

LSUS Foundation acquires Spring Street Museum

The LSUS Foundation is now operating the Spring Street Historical Museum on behalf of LSU Shreveport.

Located in Shreveport's oldest building, the museum is a cultural crown jewel. The Shreveport Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames in Louisiana opened the museum in 1976 to preserve and showcase the city's history. The building, dating to 1861, is a former bank that features the original vault and woodwork. The Colonial Dames were instrumental in having the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Colonial Dames created the museum as a bicentennial gift, and we have overseen the running of it for the past 43 years, but times change," Susan Hardtner, a member of the Colonial Dames chapter that founded the museum, said. "We feel very strongly that to continue as a legitimate museum, it needed more than volunteer leadership, so we are absolutely thrilled that the LSUS Foundation has seen fit to receive the building and collection for the use of the university."

The museum complements other LSUS resources that support arts and

culture. This includes the LSUS Northwest Louisiana Archives; the Noel Collection, the largest private collection of antiquarian books in the United States; the Pioneer Heritage Center; and LSUS Red River Radio.

"When Chancellor Larry Clark asked if the foundation would be willing to acquire the Spring Street Museum, we saw this as a unique opportunity to serve the university," said LSUS Foundation President Steve

Yancey. "A significant presence in downtown Shreveport will advance the university's mission of offering educational excellence to the Shreveport-Bossier region."

This partnership expands opportunities not only for LSUS students but for elementary, middle and high school students across the region.

Dr. Cheryl White, the LSUS academic coordinator for the Spring Street Museum, says the partnership will expand and enrich educational opportunities for students of all ages. Dr. White is the Hubert Humphreys Endowed Professor of History at LSUS.

"The Spring Street Museum represents a unique opportunity to merge the LSUS academic efforts directly with the remarkable history and culture of Shreveport and the surrounding area," Dr. White said. "Through this acquisition, LSUS will be able to provide students and the entire community with creative academic initiatives and university programming that will foster a deeper sense of shared identity."



Susan Cage, Susan Hardtner and Charlotte Walter, members of the Shreveport Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America, discuss the group's decision to donate the Spring Street Museum to the LSUS Foundation and LSU Shreveport. (Photo: Jessica Ingram/LSUS Office of Media and Public Relations)

Community lecture series continues

Learn more about how the Spring Street Museum's collection showcases local history! Our community lecture series—featuring LSUS faculty members—will focus on the trends and events that shaped Shreveport.

November 13: True Blue

Dr. Alex Mikaberdize, curator of the Noel Collection and an LSUS history professor, will speak on the history and cultural significance of the color blue. The museum's temporary exhibit will highlight some of the collection's cobalt glass uncovered during urban archaeological digs as well as rare fine china pieces. The Noel Collection is cosponsoring this talk.

December: Charles Dickens and the Victorian World

Dr. Terry Harris, chairman of the LSUS Department of English and Foreign Languages, will speak. The museum's temporary exhibit this month will highlight the collection's unique Victorian-era toys.

Seating is limited. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com. No tickets will be sold at the door. Reserve your spot today for these entertaining and informative talks!

Coming in 2020:

- A major event for African American History Month in February, collaborating with the Multi-Cultural Museum of the South, and integrating university students.
- In the summer of 2020, the United States will mark the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment that gave women the right to vote. There will be a summer-long commemorative exhibit at the museum to highlight the collection's holdings on this unique period in local, regional, and national history. This historic milestone represents an opportunity to collaborate with many local entities, including the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum and the Tourism Bureau.

The Spring Street Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Our History Experts



Dr. Cheryl White is the LSUS academic coordinator for the Spring Street Museum. She holds the Hubert Humphreys Endowed Professorship of History at LSUS, where she teaches Medieval and Early Modern Europe as well as

British history. Dr. White has also been actively engaged in the field of local history, and she has published numerous books and journal articles. She is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer, and her popular Historic Haunts of Shreveport tours continue to raise funds for historic preservation in the region.



