

LSU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - NEW ORLEANS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION JOURNAL Medicinews

Volume 40, No. 2 - Fall '23

Golden Tigers of the Class of '73



Class members in the photograph are identified on page 27.



Alumni of the Year (left to right):

Maurice Bercler ('68), Richard Haydel ('68) and Sidney Marshall Longwell ('01)

A Message from the Dean



Another academic year is off to a great start. In the last week of June, we welcomed 199 new interns to begin their residency training. At the same time, our rising third-year students had their Clerkship Preparation course: learning how to write notes, present patients, and reviewing the basic clinical skills they learned in their first two years. The junior and senior clerkships began in early July, and the second-year students returned to resume their classes in mid-July. Finally, on July 31st we welcomed the new first-year students to begin their journey in medicine. They will have their White Coat Ceremony on October 7th and we greatly appreciate those of you who support this important event.

In July, we finished moving our basic science departments out of floors 5, 6, and 7 of the Medical Education Building and into the Trail Building (CSRB). Complete demolition of those floors will begin soon. We expect the demolition phase of the project to last six months, after which it will take approximately two years to build the new laboratory space and office suites.

The lab space will have a much more open floor plan with better use of natural light. The overall design will be more efficient and will foster more collaboration among researchers. We believe this will be the best laboratory space in the State, and will position us well for future recruitment.

Also in July, we hired Dr. Peter DeBlieux as Assistant Dean for Advanced Learning and Simulation. Many of you know Dr. DeBlieux from his time as Director of the Emergency Medicine Program, as Director of the Emergency Services after Hurricane Katrina, and as Medical Director and Chief Experience Officer at UMCNO. Throughout his career, Dr. DeBlieux has been a passionate and gifted educator. In this role he will help plan, design, and implement training programs for the new facilities in the Center for Advanced Learning and Stimulation (CALs) building. I expect that his innovative ideas will benefit our students and residents for years to come. We are very fortunate to have him leading this effort.

In the Spring issue of LSU Medicine News, I wrote that I was optimistic about our partnership with LCMC and UMCNO, even in the face of the LCMC-Tulane agreement. In recent months, UMCNO has planned to restructure their service lines. I am happy to report that all new service line leaders at UMCNO will be LSU faculty and that most of the medical directors will also be LSU faculty. We continue to partner with LCMC on other initiatives of strategic importance, and I remain optimistic that our clinical enterprise and training programs will continue to grow. That is critical to the school's future.

We could not carry out our mission to train the next generation of doctors for Louisiana without the help of the Alumni Association. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard P. DiCarlo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard DiCarlo ('87)
Interim Dean

Inside.

Articles

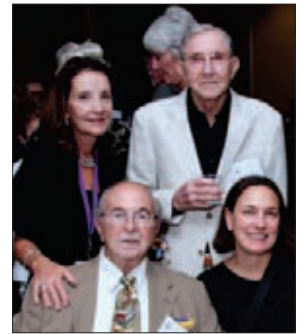
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To improve and expedite information exchange, the Office of Alumni Affairs is developing a list serve for alumni who prefer electronic communications in addition to our regular mailed publications. If you would like to be included on our electronic list, please send your email address to: roar@lsuhsc.edu.

Reunion Weekend, see pages 5-9.



The Tiger Cubs have arrived! Meet them on pages 19-21.

Tiger Reminiscences

Harold J. Miller ('60) remembers... see page 22.



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Committee of 100 Banquet

The LSU School of Medicine Committee of 100-Champions of Excellence is comprised of over 900 members who have committed to support the School of Medicine financially by funding Professorships, Chairs, and educational labs such as the **Russell C Klein, MD ('59)**, Center for Advanced Practice and the Isidore Cohn Jr., MD, Student Learning Center. The annual banquet celebrates both current and new members. This year our speaker was **Brian Credo ('88)**, who shared his thoughts entitled "Creating Compassion in Medicine: The Legacy of Charity Continues."



Brian Credo ('88) speaks to the attendees at the Committee of 100 banquet.



REUNION WEEKEND 2023

Scientific Session

Speakers included **Richard DiCarlo ('87)**, **Lee Engel ('01)**, **Amelia Jernigan, MD**, and **Rahn Bailey, MD**.

Alumni of the Year were recognized at the annual business meeting during the Scientific Session. **Maurice Bercier ('68)**, **Richard Haydel ('68)**, and **Sidney Marshall Longwell ('01)** received awards for their longstanding support of the School of Medicine. See cover for photographs.

