Mme. Chantal LeClere Lendais has been appointed chatelaine of the Maison Acadienne Francaise (French House) at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, it was announced by Dr. Ray Authement, USL president.

A native of France, Mme. Lendais will coordinate all use of the Maison Acadienne Francaise, which is located at the corner of Johnston and St. Mary Streets. She will organize events and programs which will bring together visiting groups or individuals, to provide interaction between USL and French-speaking visitors. She is now initiating a "Causerie du Jeudi" program of informal French conversation which will meet each Thursday afternoon in the Maison at 4 p.m. She will also develop programs to bring USL students into contact with French culture.

"The Maison Acadienne Francaise will symbolize USL's commitment to and involvement with the French Renaissance movement in Louisiana," said Authement. "It will become a focal point of the University's French-related activities."

The Maison Acadienne Francaise was purchased by USL in 1954 and contains many interesting items. The building was constructed in the 1920s by famous New York designer Henri Bendel. It underwent a facelift in 1976 for USL's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

Mme. Lendais was educated by the Dominican order in Paris, with special studies in philosophy and public relations. She studied art in Italy, took a nursing degree and worked with the French Red Cross during World War II. She has served on the administrative board of the French Red Cross, and has traveled extensively.

"The Maison Acadienne Francaise is a lovely chateau, and as chatelaine I will provide a warm, convivial atmosphere for those who honor me by calling here," Mme. Lendais said. "French is very well spoken in Louisiana, and I am impressed by the university's facilities and the possibilities offered by its students."