

SURGEONS' LOOP

A PUBLICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS

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Global Health Initiatives

Leading the Way: Charles L. Black, Sr., M.D., FACS



Faculty in the Department of Surgery are committed to creating an academic environment that reflects diversity, broadens learning and impacts health on a global level. This commitment originates with a faculty member with over 50 years of surgical and humanitarian service: **Dr. Charles L. Black, Sr.**

Dr. Black became a board certified surgeon in 1948 and a new adventure began. In 1950, Dr.

Black traveled to Ogbamsho, Nigeria for his first mission trip where he spent three weeks away from his family and private practice. A year later he developed tuberculosis, which he probably contracted while serving overseas.

In 1954, he began his work in Columbia, South America, and for three weeks each year until 1965 he was a missionary surgeon in various rural hospitals of that troubled country. In 1958 he spent two months with the renowned physician and humanitarian, Albert Schweitzer in the war torn Congo. From 1965 to 1990, some twenty-five years, he spent three weeks each year in Niltpec, Mexico treating the poor. Since 1990, Dr. Black has done full-time missionary work in South and Central America, North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

In 2006, the Louisiana Surgical Association developed a humanitarian award to recognize certain physicians who clearly exemplify a true spirit of service to others. The first award was named after its first recipient. Dr. Black received the first Charles L. Black, M.D., FACS, Humanitarian Award in January of 2006 at the Chapter meeting in New Orleans.

Over the years, Dr. Black has selflessly served all over the world while inspiring and leading the next generation. Through his example, he has taught others the impact of one. Since then, many in the Department have followed his lead.



Fig 6 Proc (Bayl Univ Med Cent). 2002 April; 15(2): 147-153.

L-R: Albert Schweitzer, M.D. (middle) and Charles Black, Sr., M.D. on a mission trip in Africa.

Missionary Surgeons: Opportunities Abroad

The doors of opportunity to enhance surgical standards and peoples' lives are always open. It takes an investment in time, resources and people to change opportunities into life changing events. Many of our faculty and alumni have made that investment and the world is reaping the rewards.

Gazi B. Zibari, M.D., FACS, Professor and Vice-Chair for Academic Affairs in the Department of Surgery, Malcolm Feist Chair in Transplantation, and Director of the Willis-Knighton/LSUHSC-S Regional Transplant Center, has been participating in medical charity missions in Kurdistan of Iraq since the first Gulf War. He is one of the first surgeons to introduce laparoscopic surgery to the medical community in Kurdistan of Iraq. Initially, he trained their faculty, then surgical house staff and now about 80% of all their gallbladder surgeries are done laparoscopically. In 2006, a renal transplant unit was opened in Erbil, the regional Kurdistan capital, and since then over one hundred fifty renal transplant surgeries have been performed with excellent results.

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Chairman's Message



Benjamin Li, M.D.
John C. McDonald Chair in Surgery
Professor and Chairman
Surgeon-in-Chief

Welcome to the Fall issue of the Surgeons' Loop. In this issue, we highlight the theme of "Giving Back", as surgeons and as educators, to our community, locally, regionally, and internationally. We surgeons are truly blessed with the privilege of having the education, training, and mentorship of our teachers, our patients and our students, to be afforded an opportunity to give back. In our Department of Surgery at LSU, there has been a long history of leadership on giving back. Leading the way is **Dr. Charles L. Black**. Dr. Black's commitment to the Department of Surgery, to LSU, to the Shreveport community, to the State of Louisiana, and to the world community, as exemplified by his lifelong dedication and body of work, is one of the stories that we chose to celebrate in this edition.

The tradition lives on, as exemplified by **Drs. Gazi B. Zibari** and **Hosein Shokouh-Amiri** medical mission work in Iraq, Iran, and more recently, Egypt. We are also proud of **Dr. Philip Cole's** efforts on behalf of surgeons and Christian organization throughout South America and Asia. **Dr. Quyen Chu** was recently awarded a competitive federal grant, the Vietnam Education Fund, to initiate education and formal surgical training relationships amongst the medical facilities in Vietnam, the Surgery Department at the University of California at Davis, and here at LSU. Finally, **Dr. Mallory Williams** recently returned from serving in Al

Anbar Province in Western Iraq as Chief of Surgery and combat surgeon at the 345th Combat Support Hospital at Al Sad Air Base. Their stories are highlighted as well.

