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Education Empowers

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Royal Scholarship Standouts
Generous gifts from Royal Court members Jesse and Kim E. Roberts, Jr., MD and Brian P. Jakes, Sr. allow our students to really shine.

Keeping Up with Our Schools
Catch up on the programs, events and milestones celebrated by each of our six schools this year.

Dr. David Kline: Championing a Legacy
Pioneering visionary, Dr. Kline has spent the past forty-seven years becoming a world leader in peripheral nerve repair and surgery.
The LSU Health Foundation is very proud of the good work we accomplish, and we want to provide you with important information regarding our purpose and mission. Our Foundation exists solely to support the students, faculty, and research in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health, Public Health, and Graduate Studies. Your financial donations drive our success as a university system. It is vital to clarify the fact that each fund is held separately, and funds are not commingled. As an example, a gift donated to the School of Medicine is solely used for that particular entity.

Further, our organizational and operating costs have only a nominal effect on the original amount of your donation; we can boast that an impressive 98% of gifted funds follow the expressed intent of the donor.

Some advantages of donating to the LSU Health Foundation include:

- The Foundation is the appropriate vehicle by which to establish an endowed fund. Our regulations ensure that your gift is used in strict accordance with your wishes.
- The Foundation strives to obtain matching funds from the Board of Regents to enhance your gift. For instance, for every gift of $60,000 donated, a match of $40,000 can be requested to create a $100,000 professorship or for every gift of $600,000 donated, a match of $400,000 can be requested to create a $1,000,000 chair.
- Your money is managed under strict guidelines to preserve the body of the gift in perpetuity.
- Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.
- Endowments and unrestricted funds are managed and invested by a nationally renowned management firm that specializes in medical non-profits of our size. Under such management, we expect your donation to grow significantly, allowing even greater returns.
The Foundation also has an established and successful history of partnering with businesses and private partnerships to drive development. For instance, the $100 million student housing project being built on campus is a joint venture with a private non-profit organization.

Further, we are most pleased to share with you that your unrestricted funds have been used to support meaningful cancer and pharmaceutical research projects by our own LSU Health professors, which helps us to remain in high regard at the national level.

Please consider giving to the LSU Health Foundation to keep the flame of healthcare-centered learning at our beloved alma mater burning bright! For information about our foundation please visit www.charitynavigator.org/ein/721115391.

Respectfully yours,

Warren Gottsegen, MD
On behalf of The LSU Health Foundation Board of Directors

“Our organizational and operating costs have only a nominal effect on the original amount of your donation; we can boast that an impressive 98% of gifted funds follow the expressed intent of the donor.”

– WARREN GOTTSEGEN, MD
Scholarship support continues to be a pressing need for students in each LSU Health Sciences Center School. In direct response to this need, scholarship support is a priority focus for the LSU Health Foundation.

Students are at the heart of our LSU Health Community. They are our future and are deeply committed to the health and recovery of Louisiana, proudly carrying on our honored traditions. They continue to demonstrate how they rise to the occasion and put the community’s needs before their own. And now, they need us.

The “Education Empowers” initiative launched in the summer of 2019 with an aggressive goal to raise $150 million in scholarship support and establish 250 new scholarship funds to help offset the cost of obtaining a health education. The LSU Health Foundation is committed to empowering students through scholarship opportunities. From caring for our most vulnerable communities to laying the groundwork for public health infrastructures, our students are the most significant investments for our future well-being. They need our support now more than ever.

Contributions support students’ futures in healthcare professions. Donors help empower students through access to the best educational experience. Investing in an LSU Health New Orleans education pays the highest dividends.

EDUCATION EMPOWERS students like Olivia, who can pursue her passion for addressing disparities in healthcare thanks to the generosity of others through scholarships.

Olivia Obot ’23 is a first-generation medical student who is passionate about equity in healthcare, particularly in women and in low-income and homeless communities. “There’s sadly always going to be healthcare disparities wherever you go. That’s something I’m passionate about, and that’s something I will continue to care for regardless of what type of medicine I practice.”

Olivia feels that the best way for her to be of use to society is to become a doctor, and that is made possible through the generosity of our LSU Health supporters. Scholarships inspire students like Olivia to go the extra mile in healthcare education. “Medical school is hard and can be very discouraging at times. Knowing that a group of people believe in your capabilities so much that they fund your medical education, now that’s powerful. Scholarships are a reminder that someone believes in you.”
EDUCATION EMPOWERS students like Lucas, who have been deeply impacted by the generosity of others through scholarships.

