

# LSUHSC SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS FACULTY ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1  
January 2010



*Providing a means of communication between faculty and administration,  
and a formal mechanism for faculty input into academic processes*

# A Message from our Dean

J.M. Cairo, PhD

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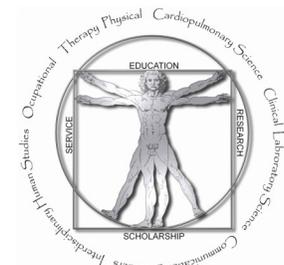


Forty years ago, the LSU Board of Supervisors approved a request by the LSU Medical Center in New Orleans to establish a School of Allied Health Professions. It would become the fifth school within the Medical Center, joining the Schools of Medicine, Graduate Studies, Dentistry, and Nursing. The School was charged with the responsibility of educating healthcare professionals that would make up the allied health workforce for the State of Louisiana. Since the inception of its first class of students in 1971, the School has graduated more than 6000 alumnae who have gone on to become leaders in the allied health professions.

Creating an educational environment that fosters excellence requires dedication and a sustained effort from faculty, staff, and students. Evidence of this dedication is apparent throughout the School despite unprecedented budget cuts to higher education and healthcare. We have seen a record number of applicants for all of our programs in the School during the 2009-2010 academic year. A recent report submitted by LSU to the Louisiana Board of Regents noted that enrollments for the LSU School of Allied Health Professions in New Orleans increased 41 percent during the past 3 years. All of our graduates continue to successfully complete their national board examinations and nearly 80% of our graduates choose to remain in Louisiana to care for the citizens of our State.

As I am sure you are aware, we have received encouraging news regarding replacement of our teaching hospital. The arbitration panel of the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals voted to award the state Office of Facility Planning and Control \$474.7 million for damages and replacement of Charity Hospital. It is anticipated that the new teaching hospital and its associated clinics will be completed in late 2013 and ready for occupancy by mid-2014. The addition of a modern academic medical center will afford us opportunities to become one of the elite health sciences centers in the country.

In the coming months we will work to develop a strategic plan that addresses the role, scope, and mission of the School of Allied Health Professions. This strategic plan will not only position us to be an integral part of the new academic medical center but it will also ensure that we maintain our legacy of excellence in the allied health professions.



Promoting Leadership & Collaboration within an Interdisciplinary Network

### Faculty Assembly

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Dean's Conference Room. Meetings are open to all faculty.

### Please Join Us

Tuesday, February 9  
Tuesday, March 9  
Tuesday, April 13  
Tuesday, May 11  
Tuesday, June 8

The FA Newsletter is produced semi-annually to keep you informed of happenings and events in LSUHSC and in the SAHP. This publication is a platform to inform others within the SAHP about news and events that impact us as health educators. Please address any suggestions or comments related to the newsletter to a member of the Faculty Assembly (pg. 3) or you may email directly to [tgunal@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:tgunal@lsuhsc.edu). This is your newsletter, any and all suggestions are welcomed.

## A Message from our President

Erin M. Dugan, PhD, NCC, LPC-S

We are finally mid-year and the energy level is increasing as we near another end to a great academic year! The 2009 fall semester brought about many innovative initiatives and work supported by the Faculty Assembly Delegates in the School of Allied Health Professions. The Faculty Assembly worked eagerly on several initiatives supported by the SAHP including Allied Health Week, the collaboration of a General Faculty Meeting, and Elections of the Faculty Assembly Constitution and Bylaws. During Allied Health Week, each department/program sponsored an "event day" whereby the

faculty, students and staff of LSUHSC-NO were invited to learn about the department/program's focus. The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences provided outreach to the local community providing screenings for the Greater New Orleans area. The General Faculty meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup> whereby, the Faculty Assembly presented an overview of its charges and accomplishments to date to create greater unity within the faculty of the SAHP. Lastly, elections were held to vote part-time faculty into the organization of the Faculty Assembly's Constitution and Bylaws.

Election results favored the participation and invitation of such faculty in the SAHP.

The Faculty Assembly is eager to take new initiatives supported by both Dean Cairo and the SAHP including to develop a Mission Statement for the SAHP as well as the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will begin its celebratory period in the early part of the spring 2010 semester. In addition, the Faculty Assembly will co-sponsor with the SGA its annual Family Day for faculty, students and staff to invite their families to tour and participate in activities at LSUHSC-NO in the SAHP.