We welcome two new faculty members to our Department; **Dr. Mary Kim** and **Dr. Roger Kim**.



Mary joins the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tufts Medical School, with

General Surgery training at SUNY Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn/Kings County Hospital Center, Plastic Surgery Residency at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, and a Microvascular Fellowship at University of Mississippi Medical Center. Mary's husband, **Dr. David Kim**, is also a faculty member at LSU. He is an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Program Director for their residency. Mary joins us as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Surgery.



Dr. Roger Kim is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University in Chicago. He

completed his General Surgery training at SUNY-Stony Brook University Medical Center, and a Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. He is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Surgery and heads the Feist-Weiller Cancer

Center Minimally Invasive Surgery Section. We welcome Roger and his wife, Sookyung, to the LSU family.

LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport was recently accredited as a Level I Comprehensive Education Institute by the American College of Surgeons. We, along with institutions such as Harvard Medical School and UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, are one of 39 such programs in the United States that have met the stringent requirements set by the ACS to earn this designation. We thank **Dr. Jane Eggerstedt**, Professor of Surgery and Assistant Dean of Education Program Development, for her leadership and her tireless efforts in bringing this designation to our institution. Our next issue of the Loop will be devoted to programmatic innovations and developments in education.

We are delighted to announce that **Dr. F. Dean Griffen** is the recipient of the **2009 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Surgeons**. As you know, this is the highest award bestowed by the ACS Board of Regents. Dean was recognized for his seminal work on the ACS Closed Claims Study. He garnered the Award for "his natural leadership, integrity, vision, and service as a role model to surgeons both in the private and academic sector".

Dean exemplifies the theme of "Giving Back". After his successful private practice in our community, where he had always been part of the LSU family as a volunteer faculty, he joined our Department as a fulltime faculty member 3 years ago. He is currently a Professor of Clinical Surgery, Vice Chair of Administrative Affairs, and Clerkship Director for our 3rd and 4th year medical students. In his current position, he has been giving back as a role model surgeon exemplar, an educator, and a mentor.

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Missionary Surgeons Continued

In July 2007, a Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Center was opened in Kurdistan. Currently, this center tends to patients from all over Iraq. And in 2008, a second renal transplant center was opened at Duhok Azadi Hospital.

Dr. Zibari and **Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, M.D.**, Co-Director of the Regional Transplant Program and Director of the Living Related Liver Transplant Program visited Egypt April 5-9, 2009 and in August 2009 to help train physicians and medical staff of the Cairo International Medical Center in living related donor transplantation surgery. They performed living related liver transplant surgeries as part of the training.

Soon after the Egypt mission trip, a team of eight physicians, co-sponsored by the US Section of the International College of Surgeons and Operation Hope, traveled to Iraq April 10-22, 2009 to aid in surgical services and training for doctor and nurses. The team consisted of: **Dr. John Thomas** (Advanced laparoscopic Surgery) of Lubbock, Texas, **Dr. Patricia Arledge** (Plastic Surgery) of Lubbock, Texas, **Dr. Kirk Labor** (Ophthalmologist) of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, **Dr. Lou Smith** (Trauma Surgeon and Critical Care) of Knoxville, Tennessee, **Dr. Bill Day** (General Surgeon) of Florence, Oregon, **Dr. Chris Porter** (General Surgeon) of Phoenix, Arizona, **Dr. Ashor Odisho** (Family Medicine) of Shreveport, Louisiana, and **Dr. Gazi B. Zibari** (Transplantation / Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery) of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Since 1982, **Philip Cole, M.D.** has also been regularly traveling to distant lands to provide medical/surgical care for medically underserved people and to teach local physicians. Working with Christian organizations that can make local arrangements, Dr. Cole travels with his wife, Dolores, who is a nurse and his assistant in the delivery



The entire mission team in Iraq including: Drs. Lou Smith, Gazi Zibari, John Thomas, Ashor Odisho, Kirk Labor, Bill Day, Chris Porter, and Patricia Arledge and several Kurdish surgeons.