Maria Markell Schmelz is an award-winning photographer with a passion for history and historic buildings. Her work on the Shreveport Common historic preservation project spurred her desire to delve into Shreveport's history. She joined

the Spring Street Museum as marketing director in 2017 and became the museum director in 2018. A native of North Carolina, she earned a bachelor's degree in art from Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina, in 1993. She has held a variety of positions in the nonprofit sector since graduating from college.



Marty W. Loschen, a downtown historian and urban archeologist, digs Shreveport history – literally. For the past seven years, he's helped Dr. Gary Joiner on downtown Shreveport archeological digs to uncover clues to the past. Loschen

joined the Spring Street Museum in 2008 as curator of the more than 5,000 objects and photos that make up the museum's collection. He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and finance from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas, and operated a mortgage brokerage before turning his passion for archeology and history into a career. He is pursuing education degrees at LSUS and Louisiana Tech University.

2020 RiverBend Revue honors the donors of the Spring Street Museum in speakeasy style

Travel back in time with us to the days of Prohibition!

Save the date for the LSUS Foundation's RiverBend Revue on Jan. 23, where we'll showcase the era of flappers and F. Scott Fitzgerald. We'll also honor a group of community supporters as Pilots of the Year.

This event is open bar with hors d'oeuvres and a seated dinner.

Foxtrot Level:

\$1,750 VIP Table with Speakeasy Party

Let us take care of your holiday giving. We will personally deliver a black satchel to your guests.

The satchel includes the invitation from you to be at your VIP table (seats eight) at the RiverBend Revue, a bottle of champagne AND an invitation to the Speakeasy on January 9 at the former Fort Knox bar in Shreveport, now the location of the Spring Street Museum. It's the perfect gift that also gives back to LSU Shreveport scholarships. (Limit of one satchel per address.)

Only four of these packages are available, so don't wait!

Other perks:

- VIP listing in the RiverBend Revue program
- Social media shout-outs
- A limited edition print of the Spring Street Museum created by Twin Blends
- Recognition on the LSUS Foundation website
- Recognition on the screens the evening of the event

Rumba Level

\$1,200 Table for 8

This selection guarantees you and your guests a dedicated table and a fantastic time at the Prohibition-themed

RiverBend Revue. An assortment of goodies will be waiting at your table and each guest will receive a limited-edition print of the Spring Street Museum created by Twin Blends.

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Waltz Level

\$500 VIP Couple with Speakeasy Party

This is the best ticket for two! You will receive the black satchel, just like the VIP Table sponsors, and an invitation to the Speakeasy.

Jive Level- Open Seating

\$100 per person for LSUS faculty & staff
\$135 per person individual tickets



BUY TICKETS

For more information or to buy tickets, go to the LSUS Foundation website at lsusfoundation.org.

LSUS MBA program helps California mom achieve personal and professional goals

A California woman used the LSU Shreveport Master of Business Administration degree program to launch a journey of self-discovery.

Andreanna Vargas, 34, started looking for a master's degree program after the birth of her second child. She needed online classes she could attend while working full-time in higher education and care for her family.

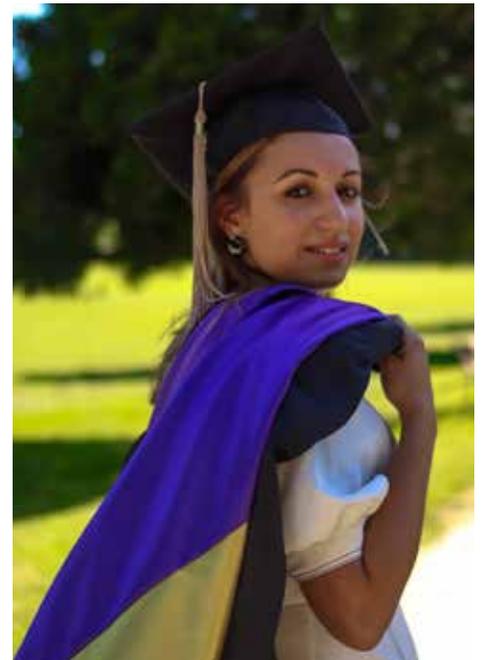
“On a personal level, after I had my second child, I honestly felt like I lost myself. I went from a total extrovert to an introvert and lost all confidence,” Andreanna said. “Coming back to school was the best decision, because I got myself back.”

