Allied Health celebrates Family Day

The Faculty Assembly and Student Government Association of the School of Allied Health Professions along with the support of Dean J. M. Cairo, recently sponsored and organized the Fifth Annual Family Day.

Activities included Discovery Zones sponsored by the departments, entertainment for the kids, and a Jazz Brunch with great music, food, and fun.

Japanese reach out to LSUHSC for expertise

Drs. Howard and Joy Osofsky have just returned from Japan where they met with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Education and Culture to share their expertise on child care after disasters, children’s trauma, young pregnancy, PTSD, and child abuse. They presented the screening measure they have been using in collaboration with schools to gather data on more than 32,000 children since Hurricane Katrina. This is the same measure the Osofskys brought to Chile when they were invited on a similar mission after the 2010 earthquake and tsunami.

The Osofskys visited Koriyama, an area heavily impacted by both the earthquake and the nuclear disaster and where many evacuated from Fukushima. In Yokohama, they gave a presentation to several hundred people including mental health professionals, physicians, nurses, nursery and school teachers, parents, first responders, and staff working with children.

The Japanese were grateful for the tools, support and understanding of the similarities beyond culture and countries in response to disasters. Howard and Joy were impressed by the strength of the Japanese people coping with enormous devastation and developing a “new normal” around safety concerns.

Medicine announces new leaders

Dr. Steve Nelson, Dean of the LSUHSC School of Medicine has made the following appointments:

Dr. Robert Batson—Department Head of Surgery and the Isidore Cohn Chair of Surgery. Dr. Batson had served as Interim Department Head since last fall. A graduate of LSU in Baton Rouge, LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans (AOA), and LSU New Orleans Surgery Residency Program, he completed vascular surgery training at Baylor University. Dr. Batson has been active on our faculty since 1975.
Mary Thoesen Coleman, MD, PhD—Professor of Family Medicine and Director of Community Health Clinics, a Dean’s Office position. In her administrative role, she will work on the development of an LSU network of primary care health clinics. This network of clinics, conforming to the “medical home” model or “accountable care organization” paradigm, will be developed to enhance our educational programs and outcomes research. Additionally, she will be involved in our educational efforts in rural medicine, in curriculum development, and in mentoring initiatives. She served on the faculties of both Ohio State University and University of Louisville, where she was Associate Dean for Curriculum. Dr. Coleman recently served as Dean at Ross University School of Medicine.

Dr. Frank Smart—Professor of Medicine, Section Chief of Cardiology, and Director of the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence. He is an internationally recognized expert in heart failure and is renowned for his clinical expertise and his clinical research. Dr. Smart is an LSU medical graduate who was a previous member of LSUHSC medical faculty. Since 2007 Dr. Smart has been the Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine Gagnon Atlantic Health in northern New Jersey.

Dr. Jayne Weiss—Professor and Head of Ophthalmology. She also holds the Herbert Kaufmann Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Weiss is an accomplished academic ophthalmologist, specializing in corneal diseases. She takes great pride and interest in her clinical work. A graduate of SUNY Buffalo and Mt. Sinai Medical Center (AOA), she trained at the prestigious Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. She also completed fellowships at Harvard and Emory. Most recently she has held the post of Professor at Wayne State University, Department of Ophthalmology, and Director of Ophthalmic Pathology; she previously held a faculty appointment at the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Amy E. Young—Professor and Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Abe Mickal Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Young is President Elect of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology. A graduate of Vanderbilt and University of Mississippi School of Medicine, she trained at Emory and Baylor College of Medicine. Most recently she held the Henry and Emma Meyer Endowed Chair for Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology and served as the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor and also the Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Harris County Hospital District.

Dental student awarded prestigious scholarship

Rene Bourgeois, now a fourth-year student at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, has been awarded the 2011 Pierre Fauchard Academy Foundation Dental Student Scholarship. The scholarship, in the amount of $1,500, honors a third-year dental student who has demonstrated the greatest potential for developing into an outstanding leader in the dental profession. Selection criteria include leadership, professionalism, and GPA.

Rene is a native of Vacherie, Louisiana and graduated from Nicholls State University. She has been class representative to the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and this year is first delegate to ASDA.