The new slate of officers was approved and include

- President: **Randy Roig ('92)**
- President-elect: **Lisa Jaubert ('07)**
- Vice President: **Casey Murphy ('13)**
- Secretary-Treasurer: **Cathi Fontenot ('84)**
- Past President: **Sanjeeva Reddy ('89)**



Passing of the Gavel: Incoming president Randy Roig ('92) (left), awards outgoing president Sanjeeva Reddy ('89) for his service as president.



REUNION WEEKEND 2023

Scientific Session



Cocktail Party



Reunion Weekend 2023



Reunion Weekend 2023



Reunion Weekend 2023



SAVE THE DATE 2024 MEDICAL ALUMNI REUNIONS

June 7 and 8, 2024

Classes of: 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984,
1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014

REUNION CLASSES

Class of 1963



Class of 1968



REUNION CLASSES



**GOLDEN TIGERS of the Class of 1973
are pictured on the front cover.**

Class of 1978



Class of 1983



REUNION CLASSES

Class of 1988



Class of 1993



REUNION CLASSES

Class of 1998



Class of 2003



REUNION CLASSES

Class of 2008

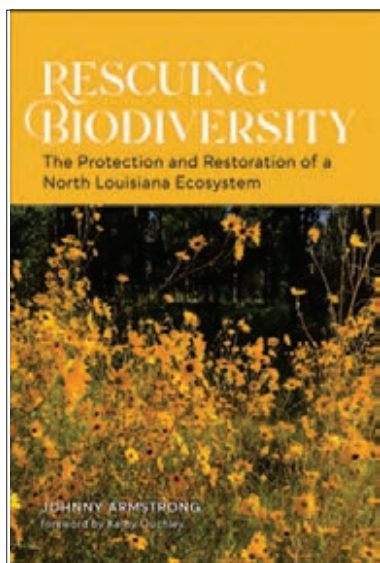


Class of 2013



Alumni Authors

***Rescuing Biodiversity* (LSU Press, 2023), by Johnny Armstrong ('75), foreword by Kelby Ouchley**



Restoration ecology is a vital tool to mitigate the crisis caused by the global destruction of biodiversity, one of the most powerful existential threats to future generations. **John M. Armstrong's** ('75) *Rescuing Biodiversity* tells the story of one man's attempts to preserve a vanishing Louisiana ecosystem and restore the animal and plant species that once lived there. As a grandfather and perpetual student, Armstrong witnessed the speed at which the timber industry pillaged local landscapes, and he resolved to protect and revitalize the old-growth forest of Wafer Creek Ranch in north central Louisiana.



Dr. Armstrong

This fascinating tale recounts his efforts to reclaim the shortleaf pine-oak-hickory woodland ecosystem, once dominant across a wide stretch of land spanning at least four southern states but now virtually extinct. Accessibly written, *Rescuing Biodiversity* acts as a field guide to the historic upland ecology of the region, with descriptions and photographs of its overstory, salient upland grasses, and brilliant wildflowers. Armstrong takes the reader on a

journey through this fragile environment, demonstrating what science-based restoration can look like on land that serves as the prime example of a native plant community in the state. Author, conservationist, and retired medical doctor, Johnny Armstrong lives with his wife, Karen, in an old-growth forest and woodland protected by the Nature Conservancy outside of Ruston, Louisiana. Kelby Ouchley is a former U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist. He is the author of several books concerning natural history, including *Bayou-Diversity: Nature and People in the Louisiana Bayou Country*.

PRAISE FOR *RESCUING BIODIVERSITY*: "An avowed student of life and restoration ecology, Johnny Armstrong expertly teaches us how to restore an imperiled southern ecosystem based on in-depth research, firsthand experience, and delightful observation of the species that return to his beloved Wafer Creek Ranch. Driving his devotion is the alarming truth that loss of biodiversity poses a threat on par with climate change and his impassioned belief that society can alter that trajectory, one acre at a time."—Cindy Brown, executive director of Land Trust for Louisiana

"In *Rescuing Biodiversity*, Armstrong passionately describes global hazards to biodiversity, as well as our interdependence on all, including many rapidly diminishing, species. He calls for urgent action and offers hope through a thoughtful and loving description of the restoration of Wafer Creek Ranch. Armstrong's detailed information on native plant species helps us envision how we can contribute to biodiversity on Earth, whether it be a backyard garden or efforts on a grander scale."—Karen Gautreaux, Louisiana State Director of the Nature Conservancy.

