

## Graduation 2012

The 41st commencement ceremony of the LSUHSC School of Dentistry was held on May 17, 2012. This year 59 dentists, 34 dental hygienists and nine dental laboratory technologists received their degrees.

Thirty-five of the new DDS graduates will remain in Louisiana to enter private practice. Another seven will begin advanced education programs in the state—six at LSUSD and one in Shreveport. Ten graduates will enter private practice in other states, three will join advanced education programs in Alabama and Tennessee, and one graduate will enter the Navy.

In his speech at Recognition Day on the previous afternoon, Stuart Huntsman, president of the Student

Government Association, spoke these perceptive words, “It’s amazing to think how much we have all learned and improved in our respective fields. It’s also amazing to think how much we have yet to learn. As we have so often been reminded, you are always a student, you never stop learning.”

If we have instilled the lesson of lifelong learning in our graduates, we have succeeded in our mission.

Dentistry is a profession of responsibility and our graduates owe their patients the best possible care.

### Graduation Honors

During Recognition Day, a total of 108 awards were presented to high-achieving students. The top students in

each program received the Dean’s and Chancellor’s Awards.

#### Dean's Award:

Sunny Russell, Dental Laboratory Technology  
Blair Ducote, Dental Hygiene  
Mohammed Ismail, Dentistry

#### Chancellor's Award:

Vial LeBlanc III, Dental Laboratory Technology  
Jordan Denaille, Dental Hygiene  
(presented in Lafayette, photo unavailable)  
Nicole Thieler, Dentistry

### Faculty Teaching Awards

In addition to student recognition, faculty members were presented with Golden Apple Teaching Awards. Each graduating class selected an instructor to receive the teaching excellence award:

#### Dental Laboratory Technology:

David Vela, BS, CDT, associate professor, Prosthodontics

#### Dental Hygiene:

Eliska Davis, RDH, MRC, assistant professor, Program in Dental Hygiene

#### Fourth-Year Dentistry:

Dr. Robert Brannon, DDS, MSD, professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Dr. Brannon is also the 2012 School of Dentistry recipient of the LSUHSC Allen A. Copping Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Nicole Thieler accepts the Chancellor's Award for Dentistry from Dean Gremillion.



Dean Gremillion presents the Chancellor's Award for DLT to Vial LeBlanc III.

## Class Notes

Recently married, sailed a sea, went on a mission trip, or welcomed a new member to the family? Please share your stories with LSUSD and fellow alumni. Class notes are published on the school website. Please send your

class note to Joanne Courville at [jcourv@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jcourv@lsuhsc.edu) or mail to 1100 Florida Avenue, Box 143, New Orleans, LA 70119. If you have questions, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 504-941-8120.