### Faculty Assembly Delegates 2009-2010

Erin M. Dugan, PhD, NCC, LPC-S—President	Rehabilitation Counseling
George Hebert, PhD—Past-President	Human Development Center
Michele Zitzmann, MHS, MT, CLS	Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Jan Case, PhD	Rehabilitation Counseling
Tamara N. Gravano, PT, DPT, GCS	Physical Therapy
Tina Patel Gunaldo, PT, DPT, MHS	Interdisciplinary Health Studies
Rennie U. Jacobs, MHS, LOTR, CHT—President - Elect	Occupational Therapy
Jerald James, AuD., CCC-A, F-AAA	Communications Disorders, Audiology
Theresa Nicholls, MCD, CCC-SLP	Communication Disorders, Speech Language Pathology
Scott Rubin, PhD, CCC-SLP	Communication Disorders, Speech Language Pathology
Jo Thompson, MA, CTRS	Occupational Therapy



## Student Alumni Ambassadors

The Alumni Committee has recruited a student from each graduating class to be a Student Alumni Ambassador. This group met in the Fall and was charged to assist in Alumni Committee efforts by increasing awareness of the School of Allied Health Professions Alumni Association. During the Spring semester, students will be working with department heads and faculty to develop a "wishlist" of equipment desired by each department. This list will guide the next SAHP appeal campaign.



### Student Alumni Ambassadors

#### AUDIOLOGY

2010 Melody Benedic  
 2011 Allison McKenzie  
 2012 Adelaide "Addie" Dowell  
 2013 Adriane Collins

#### CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCE

2010 Brittany Jones  
 2011 Erika Hernandez

#### CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

2010 Jennifer Smith

#### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

2010 Ashley Poche'  
 2011 Dinah Howard

#### PHYSICAL THERAPY

2012 Robert Banta and Lori Matherne  
 2011 Ashley Cantrelle and Kerri Chatelain  
 2010 Abby Poche'

#### REHABILITATION COUNSELING

2010 Holly Harry  
 2011 Elizabeth Evans

#### SPEECH THERAPY

May 2011 Lindsay deBoisblanc  
 Dec 2010 Maggie Homer  
 May 2010 Brooke Kellerhals

## Alumni Board

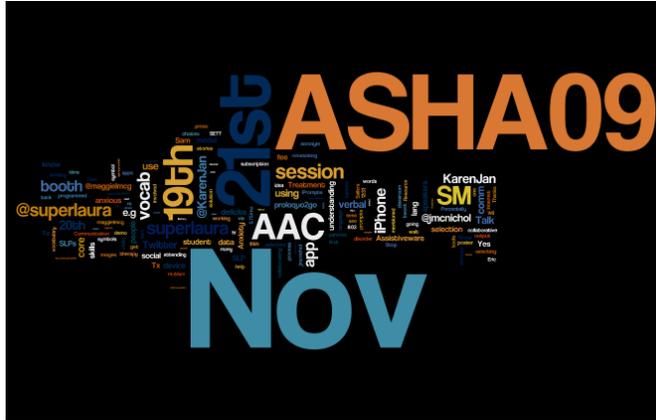
The Alumni Board had their first meeting on Tuesday, January 5th. There were several topics discussed, including the mission of the School, the charge of the Alumni Committee, the School's efforts-to-date on updating the alumni database and the 2009 Capital Campaign. The Board plans to meet in February to develop Board bylaws and discuss future opportunities to assist the SAHP.

### Alumni Board

Katie Dimm, President	(PT'07)	Kimberley Dominique	(OT'07)
Melody Benedic	(AUD'10)	Blair Duthu	(PT'07)
Thi Minh Ngo	(CLS'08)	Jennifer Renfrow	(RC'08)
Hien Phong	(CPS'08)	Kaylie Leger Toledano	(SLP'08)

## 2009 ASHA Convention

Our faculty and students were privileged to be actively involved in the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association's Annual Conference held in New Orleans. A number of our faculty, including Dr. Annette Hurley, Dr. Meher Banajee, Dr. Scott Rubin, Dr. Bradley Davis, Mrs. Tammy Crabtree and Mrs. Theresa Nicholls, as well as several of our students, presented at the conference. A panel discussion by a group of representatives from major hearing aid manufacturers was moderated by Dr. Robert Turner. Both Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology students eagerly served as ambassadors and volunteers for the more than 15,000 attendees at the conference.



