School of Medicine - New Orleans Alumni Association Journal Medicinews

Volume 41, No. 2 - Fall '24

Golden Tigers of the Class of '74



Class members in the photograph are identified on page 23.

REUNIONS 2024 starting on page 4.

Alumni of the Year



Frederick Hall ('00)



Gerry Cvitanovich ('86)

A Message from the Dean



We closed out a successful academic year with medical student graduation in May, and resident graduation ceremonies in June. The class of 2024 had a successful match. Once again, nearly 50% of our graduating seniors elected to remain in Louisiana for their residency training and, of those, the vast majority chose to train in one of the LSU programs in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette or Bogalusa. Of the students who left Louisiana for residency, many are going to top programs around the country, helping to maintain our national reputation to train good doctors.

The new academic year is off to a great start. In the last week of June, we welcomed 210 new interns to begin their residency training. Our junior and senior students began their clerkships in early July, and our second-year students resumed their classes in mid-July. On July 29th we welcomed the new first-year students (the Class of 2028) to begin their journey in medicine. They will have their White Coat Ceremony on September 14th, and we greatly appreciate those

of you who support this important event.

We are making good progress on several initiatives that I mentioned in the spring LSU Medicinews. Cancer Center Director Dr. Joe Ramos has been busy aligning clinical, academic, and community partners for our NCI effort. He has also been busy recruiting faculty in the basic sciences as well as physicians to expand our clinical cancer care. Dr. Robin English has been ably leading our preparations for the LCME re-accreditation site visit coming up in 2025. She has organized faculty, staff and students into teams to prepare the thousands of pages of documents that the LCME requires. She is keeping everyone on task. We plan to have a mock site visit next spring and then submit all of our documents to the LCME next July. I am deeply indebted to Dr. English for agreeing to lead this effort.

In April, we kicked off our strategic planning process. Hundreds of faculty, students, residents, staff, and external stakeholders have been involved. The Alumni Association has been an important part of this process. We have some very early drafts of our priorities and goals, and we will revise and refine these in the coming months. We should have a draft strategic plan available for comment within the next month or two. Among other things, the strategic plan will define our priorities for future investment in research. This will dovetail nicely with a major renovation project on campus. In October, we began the complete demolition of floors 5, 6, and 7 of the Medical Education Building (MEB). We remain on schedule to reopen those floors in December of 2025. We will have approximately 190,000 square-feet of the best new and modern laboratory space in the State. This project will have a total cost of over \$100 million, and it has the potential to transform our research enterprise for the next 20 years.

Between the MEB project and the new CALS building, we are making major improvements to the campus, while continuing our mission to train the next generation of doctors for Louisiana. We could not do all of this without the help of the Alumni Association. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully,

Richard DiCarlo ('87

Dean

Inside.



Committee of 100 Banquet, see pages 4-6.

Speaker at the Committee of 100 Banquet: **Peter DeBlieux** ('88)

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To improve and expedite information exchange, the Office of Alumni Affairs is developing a list serve for alumni who prefer electronic communications in addition to our regular mailed publications. If you would like to be included on our electronic list, please send your email address to: roar@lsuhsc.edu.



Awards presented at the Scientific Session, p. 7.





Here come the Tiger Cubs!

Meet them on pages 17-19.

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What is the Committee of 100?

The Committee of 100 - Champions of Excellence was founded in 1983 with the initial goal to raise enough money for endowed Professorships and Chairs. Over 30 endowed Professorships and Chairs have been established in various Academic Departments since 1983. Numerous distinguished faculty have been recruited and retained with the assistance of the Committee of 100.

Additionally, the Committee of 100 supports special projects to benefit the School of Medicine. Such projects are solely dependent upon alumni support.

Examples of these special projects include:

- The Center for Advanced Practice
- The Student Learning Center (featuring state of the art simulators)
- The Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Research Vascular Lab



YOU Can Make a Difference

Joining the Committee of 100 - Champions of Excellence allows you to give back to the School that provided you with a high quality, affordable education. Your membership in this committee is crucial in supporting and progressing the organization's initiatives. Together, we will help the next generation of physicians receive the highest quality education.