She also wanted more professional growth. She already has a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant

management, so she looked for a program that let her build on that experience. She plans to continue working in higher education and wants to teach more college-level classes with an emphasis on hospitality.

She learned about the LSUS program during a chance encounter with a stranger at a coffee shop but saw immediately it would be a perfect fit.

“I was at the Coffee Bean, and a gentleman there was on his computer doing coursework. I was on my computer doing grading. I went over to talk to him and found out he was a veteran who works for the Department of Homeland security and was attending LSUS,” Andreanna recalled. “I looked at what he was doing. I actually called and enrolled in the LSUS MBA program after I talked to him.”



Andreanna Vargas took her graduation photos during the LSUS MBA program's International Business Experience in Italy in June. Vargas said the program helped her grow personally and professionally. She'll receive her degree in December.



Andreanna Vargas and her husband, Robert, have two daughters, 3-year-old Gwendolyn and 6-year-old Audrey.

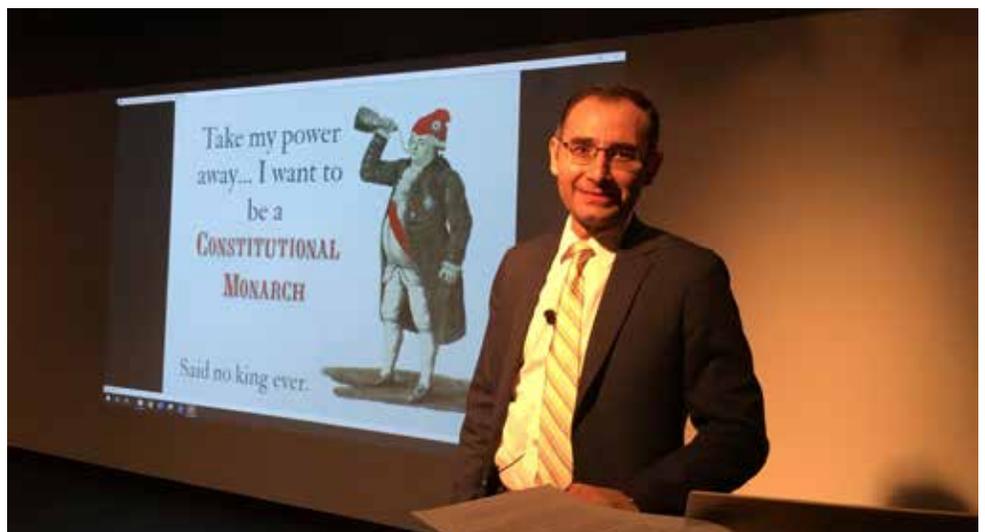
She chose the program's International Business Experience as one of her electives. In June, she and other MBA students visited Italy, where they talked with small business owners and immersed themselves in Italian business culture. She packed her cap and gown so she could create unique graduation photos.

“I knew I couldn't come to the actual graduation ceremony at LSUS in December, so I decided that this trip would be my graduation,” Andreanna said. “My family has so supportive through all this. I learned a lot not just through the program but about myself as well.”

LSUS Foundation on the Road

LSUS Foundation members and community sustainers visited Washington, D.C., in October to support LSU Shreveport professor Dr. Alex Mikaberidze as he delivered his second lecture this year at the Smithsonian Institution.

The 29 Shreveport-Bossier City travelers were among more than 140 people who attended the lecture on how the French Revolution triggered a revolutionary fervor across Europe. Dr. Mikaberidze was the guest of honor at a cocktail reception at the Georgian Embassy, where embassy officials shared that country's centuries-old food and wine traditions. The travelers also toured Dumbarton House, headquarters of the Colonial Dames of America preservation group, and visited the capital's monuments. Members of the group also attended a National Symphony Orchestra concert where Shreveport Symphony Music Director Michael Buttermann was guest conductor.