If you ask those who know him, they would tell you that Lucas Vo is a motivated individual that values higher education and volunteer work. From Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Lucas graduated from Louisiana State University, having consistently achieved numerous Dean’s List & President’s Honor Roll Awards, and is now a student in the LSU Health School of Dentistry. “I promise that your generosity will extend beyond me. I hope to one day make a meaningful contribution to the educational pursuits of a future student in healthcare just as you have helped turn my dreams into reality.”

Lucas always wanted to have an impact on people’s lives and chose dentistry because he believes the patient-provider connection is more impactful. “The relationships that can stem from dentistry is one of the biggest reasons why I chose this profession. To have a lifelong relationship with families that extends generations is built from the trust a patient has with their dentist.”

EDUCATION EMPOWERS students like Ella, who purposefully chose her path because of her personal experiences and has been able to continue down it thanks to the generosity of others through scholarships.

Growing up in New Orleans, lifelong LSU fan Ella wanted to pursue a career in the medical field early on, but the specialization of a nursing career came to light as she spent years in the hospital with her mother fighting breast cancer. Ella’s mother lost her battle in 2018.

“I met many medical professionals on this battle, but the nurses were always the ones I admired the most,” says Ella. “They stood with not only my mother, but with my whole family, to be a shoulder to cry on, a friend, and an advocate. I watched the nurses fight alongside my mother, and I believe they are one of the main reasons she was able to hold on for so long. Through this, I learned nursing was the career I was called to pursue so I too can be an advocate to my patients.”

EDUCATION EMPOWERS students like Nikka, who has seen an emphasis on the importance of his professional goals and has been motivated by investment in his education thanks to the generosity of others through scholarships.

Nikka Khorsandi, an MD-MPH Dual Degree Program student, has never been more committed to making an impact as a physician than this past year. “Being able to speak the medical language, the public health language, and the language of the people, you can have such an impact. The MD-MPH dual program helps students better understand the barriers that various community groups experience while trying to access primary care.”

Scholarships allow students like Nikka to further their education outside of the classroom. “Having a scholarship from your university shows how invested they are in training medical and public health professionals. With COVID-19, we’ve seen how important a public health infrastructure is in our community. Having school support motivates you to keep going.”
A Royal Crowd-Pleaser

When you give to LSU Health, 100% of your donation stays within the LSU system, including the fees.

At LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans, transparency is paramount. Our focus is to generate and direct funds for the betterment of LSU Health and our community. When you give to the Foundation, rest assured that 100% of every donation stays with LSU Health, whether that means paying faculty and staff, providing tuition assistance and scholarships for students, maintaining our facilities, funding research or investing in the latest technology. That also means investing in the Foundation itself, making you a member of our Royal Court.

A modest 2% of each non-endowed gift remains with the Foundation to pay for the management and stewardship of the funds.

For endowed gifts, there are no fees levied against the original donation, in order to maximize the interest these donations will generate.
The actual gifts on the following pages are great examples of how the entirety of your donation stays within the LSU system and is used to directly support LSU Health and its students.

Brian P. Jakes, Sr.

Brian and Beverly Jakes have served the LSU Health School of Medicine for many years – most notably through South Louisiana AHEC, where Mr. Jakes is the Executive Director. He has been instrumental in establishing rural care throughout Louisiana. In 2020, they wanted to expand their impact by establishing an immediate 4-year scholarship for a medical student of significant financial need. Our modest one-time 2% fee did not deter the Jakes from making this commitment and they plan to continue to provide a new scholarship every four years. Daniel Ruppert is the 2020 recipient of the Jakes’ generosity.
Royal Scholarship Standout: Daniel Ruppert

Daniel Ruppert, SOM Class of ’25, is well loved around the LSU Health Foundation office. He tugged on everyone's heart strings at last year’s Endowment Dinner during his speech about being a first-generation medical student and how much his attending medical school means to his family.

“Coming from a lower income rural community, my family and I never really had the financial ability to do things that we always wanted, but somehow my parents never complained and made sure food was always on the table,” says Daniel. “All the years that both of my mothers and my father worked their tails off to support not just me, but the rest of my family is very admirable, and I made a conscious decision to take on all the debt from medical school.”

“This scholarship provides me the ability to not stress as much on the financial aspects of medical school and makes sure that I am able to concentrate more on my studies, rather than ‘How am I supposed to pay these off?’”

Thanks to the generous donation from Brian and Beverly Jakes to create the Brian P. Jakes, Sr. Scholarship, Daniel doesn’t have to worry about how he can carry this debt.

Daniel is very much enjoying medical school so far and has specifically enjoyed studying the subjects of physiology and histology. When asked if he has decided on what area he’d like to focus his future medical career, he credits the Endowment Dinner for opening a door for him.

