

The LSU School of Dentistry is one of 58 dental schools in America and the only dental school in Louisiana, a state with a population of 4.5 million people. Today, 75% of all dentists practicing in Louisiana are graduates of the dental school.

Our core mission is clear: to educate the future dentists of Louisiana. This is a significant responsibility, one that we take seriously and enthusiastically. From 1972 to 2010, 4,558 dentists, specialists, hygienists and laboratory technicians have been educated at LSUSD.

In order to fulfill our mission, major investments are necessary to continually improve the school's infrastructure and technology. For a multitude of reasons, this has not always been possible and the results are obvious: many of

lab equipment is decades old

Defining the Problem

A quick tour of the two pre-clinical labs and two simulation labs will show rooms and equipment that are in poor condition. The labs lack the technology that has transformed dentistry over the past 40 years.

Dental education must be constantly improving, just like you as a clinician, to reflect the constant advancements in our profession. The LSU School of Dentistry is now in "catch up" mode. We need to make a \$5.134 million investment to upgrade our infrastructure in order to produce the highest quality graduate possible.

What We Have Now

The pre-clinical labs were built in 1972 and have not been renovated since that time. Most of the fixtures and equipment are beyond repair. There are no computers, monitors, A/V equipment or digital connections.

Also, the separate simulation labs have simulators that are 15 years old. The other problem is size: each simulation lab has only 30 workstations. To accommodate a class of 60 dental students, the group and their instructors are split between two labs at opposite sides of the building. There is no audio or visual communication between the labs, resulting in an inefficient teaching environment. At a time when LSUSD is experiencing a shortage of faculty, such inefficiencies are more and more untenable.

our labs, classrooms and technology are decades old.

The pre-clinical laboratories are our top concern. These outdated labs must be renovated to ensure that our students receive the best possible education.

In light of the challenging economic times today, the LSU School of Dentistry needs your financial support for this critical upgrade.

The total projected \$5.134 million lab renovations will be completed in two phases.

- **Phase I will cost \$3,166,002**
- **Phase II will cost \$1,967,952**

The learning that takes place in these labs is foundational to clinical practice. Students learn to perfect their hand skills under the watchful eyes of faculty prior to treating actual patients.

Every dentist practicing in Louisiana depends on the LSU School of Dentistry to define and implement the highest standards of dental education. For all of these reasons, the lab renovations are vital to the future of the profession of dentistry.



The pre-clinical labs are in poor condition.

Now

Must-Do Renovation

Upgrading the labs will dramatically improve the educational program by integrating the latest in technology, while expanding teaching capacity. The four existing laboratories will be integrated into two new laboratories and each lab will accommodate 80 versus the current 60 workstations. The lab expansion will allow for increased future class sizes (if necessary) and more hands-on stations for continuing education professionals.

The renovations will be completed in two phases:

Phase I: The first lab will house both the bench tops and simulators. Each of the 80 newly installed workstations will have a mannequin, operatory equipment, bench top and flat-screen monitor linked to a central computer, allowing students to view live demonstrations. Students will no longer have to crowd or lean over someone else's shoulder to see a demonstration.

Phase II: The second lab will house 80 bench top workstations, each with state-of-the-art cabinetry, vacuum, air, water and an audio/visual console to project slides, demonstrations and serve as a station for presentations.



The potential for students to learn better and faster is increased with this upgrade that includes vacuums, computers, individual monitors, digital connections to the instructor, A/V equipment, updated lighting, cabinetry and tools.

In both configurations, all units will be linked to the computer of the instructor.

state funding is only 38%

Look at the Numbers

Many people assume that the dental school gets most of its funding from the State of Louisiana. **Not true.** Currently, only 38 percent of our funds are from the state's general funds.

Media reports remind us that shrinking revenues mean ongoing cutbacks from the State of Louisiana. The question for us is, "What do we do about it?" For the dental community, the cutbacks mean we must depend on

ourselves. And, we have a history of doing just that.