Membership Levels

Regular Members pledge \$10,000

Double Members pledge \$20,000

Life Members pledge \$25,000

Pledges are typically fulfilled over 10 years.

Contact Us

Alumni Affairs Office 504-568-4029 roar@lsuhsc.edu



Scan to recive more information

Benefits

By becoming a member, you will play a crucial role in maintaining the LSU School of Medicine's position as a leader in medical education. Additionally, membership offers you the following benefits:

- Annual recognition of your contributions in the alumni publication, Medicinews.
- A vote at the Annual Business Meeting, where directional decisions for the organization are made.
- An invitation for you and a guest to the Annual Committee of 100 Banquet - a donor appreciation event.
- A new member recognition award.

Join Today

Committee of 100 Banquet

he LSU School of Medicine Committee of 100 – Champions of Excellence is comprised of over 900 members who have committed to funding Professorships, Chairs, and educational labs such as the Russell C. Klein, MD ('59), Center for Advanced Practice, the Isidore Cohn, Jr, MD, Student Learning Center and the Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation (CALS). The annual banquet celebrates current and new members. This year, our speaker was **Peter DeBlieux** ('88) who shared developmental plans for the CALS project to be housed at the former Hotel Dieu/University Hospital site. Additional information on how to become a member of the Committee of 100 can be found in this issue or by contacting the Alumni Office at 504-568-4029.



(left to right): Susan Rodriguez, Fred Rodriguez ('75) and Cathi Fontenot ('84)



(left to right): Fritz LaCour ('69), Anne Monlezun and Lee J. Monlezun ('69)



Narinder Gupta ('78) and Suman Gupta ('89)



Lana Forte and Vincent Forte ('92)



Sanjeeva Reddy ('89) and Sridevi Reddy

Committee of 100 Banquet



(left to right): Debra Lorenzo, Sam Lorenzo ('84), Jeannine Thibodaux, Donald Thibodaux ('79), Joseph Macaluso ('79) and Renee Macaluso



(left to right): Robert Mipro ('90), Diane Mipro, Annette Borne and David Borne ('87)



Speaker at the Committee of 100 Banquet: Peter DeBlieux ('88)



(left to right): **Stephanie Taylor** ('88), **Terren Klein** ('88) and **Mani Lingamallu** ('88)



REUNION WEEKEND 2024

Scientific Session

The Scientific Session was held as part of Reunion Weekend on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Speakers included Stephanie Taylor ('88), Catherine Hudson ('15), Brian Credo ('88) and Joseph Macaluso ('79). The Scientific Session attendees do receive CME credit for presentations attended.

Alumni of the Year were recognized at the annual business meeting during the Scientific Session. Gerald Cvitanovich ('86) and Frederick Hall ('00) received awards for their long-standing support of the School of Medicine. Additionally, Claude Tellis ('70) received the Special Merit Award and Warren Summer, MD, was named Honorary Alumnus of the LSU School of Medicine.

The new slate of officers was approved and includes:

President – Lisa M. Jaubert ('07)
President-elect – Casey A. Murphy ('13)
Vice President – Vincent R. Forte ('92)
Secretary/Treasurer – Cathi E. Fontenot ('84)
Past President – Randolph L. Roig ('92)



Passing of the Gavel: Incoming President Lisa Jaubert ('07) recognizes outgoing President Randy Roig ('92) for his service.



(left to right): Bennie Nobles ('71), Gerry Cvitanovich ('86), and Fred Rodriguez ('75)

Honorary Alumnus



Warren Summer, MD



Claude Tellis ('70)



Jeannine Rozas Cook ('84) and Charles Cook ('83)

Alumni of the Year

Featured on the cover of this issue of LSU Medicinews are the two Alumni of the Year

> Gerry Cvitanovich ('86) and

Frederick Hall ('00)

REUNION WEEKEND 2024

Scientific Session



Photo, right: Joseph Macaluso ('79), speaking on Innovation in Medicine—physician's role





Photo, left:

Catherine Hudson ('15), giving her presentation on The Current Climate of Obesity Medicine: What All Physicians Need to Know.