Daniel said, “After I gave my speech, which I was terrified to give and probably everyone knew it, Dr. Malachi Sheahan III came to me and convinced me to follow him and his residents in vascular surgery for a week. After this exposure, I found the different aspects of vascular surgery very interesting and a prime candidate for my future career!”
Jesse & Kim E. Roberts, Jr., MD

Jesse and Kim E. Roberts, Jr., MD wanted to make a large impact on the LSU School of Medicine by providing scholarships to medical students in financial need. In December 2019 they made an investment in the future of medical care, one that will continue to grow and provide for generations to come. Growing your investment to meet the current and future needs of our medical community is just one of the ways the LSU Health Foundation, New Orleans strives to serve you, our donors.
Kaitlyn Allen is the incoming freshman recipient of the Jesse & Kim E. Roberts, Jr., MD Scholarship. She developed an initial interest in medicine at a young age. Since both of her parents come from nursing backgrounds, she grew up hearing many stories from the hospital, including their daily tasks in the ICU. Her father continued his education to become a Nurse Anesthetist and Kaitlyn was able to learn about procedures in the operating room and even got to shadow him throughout high school. This relationship with her parents has also instilled a great amount of respect for our nurses and all healthcare workers.

Kaitlyn hopes to work within a specialty that allows her to create long-standing and trusting relationships with patients and their families. She aims to practice medicine in a way that supports the health and well-being of her patients and hopes to contribute to the biomedical research community to improve the standards of medicine where they may be lacking. Kaitlyn intends to contribute to the scientific research field by improving the repertoire of diagnostic and treatment methods that reflect a diverse demographic. She is especially passionate about extending her reach to rural communities with limited access to healthcare.

“The Jesse & Kim E. Roberts, Jr., MD Scholarship Fund means so much more to me than any amount of money offered. It signifies a huge recognition and accomplishment that such generous donors have chosen to invest in me and my medical school education.”

“I have found that LSU Health has created a program and community that will support me, and I am excited to develop into a great physician with the extensive resources offered.”

She continues, “I am incredibly thankful for the support that has been offered, and I know I will make the most of my opportunity to succeed at LSU Health New Orleans.”
Announcing Additions to the Board of Directors

We are pleased to welcome our newest members to the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Each member brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge in their industry, and we are grateful for their commitment to serve on this board supporting the Foundation’s mission, LSU Health, and the community.

Nicholas Authement, JD
Nicholas Authement received his Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center in 2007 after receiving his BA in History from the University of New Orleans. He is currently the U.S. Director of Payer Relations and Contracting for Biotheranostics, a division of Hologic, which focuses on providing the only robust, validated tool to help with clinical decision-making for extended endocrine treatment in ER+, early-stage breast cancer patients.

Nicholas is philanthropically-minded and is involved in supporting the Magnolia Grove Zen Monastery, Gunning for a Cure, and Jojo’s Hope.

Elizabeth Grieshaber, MD
Dr. Elizabeth Grieshaber is a native of the New Orleans area and a board-certified dermatologist. Her overall mission is to treat the whole person, helping them look good and feel good from the inside out. She attended LSU Health School of Medicine and completed her residency at LSU Health New Orleans. She practiced dermatology at the Cleveland Clinic prior to the establishment of T&G Dermatology. She is an associate faculty member at LSU Health and enjoys teaching residents on the days she is not at the clinic.

When Dr. Grieshaber is not helping her patients, she enjoys spending time with her family. She is mom to four beautiful children, one boy and three girls. Dr. Grieshaber feels that physical fitness is important to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She practices yoga and pilates on a regular basis.
Brian Jakes, Sr.

Brian P. Jakes, Sr. has been the Chief Executive Officer at the Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center since 1995. He has studied at the University at Buffalo, Roberts Wesleyan College and Ohio University, earning his BFA. His experience includes Admissions Liaison Officer for West Point Military Academy as well as Public Arbitrator for FINRA. Brian also currently sits on the board of the Louisiana Public Health Institute. Brian is a seventeen-year member of the LSUSOM Admissions Committee, Past Chair of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, as well as Past Chair and current member of the Governor’s Military Advisory Council (GMAC). He was awarded the Honorary Alumnus and Professorship of Rural Healthcare by LSU Health School of Medicine Alumni Association.

Brian is married to Mrs. Beverly Jakes who is a registered nurse and the Interventional Radiology Coordinator at West Jefferson Medical Center. Mrs. Jakes received her BS/BSN in Nursing, Registered Nursing from Baylor University.

Brian Melius, DVM

Brian Melius received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and his BS in Dairy Science from Louisiana State University & Agricultural and Mechanical College. He currently is Partner and Associate Veterinarian of Metairie Small Animal Hospital in Metairie, Louisiana. He served as the President of Metairie Small Animal Hospital from 2008-2020. Brian co-founded Heaven’s Pets, LLC in 2002 and has been a partner of Heaven’s Pets at Lake Lawn Metairie, LLC since 2004.

