



# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



July 1, 2011

## Wu honored internationally

Xiao-Cheng Wu, MD, MPH, Associate Director of Louisiana Tumor Registry and Associate Professor of Epidemiology, received the Distinguished Service Award from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) at its annual conference in Kentucky last week.



The NAACCR Constance L. Percy Award for Distinguished Service recognizes individuals who have contributed exceptional volunteer service to NAACCR during the past 12 months, or sustained, current, and long-term contributions to the organization. The NAACCR Board of Directors selected Dr. Wu for “her championing of registry data use as exemplified by her leadership in the Data Use and Research Committee as well as her commitment to innovative and high quality research”.

## Higher Ed and Health Care Legislative Summary

Despite the dire predictions about the cliff year when stimulus funding will no longer be available, the Governor and the Legislature did a remarkable job of preserving funding for higher education and healthcare at or above the levels of the previous year. Our operational budget was pretty much left unchanged from the previous year; however, unfunded mandates, such as increases in malpractice insurance and health and retirement benefit costs, have not yet been finalized and could be as much as \$5-7 million.

To address the huge disparity between the medical and dental schools when compared to their counterparts in the southern region, the legislature passed HB 628 by Representative Walt Leger that authorizes the medical and dental school to increase tuition by 5% per year for five years. Representative Leger also led the charge to defeat a resolution (HCR 59) that would have delayed the proposed University Medical Center by forcing LSU to obtain majority approval from both houses of the legislature of the business plan and any funds expended through the issuance of bonds for the project.

On the higher education front, Governor Jindal's backed GRAD Act 2.0 builds upon the existing GRAD Act that grants institutions increased autonomies and tuition increases based upon their ability to meet certain performance metrics. GRAD Act 2.0 included no tuition or fee increases but grants universities additional autonomies in exchange for improved performance. They would allow higher education institutions to realize significant cost savings and would give them tools that are available to other competitive national universities – tools like a higher education-specific procurement code, facility management authority, investment portfolio flexibility, and a market-based insurance program.

The one-board bill, the SUNO-UNO merger, a bill to raise the credit hour limit charge to 15 hours, and one to link universities' operational fees to current tuition all failed on the House floor.

In order to provide more financial stability for the TOPS program, the legislature passed the Administration's constitutional amendment that would cap the millennium trust fund at its current amount and divert all future tobacco settlement payments to the TOPS fund. The 4 cent sales tax renewal on tobacco that was previously vetoed by the Governor was tacked on the legislation that will go before the voters in October 22, 2011.

In healthcare, the Administration's plan to reform Medicaid by shifting enrollees from traditional Medicaid to private managed care networks under a pre-paid or shared savings model was rescued by the Senate when they restored the funding for the program's implementation. Sen. Willie Mount authored SB 207 that mandates reporting requirements and sunsets the CCN program at the end of 2014 unless the legislature votes to renew it. *see Legislature, page 2*

## Legislature, from page 1

Two bills that would increase employee retirement contributions and decrease employee benefits did not make it through the legislative process. HB 479, which would have increased employee retirement contributions for LASERS members, stalled on the House floor. Another measure, HB 530, would have changed the benefit calculation for members of LASERS and TRSL in two ways likely to decrease employee's benefits upon retirement: the calculation would be based on an employee's top five pay earning years instead of the current three and on a maximum salary increase of 5 percent each year, instead of the current 15 percent. The legislation was involuntarily deferred in the Senate Retirement Committee.

A measure that would allow universities to "retire-rehire" adjunct professors (HB 150) made it through the session, but its enactment is contingent on the enactment of SB 6. SB 6, which awaits the governor's signature, requires the remittal of agencies' unfunded accrued liability if the agency privatizes any positions.

## Crane in the sky a mark of continuing progress

Construction on the new home of the Foundation for LSU Sciences Center is well underway on our campus. The building is on the corner of Bolivar and S. Priour streets and Tulane Avenue.

It is a 4-story raised office building with about 25,000 square feet. The first floor will be limited parking, loading area, and a small elevator lobby with 3 additional floors



of office space. The 4th floor will be occupied by the Foundation and the remaining two floors will be leased to tenants that are acceptable and approved by LSU. This is a replacement building to be funded by FEMA in response to the damaged Foundation building that was located on the same property.

The \$8 million project is slated for 400 days of construction and is expected to be completed in the fall.



## Nursing alumni hold annual meeting

Nearly 60 alumni, faculty, and students gathered at a luncheon for the LSUHSC Nursing Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on June 18.

Colleen Lemoine, MN, APRN, AOCN, RN-BC, Clinical Nurse Oncology Specialist at LSU Interim Hospital, was announced as the 2011 Alumna of the Year.



L-R: Kim Kreppin-Becke, Alumni President, Colleen Lemoine, Alumna of the Year, Melissa Pretus-Hudson, Secretary, Judy Gentry, alumna and faculty

A news slate of officers and Board of Directors were elected, led by new President Kim Kreppin-Becke.

The Association includes alumni who have graduated from any program at the LSUHSC School of Nursing since its inception. Activities promote the status of the School of Nursing through recruitment, revenue generation, networking, and information dissemination and provide social, professional and personal development opportunities.