Photo, right:

Brian Credo ('88),
speaking on Creating
Compassion in
Medicine—The Legacy
of Charity Continues...
and adding a bit of
mischief



Reunion Weekend 2024

Cocktail Party



(left to right): Tiffany Berry ('04), Katrina Rochon, and P.J. Rochon ('04)

(11)

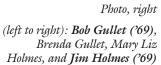


(left to right): Sylvia Humble, Joseph Humble ('79), Julia Sanders, Bo Sanders ('64), Carrie Marquette, and Scott Delacroix ('04)

Reunion Weekend 2024



Photo, left
(left to right): Daniel Skinner
('84), Wendy Skinner, and
James Schnabel ('84)







(left to right): Daniel Weiss, Prabha Weiss ('09), Robini Singh ('09), Hitesh Chheda ('09), and Tiffany Chheda

Reunion Weekend 2024



(left to right): Najeeb Thomas ('97), Dirk Wild, Summer Black ('99), E.J. Aspuru ('99), Don Schultz, and Kathryn Wild ('94)



Class of 1964







GOLDEN TIGERS of the Class of 1974 are pictured on the front cover.

Class of 1979





Class of 1989





Class of 1999





Class of 2009





Tiger Cubs



Rajesh Yadav ('92) and Rohit Yadav (cub)



Shelley Martin Bonaventure ('93) and Catherine Bonaventure (cub)



Leni Sumich ('98), Hayley Sumich (cub), and Christi Sumich



Jessica Pickens (cub) and Shannon Pickens ('01)



Khairi Appleberry (cub) and Erica Brown-Jackson ('03)



Scott Lagasse ('03) and Cullen Lagasse (cub)

Tiger Cubs



Shaya Khorsandi (cub), Yuling Khorsandi, Jahanyar Khorsandi ('96), and Nikka Khorsandi ('21)



Dwight Lemoine ('88) and Juliette Lemoine (cub)



Randy Head II (cub) and Randy Head ('94)



Phillip Noel ('91), Elizabeth Noel (cub), and Michele Noel ('91)



Veena Sengupta ('92) and Sachin Sengupta (cub)

Tiger Cubs



Christopher D'Ambrosia ('00), Yuko Kitahama-D'Ambrosia ('96), and Kailey D'Ambrosia (cub)



Robert "Trey" Branstetter ('97), Kelly Branstetter, Christopher Branstetter (cub), Robert "Robby" Branstetter (class of 2026)



Thomas Carey ('90) and Elizabeth Carey (cub) – not pictured, mother, **Chu Shei Hong ('89)**



Jina Miller ('94), Eva Paul (cub), and Edward Paul ('94)



Toni Leoni ('96), Ethan Leoni (cub), and Rick Leoni ('95)



Staci Olister Champlin ('91) and Adeline Champlin (cub)

Tigerlines

1961

Dan Lucius, Jr., Baytown, TX – Submitted by Ann Lucius, Dan's wife "He so appreciated his education at LSU and was a fan until the very end. Ob/Gyn for over 50 years. Delivered between 12,000 and 15,000 babies, including one son and two grandsons."

1962

Paul Snow, Cumberland – "I can't believe I made it to 87. When I'm not reading a book or watching sports on TV, I am at the YMCA using the weight machines or the track. It's a good life."

1965

Theresa Hymel van der Vlugt, Arlington, VA- "Retired from the Food & Drug Administration on November 30, 2023, having completed a total of 37 years of federal government service."

1967

Ken G. Carter, Jackson, MS – "Retired 16 years, but still learning and most interested in Diagnostic Imaging and Interventional Radiology. Still married to Judy. We met in Charity Hospital's nurses' cafeteria. Our son is an anesthesiologist – he didn't ask me for advice!"

Charles E. Fontenot, Ville Platte, LA – "Retired from family practice after 50 years and Parish Coroner for 33 years. Now staying busy with farm oversight and running a hunting preserve for deer."

Michael L. Madden, Lee's Summit, MO – "Moved to Lee's Summit, MO to be closer to son and family."

1968

Charles A. Olivier, Lafayette, LA – "Enjoying retirement for the last six years."