Dr. Melius’ professional involvement includes being a member of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission from 2009-2012, and he is a past member of the Board of Trustees for St. Martin’s Episcopal School. He is affiliated with the following Associations: American Veterinary Medical Association, Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, Pet Loss Professionals Association, and the Southeast Louisiana Veterinary Association. He is currently part of the team doing cancer treatment research at Oleander Medical Technologies.

L. King Scott, DDS

L. King Scott has a full-time practice of General Dentistry and Hospital Dentistry with special emphasis in Reconstruction and Complex Dentistry, including Aesthetic and Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry and Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Disorders, along with Sleep Disorders and Special Needs Patients in West Monroe, Louisiana. He first received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, Louisiana in 1974. He then received his DDS degree from LSU Health School of Dentistry, New Orleans in 1978. He is licensed in Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.

Dr. Scott is a member in good standing of the American Dental Association, Louisiana Dental Association, and the Fifth District Dental Association. He is married to Kari Plaschke of Longview, Texas. She retired in December 2012, after 28 years of service in the Pharmaceutical Industry as a senior Hospital Pharmaceutical Representative for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.
New Teammates & Promotions

Sam Cusimano
Director of Donor Relations

Samantha “Sam” Cusimano was promoted from Associate Director of Events and Marketing, a role she held since joining the Foundation in March 2020. In her new role, Sam leads the Donor Relations team comprised of stewardship and events and marketing team members.

Sam comes from a marketing role at The Commander’s Family of Restaurants, where she was the first to handle customer relations issues through digital channels of social media and the web. She witnessed the positive impact that engaged donors could have on education and research at West Virginia University where she earned her Masters of Integrated Marketing & Communications. Sam hopes to merge her experiences in hospitality and communications to further the reporting efforts of the Development Team and, together with this team, elevate the LSU Health donor experience to the highest and most rewarding level possible.

Adrienne Kiefer
Accounting Associate

Adrienne Kiefer joined the Foundation in April 2022 as the new Accounting Associate, and we are thrilled to have her join the Finance team. Adrienne received her BBA in Banking and Finance from Ole Miss: University of Mississippi and brings with her six years of experience in law firm accounting and billing from Burglass & Tankersley. She managed all budgets for 300 litigation cases at a time. Her attention to detail shines through as she handles check and credit card processing. She also serves as liaison to the LSU Health Sciences Center campus for financial needs with the Foundation.

Adrienne is an avid reader and enjoys a good book, or you can find her with her yellow lab named Rowan. She is also passionate about volunteering for the New Orleans Alumni Chapter of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, where she is a board member.

Sarah Petty
Executive Coordinator

Sarah Petty joined the Foundation in December 2021. Sarah came to our team with administrative and management experience from a multitude of backgrounds. Originally from New York, Sarah spent time in Washington, D.C. before moving to Louisiana to work in Health Communications at Tulane University. Her experience ranges from lobbying as a policy associate for non-profits focused on mental health, to health communications for the LSU Cancer Center. Sarah holds a BA in Biology from Hofstra University and an MS in Health Promotion Management from American University in Washington, D.C. Her interests include cooking, entertaining and exploring the United States with her husband.

As Executive Coordinator, Sarah manages the CEO, CFO and CDO calendars. She coordinates board meetings and handles project management, working closely with the Chief Development Officer.
Michael A. Richmond  
**Director of Annual Giving**

Michael Richmond joined the Foundation in April 2022. He is a seasoned development professional with over twenty years of experience at higher education institutions. His previous roles include tenures at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, the University of Maryland Global Campus, and the University of the Pacific. He joins us most recently from Denison University, where he led the Annual Fund team to their highest dollar result while integrating the Annual Fund with Alumni Relations, Donor Relations, Major Gifts, and Gift Planning.

Michael is the son of a U.S. Air Force parent, raised in different countries and cultures. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Michael is married to Svetlana Richmond, and they have four children, their eldest son in college, a high school daughter, a kindergarten daughter, and a preschool son.

Morgan Trulen  
**Stewardship Manager**

Morgan Trulen joined the Foundation as the Stewardship Manager on the Donor Relations team in October 2021. Previously the Event Coordinator at Commander’s Palace from 2007 to 2021, Morgan has planned and executed her fair share of events and private culinary experiences. Morgan attended the University of New Orleans, earning her Bachelor of Science in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism in December 2007. Her attention to detail, work ethic, and compassion for the students is what shines through within the Donor Relations team. As Stewardship Manager, Morgan is responsible for Awards Management, the scholarship management awarding process in a streamlined manner. Currently the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Dentistry all utilize Awards Management for scholarships annually.