An outstanding, recent example is the money raised by the Committee of 100. Because of multi-year pledges, major renovations costing \$342,000 are now underway in the wet labs. This will be the first overhaul of the wet labs since our buildings opened in 1972. It is the first of many upgrades we must do in order to keep pace with developments in dentistry.

Tuition is the Lowest in the Country

When we think back to the day we graduated from LSUSD, we may remember being exhausted, relieved, exhilarated and in debt. Having to pay back student loans makes it easy to lose sight of all the people who contributed to our dental education.

Few people realize that the total cost to educate a dental student is much higher than what tuition covers. A comparison of tuition costs at every dental school in the United States shows that LSUSD offers **the lowest** basic tuition. LSUSD is a great educational value.

“Investing in our students today will benefit our profession for decades to come.”

Henry Gremillion, DDS, MAGD
Dean, 1977 LSUSD Graduate

High Expectations

In the last admissions cycle, 513 applicants applied for the DDS program. This large applicant pool allows us to select students with strong records of academic and personal achievement. The incoming class of 2014 boasts an average DAT score of 19 and college grade point average of 3.6.

We expect a lot from these young people—our future dentists—and they expect a lot from us. That means labs

and classrooms need to be upgraded continuously to keep up with rising standards of excellence.



New dentists celebrate following graduation ceremonies in 2010.

“Our students grew up with technology and they know what’s missing.”

Alan Ripps, DDS
Director, Pre-Clinical Laboratories
Department of Comprehensive Dentistry

It was Worth It

According to a 2007 survey by the American Dental Association, the average annual net income for an independent private general practitioner who owned all

or part of his or her practice was \$205,960. For specialists, the income was \$353,280.

In addition, other surveys have consistently shown that dentistry is one of the most respected professions in America. Most of us would agree that the practice of dentistry has enabled us to enjoy a good living and a comfortable lifestyle.

“It makes sense on every level to give back to a profession that has given so much to us.”

Kenneth DuBois, DDS
Part-Time Faculty, LSUSD
Private Practice, Metairie and New Orleans, Louisiana



Learn by doing: our students treated 12,518 patients in 2009, resulting in a total of 45,678 patient visits.

Dollar-for-Dollar: A \$500,000 Match

The Foundation for the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) has generously pledged a \$500,000 dollar-for-dollar match to jump-start our gift campaign to renovate the pre-clinical labs. The LSUHSC

Foundation, a 501(C) 3 nonprofit corporation, assists in fundraising and managing the private donations to benefit the six schools of the LSU Health Sciences Center.

Pledge Agreement

LSUHSC School of Dentistry Gift Campaign to Build New Pre-Clinical Labs

This agreement is entered into by the parties below to evidence the Donor’s pledge to make a donation to the LSUHSC Foundation as outlined below:

_____, hereinafter sometimes referred to as “Donor” and the LSUHSC Foundation, herein referred to as the “Foundation” represented by its duly authorized President and Chief Financial Officer, Chad Leingang, CPA.

The Donor pledges to donate the total sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) to the Foundation for the express purpose of supporting the **Gift**

Campaign to Build New Pre-Clinical Labs at LSUHSC School of Dentistry.

Please indicate exactly how your gift should be identified. Example: John A. Smith, DDS; Smith Family of Dentistry; or Smith Family Dental Practice: _____

The donor and the school will agree on appropriate recognition within the laboratories upon fulfillment of the pledge.

The donation shall be made according to the following schedule*:

Payment	Year	Amount

Representatives of LSUHSC School of Dentistry and LSUHSC Foundation acknowledge the Donor’s instructions concerning the donation and express their deep appreciation for the Donor’s generosity.

Executed this _____ day of _____, the year of 20_____.

Donor name (print) _____ Signature _____

Co-Donor name (print) _____ Signature _____

Henry A. Gremillion, DDS, MAGD
Dean, LSUHSC School of Dentistry

Chad Leingang, CPA
President and Chief Financial Officer, LSUHSC Foundation

Form completed by: (print staff name) _____ Signature _____

* Pledge payments can be scheduled over several years; however, it is preferred that pledges are fulfilled within a three-year period.