LSUS rounds out campus leadership team

Two long-time higher education administrators have new roles at LSU Shreveport.

Dr. Helen Taylor, an LSUS faculty member for nearly 30 years, has been named the provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs for LSUS, while Dr. Dennis Wissing, a former faculty member at LSU Health Shreveport, has been named dean of the College of Education and Human Development at LSUS.

A native of London, Dr. Taylor put down roots in the United States while pursuing graduate degrees.

“I came to the U.S. for a two-year Master of Arts degree at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. That turned into a PhD at the University of Connecticut in English literature. I graduated in 1991. My parents are still waiting for me to come home,” she said.

She joined the LSUS faculty as an English professor in 1990 and then directed the Master of Liberal Arts program for 17 years. Her research and publications focus on medieval and women’s literature, especially medieval women’s devotional literature.

“More recently I did a study of wall paintings inside British medieval churches,” Dr. Taylor said.

LSUS enrollment is booming, and Dr. Taylor is part of a leadership team committed to continuing that growth.

“Our goals are to grow our face-to-face undergraduate enrollment, increase student support services to meet the needs of today’s students, remove barriers to access, and make sure we are

the premier institution in North Louisiana,” Dr. Taylor said.

Dr. Wissing said he wants to support students and the university in any way he can. He fills a position LSUS created after separating the College of Business and Education & Human Development earlier this year.

In 2012, LSUS merged those colleges to cut costs, but rapid enrollment growth prompted the university to make them separate entities with separate leadership teams again.

Dr. Wissing comes to LSUS from LSU Health Shreveport, where he was associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Allied Health Professions and a professor at LSU Medical School in Shreveport. He joined the LSU Health Shreveport faculty in 1984 and held several administrative positions there.

He has taught at Bossier Parish Community College, Southern University-Shreveport and the University of Texas at Tyler. Dr. Wissing has also worked in a variety of hospital settings as a respiratory therapist and respiratory therapy supervisor.

Dr. Wissing earned a bachelor’s degree in respiratory therapy from Kansas University Medical Center; a master’s degree in health science education from LSU Medical Center in New Orleans; and a doctorate in science education from Louisiana State University.

He is active in numerous professional, community health and civic organizations, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Health Center, St. Luke’s Mobile Medical Van and the National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) of Northwest Louisiana.



Dr. Helen Taylor is the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at LSUS.



Dr. Dennis Wissing is the new dean of the College of Education and Human Development at LSUS.

Donors support LSUS faculty research and enriching experiences for our students

Your generosity is allowing the LSUS Foundation to distribute \$946,664 from privately funded endowments for the 2019-2020 academic year. More than 150 students are benefiting from endowed scholarships many of you established. Others of you created endowments that provide funds for research and professional development opportunities for LSUS professors. We are grateful.

Here are some highlights from this year.



Dr. Amy Anne Erickson, who holds the Harman and Renae Chandler Endowed Professorship

for the Master of Biological Science, continued her research into potential weapons against the highly invasive Giant Salvinia water fern. Endowment funding helped Erickson and a student attend the American Society of Plant Biologists annual Plant Biology Meeting, where they presented some of the research. Endowment funding also underwrote community outreach events.



Dr. Gary D. Joiner, the Mary Ann and Leonard Selber Professor of History, continues researching and writing books about local and regional history. Along with Dr. Thomas Pressley, he co-authored *Held in Highest Esteem by All: The Letters of William Chilvers*, which received the award for the best historical research and writing by the Illinois Historical Society. He also worked on archeological digs in Shreveport's Ledbetter Heights neighborhood, which led to the discovery of the gravesite of William Bennett, the founder of Shreveport.