1969

Myron H. Jacobs, Clayton, MO – "Patient care is now in the rearview mirror. Fifty years as Medical Director of the Pulmonary Department. Finished practice management of 10 Pulmonologists, three NPs, two offices, five regional clinics, and 45 employees is enough. Published a few articles along the way, spent thousands of hours in the ICU ventilating patients, and performed thousands of procedures. Time for relaxation...see you at the reunion."

1970

Harold D. Wexler, Baton Rouge, LA – "Retired for 14 years, traveling (mainly cruises with Carol, my bride of 56 years). Very proud of my two daughters and four grandchildren. My oldest grandson graduated in computer science from the University of Texas and has a job as a coder in New York City. My only granddaughter will attend The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania."

1971

Roy G. Kadir, Baton Rouge, LA – "Practicing Internal Medicine at The Baton Rouge Clinic for 47 years. Served on the Board and Executive Committee of Baton Rouge General Hospital for 35 years."

Emile A. Latour, Orange Park, FL – "Retired for 12 years after a 35-year career in Diagnostic Radiology. In the process of downsizing to a riverfront condo from the home I built 46 years ago. Enjoying travel and visiting family and grandkids."

Bennie P. Nobles, New Orleans, LA – "So honored and blessed to receive such a great education! So privileged to have teachers and mentors who gave of themselves at our School of Medicine preparing us to serve our

fellow man. May we continue in support of such a great school."

1974

Daniel G. Dupree, Lafayette, LA – "Still practicing Dermatology. Had to slow down to half days only because of some health challenges. Still teaching at UMC in Lafayette in the Family Medicine/Dermatology Clinic. Family and golf are my passions. At age 75, I have learned that it is best to not buy green bananas!!! Looking forward to my 50th class reunion."

1979

Hal G. Bienvenue III, New Iberia, LA – "Joining a MediSpa in New Iberia specializing in cosmetic, skincare, and rejuvenation medicine as Medical Director."

Kenneth W. Stubbs, Ridgeland, MS – "Retired February 28, 2024, after nearly 42 years in a very rewarding Internal Medicine private practice in Natchez, MS. Blessed with four children and five grandchildren. Karen and I have settled in Ridgeland, MS, on 'The Rez.' I would ask all medical training institutions to work harder to place students and residents in rural areas so they will be more likely to go into practice there. Rural America needs physicians badly and the communities are very appreciative."

1981

David W. McGehee, Ruston, LA – "Retired. Enjoying our eight grandchildren and looking for more. Grateful for our time at LSUSOM and for the decades of practice serving others."

1982

James J. Crawford, Roanoke, VA – "Retired in February 2024 after 35 years at Roanoke Memorial Hospital."

Tigerlines

1983

Stephanie F. Cave, Baton Rouge, LA – "I am in practice – Family Medicine in Baton Rouge, LA."

1984

Thomas E. Alost, El Paso, TX – "Sandra and I are still in El Paso. Blane is an Internal Medicine Doctor, Lacey's team has been the number one sales team for the country for the last two years, Shaye will start LSU Vet School in August."

Karl N. Hanson, Kenner, LA – "I am pleased to announce that **Samia Suleman** (*14) has joined me at Infinity Health to expand the direct primary care practice."

John D. Reeves, Shreveport, LA – "Still enjoying active practice in Neurosurgery in Shreveport! I can see another five years or so. Young bride keeps me zooming!! My daughter, Ashley Reeves (20), is a neonatology fellow at Brown. I think she'll return to NOLA."

Mark J. Waggenspack, New Orleans, LA – "Retirement is a wonderful thing; and we're good at it!"

1986

Gerry A. Cvitanovich, Metairie LA – "I was just elected for my fourth term as Jefferson Parish Coroner, and I'm President of the State Coroner's Assn. In 2017, we sold our 17-center Urgent Care company to Ochsner Health and I still work part-time for Ochsner as Chief Strategy Officer for Urgent Care, OccHealth, and Student Health. I'm also the President-Elect of the National Urgent Care Association (UCA). My wife Heidi and I have four kids (23, 21, 19, 16). My family still owns Drago's, and we now have six locations. I'm enjoying life to the max!"

