

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 4, 2006

Public Health studies physical activity pre and post-K

Dr. Ariane Bedimo-Rung is leading a CDC-funded study evaluating 40 New Orleans parks and playgrounds to assess physical park conditions and to interview park users. The study teams are tracking post-hurricane changes using an evaluation instrument called BRAT – Bedimo-Rung Assessment Tool. It incorporates direct observation, aerial photography, geographic information, system technology, existing data, and interviews.



Colin Van Hook and Emily Kimble gather data at Mickey Markey playground

Parks provide environments for physical activity, yet little is known about whether people use them differently after a natural disaster. The physical activity needs of residents are frequently not prioritized in post-disaster circumstances, yet physical activity and park use may be important components of individual physical and mental recovery from such disasters.

Dr. Bedimo-Rung and her teams will return to the same parks next summer to gather comparative data. ■

BBC visits LSUHSC

A radio producer with the BBC World Service toured our campus this week with Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeher and Leslie Capo. He is working on a feature about the health impact of Katrina.

Dr. Moerschbaeher recounted his Katrina experience and all of the progress the Health Sciences Center has made since.

The producer, Julian Siddle, also interviewed Dr. Charles Hilton about the Learning Center and our human patient simulator technology.

The feature will be aired in the BBC's global health program called *Health Check*. The audience for this worldwide show is approximately 160 million people. ■

JAMA issue features LSUHSC faculty

The August 2, 2006 issue of JAMA contains two articles involving LSU Health Sciences Center psychiatry faculty.

Dr. Jim Barbee and Dr. Mark Townsend are two of the authors of the commentary, *Mental Health and Recovery in the Gulf Coast After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita*. The article, after documenting the need, is a clarion call for resources to address the burgeoning mental health crisis in New Orleans and other hurricane devastated areas.



Dr. Howard Osofsky and Dr. Joy Osofsky were interviewed for the Medical News & Perspectives article, *Katrina Survivors Strive to Reclaim Their Lives*. The article reports the work that both Osofskys have been doing – Howard as clinical director, and Joy as head of child and adolescent programs for Louisiana Spirit. The paper chronicles their work with first responders, which included accompanying police on rounds in boats to provide help in the field. ■

A fond remembrance

The Office of Student Affairs in the School of Medicine held a memorial service this week for Dr. Howard Randall, who touched thousands of lives in his 28 years of service as Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

Howard was remembered fondly by many speakers, including former students.

Dr. Joseph Delcarpio and Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeher presented his family with mementos, a portrait, and a certificate posthumously naming Howard a Professor Emeritus of Physiology. Dr. Russell Klein said he intends to name part of the new Learning Center in Howard's memory. ■