Two simultaneous surgeries being performed side-by-side in Kurdistan, Iraq.



Dr. Cole's team teaching c-sections in Asia.

of medical treatment. Most of the foreign opportunity locations are from his contacts from his church and a mission trip frequently involves a group that ranges between 10-100 people. The group may consist of physicians, nurses, dentists, physicians assistants or nurse practitioners, as well as medical support personnel.

Trips frequently involve travels to difficult to reach and medically underserved areas such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Southern Mexico, or Central Asia. Other trips have included countries such as Cuba, Indonesia, Luthuania, Chile, or Turkey. According to Dr. Cole, each of the 36 trips to 16 countries have been challenging medically and surgically, but also unique and rewarding.

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Stay Connected

The Department of Surgery is working to re-establish communication with our "alumni family". We know our former residents want to stay connected and our department is excited to hear feedback from you.

We are thankful for your continued support and hope to offer more events in the future. To help us find out what interests you, we will be sending an **alumni survey** next month for suggestions. Please take a few moments to fill it out and send it back to us.

Also, check out the new addition to the Department of Surgery Website. Look for the Blogger symbol and click on it for departmental pictures. <http://www.medcom.lsuhsc-s.edu/surgery/>

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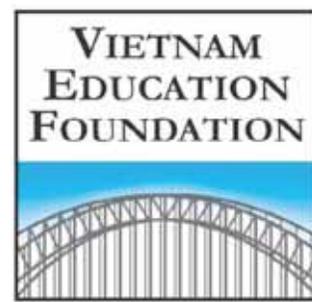
Chairman's Message Continued

We bid farewell to **Dr. Charles West**, who has been our Chief of Vascular Surgery for the past 5 years. Charles will be heading to Detroit, Michigan. We thank him for his dedication and hard work to our institution. We wish him our best.

The Department has been very active this past 6 months. We celebrated with **Dr. John C. McDonald** and his extended family an evening of fine food, wine, and, and great fellowship at the East Ridge Country Club, in recognition for all his contributions to LSU and to us, his colleagues, mentees, and trainees.

Finally keep an eye out for the John C. McDonald Surgical Society announcements. Dr. Gazi B. Zibari and his Executive Council are planning for a **Spring Gala on March 20, 2010 at Eldorado Resort Casino**. This event is for you, our alumni. We look forward to a fun evening of reunion and friendship. Drop us note if you have any comments and/or contributions; we love to hear from you.

Vietnam Education Foundation Offers Unique Educational Exchange



Dr. Quyen D. Chu, M.D., FACS, Albert Sklar Professor of Surgery, Chief of Surgical Oncology, and Director of Peritoneal Surface Malignancies Program at LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, is the recipient of the U.S. Faculty Scholar Award from the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF). VEF was established by U.S. Congress in December 2000 as an independent federal agency to promote bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam through educational exchanges. One of VEF's missions is to encourage highly qualified American educators (at least at an Associate Professor level) to teach students in Vietnam in the field of science, engineering, mathematics, technology or medicine. VEF engages the U.S. National Academies to identify and select qualified U.S. faculties, and for this year, Dr. Chu was one of two such faculties to have been selected.

Selected faculties have the option of teaching either on-site in Vietnam or by interactive, real-time videoconferencing from the U.S. Dr. Chu has chosen the latter option. Dr. Chu looks forward to bringing U.S. and Vietnam closer through mutual educational exchanges related to medicine. He envisions being able to have an exchange program whereby students/faculties from LSUHSC-Shreveport will have the opportunity to spend time in Vietnam and vice-versa in order to foster mutual understandings between the two cultures.