Complementary and Integrative Medicine Part I: By Diagnosis, An Issue of Child And Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, co-authored by Deborah R. Simkin ('87)

Deborah R. Simkin ('87) co-authored a new academic textbook on Complementary and Integrative Medicine in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Disorders. The book, *Complementary and Integrative Medicine Part I: By Diagnosis, An Issue of Child, and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*. It is the first edition of a two-part issue published by Elsevier on April 28, 2023.

In this issue of *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics*, guest editors Drs. Deborah R. Simkin and L. Eugene Arnold bring their considerable expertise to the topic of Complementary and Integrative Medicine, with discussions on complementary and integrative treatments to be considered for specific psychiatric disorders such as ADHD, sleep disorders, psychosis, TBI, iron deficiency, autism, and more.

Dr. Simkin is currently an adjunct Assistant Professor at Emory School of Medicine.



LSU Health High School Summer Science Program

For several years, the LSU Medical Alumni Association has been a proud supporter of the LSU Health High School Summer Science Program. The program is coordinated through the LSU Health Office of Diversity & Community Engagement by Associate Dean Dr. Robert Maupin and dedicated longtime staffer and outreach coordinator, Gerlinda “Geri” Davis.

Since its inception, over 800 students have participated with the option of focusing on the field of medicine, nursing, allied health or graduate studies. Many who completed the program have gone on to pursue health careers in Louisiana and beyond.



To be considered, applicants must be in grades 11 or 12—however, some exceptions have been made for high achieving students in grades 9 and 10. Recommendations from the student’s high school math or science teacher, coupled with a strong interest in a healthcare career and a 3.0 GPA are required.

Historically, the percentage of program applications from males (especially minority males) has been very low in comparison to females (minority and non-minority); a 1 to 10 ratio for males vs. females. Significant effort is underway to encourage more male applicants to apply in the future.

Most learn about the programs through LSU Health employees and the university’s partner schools. The maximum capacity of the program is typically capped at 30 students to ensure a strong, interactive learning experience.

The program was launched in 1982 by Dr. Maupin’s predecessor, Dr. Edward Helm, with the support of his longtime office coordinator, Jane Parker. Both are now retired.

The Summer Science Program was established by the LSUHSC Office of Diversity & Community Engagement (ODCE), to provide an opportunity for underrepresented minority and disadvantaged high school students interested in health sciences professions to have practical career development experiences in an academic biomedical environment.

The summer program offers hands-on experience for practicing health care clinicians and biomedical researchers at LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health and Graduate Studies.

One of the core missions of ODCE is to facilitate “pipeline” programs that develop the growth and interest of future health professionals from medically underrepresented communities. Many past program participants have gone on to successful careers in vital health professions and disciplines

