‘It’s terrible – it’s ruined our neighborhood’

BY ANDREA GALLO
agallo@theadvocate.com

When Michelle Green returned in August to her home in Greenwell Springs, she was greeted by more than the 4 feet of floodwater that destroyed her kids’ toys and wrecked keepakes from her husband.

Someone painted “Can’t Catch A Break” in block letters on the face of her Chaumont Avenue house. Green said she does not know who wrote the phrase, but it certainly captures what her life has been like since floodwaters soaked 130 homes in her neighborhood.

Although many people across Central, Greenwell Springs and the surrounding areas have started or even finished renovating and moving back into their flooded houses, Green is still waiting on the payout from her insurance company. The first check that came was in the name of her husband of 25 years, who died a year before the floods hit.

“For eight months, I’ve been waiting on the succession,” said Green, 52. “Until the succession happens, I can’t do anything.”

Green and her children tried to shelter at Home’s basic repairs and briefly lived in one room of their otherwise gutted house. But when a mouse scammed across a mattress one night, they decided it would be better to live in a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer that’s three times smaller than their house.

Pockets of Central and Greenwell Springs neighborhoods like Bellingrath Hills, Bridlewood and Evergreen Hills have seen quick rebounds from the floods, with people rebuilding in droves. But recovery is slower in parts populated by senior citizens, or where people simply do not have the money or the will to rebuild.

In the Tanglewood neighborhood, Cynthia ‘Sis’ Prestidge, 76, begged her husband, Billy Prestidge, 78, to stay and rebuild after 33 inches of water rushed through their brick house on Rustling Oaks Drive.

Students and teachers returned to the renovated Tanglewood Elementary in January, but the Prestidges are still living in a 32-foot motor home in their backyard.

Billy Prestidge wore a camouflage LSU cap as he recently stood outside of their home, alternating between his descriptions of the laborious process of getting cabinets and doors and his tales of trips to Omaha, Nebraska, to watch the LSU baseball team. The Prestidges had flood insurance, but also had to dip into their savings to rebuild, and they say they hope to finish soon.

“It’s terrible – it’s ruined our neighborhood,” Sis Prestidge said, pointing to the houses of at least three families she believes won’t return to their block. “A lot of them are not coming back at all.”

Their representative on the

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East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council, Scott Wilson, listened as the Prestidges and others in his district told their tales of recovery. He told all of them that he expects it to be years before Central and Greenwell Springs fully rebuild.

In some parts of Central, not everyone had a place where they could return.

Stacey Beck heard that her house on the corner of Frenchtown Road and Central Thruway failed in 1983, and she took precautions in August to save her grandfather’s cedar chest and some framed prints. But she put other keepakes as high as they would go in her house, not expecting the 9 feet of water that doused her house up to the ceiling. It took four days to drain.

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CENTRAL
Continued from page 4A

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Michelle Green is in a holding pattern while attorneys work out details of succession after her husband’s death one year before the 2016 flood.

“Therere were dead fish all over the floor in our house,” remembered Beck, 48. “That is a smell that I never want to smell again in my life.”

When engineers looked at her house afterward, they said repairing it was not possible. The insurance money that was supposed to cover the contents of her home had to go toward the down payment on a home they bought in Alford Acres.

Despite 85 percent of structures flooding in Central, the house in Alford Acres stayed dry in August. Beck said she and her husband liked the rural feel of Central and wanted to stay there.

They recently finished demolishing their original home, but because their flood insurance money has gone toward buying another home, Beck said they have been lucky to get furniture donations from family and friends.

The headaches over insurance — having enough of it and having the right kind — throb through the area that flooded. South of Central in the Village Cote neighborhood, Timothy Love said he had to pull $22,000 out of savings to rebuild his home there despite having flood insurance.

Amos Spikes, also in Village Cote, described using money from both his 401(k) and his savings to furnish his house, as his flood insurance covered only the structure and not the contents. Debris still tarnishes yards, and some houses show no signs of work aside from being gutted since the floods swept through the neighborhood just south of the Comite River.

Even before the flood, Love said property values were going down, and he said he worries that the trend will only worsen in Village Cote. As he worked on his home and Spikes worked on his, each said they hope their neighbors will stay and rebuild with them.

“You pray they come back,” Spikes said.
‘We figured we’d be back in our house by now’

BY TERRY L. JONES
jones@theadvocate.com

Old Jefferson is a study in contrasts. Move away from the brick homes in Jefferson Highwy and the lingering effects of August’s floods easily can be seen from the street.