1988

Joanne T. Maffei, New Orleans, LA – "July 2024 marks my 30th anniversary of being faculty at LSU School of Medicine – New Orleans, in I.D. It has been a great time and always interesting."

Teddy E. Tedesco IV, Lafayette, LA – "Fully retired and loving it!"

1989

John K. Dudek, Garden City, ID – "Retiring August 30, 2024."

James S. Merrin, Thousand Oaks, CA

– "Retired as Interim Chief Medical
Officer at the Klotz Student Health
Center at California State University
Northridge. Living in Thousand Oaks,
CA. Enjoying life and traveling. Have
been to the Caribbean and the South
of France. Next up—Iceland and
Greenland."

Lisa A. Perez, St. Gabriel, LA – "Private practice Anesthesiologist and Medical Director of LOSC in Baton Rouge."

1991

Harold J. Miller, Covington, LA – "Elected President of Jefferson Parish Medical Society for 2024."

1994

Deborah D. Fletcher, Shreveport, LA – "I started a multispecialty nonprofit physician group with other physician advocates in Louisiana called Louisiana Physicians for Patients (LPFP). We lobby and advocate at the state level for safe medical legislation for patients, and against unsafe scope of practice expansion by NP/PA's and pharmacists."

1996

Mynette Minyard, Taupo, New Zealand – "I am living in New Zealand working as a GP and loving it!"

1999

Thomas "Tommy" Bonds, Lafayette, LA – "I have been living in Lafayette for almost 18 years now – moved here after Hurricane Katrina and opened a solo Sports & Regenerative Medicine practice. I have been blessed beyond belief with a wonderful family of three boys, now ages 19,16 and 13, with my wife, Ann. Wishing I could make the reunion this year, but a family wedding takes precedence. Love and best wishes to all."

2007

L'Issa L. Gates, New Orleans, LA – L'Issa L. Gates has been honored by the Global Summit Institute as a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) as a 2024 Women Leaders in Medicine Award recipient.

2011

Brandi J. Fontenot, Baton Rouge, LA – "In remission and doing great after being diagnosed with lymphoma at the end of fourth year of med school. I started my internship bald and with a newborn. Now four kids later, married 18 years, everyone is thriving. Full-time internist in Baton Rouge. Geaux Tigers!"

2014

Rene T. Schexnaildre, Jr., Saint Gabriel, LA – "Practicing Emergency Medicine in Baton Rouge!"



Deceased

1954

Fred F. Hardin Robert J. Cangelosi, Sr.

1956

Donald G. Mack

1957

Franklin C. Rembert, Jr.

1958

Raymond M. Catton Walter D. Cockerham

1959

Gerald L. Batte James H. Phillips

1960

Roland A. Authement, Sr. Carter Cox, Jr. John E. Daigre James R. Willis

1961

Ray Cinnater A. Dan Lucius, Jr. John A. Manning III Howard R. Rose

David A. Weilbaecher

1963

Peter Culotta

1964

Sarah E. Duvall

1965

John E. Hull Joseph L. Palotta Lewis Rosenberg Robert F. Sharp, Jr.

1066

William V. Booth Duane J. Williams

1968

William C. Coney Fortune A. Dugan William F. Rachal

1969

A. John Tassin, Jr.

1971

Robert N. Schwendimann

1973

L. Glen Mire Ward C. Parsons III

1974

Rannie Paul Bordlee M. Ragan Green, Jr. James A. Hargroder Robert D. Koy Ralph Maxwell III Marion M. Rundell

1975

M. Stevens Crouch Charles S. Wingo

1979

Jerry A. Thomas

1983

Clarence E. Ward III

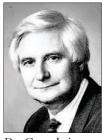
1988

David C. Young

1995

Michael A. LaSalle

≈ In Memoriam «



Dr. Cangelosi

Robert J. Cangelosi ('54), a native New Orleanian, graduated from St. Aloysius High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University before attending LSU School of Medicine. He did his Ophthalmology residency with LSU at Charity Hospital. He began his practice in 1957, which continued until his retirement in 2023. He was the past Medical Director at Hotel Dieu and University Hospitals. He was the past president of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology and a clinical professor at the LSU Eye Center. He was a charter member and float lieutenant in the Bacchus carnival organization. He served on the board of directors of the Memorial Hall Museum Foundation, was a Fellow in the Lions

Clubs International Foundation, a past president of the Municipal Yacht Harbor, and a member of the Knights of Malta, the Chaine des Rotisseurs and the Cefalutana Society.