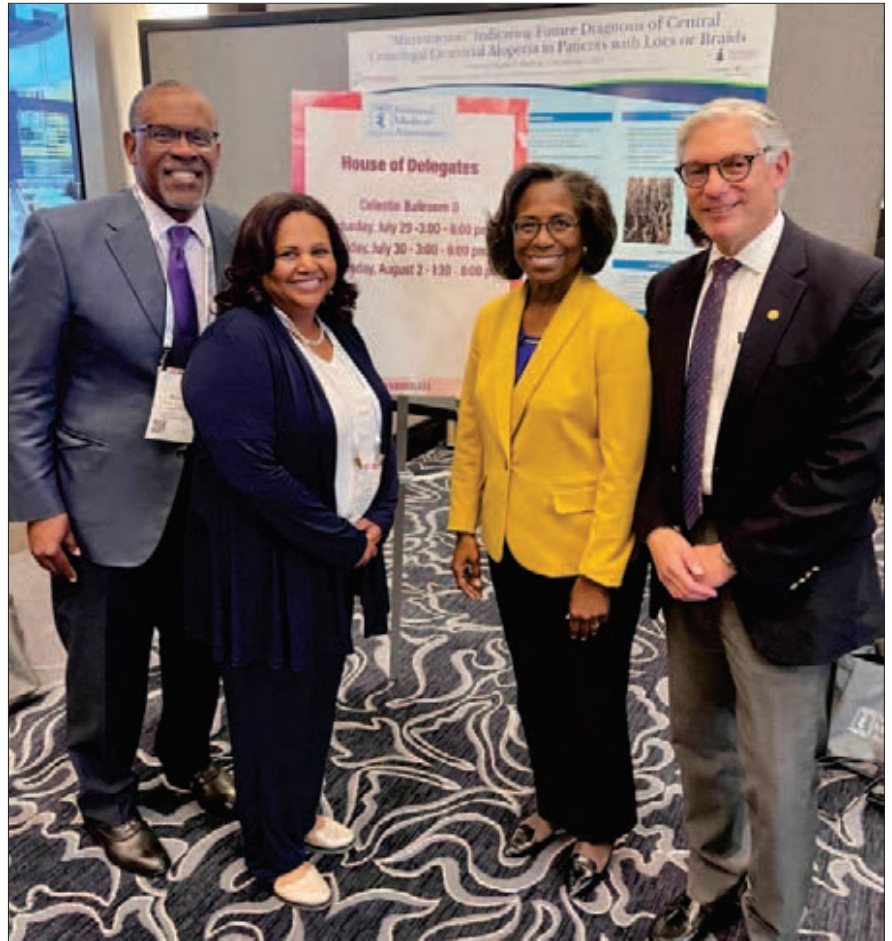
National Medical Association Convention

The National Medical Association (NMA) hosted its 121st Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, themed “Accelerating the March Toward Health Equity,” in New Orleans, LA, July 29 – August 2, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Each year, thousands of African American physicians, and other health professionals from across the country convene to participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances and to advance our health policy agenda for the coming years. LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine was extensively represented as a participant in and sponsor of convention programs. The School of Medicine’s Office of Diversity & Community Engagement partnered with the NMA sections of Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynecology to host a Premedical Pathway Program for area undergraduate students on campus at the Center for Advanced Learning & Simulation (CALs) and Lions Center for Advanced Practice simulation lab on Friday the 28th.

On Saturday, Interim Dean of Medicine Dr. Richard DiCarlo was invited to address the NMA House of Delegates, presenting the School of Medicine’s vision, accomplishments, and programming for advancing diversity and inclusion. Throughout the NMA convention a number LSU faculty participated as featured speakers and panelist during its CME sessions.

On Sunday, the School of Medicine’s Office of Alumni Affairs co-sponsored a reception with the NMA Region V in honor of President Elect Dr. Yolanda Lawson. The reception was hosted at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) and was billed as a “Southern Chic Affair.” The festive networking reception allowed LSU alumni, faculty, and medical students to engage and connect with regional NMA colleagues and leaders.



Pictured, left to right: Drs. R. Maupin, Angela Mclean, Stephanie Taylor and Richard DiCarlo)



Dr. Holman

Stacey L. Holman ('04) receives the New Orleans Woman of Impact Award

Stacey L. Holman ('04), Residency Program Director and Associate Professor, LSUHSC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN), has been named the 2023 New Orleans Woman of Impact Award winner by the American Heart Association. The recognition, devoted to a world of healthier lives for all, is awarded annually to the Woman of Impact nominee who earns the most points during a nine-week fundraising and heart health education drive.





Dr. DeBlieux

Assistant Dean for Advanced Learning and Simulation

Peter DeBlieux ('88) will serve as the Assistant Dean for Advanced Learning and Simulation. In this role, he will work with the offices of Undergraduate Medical Education, Graduate Medical Education, Interprofessional Education, and with all LSUHSC schools to plan, develop, and implement clinical training and assessment programs in the Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation (CALs) standardized patient center, simulated emergency room, and medical simulation center. He will also help develop community outreach programs that utilize the CALs building and will work with the LSU Health Foundation and the Medical Alumni Association to raise funds for equipment and operations in the CALs training centers. In addition to his work as Assistant Dean, Dr. DeBlieux will also continue clinical work at UMCNO in the Emergency Department and the Medical Intensive Care Unit. Dr. DeBlieux has long been recognized by students and residents as an outstanding teacher and he has won numerous teaching awards including the Copping Award. He has been very involved in the community and has served on many Mayoral task forces and charitable organizations.

