Jim Montgomery Appointed Touro President

James T. Montgomery, FACHE, a healthcare executive with more than 30 years experience and strong ties to the New Orleans community, has been appointed President of Touro Infirmary.

A native of Arkansas, Montgomery has spent his adult life in Louisiana. Touro is the 18th Louisiana hospital in which he has been involved in some capacity of management.

“Touro has a legacy as a faith-based organization that provides quality healthcare and excellent physicians,” Montgomery said. “My roots — family, friends, professional — are in Louisiana, so from a personal standpoint it was very appealing to move back and reconnect.”

Most recently, Montgomery served as CEO at Corpus Christi Medical Center, a healthcare system owned by the Hospital Corporation of America, where he led a group of four hospitals. Prior to his work in Texas, Montgomery led Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria and served as CEO of Tulane University Hospital & Clinic, playing an integral role in the organization’s post-Katrina recovery efforts.

“Healthcare is unique in some ways to whatever community you find yourself in,” Montgomery said. “But I believe that essentially any strong organization starts with individuals committed to quality care. You build from that base to do the right thing for the hospital and for the community at large.”

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July Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Shellie Shockey, Nurse Recruiter in Human Resources, for being named the 2009 July Employee of the Month. Shockey’s first introduction to Touro was very early on as she was born at Touro. As she says, “I had such a good experience the first time I just had to come back!”

As a native of New Orleans and a graduate of LSU, Shockey is a true local girl and a big Tigers fan. In her free time, she loves to garden and spend time with her family. She is also an artist and is gradually getting back to working on pottery in her pottery studio. She has two children, Emily, 19, and Patrick, 21.

Shockey joined the Human Resources team in a special job sharing position with Deborah Alexander in 1998. Her coworkers value her honesty and her smile. They also appreciate her commitment to teamwork, and willingness to volunteer her time when she can help.

Upon learning about her award, Shockey said, “This award should be a joint award with Deborah Alexander. The only reason I am the Employee of the Month is because of Deborah. It is working with her that allows me not only to do my job— but do my job with a smile and love what I do. We have a great team and we both feel very lucky to be here.”

Congratulations Shellie!

Touro Diabetes Center Credential Renewed

The Touro Diabetes Center was notified last week that it was awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association, the credentialing organization for diabetes education programs.

This recognition signifies adherence to the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and, according to Pam Butler, Diabetes Center Manager, is the “good housekeeping seal for diabetes education programs.”

Touro Diabetes Center sees approximately 400 outpatients a year, in small group classes mixed with individual follow-up. Patients must be referred by their physicians.

For more information, call ext. 8813.
CityBusiness Recognizes Touro with Two Innovator Awards

The Touro Diabetes Center and the Transitional Living Suite have been recognized by CityBusiness Newspaper with ‘Innovator of the Year’ awards.

In its eighth year, the Innovator of the Year award recognizes individuals, companies, and organizations that succeed by operating in new and exciting ways or creating unique products.

The Touro Diabetes Center has developed a unique, comprehensive program to provide diabetics the tools and resources they need to manage their disease and lead healthy lives. The Center treats an especially high-risk population. By using “best practice” standards—those that have shown proven clinical outcomes—and a personal approach, the Center has significantly reduced the progression of diabetic complications for its patients.

The Transitional Living Suite is a personal rehabilitation condo that includes a family living room, kitchen area, bathroom and bedroom for the patient and their families to practice everyday living activities in preparation for returning home. The entire suite is wheelchair accessible, giving patients easy access to household appliances they may need to relearn to use. The rehabilitation staff is available to walk through any encountered difficulties with the family so that problem solving can occur as problems arise and before the patient is discharged and returns home.

A luncheon will be held at noon September 25th at the downtown Sheraton Hotel, where the award recipients will be recognized. A special Innovator of the Year insert spotlighting all honorees will run in the September 28th edition of CityBusiness.

Restorative Yoga Helps Touro Cancer Patients Cope

Coping with cancer is one of the most stressful experiences anyone can go through. The Supportive Cancer Care Center at Touro recently introduced a therapeutic wellness program to help patients cope with their disease during and after cancer treatment.