Aysia Turner  
**Business Ventures Associate**

Aysia Turner joined the Foundation as an Accounts Receivable Clerk in July of 2021 for the Business Ventures team and was quickly promoted to Business Ventures Associate in December 2021. She brings a multitude of professional skills to the Foundation from her 7 years at the Housing Authority of New Orleans before moving over to Tulane Medical Center as the Senior Assistant Director. Aysia coordinates the commercial real estate business contracts and manages ventures from start to finish, juggling a multitude of projects simultaneously.

Originally from New Jersey, Aysia moved to Louisiana during her youth and fell in love with New Orleans. She is mother to 2-year-old Ryland and has a passion for early childhood development, volunteering at his school frequently. She noticed a need after COVID-19 since many children were experiencing speech delays due to a lack of social interaction. Her passion for all things culinary comes through in her cooking, but you can also catch her rollerblading around town.
Keeping Up with Our Schools

School of Allied Health Professions

Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program is 100% Golden

Kudos to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program and its graduates, who celebrated a 100% retention rate and a 100% certification exam pass rate for the Class of 2021.

The Department of Physical Therapy Completes Its First Year

The 34 students in the Department of Physical Therapy Class of 2024 received their white coats in a ceremony held on April 1st in the Human Development Center Auditorium. The ceremony represented the completion of the first year of the program and their transition into the first 8-week full-time clinical experience this summer.

Paving a Pathway to Independence with the PAY Check Project

The Human Development Center’s Post-Secondary Apprenticeship for Youth (PAY Check) project has expanded to the Northshore, providing transition services for young adults with disabilities comprehensive pathways to quality employment. Since 2016, PAY Check has supported more than 128 young adults to learn and practice skills necessary for independent and self-determined community participation with a focus on work and career skills. Participants have launched their careers and secured community jobs after completing the program.

The secret to PAY Check’s success is offering a pathway of hands-on, individualized services within the community. The pathway starts on a postsecondary campus where participants enroll in college courses and use this environment as an opportunity for social engagement among peers. A Transition Specialist supports PAY Check participants as they explore careers by visiting multiple worksites and working two paid internships. The pathway eventually leads to a permanent job.

PAY Check has expanded its services from Orleans and Jefferson parishes to include the Northshore. PAY Check currently has four interns working through a program at St. Paul’s School in Covington, with the intent to expand to other districts such as Tangipahoa and St. Bernard parishes soon.
Share a moment with Dr. Gremillion

LSU Health School of Dentistry administration, faculty and staff hosted a garden dedication in honor the late dean, Henry A. Gremillion, DDS, MAGD. Family, friends and colleagues were in attendance. Dr. Gremillion was beloved by his colleagues and everyone at our Foundation.

The ceremony to dedicate the garden and full-size bronze statue of Dr. Gremillion was held at the dental school campus on April 9th. The statue was commissioned with the generous donation from Dr. Virginia Angelico Tatum '79, a longtime friend of Dr. Gremillion.

Dr. Gremillion’s wife, Karleen “Mackey” Gremillion, was in attendance along with her children and grandchildren. Their granddaughter, the nationally recognized artist JudyAnne Jackson, performed a song during the program. Also, speaking were Dr. A. Dale Ehrlich, Department head & Associate Professor of Comprehensive Dentistry and Biomaterials, Dr. Ronald Auvenshine, Dr. Walter “Shep” Platt, Dr. Terry Fugetta, and President-Elect of the LSUSD Alumni Association Dr. Brian LeBon along with his son, Dr. Conner LeBon. The opening prayer and invocation was given by fourth-year dental student, John “Curtis” Schmidt.

LSUSD Offers Cutting-Edge Dental Care in Louisiana

Under the leadership of Dr. Kitrina Cordell, professor and chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences, the department boasts the only two oral and maxillofacial pathologists and the only two oral and maxillofacial radiologists in Louisiana.

They provide patient consultations, teach in all levels of LSU’s educational programs including continuing education courses, and deliver care to patients in the LSUSD Faculty Dental Practice.
Graduation News

The LSUHSC – New Orleans Commencement Ceremony was held on May 19th, and in the School of Graduate Studies 10 students were awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree and four received a Master of Science degree. Congratulations, graduates!

New Club Helps Students with Disabilities

This spring, LSUHSC-NO approved a new student organization – The Interprofessional Disability Advocacy Club. Founded by Physiology PhD candidate Taylor Templeton and Duaa Hashmi, recent Nursing School graduate, the club aims to create a safe and welcoming space for students with disabilities at all LSUHSC schools, and to provide information regarding higher education opportunities for students with disabilities.