Information from <https://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/>



THE 17TH ANNUAL LSU MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Purple & Gold Gala

CHAMPIONS IN HEALTHCARE
CHAMPIONS IN SPORTS

Friday, October 20, 2023

7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.
COCKTAIL ATTIRE

The New Orleans Marriott

555 CANAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Purchase Tickets & Bid Online

[HTTPS://BIDPAL.NET/LSUMEDGALA](https://bidpal.net/lsuMEDGALA)

Silent Auction will open online on Wednesday, October 18 and begin closing at 9 p.m. on Friday, October 20.

Need assistance? Contact the Alumni Affairs Office at roar@lsuhsc.edu or 504-568-4029.

Tiger Cubs



Melissa Hemelt ('98), Sarah Hemelt, and Terrell Hemelt ('96)



*Craig Ebrensing ('97) and Evan Ebrensing
(grandson of the late Gayle Wurzlow ('65))*



Catherine Glorioso and Monty Glorioso ('90)



Jordan Labasky and Ronald Labasky ('90)



Leonardo "Leo" Seoane ('95), Eddy Seoane, and Michelle Seoane ('95)

Tiger Cubs



Jose Ruiz III ('86) and Jose Ruiz IV



Madeline Pickens and Shannon Pickens ('01)



Anna Mermilliod, Isabelle Mermilliod, and Julie Mermilliod ('96)



Brian Barkemeyer ('87) and Michael Barkemeyer



Louis Summersgill ('95) and Isabella Summersgill



Emily Nguyen, Hong Nguyen ('96), and Phuong Nguyen ('96)

Tiger Cubs



James Taylor ('01) and Jolan Taylor



Tristan Smith with grandparents Marie Eckert and Charles Eckert ('64)



Nicole Bergeron Karcher ('97) and Clare Karcher



Wayne Celentano ('88) and Carlie Celentano



Wendy Holden-Parker ('89) and Sean Parker

Tigerlines

1957

Sam Holladay, Springhill, LA — “Can’t walk good. Had an 80% blockage of one basilar artery. Still can drive to Shreveport.”

1958

Hubert J. Waguespack, Baton Rouge, LA — “I’m still ticking along in retirement. Two sons are practicing — neurosurgeon and internist.”

1963

Benjamin Paschal Haley, Ruston, LA — “Retired 20 years. Life is good. Three super kids. All doing well.”

Fran Nixon Hagaman, Tyler, TX — “Enjoying retirement. In 1963 I never thought I would serve as the Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Director of Clinical Services at the medical school in Shreveport for a number of years in my career. Best part

was teaching the residents and medical students.”

1965

Reed A. Fontenot, Jr., Lake Charles, LA — “Retired in 2010 & enjoying good health and plenty of golf and traveling.”

1966

Bill Gilmer, Daytona Beach Shores, FL — “Retired (my wife Pam and I) on January 1, 2023,

Tiger Reminiscences

Harold J. Miller ('60) remembers...

I remember in detail the day that I received my acceptance to LSU Medical School in 1956... it was a day that I dreamed about since the age of five when I decided that I wanted to be a doctor. I graduated high school at the age of 16 and LSU undergraduate school in 1956 at the age of 19. I graduated LSU Medical School in 1960 at the age of 23 and began my residency at Charity Hospital (LSU service) in OB-GYN which I finished in 1964 at the age of 26.

When I took my board exam, I had the opportunity to talk to other physicians from other programs and realized the training I received at Charity Hospital was incredible. Our patient load was so much more than other programs. We were well trained.

I entered the Air Force and was stationed in France from 1964-1966. My first year in France I saw patients that needed surgery; however, they were reluctant to commit. I later found out the previous gynecologist had performed surgeries and gotten into trouble requiring a consultation from a local physician. Thus, the only surgeries I performed that year were for emergencies. It wasn't until my second year that the number of surgeries increased. These surgeries were on wives of Air Force personnel who were transferred to the base between 1965 and 1966. They had delayed their surgery until they moved to France after receiving information about the current gynecologist on the base. It was then I realized my training at Charity Hospital was responsible for these patients' decision to delay their surgeries until they were stationed in France.

After my time in the Air Force, I established a private practice in Houston, Texas, and I became a full-time faculty at Baylor College of Medicine. I received the award of 'Outstanding Teacher of the Year' for the maximum three-years allowed from 1995-1998. Afterwards, the residents established a new award in my honor in 1998, 'Mentor of the Year', and I received this award until I left Baylor in 2011.

I then moved to the University of Texas Medical School and was named 'Mentor of the Year' until I retired in 2019.