Closest to Clayscut Bayou, near Tiger Bend Road, piles of debris line many blocks. Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers sit in the shadows of gutted homes. In a subdivision sandwiched between Baringer and Antioch roads, many residents are just starting the journey of rebuilding.

The problem isn’t necessarily a lack of flood insurance. Many residents said they had insurance, a requirement for anyone with a mortgage after the area was flooded in the early 1980s. But there are still plenty of headaches, with insurance and mortgage companies demanding homeowners check off a laundry list of benchmarks before they’ll issue any payouts.

“They act like they don’t want to give us the money. And they give us 50 different reasons why,” said John Pace, who began repairs about a month ago on the three-bedroom house he shares with his wife.

Pace is living in a FEMA trailer outside the home in the 7800 block of Debit Drive with several of the family’s pets, while his wife stays with their daughter.

He estimates the flood caused approximately $200,000 worth of damage to the house. “We figured we’d be back in our house by now,” Pace said. “I’d like to think that may happen in two months, but it probably won’t.”

His neighbors down the street, Chris and Judy Wyman, also are living in a FEMA trailer, along with their four kids. Their three-bedroom home hasn’t been touched since they gutted it after floodwaters receded.

Their mortgage company is requiring them to hire a general contractor to oversee their home’s renovations before it will cut the couple a check. Fractured by the reports of contractor fraud making the news after the flood, the Wyman’s agreed that vetting a qualified professional was worth the delay.

“We think we’ve found someone, and we expect to get enough money to get started next month,” Chris Wyman said.

About interviewing the contractor, Judy Wyman said, “I wanted a list of everything he was going to do and what it would cost to see where the money is going.”

But the couple does have a worry: Will their neighbors return? At least one, and maybe two, “For Sale” signs have cropped up on each block in the Wyman’s neighborhood, confirming the couple’s suspicions that many of their neighbors are giving up.

See JEFFERSON, page 5A

JEFFERSON

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 won’t come back.

Real estate broker Lisa Scott Zatta said there is some truth in their suspicions. But she said she doesn’t see it as a necessarily negative sign for the area.

Most of the homes for sale in Old Jefferson are properties where investors swooped in immediately after the flood, purchased gutted homes and are trying to flip them for profit, she said. It’s been a successful business.

“I put one on the market last week, and within 10 hours, I had three to four offers,” she said.

Zatta said there are three active sales for renovated homes and 14 more pending on post-flood restored homes in the Old Jefferson area.

The original sellers, she said, are mostly older homeowners who were in a better position to sell because they didn’t have mortgages or owed little on their houses.

“As a whole, my district is bouncing back great,” said Dwight Hudson, the representative for District 9 on the East Baton Rouge Parish Metrop Council and himself a real estate agent. “A lot of those homes are coming back updated, and because there is such a low supply in the housing market right now, we’re seeing a lot of demand so homes are selling quickly.”

That’s a relief for many residents. “Our biggest concern, after the flood, was that people who want to leave, sell their homes and the (housing) market would become really low,” said Laramie Minga, who is about a month away from moving into his renovated house on Profit Avenue.

Minga didn’t get his insurance payout until January. But he said he isn’t complaining because he believes the upgrades to his home and the booming housing market in the area may be the silver lining he wasn’t expecting.

“We’ve already seen a number of people renovate homes and sell them for more than what they were valued for,” he said.
WHAT CHARLES LUSHER
filed correspondent

A large concrete canal known as Hurricane Creek cuts through
well the height of earth near Line
inside Rouge, flooding part of
0-story home on Linden Street.
ng months ago, after record rain-
aged out of the canal into
Smith's house.

The canal is mostly dry now, just a
n of concrete that Smith saw each
ning from his temporary bed, as an
n summary noting kept atop a stack of
Smith said he tried to see the

His first flood when he returned in early
ember was a sheet of cardboard on the

"It's coming along. I'm getting

"he said. "Laundry Street flooded, along
with most of the streets that surround
the old Howell Park Golf Course. East
Orange Rouge Parish Metro District
liaison, said the district has taken several
room trips through the area.

"The depth of devastation is what
out to me — and the determi-
tion of people to get back," Cole
said.

Some streets look worse than oth-
er. A few lucky residents managed
to avoid flooding entirely.

However, there are still many
people who live in the area and
are not yet able to return.

Cole said, "It's not just the
people who live in
The area, but also the
businesses and

"The area is not
 ready yet. It's

"I run out of money
right now, so as
soon as I get some
money back, I'd
like to move back," he said.

Smith, 57, is waiting.

