



OXFORD LODGING
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**BAY AREA HOTEL AND HOSPITALITY GROUPS
RAISE \$220,000 FOR NEW ORLEANS REBUILDING**

SAN FRANCISCO (March 15, 2006) – A Bay Area hotel and hospitality industry fundraiser organized and hosted by Oxford Lodging Advisory & Investment Group, LLC, and Kimpton Hotels & Restaurant Group, two San Francisco-headquartered hotel investment and management firms, raised more than \$220,000 for New Orleans rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Funds raised at the March 9 dinner and auction at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco, entitled “A Mardi Gras Evening by the Bay,” went to the LSU Health Sciences Center Road to Recovery Campaign, dedicated to rebuilding and reopening the university’s hospitals, teaching and research facilities in downtown New Orleans.

During the event, Greg Simon, president of FasterCures, presented a check to LSU Chancellor Larry Hollier on behalf of FasterCures and California Pizza Kitchen. Both firms provided relief work following Hurricane Katrina. Other event sponsors included CSFB; Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker; Perkins Coie; Code & Construction Consultants; the Milford Plaza Hotel; and The Gettys Group. Also participating in the ceremony were Florence Andre and Melissa Ogden, president and vice president of the LSU Foundation.

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When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in August 2005, the LSU Health Sciences Center sustained \$148 million in damage and \$120 million in lost income and relocated its entire graduate medical education system to Baton Rouge. The LSU School of Medicine is expected to return to New Orleans with 700 students by the end of May, along with the schools of Applied Health and Nursing. The School of Dentistry plans to reopen in New Orleans by the fall 2006 semester.

“The LSU Health Sciences Center accounts for 70 percent of Louisiana’s doctors – so reopening this vital teaching, research and care facility is of paramount importance to restoring the city’s basic infrastructure,” explained Robert D. Kline, president of Oxford Lodging. “We’re thrilled by the outpouring of support from Bay Area business, social and philanthropic leaders in and beyond the hospitality industry. It was great to see our industry – and the entire Bay Area – come together.”

Robert Kline’s father, David Kline, is chief of neurosurgery at the LSU Health Sciences Center and was one of the doctors who stayed behind at Charity Hospital immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

Note to Editors: Photography of the March 9 event is available by calling Eric Fuk at (415) 673-1828.

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