School of Nursing

Concentrating on Midwifery

In an effort to combat the poor perinatal outcomes in Louisiana and disparities in access to obstetric care, the School of Nursing is exploring the addition of a nurse-midwifery concentration to their Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Certified nurse-midwives (CNM) provide care during pregnancy, birth, and the newborn period. They are also gynecologic and primary care providers. While some CNMs practice in the home or birth center, the majority of CNMs attend births in a hospital setting. They are able to provide both traditional labor support as well as other forms of pain management, such as epidurals, and to access timely interventions, such as cesarean sections, when necessary. The SON is in the process of applying for ACME preaccreditation and looks forward to offering this program in the future.

Improving Access to Mental Health Care

A $1.25 million Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training grant was awarded to the School of Nursing. Over five years, this grant will provide increased behavioral health training opportunities and will improve access to mental health care for underserved populations in Louisiana.

40 Years of Sigma Epsilon Nu at LSU

Congratulations to the Sigma Epsilon Nu at-Large Chapter, who celebrated their 40th anniversary in April in conjunction with their Dr. Linda Corson Jones Scholarship Day.
A New Sense of Security
Thanks to the SPH Student Pantry

In recent years, there has been increased recognition of the economic hardships students in higher education experience. Medical, public health, and education experts agree that such stress negatively impacts a student's mental health and emotional wellbeing – as well as their academic performance.

It was a trend that began to show within the student population at the School of Public Health. During the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recession, financial insecurity has only increased, compounded with lost incomes and rising costs of housing and other essential living expenses. While the pandemic may have brought this issue to the forefront, it is by no means a new one.

“A couple of years ago, the Student Government Association did a student survey and found a number of students were dealing with financial and food insecurity,” says Dr. Donna Williams, Professor of Behavioral & Community Health. “They began talking about a student-led pantry but were never able to get it off the ground.”

With this in mind, Dr. Williams and Martha Cuccia, Instructor of Health Policy & Systems Management, decided to co-found a student pantry for Public Health students. The pantry, which is located within the school itself, is available to students who need a bit of help with some basic needs. The Student Pantry features shelf-stable food like pasta and canned vegetables, along with toiletries, school supplies, and other donations made by faculty and staff.

“Many students are juggling loans or working one or more jobs to make ends meet. Many have very little give in their budgets and a not insignificant number don’t have enough financial support to meet basic survival needs. It’s a small thing we can do to help students be able to complete their studies without compromising their health.” – Dr. Donna Williams

“I remember trying to make ends meet while putting myself through school,” says Ms. Cuccia. “To have a service like this would have made a world of difference.” Dr. Williams adds, “The people of the School of Public Health practice community outreach across the state, across the city, across the street – whether that is for the homeless at a day shelter, our own students living in campus dorms, or our students living down the street in apartments. We are compelled to help.”

For information about how you can contribute to the LSU School of Public Health Student Pantry, please reach out to SPH@lsuhsc.edu.
Update from the Dean’s Desk

When Dr. Nelson asked me to serve as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine in December 2021, I did not hesitate to say yes. It is a great honor to serve this school where I have been on faculty since 1993. Change is a constant in life – especially in medicine – but one thing that has held steady is our mission. Our recent Match Day celebration reminded me that our purpose is constant. Our students had a very successful match despite increasing competition nationwide. In addition to having many students match at prestigious programs around the country, we are delighted that nearly 50% of this class chose to stay in Louisiana, and that 90% of those who remained in the state chose to train in our residencies. That is a testament to our training programs, our excellent faculty and our outstanding clinical leaders. I’ve outlined some of the exciting developments below, many of which are improvements in our campus façade and investments in incredible faculty.

There are many developments on campus this year. First is the completion of a 13,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art animal care facility in the late summer. Second is the opening of the renovated Interim LSU Hospital building (formerly Hotel Dieu) as the Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation (CALS). We plan to move our clinical departments into this building in the fall. This will bring our clinical faculty closer to the basic science departments, a short walk from University Medical Center (UMC), and across the street from the Multidisciplinary Clinic. This building will also house new and expanded simulation and training facilities, a much-needed standardized patient center for assessment of clinical skills, a testing center, a wellness center and additional classrooms. Finally, our new student housing option – The Residences at LSU Health – will be available to all students of the health sciences center as of January 2023.

Just as these projects are completed, the School of Medicine will begin another exciting project on the 40-year old Medical Education Building. Floors 5-7 will begin major renovations within the year, and will be the home for state-of-the-art labs for our basic science research. This serves as an opportunity for the school to re-imagine our research operations, positioning us for growth for the next 20 years.

The School of Medicine continues to train the next generation of doctors for Louisiana and make scientific advances in healthcare. I am so proud of this community and look forward to seeing these new buildings and renovations bring us even closer together. Thank you to all of our loyal supporters who afford us these opportunities in education and research. If you haven’t already, please consider joining us in leaving your mark on campus through our Institutional Enhancement Campaign. And I hope to see everyone at the Royal Court recognition ceremonies October 12-14, 2023.