## Faculty and Department News

- In December of 2009, Dr. Barbara Wendt-Harris presented to the LSUHSC Family Medicine Residents on Universal Newborn Hearing Screenings.
- On January 7, 2010, the department held a continued education event and luncheon for our external site clinical supervisors in speech-language pathology. This event was a great opportunity for our much appreciated clinical educators to share ideas and observations with one another.
- On February 5, 2010, the COMD department will be holding its annual open house for perspective students interested in our program.
- Three of the OT faculty members continue to progress towards the completion of doctoral degrees. Kerrie Ramsdell and Kelly Alig, have been accepted to present at the American Occupational Therapy Association's annual conference in Orlando this spring. We are especially proud of this because their submissions were completed in collaboration with two of our 2009 MOT graduates.
- Rennie Jacobs will be presenting an anatomy review at the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association's annual conference in March.

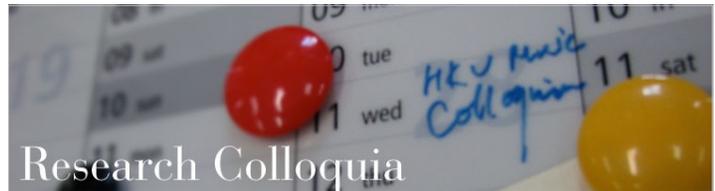


## Doctoral Colloquia Series

The Physical Therapy department recently participated in an innovated educational activity, a special Doctoral Colloquia Series for DPT and DNS students.

The Colloquia was developed as a result of a small grant obtained by Deborah Garbee PhD, APRN, BC (principal investigator) and T. Kirk Nelson, MPT (co-investigator) through the Small Grant Program of the LSUHSC Office of Medical Education Research and Development. The goals of the project are to promote improved research and evidence-based practice skills, socialize doctoral students in two doctoral programs (Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Nursing), enhance scholarly writing skills and improve understanding of the dissertation/capstone process.

The first portion of the Colloquia series was held on January 11 - 12, 2010. A nationally known scholar, Dianne V. Jewell, PT, DPT, PhD, CCS gave the keynote address titled "Living Up to Our Promise: The Role of Evidence in Clinical Practice". Over the two day period, students had the opportunity to dialog in small interdisciplinary groups regarding development of clinical questions and learn the steps for preparing an abstract/research plan and Capstone Project. Additionally, students had the opportunity to consider many other issues that students contend with in doctoral programs such as developing a scholarly approach to reading, writing and speaking, time management and dealing with stress.



The second portion of the Colloquia series will be held on May 10-11, 2010 and will include more interdisciplinary group work and as well as learning how to build an effective CV, strategies to maintain focus through the doctoral program and how to present scholarly work, among other topics.

It is the intention of the School of Nursing and the Department of Physical Therapy to continue the Doctoral Colloquia and to consider inclusion of students

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## Classroom Updates

There have been many new and exciting changes for the Department of Occupational Therapy recently. The OT department began the year by welcoming 39 new students into the department to the Class of 2012. We are proud of the increase in applicants and student enrollment

since the start of the Masters' program in 2002. We have begun upgrades to the classrooms, starting with new furniture. Over the next few months, we will be updating equipment and technology.



## Southeast Area Health Education Center 2009-2010 SAHP Student Stipend

The Southeast Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) presented two \$5,000 stipends to Jordan Buras and Brittany Oliver. Jordan and Brittany are 3<sup>rd</sup> year physical therapy students in the School of Allied Health Professions. The mission of the Louisiana Area Health Education Centers is to “improve the supply and distribution of health care professionals within the state through community and academic educational partnerships, in an effort to increase access to quality health care for all Louisiana residents.” According to Career One Stop, an agency supported by the US Department of Labor, the projected growth for physical therapists in Louisiana is 37%. Therefore, 3<sup>rd</sup> year physical therapy students were offered the opportunity to apply for this stipend. Students composed an essay indicating the importance of delivering health care to Louisiana residents living in rural areas and how the student plans to impact health care services provided in rural areas. Jordan and Brittany are both from local rural areas, Bootheville and Amite. The joint venture between the SE AHEC and the SAHP establishes a foundation for continued efforts to enhance statewide access to health care as indicated in the LSUHSC 2009-2019 Strategic Plan.

