

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 7, 2009

Gardner new DDD Chair

Vice Chancellor Ron Gardner has been named Chairman of the Board of the Downtown Development District.



The gavel changed hands, from Chair Tracie Boutte to Ron, at the DDD board meeting this week.

Ron has been actively representing the Health Sciences Center in the community and this is his latest leadership position. Congratulations, Ron!

Med School makes history

The medical school has admitted the largest freshman class in its history – 201 students. By comparison, 188 students were admitted in 2008. This year's class represents a 19% increase over the freshman class of 2004, which was 169 students. The larger classes also accommodate the medical school's expanding Rural Scholars Track Program which prepares medical students to practice in Louisiana's rural communities where they are most needed.



Dental faculty nationally recognized

Janet Leigh, BDS, DMD, Chair of the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, is one of ten Health Policy Fellows selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for 2009-10. She is the first dentist to be selected since 1999.



Dr. Janet Leigh

The fellowship is a 12-month residential experience in Washington, D.C. with continued health policy leadership development activities. Fellows experience and actively participate in the policy process in congressional offices and use that leadership experience to improve health, health care and health policy.

Michael E. O'Brien DDS, JD, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Predoctoral Studies in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 Daniel M. Laskin Award by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). The award recognizes the "Outstanding Predoctoral Educator in OMS."



Dr. Michael O'Brien

Dr. O'Brien will receive the award during the 91st AAOMS Annual Meeting Awards and Opening Ceremonies in Toronto on October 14, 2009.

Students celebrate a rite of passage

Second year medical students were "coated" by faculty members chosen by the class on Saturday. In some schools, the white coat marks the students' entrance to clinical medicine; but since clinical education for LSUHSC medical students begins on day one, our White Coat Ceremony signifies the students' increased contact with patients and patient responsibilities which expand during their sophomore year.



The "coating" before the students' families and loved ones, followed introductory remarks by Dean Steve Nelson, MD, and Dr. Angela Johnson, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Earl K. Long Medical Center in Baton Rouge who is the students' nominee for the Humanism in Medicine Award to be presented by the Association of American Medical Colleges at the 2009 AAMC annual meeting in the fall. Catherine Simpson, who wrote this year's winning Humanism in Medicine essay, read her work.