



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

# CHANCELLOR'S Notes

December 20, 2013

## Potential recruits meet LSUHSC faculty and students

The Office of Academic and Multicultural Affairs took to the road recently, along with faculty and students from our Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Graduate Studies, and Public Health, to visit area undergraduate campuses.



Dubbed the LSUHSC 2013 Caravan, the group traveled to Southern University, Xavier University of Louisiana, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. During the hour and a half long visits on each campus, they saw roughly fifty students at Southern, at Xavier and LSU, and more than 70 students at Dillard.



A pipeline diversity program, the purpose of the visits is to introduce our degree programs, people, and opportunities to undergraduate students who have an interest in pursuing professional health careers.

## LSUHSC contributes health professionals to the workforce

One hundred forty-five students from LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans' Schools of Allied Health Professions, Graduate Studies, Nursing, and Public Health were awarded their diplomas by the individual schools in December.



Nursing Dean Demetrius Porche, DNS, APRN, and Alexander Wong

Since so many nursing students complete their academic programs in December, the School of Nursing holds an annual ceremony recognizing its graduates. The Awards Program honoring the December 2013 Degree Candidates was on December 12. A total of 129 candidates received their degrees – 113 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), 6 Master of Nursing (MN), 7 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and 3 Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS).

Among the nursing students earning their degrees were the first class of Doctor of Nursing Practice students. The DNP program is distinct from the Doctor of Nursing Science program in that it is a practice-focused doctoral nursing *see Degrees, page 2*

*Degrees, from page 1*

degree designed for nurses seeking careers in advanced clinical nursing practice and nurse executive ranks. The curriculum provides nurses at a doctoral level with education beyond that required for entry into practice to meet the need for safe, quality patient care in an increasingly complex health care environment. The program emphasizes critical thinking, careful assessment of current practices, scholarly inquiry, and decision-making based on evaluation of the best available research and evidence. Additionally, the program will serve to meet the growing need for insightful, visionary leaders and educators. The DNP students started the program in fall 2012. Four of these graduates are Nurse Anesthetists, and three are Certified Nurse Practitioners.



Meghan Corso

Earning top nursing honors were Meghan O'Quinn Corso, *magna cum laude*, Valedictorian, Caitlin Jene Caldwell, *cum laude*, Salutatorian, and Alexander D. Wong, Dean's Award.

Other graduates honored include Allison Leigh Champagne, Genevieve Rae Claypool, Laura Grace Cummings, Abby Elizabeth-Jude Gervais, Alexandra Nicole Humphreys, Sara Elizabeth Lacey, Sarah Windsor Landry, Lisa Jane Linville, Jennifer Bourgeois Martin, Kira Aponte Riches, Michele Tabary Robert, Caitlin Campbell Rolling, Regina Miley Runfalo, and Todd Michael Tartavouille.



Caitlin Caldwell

**LSUHSC dental students embody the spirit of the season**

D3 students Wes Buchman and Jessica Whiteside

For the third year, the LSUHSC School of Dentistry has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a program of the international relief organization Samaritan's Purse. Coordinated by third-year dental student Benjamin White, students, faculty and staff filled 82 shoeboxes with small toys, school supplies, hygiene essentials, socks and hard candy, and donated more than \$500. The dental school also provided toothbrushes and toothpaste for each box.

**LSUHSC Public Health student awarded scholarship**

Precious Comeaux, a Master of Health Policy and Systems Management student at our School of Public Health, has been awarded the 2014 LAHP Gil Dupré Graduate Student Scholarship by the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.



Comeaux, a first-generation college graduate and a single mom, serves as a Peer Advocate Liaison at LSUHSC. She has also served as the Outreach Coordinator for the Best Baby Zone project in New Orleans and worked with DHH's Louisiana Medicaid Quality Improvement Team.



The scholarship is for students enrolled in their final year of a graduate management program. LSUHSC students working toward a Master of Health Policy and Systems Management degree are eligible to apply. This is the second consecutive year that an LSUHSC public health student has been selected.