

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



March 2, 2007

Legislative vote moves plans for LSU-VA hospital forward

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget voted today to allocate \$74 million to be used now for land acquisition and planning of the new LSU-VA teaching hospital in downtown New Orleans. The remaining \$226 million of Community Development Block Grant funding will be released pending approval of the business plan.



The vote was almost unanimous. We are grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for their understanding of the importance of this new teaching hospital not only to the people of New Orleans, but also to the entire state.

Our graduate medical education programs educate and train Louisiana's professional health workforce and a modern teaching hospital is crucial to our success in that mission. This new hospital will also improve our ability to care for the uninsured and medically under-served in the this area and will be a vital part of the recovery of New Orleans and health infrastructure.

Trauma services move home

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Monday to mark the return of trauma services to the LSU Interim Hospital. LSU System President Dr. William Jenkins joined MCLNO CEO Dr. Dwayne Thomas



Drs. Hunt, McSwain, and DeBlieux cut the ribbon



and Drs. John Hunt, Peter DeBlieux, and Norman

McSwain in celebrating this milestone in our recovery.

While we're grateful to Ochsner for their help in the early days by leasing us space in Elmwood, it sure is great to be home!

Nursing Career Day helps address shortage

The recent 2007 Nursing Career Day was an overwhelming success. Organized by the Student Interest Committee in the School of Nursing, the purpose of the event was to introduce nursing students to local and regional health care institutions that hire nurses. This year, 22 institutions participated including the LSU Interim Hospital, Touro, Children's, East Jefferson, West Jefferson, Terrebonne and Thibodaux General, Chabert, Slidell Memorial, North Oaks, Lakeview, St. Charles and St. Tammany.



case various career options for nurses.

According to Assistant Professor Ann Byerly, who oversaw the event, nurse recruiters are generally looking for soon to graduate nursing students, and they offer everything from student loan repayments and review courses for the license exam to

sign-on bonuses.

Students found job opportunities and financial support in unexpected places. About 110 students participated.