"I don't have a
bed in my
bedroom."

He said he is
looking for
new housing
and is hoping
his insurance
will cover the
costs.

Smith pointed out a few neighbors
who, like him, are back but also
people who are not, at least not yet.

Across the street from Smith, Erik
Williams is not yet back. Since August,
he's been living elsewhere with his
wife and daughter, first in a
rental in Covington and more recently
by a family member.

RobPepper is doing all the work

Smith and his family have
slowly at the home.

They live a week away on
Mohican Street.

Robert Rogers, left, and Olivia Walker discuss recovery challenges Tuesday at Rogers' home on Mohican Street in the Howell Park area.

"Don't send people around asking
stupid questions like, 'Did you
have a bed in your bedroom?' I'm
like, 'Are you serious, man?' We
had a big pile shoveling everything
that was in the house right there
on the curb."

WHERE SMITH, Howell Park resident

Smith stands Tuesday in his flood-
damaged Linden Street home in Baton Rouge's Howell Park area.

He had just started repairs when he saw
all his work washed away. Now, he is
back at work, getting help from his
brothers and brothers-in-law.

For his part, Smith has been
looking for a new house in Baton Rouge. Smith said he was one of about 8,000 in New Orleans to

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N.O. removes 1st of 4 monuments

The Advocate  April 25, 2017  Pages 1-3  Section A  Columns 1-4

BY JEFF ADX0N
The removal of New Orleans’ monument to the Battle of Liberty Place under the cover of darkness early Monday morning marks a turning point in the nearly two-year debate over the fate of four Jim Crow-era statues.

The Liberty Place monument, targeted by Mayor Mitch Landrieu — memorializing Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard and Confederate President Jefferson Davis — also was scheduled to come down, through the timing and other details of the removal are closely guarded secrets.

The dismantling of the Liberty Place statue could take hours before a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit by groups seeking to keep the four monuments in place. The case had held up the removal for more than a year before judges on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled recently that the city could proceed with its plan.

> See MONUMENTS, page 3A

MONUMENTS

Continued from page 1A

Of the four, the Liberty Place monument was widely seen as the most objectionable, and Landrieu explicitly described it that way. The 1905 monument commemorates a violent 1874 battle in which black soldiers of the New Orleans police force as it resisted the city’s “carpetbaggers” and Reconstruction-era government for several days before President Ulysses S. Grant sent in federal troops. A plaque later added to the monument noted the failure of the rebellion but cast it as a part of resisting white supremacy in the state.

The Landrieu administration’s opposition has not provided significant details about the monument’s removal, including which contractors are working on the project, who is funding it, the final fate of the statues and what will replace them. The mayor said at a news conference earlier this month that the process would be wrapped up expeditiously. A City Council resolution earlier this month, however, was not as clear.

“We will not be sharing details about the process, but let me be clear. We will not be delayed,” Mayor Landrieu said.

The lack of notice for the work and the fact it began before 9:30 a.m. upset groups on both sides of the debate, with some who have fought to have the monuments taken down calling it a “sneakily move.”

Malcolm Dunn, one of the organizers of Take ‘Em Down NOLA, showed up midway through the night and found the workers already had finished removing the monument. He said he was glad the monument, one of about 100 statues and landmarks New Orleans street and park names has called symbols of white supremacy, was coming down, but he called for the statues to be removed in the daylight, with advance notice and a public celebration.

Hunters that the city would begin removing the statues early Monday had waited for days, prompting vigil by monument supporters at both the Liberty Place statue and the Race Track monument in the 900 block of Canal Street. By the time the workers arrived, the last group of supporters had left the Race Track statue to join the larger protest near Dauphine Street.

The process involved cranes that lifted the statues in pieces and loading them onto a flatbed truck. As dawn broke, all that remained was the base of the pedestal. The truck carried the pieces to a city warehouse.

City officials said they were keeping details about the removal under wraps in light of threats, but were reported by contractors who had previously been an expressed interest in the job.
GOP group urges vets to boycott N.O.

BY NICK REIMANN
reimann@theadvocate.com

The St. Tammany Republican Parish Executive Committee is urging veterans to take their business away from New Orleans in the wake of the city's removal of four Confederate monuments.

The committee passed a resolution to that effect Monday. Proposed by Rob Maness, an Air Force veteran and two-time candidate for U.S. Senate, along with fellow veter-

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unfortunately, liberals only seem to respond when they're hit in the pocketbook.” Raymond said the commit-

ting to a boycott of New Orleans following the removal of four statues, including one of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

BOYCOTT

Continued from page 1B

Three of the four statues taken down represent veterans — Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard and Confederate Capt. John S. Darby — though they were erected for their service to the Confederacy, not the United States. Raymond doesn't think much of a distinction should be made between the two, how-

ever.