Dr. Elisabeth Liebert, who holds the O Delton Harrison Endowed Professorship, presented lively talks about Persian poet Basij at professional conferences. She also engaged the Shreveport community through a lecture about the symbolism of elephants during the MLA Showcase Series at Shreve Memorial's Broadmoor branch library. She helped expand the lecture series to a second Shreveport library and worked with the local business community to connect Master of Liberal Arts students with internships.



Dr. Tibor Szarvas, the chair and associate dean of the LSUS Department of Mathematics, helped organize the Samuel and Mary Abramson Distinguished Science Lecture Series in April. It featured four invited guest lecturers from Texas, New Mexico and Germany, as well as three LSUS faculty members, including Dr. Szarvas. Faculty, students and Shreveport-Bossier City math teachers were among those attending the lecture in a newly renovated classroom with cutting-edge presentation technology.



\$1,100,000

That's the difference in *lifetime earnings* between someone who has a high school diploma versus someone who has a bachelor's degree.

Donor challenges community to back LSUS fishing team for 2019-2020 season

Dr. Lacy Williams is doubling his support for the LSUS fishing team.

Dr. Williams has donated to help the team travel to tournaments for several years – and he's increased his gift to \$20,000 for the 2019-2020 season. He's challenging individuals, businesses and community groups to make matching donations.

Fishing is a club sport. Williams says members pay many expenses out of their own pockets.

"They're in their own pickup trucks and they're furnishing their own boats," Dr. Williams said. "I wish LSUS could get a part-time coach. The team needs that knowledge."

Team members often join Dr. Williams to fish for largemouth bass on a lake at his East Texas ranch. He considers team members excellent ambassadors for the university.

"They have signs on their boats saying LSUS, and that goes all over," Dr. Williams said. "All these high schools around here have bass teams now, so



LSUS fishing team members weigh in at the Yeti Collegiate Bass Fishing Tournament on Lake Sam Rayburn in Texas earlier this year.

it's good for recruiting."

Fishing club President Kenneth Cheramie says Dr. Williams' gifts allow the team to fish in tournaments around the United States. A tournament involves several days because the teams are allowed practice days to learn about the body of water where the tournament is located. Teams never go into a tournament without practice, he said.

"Dr. Williams is an amazing person. We wouldn't be able to do the things we do without him. With the donations, we're able to pay for gas in the boat and truck, hotel rooms and food," Cheramie said. "My partner and I never guessed we'd be traveling across the country to fish."

Most fishing teams at other colleges and universities have to pay out of their own pockets to go to tournaments. Dr. Williams' donations cover those costs for the LSUS team.

"We're thankful to be one of the few schools where all of that is paid for. Those larger schools offer scholarships, but they don't pay for those expenses," Cheramie said.

Team members juggle their classes at LSUS and jobs with tournament trips. This year teams participated in tournaments on the FLW Yeti College, Carhartt Bassmass and Association of College Anglers circuits.

"The teachers are willing to go out of their way to help us, because we may miss a week of school at a time for tournaments," Cheramie said.

He hopes to get the club more involved in the community, such as helping with a children's fishing tournament organized by the Shreveport Police Department.

"We want to share this with other people. Fishing is competitive, but you also get out there and talk to people and make friends," he said. "It's a real nice atmosphere."



LSUS fishing team members Ryan Antee and J.P. Kimbrough were among college students at the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship in Florence, Alabama, in 2018.

Want to make a gift to the LSUS Bass Team that Dr. Williams will match?

Send a check made out to the LSUS Foundation with "Bass Team" in the memo line to the foundation at One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115 or make a donation online at www.LSUSFoundation.org.

LSUS chancellor recaps university growth, improvements during annual Kemp Forum

LSU Shreveport has hit a record enrollment of 8,900 students, and the university is exploring even more campus improvements to keep pace with the growth.

LSUS Chancellor Larry Clark touched on the rising enrollment during the annual Kemp Forum October 10. The event is funded by long-time LSUS supporters George and Rita Kemp. Each year the forum focuses on the state of the university.

Clark described some highlights of the past year, including the hiring of 26 new faculty members; donation of a hot-air balloon to LSUS; the opening of the Veterans Resource Center and a student food pantry; and the appointment of key leadership team members.