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**“The Southeast Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) presented two \$5,000 stipends ...”**

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Standing left to right: Dr. Charles Hilton, Dr. J.M. Cairo, Brittany Oliver, Jordan Buras, Brian Jakes, Sr., Dr. Penny Kroll, Lauren Ventura



There is a correction from the last issue of the FA Newsletter: The recipient of the 2009 Chancellor's Award was Megan Ann Dolhonde, Department of Occupational Therapy.



## Student Pumpkin Carving Contest

This year, students engaged in a pumpkin carving contest with displays set-up on each floor of the SAHPs. The Cardiopulmonary Science students won the contest and were treated to pizza for lunch.



“...  
9,000  
hospitalizations  
for  
fall-related  
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and  
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Louisiana  
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each  
year  
from  
falls  
...”

## LSUHSC Faculty and Students Hope 1st Day of Fall Isn't

In an effort to reduce the 9,600 hospitalizations for fall-related injuries, \$160 million cost, and 150 Louisiana deaths each year from falls, Occupational Therapy faculty and students from the School of Allied Health Professions at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans have organized a Fall Prevention event that is free and open to the public. It will take place on September 22, 2009, the first day of fall, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the centrally located Grace Episcopal Church, 3700 Canal Street. In addition to the LSUHSC Department of Occupational Therapy, participants include the LSUHSC Department of Physical Therapy, the Department of Medicine in the LSUHSC School of Medicine, and the Department of Community Nursing in the LSUHSC School of Nursing. They will present information on fall risk factors, medication management, the importance of physical activity, home safety, and fall prevention strategies. There will also be a number of tables with resources and information from a number of agencies and companies.

Fall injuries result in hip fractures, broken bones, traumatic brain injury, nursing home admissions, disability and death.

The LSUHSC faculty recommend that the elderly adopt an exercise program to improve balance and coordination, have their medications reviewed because some medicines or combinations of medicines can contribute to falls, have their vision checked because poor vision can increase the chance of falling, and install safety features in the home including removing or securing trip hazards like area rugs. Other sponsors include the Louisiana Fall Prevention Coalition and the Office of Public Health Injury Research and Prevention Program.



## SAHP Students Celebrates Allied Health Week

November 1 through November 7, 2009 was National Allied Health Week. To celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students, departments provided displays and activities highlighting various aspects of the allied health professions. These occurred from 12:00 to 1:00PM throughout the week. Also provided was a continental breakfast on Thursday, November 5th and coffee and danish on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. This celebration was a good opportunity to learn more about the importance of the allied health professions in healthcare delivery.

### November 5th 2009 Health Fair

Desire Community Housing Corporation, in partnership with Desire Resident Counsel, New Orleans Counsel on Aging, HANO, LSU Health Sciences Center and AACC North Carolina, Southeast and Texas Sections hosted a free health fair for seniors and care givers. The fair was on November, 5, 2009 at the Savoy Management Facility, 3450 Desire Parkway from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. Screenings and assessments for anemia, diabetes, HIV, congestive heart failure, hearing, breathing, sensory perception and grip strength were conducted by LSUHSC School of Allied Health Professions and St. John #5.

“...  
free  
health  
fair  
for  
seniors  
and  
care  
givers  
...”



Participating vendors: Care Concepts, HemoCue, Peoples' Health Network, LifeScan, Total Community Action, Biosite, Great Expectations Foundation, St. John #5 Camp Ace, New Orleans Counsel on Aging and Desire Community Housing Corporation.



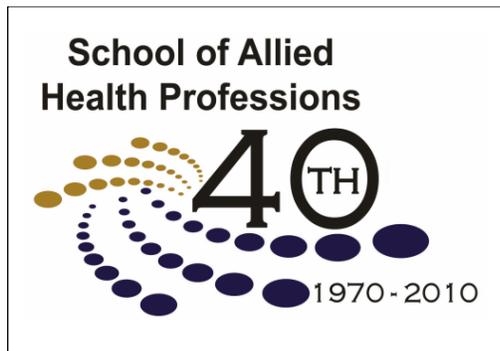
## Audiology White Coat Ceremony and Reception—November 6th 2009

On Friday November 6, 2009, twenty two 1st and 2nd year Doctor of Audiology students were presented with white coats. Dr. Cairo spoke at the ceremony and emphasized the significance of “white coats” in symbolizing the entry into a patient care profession. The Communication Disorders faculty as well as family and friends of the students attended the ceremony. The white coats were provided by the Audiology Foundation of America.