I attribute these awards to my training at LSU and Charity Hospital. I will always feel indebted. LSU gave me the opportunity to do what I love.

And I attribute my daughter, Barbi, a managing physician assistant in heart transplant at a major hospital in Houston, to possibly saving my life. It was her intervention after I faced numerous exposures to COVID during the height of the pandemic that finally led to my retirement. My devotion to the profession and my patients had outweighed any concerns I had for my own health.



Dr. Miller

Tigerlines

as founders and leaders of the Jesus Clinic in Daytona Beach, FL, after 17 years providing free medical services (along with 40-45 other doctors) to indigent persons.”

1967

James T. Evans, Bluffton, SC — “Still volunteer three half-day sessions at free clinic, Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine, seeing the poorest of the poor. Also, serve as a preceptor for nurse practitioner from Georgetown U and as mentor for physician assistant students from Southern University, Savannah. My wife, Patricia Evans, RN PhD, does diabetic retinal screening.”

Charles Fontenot, Ville Platte, LA — “Still retired from medical practice, but busy with family and raising whitetail deer.”

1968

Edwin Augustat, Fort Worth, TX — “Retired in 2020 and now living in retirement community with the love of my life, Margaret Augustat.”

Michael C. Turner, Bell City, LA — “Still practicing cardiology with emphasis on cardiac CT and device implantation and followup. Son, Chris (LSU '98), is a hospitalist in Baton Rouge. Son, Jason (U of Queensland '09), is a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital. Remarried with three teenagers!”

1971

Russell L. Blaylock — “I am now a retired neurosurgeon but continue writing the ‘Blaylock Health Report’ for NewsMax magazine. I write neuroscience articles as well and serve on the editorial board of two neurosurgical and medical science journals. I have written approximately 50 medical articles that have been published and have written and revised seven medical books. I live with my beautiful wife and we have two boys and a number of grandkids that are now grown. We enjoy travel, and I do art, write, read extensively and hike. We will soon celebrate our 53 anniversary together. It has all been wonderful.”

Bennie P. Nobles, Jr., Kenner, LA — “So grateful for the great training I received from the LSU School of Medicine! Fond memories of the tutelage under Abe Mickal, Bo Sanders, Jack Strong, and Isidore Cohn, to name a few. So worth the hard work we put in! We were just blessed with our fifth great-grandchild and looking forward to a visit with our son, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters living in Poland.”

1973

John M. Rainey, Cankton, LA — “Doing well and living life to the fullest. Nine granddaughters keep Susu and me busy.”

1975

Alfred Mansour, Houston, TX — “Retired to Houston, TX. All four children and 11 grandkids are here. Maryetta and I are enjoying all of them immensely. Like so many people our age and younger, we have taken up pickleball and are having a great time playing and meeting new people. Hope to see you all at our 50th reunion in 2025.”

1978

David E. Dassey, Pasadena, CA — “Retired and moved to Pasadena, CA. Enjoying travel and marathon running (20 states, 10 countries, 135 total and counting). Volunteering for IRB, LGBTQ rights, and gun violence prevention.”

1981

David McGehee, Ruston, LA — “Retired. Grateful to Christ for the time in medicine to care for so many.”

1983

Bob M. Bourgeois, Morgan City, LA — **Drs. Robert Bourgeois, Peter Casten, Pamela Hymel, and Robert Weien - Class of 1983** were recognized for their contributions to Occupational & Environmental Medicine (OEM). They represent the only class in the country with four physicians with OEM boards. Each was previously board-certified in another specialty. Dr. Weien is a past president of the Aerospace

Tigerlines

Medical Association and Drs. Bourgeois and Hymel are past presidents of the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine. Aerospace and OEM are under the American Board of Preventive Medicine. What a group to have three classmates serving as national presidents of their respective specialty organizations.”

1988

Kent Rhodes, Baton Rouge, LA — “Had a great weekend with all my classmates from Class of ’88. Thanks for the fellowship, fun,

and most of all, your continued friendships. Love y’all.”

1991

Harold Joseph Miller, MD FACE FACP, Covington, LA — Currently Vice President of Jefferson Parish Medical Society.”

1997

Lesley Breaud Mugford, Belchertown, MA — “I have been a pediatrician at my office for 23 years, and most recently became medical

director of my 15-doctor private practice. My husband and I are enjoying our empty nest years.”