Respectfully,

Richard DiCarlo, MD, Interim Dean, LSU School of Medicine
Benefits of Second Line Membership

Invitation to Royal Court Weekend
Our celebratory weekend commences with a ceremony where distinguished Second Line donors are officially inducted into the Foundation’s premier annual giving society and presented with a beautiful medallion noting each level of giving. Second Line members are also invited to the LSU Health Foundation’s Endowment dinner, honoring all scholarships, professorships, chairs, etc. Lastly, the weekend concludes Callin’ Baton Rouge style with a fully stocked LSU Football tailgate outside of Tiger Stadium and ending with an evening in Death Valley cheering on our Tigers!

*General football tickets included

Recognition in Honor Rolls
Your name will be featured in publications such as the Foundation Magazine and you will receive digital recognition in common areas of the upcoming student living center, The Residences.*

*Only with Bead Campaign donation

March with the Second Line, the LSU Health Foundation’s Premier Annual Giving Society

The Second Line for LSU Health New Orleans is LSU Health Foundation’s premier leadership giving society honoring those philanthropically minded alumni and friends who demonstrate extraordinary loyalty by giving each year to the area of their choice. Recognition and engagement are the core functions of our Donor Recognition Program.

The second line is a tradition in New Orleans, where Mardi Gras patrons follow behind the brass bands in parades to keep up the celebratory momentum. In the spirit of Carnival and the Second Line, our Leadership Donors are the very patrons that continue to keep up the momentum and elevate LSU Health New Orleans. We are proud of the more than 400 members of our Second Line and we encourage you to be in that number. Join us and second line along as we continue to take LSU Health New Orleans to new heights.

Donors who have supported the LSU Health Foundation at a cumulative giving level of $1,000 - $10,000+ within a calendar year are recognized as valued Second Line members each year.

$1,000 - $2,499  $2,500 - $4,999  $5,000 - $9,999  $10,000+

Join today!
give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/secondline

For additional information or questions regarding Second Line membership, please contact Michael Richmond, Director of Annual Giving at (504) 568-2433.
Championing a Legacy of Leadership, Mentorship and Service

A dedicated world leader in peripheral nerve repair and surgery

Pioneering visionary, Dr. David G. Kline is a revered LSUHSC champion. He has spent the past forty-seven years becoming a world leader in peripheral nerve repair and surgery resulting in three academic gold medals from national and international organizations. Since he first arrived at LSU in 1967 to create a training program for neurosurgery residents, his passion for nerve research launched two research labs dedicated to the innovative treatment of advanced nerve cases and built a body of work of over three hundred articles, chapters, and books.

In his tenure as Chairman of the Neurosurgery department from 1976 until 2006, he mentored and molded over forty residents with the same devotion that he shows for his patients and members of his own family.

In the 1980s, Dr. Kline developed the first surgical nerve fellowship in the U.S. at LSU Health, teaching and training over 83 fellows on the management of serious nerve injuries, entrapments, and tumors. In honor of his lifelong achievements, his residents, fellows, colleagues, patients, and family established the David G. Kline, MD Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery. Later came the David G. Kline, MD Professorship of Neurosurgery focusing on scholarly research, teaching, and the successful launch of the internationally renowned David G. Kline Legacy Peripheral Nerve Dissection Course. In 1995, he was inducted as a Boyd Professor, the highest honor given by the LSU Systems’ Board of Supervisors for outstanding research, scholarship, teaching, or other creative achievements.

Now retired, Dr. Kline and his wife, Nell, divide their time between homes in New Orleans and Blowing Rock, North Carolina where charitable work for their churches, local Rotaries, and other nonprofits and frequent visits with their children and grandchildren continue to provide them with much personal gratification.

In 2020, the Klines generously established a bequest in support of the David G. Kline Peripheral Nerve Dissection Course. We are tremendously grateful to them for their many years of resolute and committed dedication to LSU Health.

Dr. Frank Culicchia, Chair of the Neurosurgery department since 2006, who currently holds the Kline Chair and Professorship, believes that Dr. Kline is directly responsible for leading the way towards a bright and promising future for the Neurosurgery dept. “While our history is marked with determination, leadership, and a commitment to excellence, we continue to hold true to our past while moving forward to the future. Dr. Kline has been a driving force in the success of the Neurosurgery department’s ability to provide cutting edge research and advanced compassionate patient care.” The Kline legacy continues.
Donor Spotlight: Giving for Good

A gift to the LSU Health Foundation makes an immediate impact and changes lives. Whether the gift benefits life-saving research or our future healthcare providers’ education, your gift leaves a legacy of hope and health.