His host institution in Vietnam is Thai Binh Medical University. He will spend two weeks in early fall to begin the logistics of his proposed course, "Fundamentals of General Surgery". During his stay as a visiting professor, Dr. Chu will deliver lectures, interact with the faculties and students at Thai Binh Medical University, and participate in surgery. Dr. Chu will deliver the course via videoteleconferencing throughout the semester and before its completion, Dr. Chu will return to Vietnam once again to administer the year end examinations for the students as well as complete other administrative tasks.

Dr. Chu hopes to sustain this program by obtaining fundings from private, local and state charities and agencies. He also hopes that this novel international teaching program will expand to include other departments within LSUHSC-S as well as other universities in Vietnam.



L-R: Drs. Richard Turnage, Jason Mizell, Lucas Duvall, Mindy Williams, Amy Haskins, Lashonda Williams, and Benjamin Li.

Graduating Residents

Lucas Duvall, M.D. - Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship – San Antonio State Hospital, San Antonio, Texas

Amy Haskins, M.D. - Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship – Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, Calif

Jason Mizell, M.D. - Colorectal Surgery Fellowship – Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Lashonda Williams, M.D. - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship – Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.

Mindy Williams, M.D. - Breast Surgery Fellowship – Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Fla

Graduating Class of 2009

The Department of Surgery and the John C. McDonald Surgical Society hosted the Annual Resident Graduation Banquet at the University Club Friday, June 19, 2009. Framed class composites with a photo of the LSUHSC-S campus were presented to the five residents completing their surgical training. All five surgeons were accepted into fellowships across the country.

Awards were presented to **Dr. Jason Mizell** for Best Resident Teacher and **Dr. Amanda Henderson** for Best Mid-Level Resident Teacher for 2009. **Dr. Hosein Shokouh-Amiri** received the Outstanding Teaching Faculty of the Year Award.

This year, the graduation banquet was held in conjunction with the Abramson Visiting Professor Lecture, which featured Nicholas J. Petrelli, M.D., FACS, Bank of America Endowed Medical Director at Helen F. Graham Cancer Center in Wilmington, Delaware and Professor of Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Petrellis' presentation was entitled: *Colorectal Hepatic Metastases: Status in 2009*.

Make plans to attend the 2010 Graduation Banquet to celebrate the dedication and achievements of these young surgeons. The 2010 banquet is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2010.



L-R: Drs. Amy Haskins and Jo Ann Alley

Department Welcomes First-Year Residents

Catagorical Residents

Kristofer Freeland, M.D. - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Jane Gulick, M.D. - LSUHSC - New Orleans

Sergei Kalsow, M.D. - University of Florida

Kaavya Reddy, M.D. - Medical University of the America

Jean Sheng, M.D. - University of Texas SW

Preliminary Residents

Nima Azarakhsh, M.D. - Iran University of Medical School

Joseph Zakhary, M.D. - University of Oklahoma



L-R: Drs. Lucas Duvall and Kevin Sittig

Honoring a Pioneer in Transplantation

Over 50 Alumni in Attendance



Dr. John C. McDonald, retired LSUHSC-S Chancellor and former Department of Surgery Chairman, was honored at a retirement dinner on May 16. Over 200 guests attended the dinner which was held at East Ridge Country Club in Shreveport. Among guests were Mrs. McDonald, Dr. McDonald's three daughters, two son-in-laws, and six grandchildren.

The dinner program included three guest speakers including **Roy Clay, M.D.**, Vice-Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, **Martha Whyte, M.D.**, Dr. McDonald's daughter, and **Ike Muslow, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Retired Medical School Dean. There was also a special appearance by Carnac the Magnificent played by **Fred Knight, M.D.** and **Dr. Forest Wright**.

After the dinner, Dr. McDonald was presented with several gifts including a Congressional Certificate given by Senators Lydia Jackson and Sherri Cheek for his years of working with the State Legislature in support of LSUHSC. He was also presented an American flag by **Gazi Zibari, M.D.** from **Jay Christopher, M.D.**, who is currently serving in Afghanistan. **Donnie Aultman, M.D.** represented the Department of Surgery by presenting a framed print of the campus which included signatures of department faculty and staff members. Lastly, **William Spillers, M.D.** unveiled a hand-carved wooden bust of Dr. McDonald.