2000

Gabriela Espinoza, St. Louis, MO — “Enjoying practicing ophthalmology and working as Assistant Dean for graduate medical education. I’m the proud mom of two boys — one in middle school and one about to start high school! Time flies y’all — try to enjoy every minute of it!”

2006

Adrian Dobrescu, New Orleans — “Board Certified Dermatology, Mohs Surgery.”



MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONTACT UPDATE

Has your contact information changed? If so, please email roar@lsuhsc.edu, or scan the QR code:



Important notice regarding electronic communication: The Alumni Affairs office is actively transitioning to a greater focus on email communication. If you do not wish to receive any electronic communication from us, you may unsubscribe. However, please note that this will affect your receipt of all electronic communication, including reunion information. If you would like to opt out of certain types of emails, please contact us at roar@lsuhsc.edu.

Tigerlines

Kelly Graham Ural, New Orleans, LA — “I am the anesthesiology residency program director at Ochsner Health.”

2013

Maria A. Roberts, Mandeville, LA — “I am enjoying being a family medicine board-certified doctor in an outpatient setting at St. Tammany Health System in

Mandeville, LA, where I take care of patients of all ages while practicing evidence-based medicine. I enjoy the relationships I form with my patients and love being part of my community. Along with my husband, **Jordan Roberts ('12)**, I enjoy spending time with our kids (daughter, 5, and boy-girl twins, 3). I am passionate about lifestyle and preventive medicine and CrossFit

almost daily outside of my clinical time and family time.”

Former Resident 1983-1987

Chester Lott, Jr., Raymond, MS — “After a 40-year career, I left private practice in Starkville, MS, and joined the faculty at University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, MS.”

A Memorial to the Life and Legacy of Russell P. Pavich, MD ('79)

Growing up in Eunice, LA, the first 26 years of Russell Paul Pavich's life was on a trajectory to achieve the goal of medical doctor. He achieved that goal and dream in 1978 and proudly graduated from LSU School of Medicine as planned. From 1978 to 1980 he practiced medicine the way he had always planned: dedicated, vibrant and very busy.

But an unfortunate turn of events in March of 1981 would forever change not only the way he would live his life, but also how he would practice medicine.

While at a medical conference in March of 1980 in North Carolina, Russell would become the victim of a hit and run motor vehicle accident which plunged his vehicle 250 feet off a mountain road. The accident left him a paraplegic at T-12, L-1 and confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. After eight months of painful rehabilitation and therapy at TIRR in Houston, he was discharged from the hospital.

Having made up his mind that he had cried all his tears while in Houston, he determined that he would make the best of the tragedy that sadly changed his life forever.

Russell, returning to his childhood town of Eunice, went on to practice medicine in a wheelchair for 41 years until the day he died in June of 2022. He specialized in Bariatric Medicine, General Practice and Hyperbaric Medicine, even performing surgery for several years using a motorized machine which held him upright while in the operating room.

He later became coroner of his parish and served in that capacity for 26 years. He was tireless in performing all his duties and exuded much tenacity, all despite his limited movement and severe pain.

Having a passion for medicine, politics, and sports; he enjoyed tennis, racquetball, archery, snow skiing and loved to sail his 22-foot Catalina. He overcame so courageously a tragedy that might have caused many others to give up. And though he struggled every day of his life, he was always compassionate to others who found themselves in need.

With the help of God, his loving wife, Myra, his beloved son, Laz, his close-knit family, and his wonderful true friends, he was able to succeed and enjoy life until the good age of 70.

All who knew him admired his courage, treasured his company and knowledge, and miss him every day. The medical community lost a treasure of a physician the day he died.

— *Written by his loving wife, Myra Pavich*



Myra Pavich and Russell P. Pavich ('79)

Deceased

1950

Kopel Burk

1952

Ronald A. Hardey
Joseph Tarride

1955

Lawrence O. Broussard, Jr.

1956

Lt. Gen. Quinn Becker

1957

Earl J. Madere
Bernard Samuels
Louis H. Stern

1958

Benjamin J. Guilbeau
Donald K. Haynes
Henry P. L'Heureux, Jr.

1959

William Jeansonne

1960

Charles H. Nash

1961

Williams D. Wall IV

1962

Louis Leatherman, Jr.

1963

Robert L. McManus
James R. Robinson

1967

James Tillman Austin, Jr.
Charles F. King
William Proctor Newman III

1968

Gerard A. Ballanco

1969

John Agee
Frederick W. Derks III

1970

Emile A. Barrow
J. Wayne Smith

1976

Jules St. Martin Dupont, Jr.

