One hundred forty-five students from LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans’ Schools of Allied Health Professions, Graduate Studies, Nursing, and Public Health were awarded their diplomas by the individual schools in December.

Since so many nursing students complete their academic programs in December, the School of Nursing holds an annual ceremony recognizing its graduates. The Awards Program honoring the December 2013 Degree Candidates was on December 12. A total of 129 candidates received their degrees – 113 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), 6 Master of Nursing (MN), 7 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and 3 Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS).

Among the nursing students earning their degrees were the first class of Doctor of Nursing Practice students. The DNP program is distinct from the Doctor of Nursing Science program in that it is a practice-focused doctoral nursing
Other graduates honored include Allison Leigh Champagne, Genevieve Rae Claypool, Laura Grace Cummings, Abby Elizabeth-Jude Gervais, Alexandra Nicole Humphreys, Sara Elizabeth Lacey, Sarah Windsor Landry, Lisa Jane Linville, Jennifer Bourgeois Martin, Kira Aponte Riches, Michele Tabary Robert, Caitlin Campbell Rolling, Regina Miley Runfalo, and Todd Michael Tartavoule.

Earning top nursing honors were Meghan O’Quinn Corso, magna cum laude, Valedictorian, Caitlin Jene Caldwell, cum laude, Salutatorian, and Alexander D. Wong, Dean’s Award.

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For the third year, the LSUHSC School of Dentistry has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a program of the international relief organization Samaritan’s Purse. Coordinated by third-year dental student Benjamin White, students, faculty and staff filled 82 shoeboxes with small toys, school supplies, hygiene essentials, socks and hard candy, and donated more than $500. The dental school also provided toothbrushes and toothpaste for each box.

Precious Comeaux, a Master of Health Policy and Systems Management student at our School of Public Health, has been awarded the 2014 LAHP Gil Dupré Graduate Student Scholarship by the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

Comeaux, a first-generation college graduate and a single mom, serves as a Peer Advocate Liaison at LSUHSC. She has also served as the Outreach Coordinator for the Best Baby Zone project in New Orleans and worked with DHH’s Louisiana Medicaid Quality Improvement Team.

The scholarship is for students enrolled in their final year of a graduate management program. LSUHSC students working toward a Master of Health Policy and Systems Management degree are eligible to apply. This is the second consecutive year that an LSUHSC public health student has been selected.