The Department of Surgery appreciates everyone for making it a memorable event for Dr. McDonald and his family.



Dr. Fred Knight as Carnac the Magnificent.

Membership!

Join the John C. McDonald Surgical Society and become a member of an elite group of surgeons with continuing ties to LSUHSC-S. Call 318-675-6111 for details.



L-R: Dr. Dennis O'Banion, Dr. David Tyler, and Dr. Travis Phifer.



L-R: Dr. Kathryn Richardson, Dr. Erin Soletto, Dr. and Mrs. Derek McClusky.

Call to Serve

A Soldier's Story of Service & Surgery

*By: Mallory Williams, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery,
Associate Director of Trauma & Critical Care*

The statement “service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on the planet” is written on the wall at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital above the display honoring Joseph Murray, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and the 1990 Nobel Laureate in Medicine. I have passed the display many times and stopped in awe to study surgical history and even now the meaning of the words resonates deeply. The philosophy that service is an integral part of a surgeon’s way of life is further illuminated by the many young outstanding surgeons who have served with distinction in the Global War on Terror. I am honored to be able to give a small portion of my personal soldier’s story.

My grandfather, Andrew R. Williams is a World War II veteran. He fought with General Douglass MacArthur in the Pacific Theater. Although in a segregated army, he still served. My cousin, **Major Damon W. Brantley, M.D.** (graduate of LSUHSC-S Surgery Residency), also served our nation as an army surgeon. So when I received the call in August of 2008 to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom, I viewed it as a personal obligation and a family tradition

I was deployed to Al Anbar Province (Western Iraq). This Province was responsible for 3 out of every 5 casualties during the war. I served with the 345th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) at Al Asad Air Base as a combat surgeon and Chief of Surgery in March 2009. I had the responsibility and authority to insure the trauma service that was well equipped to save the lives of troops. This meant understanding and tracking blood supply, surgical supply, meteorology and medical evacuation capabilities, and participation in the Joint Theater Trauma System. It was also my responsibility to communicate with both the hospital commanders and troop commanders about the daily status of injured and sick soldiers. The communication and organizational skills required many days outweighed the need for medical knowledge.

I must confess that I learned the most from the United States Marines. Al Asad was a Marine base in Iraq. I have never seen a more dedicated species than the United States Marines. I was so impressed by the overwhelming commitment of these troops that I opened my surgical clinic 5 days a week to accommodate their missions. I would also do wound checks in the

bathroom of the cafeteria or recreation hall if I spotted a Marine who missed an office appointment. Often before performing an appendectomy or umbilical hernia repair I would speak to concerned mothers in the United States, thanking them for their son’s or daughter’s service while assuring them I would take excellent care of their children.



Major Williams and LTC Percival performing an open Cholecystectomy at 345th CSH Al Asad.

My hardest task was getting these young men to rest and recuperate and not immediately rejoin their unit. Their commitment is contagious and they are my heroes.

Expedient transport of all injured soldiers to Germany and the United States for definitive care of their injuries was the aim of all medical forces in Iraq. This meant we worked in surgical teams and practiced damage control principles and stabilized soldiers for transport. U. S. service men and women enjoy a 90% survival rate in the Iraq war. I offered my expertise as an academic trauma surgeon and received so much more in return from our troops. It has been my highest honor to have contributed to such an outstanding accomplishment.



Members of the 345th CSH and Iraqi Police Forces enjoy a traditional Iraqi meal and conversation.

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Missionary Surgeons Continued

Dr. Zibari works with the American College of Surgeons and other organizations to provide opportunities for humanitarian activities around the world. Currently, planning is underway for a mission trip to Vietnam June 2010 as well as several other countries. If you are interested in more information about an upcoming medical mission trip, please contact Dr. Zibari at gzibari@lsuhsc.edu.



*Operating rooms in
Southern Sudan.*



*Drs. Lou Smith, Gazi B. Zibari, Ashor Odisbo, and John Thomas
visiting with the Kurdish regional health minister during the mission to
Iraq.*



*Dr. Cole in pre-op
clinic in Mexico.*