## SAHP Department of Communications Hosts Alumni Reception November 21st

The Department of Communication Disorders invited alumni, faculty and current students to get together at Ernst Café on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was planned in conjunction with the 2009 American Speech & Hearing Association Convention which was held at the Ernest Morial Convention Center. Approximately 60 attendees came to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. Several of our alumni remain very connected to our department as they now serve as off-site clinical supervisors. We are very grateful for their continued support of our department, students, and professions.



## Focus on Faculty



Dr. Scott Rubin, an Associate Professor in the Communications Disorders department, was invited to present at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Disorders Symposium on Oral and Written Language in In La Coruña, Spain during October 2009. There were approximately 300 attendees, which included speech language pathologists, neurologists and other allied health professionals. Dr. Rubin presented information on Visual Lexical and Non-Lexical Symbol Processing in Neurological Disorders. He joined other international speakers from Oxford University, Las Palmas University, Dublin University

and University of La Laguna. Dr. Rubin also had the opportunity to teach speech language pathology students at The University of La Coruña, Spain. His lecture focused on intensive multidisciplinary group treatment. Dr. Rubin has presented internationally in Hong Kong, China; Veldhoven, Netherlands; Tampere, Finland; Jyväskylä, Finland; Madeira, Portugal; Christchurch, New Zealand; Perth, Australia; and Amsterdam, Netherlands. After the symposium, Dr. Rubin and Kathy, his wife, traveled to Barcelona and enjoyed being tourists.

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**“The sponsors of the symposium were extremely grateful for our attendance and we appreciated the hospitality.”**

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Dr. Rubin, presented his Spanish audience a 5 minute background on what LSUHSC went through in Katrina . . . was amazement in the audience. The translator was excellent - he actually conveyed the energy I tend to put into my presentations! Somehow he was able to translate my attempts at humor!

## Faculty Resources

The **Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science (LACaTS) Center** is the result of a collaborative effort by the major academic research and clinical institutions in the State of Louisiana with the intent of expanding and enhancing clinical and translational research. Starting with initiatives from Pennington Biomedical Research Center, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, and Tulane Health Sciences Center, LACaTS is on track to unite these institutions and additional institutions (LSUHSC Shreveport, Ochsner, Children's, Xavier) into one network that provides support for both investigators and potential research subjects.

An important step toward these goals is the creation of the [LACaTS Center Web Portal](#). Through the LA CaTS Center Web Portal, faculty and staff can obtain information on all institutions in Louisiana conducting research in one place, a "one stop shop". Through the LA CaTS Center Portal, you will be able to take advantage of research and educational opportunities at research institutions other than LSUHSC-NO, which will allow you to connect to expertise in a variety of areas. It will allow you to network and connect with other Louisiana researchers in your area of interest.




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“We have recently posted new IRB application forms on the LSUHSC-NO IRB Website ...”

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**New IRB application forms** on the LSUHSC-NO IRB website <http://www.lsuhscc.edu/no/administration/rs/irb/default.htm>. Three applications are now available, one for potentially “Exempt” human subject research studies, one for Minimal Risk” studies that may be given expedited review, and one for “Greater Than Minimal Risk” studies that must be reviewed at a board meeting. Instruction sheets for initial submission of each type of application are also available as well as various addendums required at submission. Note that due to increased scrutiny and concern by regulatory and funding agencies, we will begin asking for attestations concerning potential conflicts of interest with all new IRB applications. You can use these applications now, their use will be required after Aug. 1, 2009, i.e., for the October IRB meeting. These new applications will capture all of the information we normally obtain through follow-up communications. It is our hope that in doing so, these applications will make the IRB process more efficient for investigators, IRB members and the IRB staff. Please contact the IRB staff if you have questions concerning the use of any IRB forms. Note also that a new version of the HIPAA authorization document for research is now posted on the ORS HIPAA webpage. This document allows for more flexibility in use that should satisfy problems you may have experienced in the past with subjects and sponsors. Use of this version is now required.



# LSUHSC New Orleans School of Allied Health Professions

Audiology  
Cardiovascular Technology  
Clinical Laboratory Sciences  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy  
Rehabilitation Counseling  
Respiratory Therapy  
Speech-Language Pathology

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8 Programs  
Human Development Center & Early Intervention Institute  
109 Faculty and Staff  
404 Students



Faculty Assembly Delegates 2010-2011

*“Providing educational programs, contributing to the body of knowledge through research and scholarship, and providing patient care and community outreach of the highest quality for the citizens of Louisiana.”*