

The Almagest

a publication of LSU Shreveport



Ready to get out on your own? University Court apartments offer incentives to LSUS students

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“THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED MUCH BECOME VERY BITTER OR VERY GENTLE.” - Will Durant

Endowment Funds New Scholarships

Erika Merritt
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport Foundation Executive Director Susie Stinson and Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson announced the establishment of two new endowed professorships and two new endowed scholarships for first generation college students.

The endowments offer a private contribution of \$60,000 to be matched with \$40,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents, for \$100,000.

The Louisiana Board of Regents established the Endowed Professorship Program during fiscal 1991 to provide colleges and universities with additional opportunities to recruit top professors.

Riemer and Marcia Calhoun, long-standing members of the LSUS Foundation and residents of Desoto Parish, set up the Riemer and Marcia Calhoun Endowed Professorship in Education to lay a foundation for upcoming educators.

In honor of James Gardner, Ann Gardner and her family established the James C. and Ann W. Gardner Endowed Professorship in Civic Engagement and Leadership.

“There may be no one else in our community that better deserves an honor than James Gardner,” Stinson said.

James Gardner is often referred to as “Shreveport’s first citi-

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GOT SOMETHING THE STUDENT BODY NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT? GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT BY EMAILING US AT ALMAGEST@LSUS.EDU

LSUS Shelters Isaac Evacuees



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Extra cots were available in the HPE gymnasium for those in need. Most of the initial evacuees were housed in the racquet ball court room. Evacuees were also provided with food and water during their stay.

Crystal Vandegriff
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Southern Louisiana residents fleeing the path of Hurricane Isaac were invited to seek refuge in a shelter set up by the Red Cross in LSU Shreveport’s HPE building.

The HPE building was opened to refugees on Aug. 27. Cots were set up on the racquet ball court with more, ready to be set up, in the gymnasium if needed.

“We’re not sure if people will come up this far, but we’re setting up just in case,” said

HPE Facilities Coordinator Nathan Dunams. “We’re setting up with the Red Cross, so we’ll have cots set up as well as food and water areas, medical areas, if needed.”

Hurricane Isaac made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane along the southeastern coast of Louisiana around 6:45 p.m. Aug. 28, one day prior to the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Though Isaac was not as strong as Katrina, many southern Louisiana residents, especially those in low-lying areas near the coast, were forced to evacuate while many more were left without power.

The Northwest Louisiana Chapter of the American Red Cross was prepared, with training sessions for volunteers taking place on Aug. 27.

“We had plenty of volunteers—some of them were even students from the college,” said

Emergency Services Director Laurie DiIulio, “We really appreciate the help.”

Evacuees began to arrive as early as the evening of Aug. 27, a full day before Isaac made landfall.

“At LSUS we had a maximum popula-

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LSUS IT Services Strive to Solve Tech Problems

Rebecca Randklev
STAFF WRITER

Most people would agree that there is a love-hate relationship with technology. Fortunately, Information Technology Services at LSU Shreveport provides solutions to common technology related problems.

ITS is responsible for the campus-wide intranet, MOODLE, student and faculty e-mail, Internet access and myLSUS.

Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith said some of the most frequent problems students experience include not knowing their student ID, password or pin number to access their email, MOODLE or myLSUS accounts.

“If they don’t know their student ID and their pin number they have to go to the registrar’s office,” Keith said. “We are not allowed to give that out,”

Once students know their student ID number, but are still unsure of their password to MOODLE or e-mail, the ITS department can set the password to a student’s pin for myLSUS. However, students who wish to change their MOODLE and e-mail password can do so by logging on to their e-mail account.

Another common problem students have is adding their LSUS e-mail to their iPhone. A fully illustrated how-to guide is available by accessing [www.http://www.](http://www.)

[lsus.edu/offices-and-services/information-technology-services](http://www.lsus.edu/offices-and-services/information-technology-services) and clicking on How To Guides. There is a detailed guide on how students can connect their computers to LSUS’s wireless network, depending on a student’s operating system, such as Windows XP or Mac OS X.

According to Keith, one of the most frequent problems at the beginning of the semester is students not approving their financial aid. The ITS department refers to it as “flipping your financial aid flag.”

“To flip their flag means to confirm to the university that they want to receive that aid,” Keith said. “If they don’t go out there and do that, then financial aid cannot disperse

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University Court Offers Students Housing and More

Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITER

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Just outside of the LSU Shreveport campus is a cluster of apartment buildings that are offered not only to LSUS students but any students attending school in the Shreveport-Bossier area.

The University Court Apartments were built in 1993. The UC apartment complex can house up to 440 people in a two-bedroom, four-bedroom, or efficiency apartment. The two-bedroom and the four-bedroom apartments are the same size, 875 square feet, and have the same floor plan. In the four-bedroom apartments the third and fourth rooms are used as bedrooms, but in the two-bedroom apartments the same rooms are used as offices.

"The efficiency apartments are smaller and have a loft type of layout to them," said Andranell Williams, director of marketing and sales for the UC Apartments.