In the next year, LSUS plans to take over management of the University Court student housing complex; build a vehicle bridge from the campus ring road to the apartment complex; renovate two classroom buildings and explore creation of a women's softball program.

During the forum, the chancellor recognized:

- Dr. Paul Sisson, who guided the LSUs through budget challenges while serving as interim chancellor.
- Faculty who helped create and strengthen the university's online degree programs.
- And Red River Radio, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary and is the second-largest public radio signal in the United States.



LSUS Chancellor Larry Clark shared details about enrollment growth and planned campus improvements. (Photo: Jessica Ingram/LSUS Department of Media & Public Relations)

Authors Reception features romance writers

North Louisiana romance writers were among the guests of honor at the LSUS Authors Reception at Noel Memorial Library in September.

Each year, the university recognizes LSUS students, alumni and faculty who have published or exhibited works. This year's authors ranged from the creators of "Forever and Always: A B&B Anthology" to a scientific researchers who report their work in scholarly journals.

Laura McLemore, the William B. Wiener, Jr. Prof. of Archives & Historic Preservation at LSUS, said this year's featured authors includes LSUS

alumnus Ronnie Bryant, a top economic development professional in North Carolina. Bryant earned a business degree from LSUS while working on an assembly line in Shreveport. He started his economic development career at the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce before moving to the Southeast. He contributed his first book, "Driving from the Backseat: Tips for surviving as a not-for-profit CEO" to the Noel Library.

"LSUS University Archives strives to build its LSUS Authors collection to document the activities of faculty, staff, students and alumni, so we like to add copies of the works to our Faculty Collection," McLemore said.



Members of the North Louisiana Storytellers and Authors of Romance group signed copies of their latest short story anthology during the LSUS Authors Reception in September. (Photo: Jessica Ingram/LSUS Department of Media & Public Relations)

New Navigators set to share purple jacket pride



GRAHAM “GRAY” GRUNSKY, of Monroe, is a freshman majoring in biological sciences with a concentration in forensic science. She plans to go to medical school and become a forensic pathologist.

“I found a particular advantage here in LSUS’s focus on students headed into the medical field,” she said. “From one-on-one tutoring, to MCAT prep, LSUS concentrates its efforts on ensuring the success of its students.”

She believes the university’s commitment to helping students includes creating a sense of community on campus. She’s active in the American Medical Women’s Association student chapter at LSUS.

“LSUS organizations and events foster a positive college experience while allowing students to expand their personal, academic, and social reach beyond the LSUS campus,” she said.

WISE WORDS: “Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow.” - Malala Yousafzai



TYSON D. LEE, of Shreveport, is a junior majoring in history with a concentration in political science. He plans to pursue a law degree and an MBA after graduation from LSU Shreveport.

“I chose LSUS because it was close to home and offered the degree program that I wanted,” he said.

He’s president of the LSUS Student Government Association this year, a role that allows him to be a campus ambassador locally and around the state. He is chairman of the statewide Council of Student Body Presidents and has participated in debate. He also works at a Shreveport law firm, where he’s learning first-hand about careers in the legal field.

“LSUS offers an experience that no other college will offer in this area,” he said. “The more you are involved on campus, the greater your experience will be.”

WISE WORDS: “It will always seem impossible until it’s done.”
- Nelson Mandela

Each year, the LSUS Foundation selects student Navigators who give tours, help host special events and talk with community supporters. These ambassadors wear the coveted purple jacket, a symbol of leadership. For more information about the Navigator program, contact Executive Director Laura Perdue at 318-797-5257.



ANKIT PATEL, of Harare, Zimbabwe, is a junior majoring in computer science with an emphasis on software development. He plans to pursue a master's degree at LSUS and wants to pursue a career that involves computer science and graphic design.

"I chose LSUS because I had family here and because of the scholarship opportunities available for international students," he said. "I knew I wanted to major in computer science, and LSUS had a master's program and numerous graduate assistant opportunities which I was interested in for the future."

