

Stephensons Make History with \$25 Million Pledge to LSU

In one of the largest single acts of generosity in LSU history, LSU alumni Emmet and Toni Stephenson have pledged a \$25 million gift to LSU, impacting both the E.J. Ourso College of Business and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

Their pledge amounts to the largest donation to LSU since the launch of the Forever LSU Campaign in summer of 2006.

The Stephensons say they drew inspiration from the gift after seeing LSU students, faculty and staff respond to our state's greatest crisis. "The basic reason for our gift is a love for LSU and our loyalty to LSU," said Emmet Stephenson. "The specific timing of the gift was triggered by what LSU did in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It was truly an example of outstanding performance under severe pressure. As we watched that tragedy unfold on television, we saw ways that we thought the process could be improved, to save human life and animal life in disasters of all kinds... not just hurricanes."



Emmet and Toni Stephenson

The idea was to create a new institute within the E.J. Ourso College of Business which focuses on educating students and the public about the best ways to respond to emergencies. \$11 million of the Stephenson's donation will create the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute within the College of Business. The Stephenson Disaster Management Institute will aim to save lives by continuously improving disaster response

techniques and sharing innovative ways to respond to a crisis. The institute will emphasize preparation, readiness and response during the first 10 days following an incident.

\$4 million of the Stephenson donation will bolster the Entrepreneurship Institute within the E.J. Ourso College of Business. The gift will help LSU reorganize the program and further outreach activities to promote economic growth in Louisiana and the Gulf South region. Both Emmet and Toni Stephenson have careers built upon

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Shell Oil Company Donates \$3.5 Million to LSU - Led Rebuilding Efforts

The Shell Oil Company reaffirmed its commitment to Louisiana's post-hurricane recovery with a recent pledge of \$3.5 million to leverage LSU's scientific and academic expertise in support of rebuilding efforts statewide. The three-year commitment targets not only Louisiana's environmental needs, but also aids in helping businesses recover from the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The donation is the largest one-time cash pledge from a corporation in LSU's history, and the first major corporate donation made since the "Forever LSU" campaign was officially announced in June of 2006.

"This donation is an important step in what has been a long and mutually productive relationship between LSU and Shell," stated LSU Chancellor Sean

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LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe (left) accepts a \$3.5 million donation for David Sexton, president of Shell Oil Products, U.S. (center). The president of the LSU System, Dr. William Jenkins, is on the right.

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O'Keefe. "We are proud of this great partnership, including LSU's new distinction as Shell's top school for recruiting in the United States, and dedicated to taking our collaboration to new heights with this most generous gift."

Approximately \$3 million of the gift will create a state-of-the-art coastal ecosystem research project in the Breton Sound region along the Mississippi River delta immediately south of Plaquemines Parish, as well as a \$1.2 million endowed chair. The Louisiana Board of Regents is expected to supplement the chair with an additional \$800,000, giving the Shell gift \$4.3 million in total impact. The coastal initiative will be managed by LSU's School of the Coast and Environment (SCE), under the leadership of Dean Edward Laws and Professor Robert Twilley, who was recently named associate vice chancellor for research and economic development.

The research data acquired at the Breton Sound facility will be evaluated at the SCE's existing Shell Coastal Environmental Modeling Laboratory, also financed by the company via \$700,000 in previous donations. The significance of the Breton Sound research project was summarized by LSU Interim Provost Harold Silverman: "Shell's funding of a comprehensive and systemic study of a large and important portion of coastal Louisiana should provide long-term benefits to the state based on exceptional interdisciplinary science aimed at understanding restoration mechanisms."

The remaining \$500,000 of the donation will be utilized by LSU's E.J. Ourso College of Business to provide critically needed business counseling and related assistance for women- and minority-owned businesses in several Louisiana parishes hardest hit by the 2005 hurricanes. Under the direction of Dean Robert Sumichrast, the counseling and training will be provided by Ourso College faculty and graduate students via a new "mobile classroom," an 18-wheel truck retrofitted with the latest educational technologies.

"This most recent donation brings Shell's total philanthropic support for LSU to over \$5 million since 2003," said Dr. Jeff Hale, senior director of corporate and foundation relations for the LSU Foundation, who has coordinated LSU's efforts with Shell throughout this period. "The gift represents both the culmination of a steadily improving relationship - fueled by LSU's expanded responsiveness to the company's recruiting, research, and reputation building interests - as well as an exciting new chapter in collaborative multidisciplinary research that will further establish LSU's international reputation in coastal and environmental studies and business entrepreneurship."

"Shell is dedicated to the Louisiana communities where we live and work," said David Sexton, President of Shell Oil Products US. "We hope this grant will benefit the state long-term - particularly with regard to environmental restoration and business revitalization."



President and CEO of Shell Oil John Hofmeister (left) joins LSU System President William Jenkins and LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe on the field at Tiger Stadium to present Shell's recent \$3.5 million contribution to LSU.



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In a previous issue of the Cornerstone, we inadvertently omitted their names from the list of event sponsors for Forever LSU's kickoff week. We regret that error, and want to convey our appreciation to these supporters for their loyalty and dedication to our university community.

