH grant to link researchers

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$10.6 million grant to scientists at four Louisiana universities to support research in the neurosciences and to link promising faculty members with mentors. Dr. Nicolas Bazan, Director of the Neuroscience Center at LSUHSC and the principal author of the grant, hailed it as a step forward for young scientists and for the economy of downtown New Orleans. Although the projects at the four universities (LSUHSC, Tulane, Xavier, and Nicholls State) will be independent of one another, the researchers will meet regularly at LSU to exchange ideas. The scientists will also have access to equipment and resources at LSU that might not be available at their own universities.

Achievement Award from the Medical Dermatology Society.

LSU scientists selected

Two New Orleans-based LSUHSC scientists have been named to health-related advisory positions in the federal government. Michal Jazwinski, a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry who is co-director of the Center on Aging at LSU Health Sciences Center, has been appointed to the National Advisory Council on Aging. His four-year term started in January 2007. Council members evaluate applications for research and training and recommend appropriations for promising programs.

Elizabeth Williams, an associate professor of clinical laboratory sciences at the School of Allied Health Professions, was one of 55 consumer reviewers asked to help evaluate proposals submitted to the Defense Department's Breast Cancer Research Program.

Miami-Bound

John Rock ('72), former chancellor of LSUHSC, has been named the founding dean of Florida International University's Medical School in Miami. According to a statement from the university, he will take office in January 2007, and classes are scheduled to start in 2009. It will be Florida's fifth medical school. Dr. Rock, who became chancellor of LSUHSC in October 2002, stepped down in January 2006 to return to teaching, research, and treating patients.

LSUHSC awarded AHRQ grant for simulation research to improve patient safety

Sheila W. Chauvin, MEd, PhD, Director of the Office of Medical Education Research and Development at LSUHSC, has been awarded a half-million-dollar grant to evaluate the influence of simulation on enhancing teamwork and a culture of patient safety in the operating room environment. The project was funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr. Chauvin's project takes interdisciplinary team training to the actual hospital leaders and staff to enhance teamwork and patient safety in the surgical setting.

"This project builds upon our previous developments in the Isidore Cohn, Jr., Student Learning Center targeting teaching and assessment with high-fidelity patient simulation," notes Dr. Chauvin. "Specifically, we will be evaluating a highly innovative training model that combines realistic mannequin-based simulation and patient scenarios and a mobile mock operating room with interdisciplinary teams at their own hospital site. Dr. John Paige, Assistant Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Valeriy Kozmenko, Assistant Professor

of Anesthesiology, have contributed substantially to this innovative training model. Based on our review of the field, our LSUHSC team appears to be the first to accomplish this unique combination of teamwork and patient safety training strategies."

The Institute of Medicine estimated that medical errors are the eighth leading cause of death among Americans. Medical simulation involves scenarios in which real-life medical situations are re-created so that health care providers can practice new procedures and techniques before performing them on patients and potentially placing them at risk. "Equally important, this project will focus on examining the process of change and improvement and how the transfer of training to everyday practice is influenced by individual and organizational features within the actual hospital setting," says Chauvin. "By focusing on both the process and outcomes of training effectiveness, there will be potential for making sense of how successful and long-lasting change can be achieved."

The Isidore Cohn, Jr., Learning Center was located on the first floor of a

building on LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans' campus. This new-era education and training facility was lost to the flooding following Hurricane Katrina. The LSU Medical Alumni Association is working with corporate partners and seeking donors to rebuild the uniquely configured and expanded Center. **Charles Hilton ('76)** is in charge of all the Center's programs.

As LSUHSC rebuilds its nationally recognized virtual learning center, it is using software developed by LSUHSC physicians that significantly improves the realism and the teaching capability of the METI human patient simulators. These next-generation simulators are already in use teaching LSUHSC medical students and residents.

Through its innovative use of technology, development of improvements to that technology, and unparalleled training initiative, LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans' School of Medicine is recovering its position as a national leader in virtual medical education and patient safety training.

Cassidy wins Senate race

William Cassidy ('83) was elected to the Louisiana State Senate, in a special election recently, besting three-term State Representative William Daniel and another candidate to win a south Baton Rouge seat. Dr. Cassidy will represent District 16, which covers much of southern East Baton Rouge Parish. Dr. Cassidy is the third alumnus to serve in the state legislature and the first faculty member of the School of Medicine to do so. Dr. Cassidy specializes in gastroenterology and teaches at Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge.



Dr. Cassidy

LSU to treat immunodeficiencies

A center for treating children and young adults with primary immunodeficiencies has been established at LSU Health Sciences Center.

The Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies, underwritten with \$150,000 from Baxter Healthcare, will be part of a 30-center network dedicated to treating and investigating the condition, which makes children and young adults have infections that recur often and are hard to cure. According to the Jeffrey Modell Foundation, as many as 500,000 Americans suffer from one of the 100 known primary immunodeficiency diseases, which include immune deficiency and the inability to produce antibodies to combat infections.

The foundation was started by a New York City couple in memory of their son, who was 15 when he died of the condition in 1986.