Christy Valentine Theard, MD, MBA
President and CEO of Healthy Blue

Born and raised in New Orleans, Dr. Christy Valentine Theard keeps her hometown close to heart and continues to champion for all of Louisiana in her role as President and CEO of Healthy Blue Louisiana.

Dr. Valentine Theard worked with the Foundation to create the Healthy Blue Advancing Equity in Medicine Scholarship at LSU Health Sciences Center. The scholarship is the first of many that Healthy Blue Louisiana is setting up to address access to care, reduce healthcare disparities, and improve health equity in Louisiana by investing in our community’s future and specifically advancing greater diversity and inclusion in our physician workforce by supporting underrepresented students in medicine.

Dr. Valentine Theard is very passionate about this goal herself. “The number of minority students in medical school is declining across the country; especially for African American men,” explains Dr. Valentine Theard, a 2000 graduate of LSU School of Medicine. “I know how valuable my time at LSU was for me,” she continues. “I wanted to make sure that others had those opportunities.”

Just like Healthy Blue is blazing trails in effectively treating the vulnerable populations across the state, the scholarships that Healthy Blue are contributing to LSU Health and universities across the state are paving the way for health equity. Dr. Valentine Theard says that they are planning scholarships for physician assistants, nurse practitioners and with Xavier University Masters’ of Public Health with a focus on health equity.

“What we know is that Louisiana-trained doctors stay in Louisiana—and want to be of service to the community. We are supporting Louisianians at every step of the process, so they have the resources to lead the lives they are designed to lead.” – Dr. Valentine Theard

What motivates Dr. Valentine Theard and Healthy Blue is how supporting these students increases healthcare for the whole state on many levels. The organization just completed a third $66,000 scholarship for the School of Medicine for 2023.
The annual Royal Court Weekend brings together our top donors in lifetime giving and planned giving for induction into the Foundation’s prestigious giving societies. We are looking forward to celebrating with you in 2023 and we are truly grateful for your continued philanthropic support.

Are you in that number?
Learn about our giving societies and plan to attend our Royal Court Weekend 2023. Visit give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/secondline to join!
Save The Date - Royal Court 2023

Thursday
October 12
Annual Fund Ceremony & Reception

Friday
October 13
The Lifetime Giving Societies Ceremony & Reception
A very special evening for our Endowment and Scholarship donors and recipients!

Saturday
October 14
Second Line Tailgate Party
LSU Tigers Football Game in Tiger Stadium

October 12-14, 2023 - Reserve Your Weekend Today!

For questions or to reserve your spot please contact Caitlin Strother, Associate Director of Events & Marketing, at (504) 568-5712.
Recapping the Happenings

2022 Tiger Classic Golf Tournament

The LSU Health Foundation hosted our inaugural Tiger Classic Golf Tournament benefiting the LSU Health School of Medicine Baton Rouge Branch Campus to enhance and expand the training curriculum for our students, residents and our future Louisiana physicians.

Held at the University Club of Baton Rouge, a total of 21 teams played on June 13, 2022, all in support of the Baton Rouge Branch Campus. We could not have made this tournament happen without our sponsors, which included Professional Emergency Physician Associates, LLC, The Baton Rouge Clinic, AMC, the LSU Foundation, and the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, to name a few.

Save the date for the second annual Tiger Classic Golf Tournament in Baton Rouge on April 17, 2023.

For info on sponsorships or signing up a team, contact Caitlin Strother, Associate Director of Events & Marketing at 504-568-5712 or cstrother@lsuhealthfoundation.org.

2022 Wonder Women of LSU Health

On July 14, 2022, the LSU Health Foundation held our second annual Wonder Women of LSU Health panel. Our first year was a virtual panel during the COVID-19 pandemic, so we were delighted to host this year’s panel in-person at University Medical Center New Orleans. Our moderator, Carroll Suggs, led the panelists in a diverse and relevant discussion about women in healthcare.

Our panelists consisted of Linda Cao, DDS, MBA, Christy Valentine Theard, MD, MDA, Hannelore Giles, MD, Jane Sumner, PhD, RN, ANEF, and Noelle Moreau, PT, PhD. Each panelist represented a different school from the LSUHSC campus.

Watch the 2022 Wonder Women full panel video at www.lsuhealthfoundation.org/lsu-health-wonder-women
Looking Forward to Fun

Mark your calendars to attend these events in 2023!

- January 12: Mack Thomas Lecture in Anesthesiology
- February 3: Tiger Bones
- March: Wonder Women of LSU Health Panel
- March 29: Give Gold Geaux Purple
- March 30: National Doctors’ Day
- April 17: Tiger Classic Golf Tournament
- October 12-14: Royal Court Weekend