

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 22, 2008

Ground broken for BioInnovation Center

The groundbreaking ceremony for the New Orleans BioInnovation Center was held Wednesday evening.

The New Orleans BioInnovation Center will be a 65,000-square-foot business incubator featuring wet-lab space and other lab/office space that can be leased by biotechnology companies with university relationships. This facility will assist in the commercialization of the biomedical research being performed at LSU Health Sciences Center and other universities.



With programming and design already under way, the Center is



expected to open in December 2009.

Hillier report released

The Foundation for Historical Louisiana released the report by RMJM Hillier of the assessment of the structural integrity of Big Charity this week. The report found that while many systems are nonfunctional and the interior is in bad shape, the structural system is sound and could be made functional by adding a number of beams. They reported that the building could be gutted and renovated at a cost of \$484 million.

We were pleased to see that the architectural firm came up with a cost analysis of \$484 million – very similar to the damage analysis done by the state Office of Facility Planning and Control of \$491.8 million.



While the report claims that their total costs are lower, the state's cost analysis for the new hospital includes more clinical, ambulatory and parking facilities. An additional financial benefit of the state's plan is the significant cost savings that will be realized by sharing infrastructure and equipment with the VA.

In a statement released to news media, the Governor reaffirmed his support for building a new hospital.

"Our preferred option remains building a new modern hospital in partnership with the VA, while at the same time finding an appropriate reuse for the existing Charity Hospital building recognizing its historic importance," Governor Jindal said.

Emergency alert system tested

The test of our emergency alert system this week was quite successful. Student registration of text messaging alerts is increasing, and has reached 40% of our student community. Faculty and staff participation, however, is currently only half that of the students. Using your existing devices for text alerting is a convenient way to receive timely alerts whether you are on or off campus and will help ensure your safety.

I encourage everyone who has not signed up yet to take a moment to

register using the link below. Registration is very simple and quick.



There are no fees to participate other than regular text messaging rates through your cellular carrier. The purpose of the Text Messaging Alert System is to inform you

of identified emergencies or threats to our university community, and not to issue general information notices. To take advantage of this service, please visit <https://www.lsuhsu.edu/alerts/e2campus/>.