The program offers gentle yoga and relaxation techniques to develop strength, stamina and a sense of well-being, both during and after cancer treatment.

“Practicing these techniques—in an individual program designed by an occupational therapist—helps patients manage treatment side effects, reduce stress and promote general wellness,” says Director of Psychosocial Oncology, Robert Gardner, Ph.D.

The program is designed to compliment a patient’s medical care and a physician referral is required to participate. Patients are invited to attend a free, introductory group experiences designed to teach relaxation techniques. Patients then can begin individual or small group sessions for a fee, which is usually covered by insurance.

“Practicing restorative yoga and relaxation techniques is a very valuable skill to have in coping with the side effects of cancer. It is a skill that patients can use to cope with stress and improve the health of their immune system for a lifetime,” says Tamarin Hennebury, LOTR, and certified yoga instructor.

Beginning in September Touro will offer free introductory classes each month. For more information, please call the Touro Supportive Cancer Care Center at (504) 897-8678.

Free introductory classes are offered once a month. For more information, please call the Touro Supportive Cancer Care Center at (504) 897-8678.
Thirty students attended Touro’s second annual Health Career Camp July 27-31, a five-day program that allows high school students to gain hands-on experience in the medical field. The program is an initiative that Touro hopes will encourage students to actively consider a career in medicine in New Orleans.

“The goal of this program is to give students a behind the scenes look at the diverse range of careers available in healthcare. We hope the camp will spark an interest in the allied health professions and that they will consider these fields when they enter college,” says Director of Volunteer Services and Camp Coordinator Denise Chetta.

Students participated in activities that range from nursing, rehabilitation, to respiratory therapy and pharmacy practice. “Hands-on” activities include performing surgery on a chicken breast, learning CPR and observing samples under the microscope in the lab. College recruiters also met with students to discuss future education and career paths with the students.

“I am enjoying being exposed to the many different career choices at a hospital. I got to have hands-on
experience in the Pharmacy Department which I liked since I’m interested in becoming a pharmacist,” says Edna Carr Junior K’shon Booker.

Enrollment for this year’s program was up 66 percent from last year’s 18 students. Approximately 16 area schools had students participated. Funding for this year’s program tripled to $18,000 (over last year’s $6,000) thanks to the generous support of sponsors including: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, the Keller Family Foundation and the Wal-Mart Foundation.

Students participated in a total of 10 rotations, including:

- Cancer Services
- Cardiology
- Clinical Nutrition
- Emergency Medicine
- Facilities
- IV Team
- NICU/Nursery
- Orthopedic
- Pathology
- Pharmacy
- Pulmonary
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Nursing
- Wound Care
- A field trip to the Touro Diagnostic Imaging Center and Woldenberg Village retirement living community

Stewardship

We make wise use of our resources and advance Touro’s longstanding tradition of community service.

1. I appreciate Touro’s reputation, and I view my performance as an opportunity to preserve and enhance it.

2. I am dedicated to exceeding patients’ expectations of Touro’s safety and overall quality.

3. I value patients’ time, inform them of possible wait times, and do what I can to minimize delays.

4. I participate in all efforts to improve service delivery to patients, visitors, and colleagues.

5. I treat Touro’s equipment and facilities with care and report malfunctioning devices upon detection.

6. I am aware of Touro’s responsibility to be a good neighbor, and I do my part to create an appropriate environment while on campus and in the immediate vicinity.
Montgomery continued

Montgomery, who served as chairman of the Louisiana Hospital Association from 2006-2007, knows the challenges local hospitals have faced since 2005.

“The New Orleans market was of course distorted by Hurricane Katrina,” he said. “The loss of population, loss of hospitals, higher costs and reimbursement issues proved to be the ingredients for trouble.”

For Touro, the recently finalized partnership with Children’s Hospital is the next chapter in the 156-year-old hospital’s post-Katrina story.

“The affiliation between Touro Infirmary and Children’s Hospital is unique in that it is between an adult medical/surgical hospital and a children’s hospital,” Montgomery said. “I have had experience in joint ventures, in particular where there was a convergence of cultures, so I am excited to utilize that experience to help bring about a positive result.”