&•€

Ray Cinnater ('61) was a graduate of Western Military Academy in Alton, Illinois, completed his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Tulane University and was accepted to Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA. After he completed his medical doctorate, he completed his years of service in the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC, followed by an internal medicine residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, LA. After completing residency in 1967, he moved to Houma and joined Houma Medical and Surgical Clinic and Terrebonne General Medical Center. He practiced internal medicine for 52 years.

Ray loved the Saints, Mardi Gras and golf. He was an original Saints season ticket holder and rarely missed a game. He was a member of the Krewe of Terreanians (King Terre XXX) and the Krewe of Houmas and rode in their parades for over 40 years. But his real love was for his family and patients. Dr. C, as he was affectionately called, was well known and loved in the medical field. Ray's honors include the Louisiana Nursing Home Association Medical Director of the Year and Terrebonne General Medical Center Golden Stethoscope Award.

LSU System

William F. Tate IV

LSU Health Sciences Center

Steve Nelson, MD
Chancellor

Richard P. DiCarlo ('87)

Dean, School of Medicine

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Michael D. Modica ('14)

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Randolph L. Roig ('92)

Past President

From your Alumni Office...



Dear All,

Greetings on behalf of the Alumni Office. The June reunions were well attended, with over 500 attending their individual class events and over 300 attending the Friday night cocktail reception.

The Class of 1974 received their 50 year diplomas at the luncheon following the Saturday Scientific Session.

The new academic school year has begun and the incoming class includes 17 children of LSU School of Medicine alumni. They are highlighted in this issue as Tiger Cubs.

For those who may not be aware, Steve Nelson, MD has now been formally named Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center and Richard DiCarlo, MD ('87) has been formally named Dean of the School of Medicine.

As always, thanks for your continued support of the School of Medicine. LSU is truly better and stronger because of our dedicated and loyal alumni.

Sincerely,

Cathi Fontenot ('84)

Associate Dean

for Alumni Affairs and Development

Members of the Class of 1974, as pictured on front cover: 50th Class Reunion

Ist row, left to right: Charles P. Bolotte, Barry F. Faust, Sr., Ronnie E. Mathews, Ronald T. Anders, William J. Farrell, Austin G. Phillips, Jr., Patrick E. Ryce, Sr., Richard E. Zander, Michael N. Holland, Edwin B. Ross, Daniel P. Dare

2nd row, left to right: Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., Ronald L. Bombet, Joseph Y. Bordelon, Jr., Cynthia Judice Peel, Juliana Hicks Thigpen, Elisabeth W. Schonlau, Rene L. de Boisblanc, Gary P. Symkoviak, Julian L. "Sonny" Haro, Owen R. Thompson, Daniel G. Dupree, J. Larry Barr, James S. Wade, Jr., Brian J. Matherne, William G. Black

3rd row, left to right: Thomas L. Ernst, Robert C. Dawson III, Walter T. Geary, Jr., David G. "Jerry" Fourrier, William W. Harkrider, Jr., David N. Curole, John D. "Doug" Harmon, Gary R. Glynn, Eugene J. "Gene" Hoffman III



CONTACT INFORMATION AND TIGERLINES UPDATE

Has your contact information changed, or do you have news you want to share in the next edition of Medicinews?

If so, please email roar@lsuhsc.edu, or scan the QR code:



Important notice regarding electronic communication:

The Alumni Affairs office is actively transitioning to a greater focus on email communication. If you do not wish to receive any electronic communication from us, you may unsubscribe. However, please note that this will affect your receipt of all electronic communication, including reunion information. If you would like to opt out of certain types of emails, please contact us at roar@lsuhsc.edu.