When Kenneth Polite, Jr. ceremoniously took the oath of office as the new US Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, it was a family affair. Connected by touching hands, they proudly shared the moment. We felt proud, too, as his wife stood by his side. Dr. Florencia Greer Polite is OB/GYN Residency Program Director and an Assistant Professor of Clinical OB/GYN at the LSUHSC School of Medicine.

Although the new top federal prosecutor officially took office in September, a host of officials attended the ceremonial investiture last week, including US Attorney General Eric Holder and Senator Mary Landrieu, who recommended his appointment. Held at Cohen College Prep High School with about 100 students participating, the ceremony showcased the importance of education— to both of the Polites.

Dubbed “Momma Stork” by the parents, Dr. Stacey Holman, Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, delivered four boys and one girl on October 4, 2013 at Touro Infirmary. Dawson, Maxwell, Joseph, Micah, and, finally, Elizabeth arrived as a team of LSUHSC physicians, coordinated by Dr. Holman, executed a plan they had practiced for many weeks.

Dr. Joseph Miller, LSUHSC Section Chief of Maternal Fetal Medicine, lent his expertise to moms Nadia and Liz Harris as the NICU developed a 5-team approach for delivery under the guidance of Dr. Brian Barkemeyer, LSUHSC Division Head of Neonatology. On the big day, the NICU team included 8 LSUHSC Neonatologists (both faculty and fellows) who were present for delivery.

Moms and babies are doing well!

Peggy A. Honoré, DHA, the AmeriHealth Mercy - General Russel Honoré Endowed Professor at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, has been awarded the 2013 Excellence in Health Administration Award by the Health Administration Section of the American Public Health Association. This award is given to someone who has advanced the practice of health administration through outstanding leadership and contributions working in management or an educational setting.

Dr. Honoré is also Director of the Public Health System, Finance, and Quality Program in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services. She leads national efforts to establish and implement concepts for quality in the public health system, advance research and competencies in the practice of public health finance, and promote public health systems research.
The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has approved our application for a branch of our School of Medicine in Baton Rouge. This will allow our students the option to complete their third and fourth years in Baton Rouge.

Thanks and congratulations to all of the United Way Campaign school coordinators, department communicators and business managers for doing such a terrific job. This year’s United Way Campaign total is currently $1,025.95 greater than last year with a current 2014 pledge and payment total of $34,653.36!

Governor Bobby Jindal, Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, Senator Dan Claitor, and Representative Steve Carter joined LSUHSC and Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center leadership to officially open the LSU Health Medical Education and Innovation Center building on the Lake campus this week.

The 4-story, nearly 40,000 square foot building houses simulation labs, large lecture and conference rooms, flexible learning spaces, as well as a library and common areas. It will support medical, dental, and graduate medical education programs. With video integration with Our Lady of the Lake’s Operating Room for live streaming of surgical procedures and internet-based streaming for presentations and two-way video conferencing it will provide a link between the classroom and the clinical setting.

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LSUHSC outreach helps brighten others’ holidays

Two recent outreach efforts once again demonstrated the compassion and generosity of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans faculty, staff, and students.

We collected nearly a thousand pounds of food – 869 – as well as $175 during the LSUHSC Food Drive for Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Toys for Tots drive sponsored by the medical students’ Pediatric Interest Group collected 54 toys to contribute to the Marine Corps Reserve’s program.

Tis the season of giving, and thanks to you, families in this area less fortunate than ours will have a holiday meal to share as well as something to put under the tree.