Appreciative Patients Honor Touro Staff Members

Since January of this year, more than $3,600 has been received by the Touro Infirmary Foundation from former patients who were moved to recognize their Touro doctors or healthcare providers with a monetary donation in their honor.

The recognition of our healthcare providers is a testament to the values of Touro, which include an unyielding commitment to the highest quality and most compassionate patient care.

The opportunity to honor a Touro doctor or healthcare provider is ongoing. For more information, contact the Foundation at 897-8435.

Community Events – August

The following events are free and open to the public.

PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE:
MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENTS
Presenter: Touro Vascular/Endovascular Surgeon Dr. Hernan A. Bazan
Tuesday, August 11, 9:00 a.m.
Do you have bad circulation? Do you have pain in your legs when walking? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you might be at risk for peripheral arterial disease (P.A.D.). P.A.D. is a condition that develops when arteries in the legs become clogged, limiting the flow of blood to the legs. Join Dr. Bazan to learn more about early warning signs for P.A.D. and medical treatments available.
Touro Infirmary, 1401 Foucher Street Foucher Room, 2nd Floor Free cholesterol and glucose screenings will be provided starting at 8:30 a.m.

HIP AND KNEE PAIN
Presenter: Touro Orthopaedist Dr. Kevin Watson
Wednesday, August 26, 9:30 a.m.
Do you have hip or knee pain in the morning? Do you have pain going up stairs? Does your pain limit your activities? If you answered yes to these questions, take your step to a more active life and join Dr. Watson to answer your questions about causes of and treatment options for hip and knee pain.
Touro Infirmary, 1401 Foucher Street Coliseum Room, 2nd Floor Free cholesterol and glucose screenings will be provided starting at 9:00 a.m.

TOURO EMPLOYEE WELLNESS SERIES
FREE Glucose Screenings

Free Glucose Screenings For All Employees
Wednesday, August 12
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Café Touro, 2nd Floor

Louisiana has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the United States. The disease has become so prevalent that it is no longer considered “an older person’s disease.” The 30 – 39 age group is one of the fastest growing populations to develop diabetes. Take action and see if you are at risk.

Touro Diabetes educators will be on hand to interpret your results and give tips on better nutrition, exercise, and food health.

For more information, please call the Marketing Office at extension 8030.

To register for any event call (504) 897-8500 or visit www.touro.com/events
Tanya Price-Davis
Patient Care Manager, One Day Surgery, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, ATC

Congratulations to Tanya Price-Davis, the new Patient Care Manager of One Day Surgery, Post Anesthesia Care Unit and the ATC. Tanya brings a wealth of experience and dedication to quality patient care in these areas. She has been with Touro since 2005 as a staff nurse in One Day Surgery, where she has functioned as the relief charge nurse and primary coach. Tanya has 11 years of experience as a Registered Nurse in ICU and the PACU prior to coming to Touro. Tanya holds a BSN from Dillard University.

Welcome new employees!
BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
This community service initiative of Touro Teambuilders will benefit Live Oak Charter School.

July 27 - August 14, 2009

We need your help!
Donations for the following are welcome:

- crayons
- lined paper
- pens
- colored pencils
- spiral notebooks
- pencil boxes

- rulers
- backpacks
- #2 pencils
- folders
- glue

Collection boxes are located in Human Resources, Security and Café Touro.

For more information, call Lynne Jones at ext. 8912.

2009 Here for Life Gala
“The Big Easy Meets the Big Apple”
Benefiting the cancer program at Touro Infirmary

PAYROLL DEDUCTION AVAILABLE

Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the Roosevelt New Orleans
Tickets start at $60, payroll deduction available
Special gala room rate: $199

Look for the Gala Table in Café Touro each Wednesday to sign up for payroll deduction or stop by the Foundation to pick up your form!

You can learn more about the gala at www.touro.com/gala.

NEW Registration Hours

Effective August 1st, Patient Registration, located on the third floor, will close at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.

For additional information, please contact Sandra Dufrene at ext. 8548.