He said he likes being connected to the campus and community. He's active in the Computer Science Club and the International Student Association.

"I believe being a student at LSUS not only means succeeding in your academic career but serving your school and community, representing your school, broadening your personal skills and being part of campus," he said. "That will help you grow and adjust to life after LSUS."

WISE WORDS: "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Nelson Mandela



STEPHANIE PROVENZANO, of Las Vegas, Nevada, is a junior majoring in cellular and molecular biology. She plans to attend medical school, and after graduating and undergoing a medical residency, she wants to practice medicine and volunteer for Doctors Without Borders.

She says she chose LSUS because the tuition was reasonably priced. She lived with her brother, a student at LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport, to save even more money.

"The (LSUS) professors work closely with the medical school and are informed on how to adequately prepare us for our prospective graduate schools," she said. "To my relief, this school has never disappointed and has continued to fulfill all of my expectations. LSUS has become my home."

She is the founder and president of the LSUS chapter of Doctors Without Borders. She's also active in the American Medical Women's Association chapter at LSUS; the Science Matters group; the Chemistry Club and the Student Advisory Council.

"There are so many amazing opportunities offered on campus, supported by a team of faculty members determined to help their students grow and succeed," she said.

WISE WORDS: "Sometimes I've believed in as many as six impossible things before breakfast." - Lewis Carroll

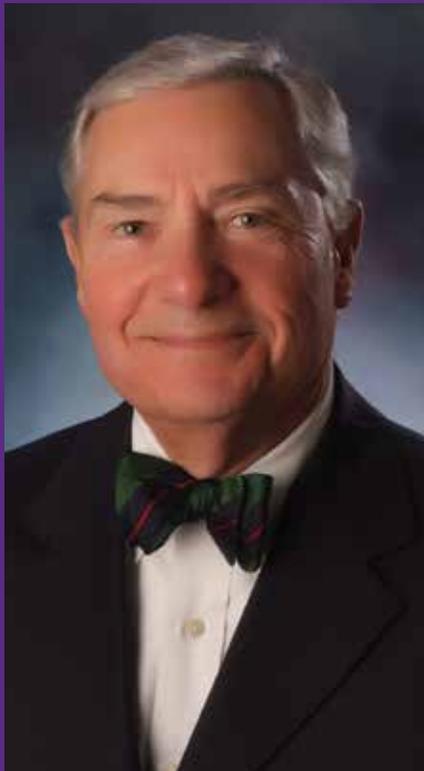
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A LETTER FROM YOUR LSUS FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

Steve Yancey



STEPHEN R. YANCEY II of
Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway
Law Corporation.

Mr. Yancey's practice involves real estate and commercial transactions, energy matters, and probate and estate planning. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington & Lee University, his master's degree in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, and his law degree from Louisiana State University.

Everyone loves a success story. This fall, LSUS certainly fits that description.

LSUS enrollment for the fall 2019 semester is over 8,500 students. This is far and away the largest student enrollment LSUS has ever seen. Furthermore, freshmen enrollment is up 15 percent over last year. A crucial statistic, student retention, is also improving.

More than \$8 million has been spent on capital improvements of the LSUS campus in just the past three years. Chancellor Larry Clark is in discussions with the LSU Board of Supervisors for additional capital improvements of a significant magnitude.

Another impressive aspect of the LSUS success story is its faculty. For example, in October, LSUS history professor Dr. Alex Mikaberidze, a native of the nation of Georgia, presented a seminar on the French Revolution at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Remarkably, this is the second time this year he has lectured at the Smithsonian. He is the Ruth Herring Noel Endowed Chair for the Curatorship of the James Smith Noel Collection. Dr. Mikaberidze has an international reputation and is a fine example of the high quality of instruction available for students at LSUS.

As we head into the season of giving and gratitude, we are especially grateful for your support of the LSUS Foundation and LSU Shreveport students. We have so many exciting things coming up in 2020, and we hope you'll be a part of them!

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