1978

Chester J. Falterman

1979

Russell P. Pavich

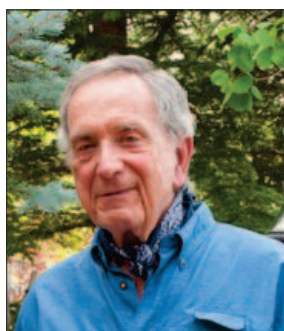
1989

Charles DiCorte

2017

Dwight Derrick Mouney

~ In Memoriam ~



Dr. Samuels

Bernard Samuels ('57), at age 91, passed away peacefully at his home on April 6, 2023. Dr Samuels grew up in New Orleans and graduated from the LSU School of Medicine in 1957. He began a solo practice in Ob/Gyn, eventually establishing a large specialty group. Dr Samuels shared 67 years of marriage with his wife, Jeannine, and is survived by his three children and eight grandchildren. **Dr Samuels ('57)** and his close friend **Cy Vaughn ('57)** were cofounders of the Committee of 100-Champions of Excellence. Their idea was simple: find 100 alumni who would pledge \$1000 a year for 10 years to establish professorships and chairs for the School of Medicine. Thirty years later, the Committee of 100 has over 900 members who have raised over \$60

million for the School. He helped to plant a small seed that has become a critical means of support for the School.

Lawrence "Dr. L.O." Broussard ('55) was born at home in Crowley, LA, graduated from Crowley High School, obtained a BS from Southwest Louisiana Institute, and his MD from Louisiana State University Medical School. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He did a surgical residency under LSU at New Orleans Charity Hospital. During his residency he joined the Air Force. On completion of his residency, L.O. and his family moved to Tyndall A.F.B., Florida, until resigning his commission in May 1964. At that point he started a surgical practice in New Iberia, Louisiana that ended with retirement in 2000. After retirement he taught at University Medical Center as Associate Professor of Surgery and valued his service with Hospice of Acadiana and St. Francis Diner. He loved tennis and, in his own words, played a "so so" game of golf. He belonged to Kiwanis, was a lifelong Catholic, and a member of Sacred Heart Church.



Dr. Broussard

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Past President

From your Alumni Office. . .



Dear All,

Greetings on behalf of the Alumni Office. The June reunions were well attended, with over 500 attending their individual class events and over 400 attending the Friday night Cocktail reception.

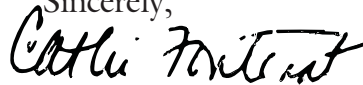
The Class of 1973 received their 50 year diplomas at their luncheon where they were treated to a video of class memories prepared by their reunion

committee.

The Annual Purple and Gold Gala will be held at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street on Friday, October 20, 2023. Please consider joining us for the celebration. We will have a silent auction this year. You can participate in the silent auction both in person and online. Keep an eye out for emails regarding the auction.

As always, thanks for your continued support of the School of Medicine. LSU is truly better and stronger because of our dedicated and loyal alumni.

Sincerely,



Cathi Fontenot ('84)
Associate Dean
for Alumni Affairs and
Development

Members of the Class of 1973, as pictured on front cover: 50th Class Reunion

1st row seated left to right: Rene A. Louapre, Philip A. Cole, Charles H. Spencer, Edmund B. Vinci, Paschal E. Redding, Mark Juneau, Barbara B. Morgan, Jon "Skip" Palmintier, Edward J. Lazarus, Evelyn K. Hayes, Michael H. Hayman, Tommy M. 'Jug' Mook

Second row left to right: John M. Rainey, David W. Krueger, Francis X. 'Frank' LeTard, Jesse W. Parr, Kenneth E. Peres, James M. 'Jim' Brungardt, Daniel J. Fourrier, Burtram J. 'Burt' Odenheimer, Vincent N. Cefalu, Carter D. Paddock, Harold L. 'Hal' Kennedy, Fred M. Reid, L. Glen 'Lee' Mire

Third row left to right: Charles R. Pearson, Victor M. Oliver, John W. 'Bill' Scroggins, Peyton R. 'Randy' Hall, C. Winston Bolinger, John L. Hybart, Gustave M. 'Stavie' Kreh



LSUHSC Summer Science Program 2023

See story about the LSUHSC Summer Science Program on page 16.