The apartments come fully furnished, with amenities such as clubhouse access, free wi-fi, basic utilities, furniture, swimming pool and spa,

and an on-site laundry facility. Students are also allowed to have pets with no additional charge and there is no deposit for utilities.

Currently the UC Apartments have special offers such as free flat screen TVs and gift cards for students who move in by the end of September.

LSUS students have first priority for getting into the apartments, BPC has second priority, and NSU Shreveport and Centenary College have third and fourth.

"We do offer special deals for some of the students at LSUS," Williams said.

Students who received the Louisiana Scholarship, Red River Scholarship, Shreveport Scholarship, and students who play for LSUS' weightlifting, baseball, basketball, tennis, and soccer teams are qualified for additional housing incentives which range from 10 percent off each monthly payment up to \$1,800 off rent for a full year.

"The best time to move into the apartments is during the fall," Williams said.

Near the end of summer, students are able to take a survey to determine personal traits and

habits. The survey helps the Resident Assistants, or RAs, match residents based on compatibility. When the spring semester begins, placement for roommates is not as flexible.

To become an RA for the UC Apartments, current residents in the apartments must apply and pass several tests including a background check and drug screening. First semester students are not qualified to become an RA until their second semester of school.

The RAs are paid minimum wage to work. The hours are flexible with school, and they also receive a discount rent rate.

"The best thing about being an RA is it opens up great opportunities for you," said Resident Assistant Jatori Perry, biology, senior, "It has great networking opportunities, cheap rent, and after you graduate, you can continue to work for the company."

The UC Apartments have a Facebook page and text system to notify students of important information and in case of emergency. For emergencies, there is always an RA on duty and available for assistance.

ENDOWMENT cont.

zen" and the "Architect" of Shreveport's city government.

"Nothing was closer to Jim's heart than encouraging young people to contribute to their community and to their state and to their country," Gardner said, "And I thought this was the most fitting thing we could do is to establish a program which will encourage young people to be involved in their community and to be involved in their government. And that's what this professorship will do."

The Board of Regents also awarded LSUS two first-generation college scholarships this year.

According to the Board of Regents, the First Generation Endowed Scholarships Program was first established in 2007 as an effort to improve success for first-generation college students.

The endowment program also provides contributors with further opportunities to sponsor Louisiana's colleges and universities.

The Board of Regents Office of Sponsored Programs states that each four-year institution is guaranteed one \$40,000 endowed

SHELTER cont.

tion of about ninety-three people staying there," DiIulio said.

Though most of the storm's impact was felt along the southeastern coast of the state, northwestern Louisiana still felt the effects. On Aug. 29, students at LSUS were informed that classes would be cancelled and LSUS offices would be closed Aug. 30 and 31 in anticipation of inclement weather. A number of other Caddo and Bossier Parish schools were closed as well.

The shelter at LSUS closed its doors Aug. 31, after the storm passed through the Shreveport area.

scholarship annually to match a private contribution of \$60,000, but is not limited to one match.

As reported by the Board of Regents, since fiscal 2008, the Board has matched eight endowed scholarship requests at LSUS, seven of them for first-generation college students.

One of the two scholarships for first-generation college students was established by an anonymous donor and will begin helping an LSUS student in a year.

The Chandlers, patrons of LSU and LSUS, established the Chandler Endowed Scholarship for First Generation College Students.

LSUS currently has four endowed chairs, 36 endowed professorships, and six endowed first-generation scholarships.

"We will continue to increase our endowments so we can create new professorships and scholarships with that same end goal, always, of recruiting and retaining top student and professors to LSU Shreveport," Sisson said.



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Nathan Dumas, HPE Facilities Coordinator, in his office preparing for the arrival of refugees.

TECHNOLOGY cont.



Dionna McMurray, English, freshman, contacted Information Technology services for help in dealing with issues with her MOODLE account.

Photo by Rebecca Randklev

that aid."

Students who are receiving financial aid can "flip their flag" by logging on to myLSUS, clicking on the Financial Aid Section and clicking yes to approve the aid.

ITS is in the process of developing new services to benefit students.

"We're going to be releasing a new release of our student system, probably over the Thanksgiving break and there's going to be a mobile application to go along with that," he said. "Most of the things that you log on to myLSUS to do, you'll be able to do from your smart phone."

This new application will allow students to register for classes, view class schedules and access grades from their smartphones.

"You will be able to do almost everything, except pay your fees with a credit card," Keith said. "We don't

want to go that far yet because of security reasons."

In addition to an app, ITS is planning on sending out a weekly e-mail with a brief technology tip to students and staff. The ITS department will possibly add video tutorials to accompany the how-to guides on the website.

Dionna McMurray, English, freshman, said she used information technology services when she was having issues with her MOODLE account.

"They helped me before it became detrimental," she said. "Now, I do like MOODLE."

Keith believes it is crucial for students to understand technology.

"I think it's extremely important that people are familiar with technology, I don't think there's anything that you can do that it isn't somehow, someway impacted by technology."



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