

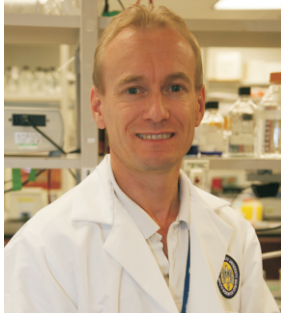
# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 1, 2008

## Lazartigues awarded \$1 million+ grant

**D**r. Eric Lazartigues, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, has been awarded a \$1.2 million Research Project (RO1) grant by the National Institutes of Health. The 5-year grant will support his research to advance our understanding of the role of the brain in regulating blood pressure and the development of hypertension.



*Dr. Eric Lazartigues*

Dr. Lazartigues' group was the first to identify the presence of a new protein (ACE2) in the mouse brain. ACE2 can degrade the hormone, Angiotensin-II, in the brain. Angiotensin-II can increase blood pressure by acting in the brain and on blood vessels. Hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases are currently treated with drugs designed to block the production and action of Angiotensin-II. Dr. Lazartigues' grant will help determine the importance of ACE2 in the brain and how it alters the angiotensin system during the development of hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases. His research could pave the way for new treatments for the nation's #1 killer – cardiovascular disease.

## Bonanno appointed to state board

**D**r. Laura Bonanno, Acting Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists.



*Dr. Laura Bonanno*

The Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists (LANA) is a nonprofit association for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). LANA's purpose is to strengthen, promote and advance the profession of nurse anesthesia, enhance the art and science of anesthesiology, and facilitate the provision of accessible, affordable, high quality care for all patients.

## Med students "coated"

**A**s their loved ones looked on, the largest second-year class of medical students post-Katrina received their white coats on Saturday.



*Dr. Cairo and Wilford Claville*

Dr. Ann Pou, the students' nominee for the 2008 Humanism in Medicine Award, spoke eloquently and her remarks drew a standing ovation. The students also surprised Dr. Joe Delcarpio with a special award recognizing his dedication to our students and to Camp Tiger, the first-year students' project.

Dean Steve Nelson, MD addressed the class and the students chose Drs. Joseph Delcarpio, Jeffrey Green, Michael Levitzky, Richard DiCarlo, Richard Whitworth, Fred Lopez, James Cairo, and Daryl Lofaso to confer their coats.



*Dr. Anna Pou*



## LeBlanc honors Olympians

**D**r. Kim Edward LeBlanc was selected to co-host a send-off for Louisiana's Olympic athletes held in Baton Rouge yesterday.

Called Bayou to Beijing, the event honored the 23 Olympians from



*Dr. Kim Edward LeBlanc*

Louisiana.

Dr. LeBlanc served as team physician for the U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball team and U.S. Senior National Taekwondo Championships in 2003. He also served as Olympic Team Physician at the San Diego Olympic Training Center in 1998.