“Lee put his soldiers in a position where they were facing the enemy,” he said. “Lee did not condone the Civil War, that he was willing to fight for. He fought for the Confederacy.”

The Advocate, according to John Raymond, a committee member.

Rather than rewarding the New Orleans economy with different events for veterans when they have so aggressively disrepected Confederate veterans, we just simply suggested that veterans organizations take their money to other Louisiana cities,” Raymond said.

Although Raymond said he enjoys the World War II mu-

Cresta Olds Photo

The St. Tammany Republican Parish Executive Committee is calling for a boycott of New Orleans following the removal of four statues, including one of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

We have taken no position on New Orleans' ill-conceived and poorly executed removal of three warriors of the United States and the Confederacy, as we recognize this is a local issue,” Maness said in a news release. “What we have done, however, is discourage veter-

an organizations from holding conferences, conventions and events in New Orleans and in any other place that disdains veterans in any way. We have taken a stand because there was no reason for it. We have taken a stand because we felt it was a necessary step. We have taken a stand because we want to protect the rights of our veterans.”

Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s office did not respond to a request for comment.
La. flood recovery programs start rolling out funds

BY ELIZABETH CRISP
ecrips@theadvocate.com

More than nine months after catastrophic floods damaged thousands of homes across south Louisiana, the first signs of the state’s major housing recovery efforts are starting to show.

Homeowners began receiving checks Wednesday to reimburse them for work that’s already been done, and a sprawling assistance center has been set up at Celtic Media Centre off of Airline Highway in Baton Rouge.

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...to show off model renovation pieces and offer aid with the application process. “We still have a lot of folks whose lives are turned upside down,” Gov. John Bel Edwards said Wednesday as he reviewed the types of repairs the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program will provide for those who qualify.

More than 25,000 people have filled out an initial survey — the first step toward getting assistance through the state’s nearly $1.3 billion in federal aid that has been dedicated to homeowner recovery efforts. Additional federal dollars are going toward aiding small businesses, rental housing and agriculture.

Edwards and the state’s congressional delegation are seeking additional dollars to expand efforts, but it’s likely that more federal funding won’t be available until the fall.

Until then, the homeowner recovery programs are being rolled out in phases, beginning with the most vulnerable and needy population. Phase one, which started with a pilot program this month, was limited to homeowners with low or moderate income who have an elderly or disabled resident living in their home and whose homes outside the floodplain sustained major or severe damage. It will broaden from there.

Murphy and Joyce Latiolais were among the first couples to finalize the extended application process at the assistance center Wednesday. “We’ve been waiting for 9½ months,” Joyce Latiolais, 74, said, a large stack of official documents, including the couple’s faded 1967 homestead exemption papers, sitting on the desk in front of her. Gesturing toward them, Murphy Latiolais, 76, noted that they were fortunate to have the documents despite the flood.

The Latiolaises’ house off Greenwell Springs Road was severely damaged in the flood. The couple had been in talks with one contractor for a few months, hoping to get work started toward their recovery, but he stopped respond-
Two bills aiming to protect statues killed

Law would have required legislative OK for removal

BY MARK BALLARD
mballard@theadvocate.com

Legislative efforts to protect Confederate monuments in Louisiana failed Wednesday when a state Senate committee shot down two measures. Senate Bill 198 would have required legislative approval prior to removal of statues. House Bill 71 would require a public referendum before removing any statue in the state. Voting 4-2 for each bill, the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee rejected both Wednesday.

MONUMENTS
Continued from page 1A

proposals, making the success of either measure nearly impossible at this point in the legislative session. The session must adjourn June 8.

The issue exposed barely covered anger between the races and the legislators. After HB71 was approved in the Louisiana House two weeks ago, the Legislative Black Caucus walked out. State Sen. Beth Mizelle, R-Franklinton, said her SB198 never mentioned the Civil War. She felt the testimony Wednesday took the intent of her legislation down a different path from the protections of military and historical monuments that she wanted.

Sen. Gregory Tarver, D-Shreveport, noted that the two-year fight to remove monuments in New Orleans is over. Still, most of testimony Wednesday revolved around the recent removal of the four statues.

New Orleans Sen. Karen Carter Peterson, the committee’s chairwoman and head of the Louisiana Democratic Party, said, at their essence, both bills are about whether state government should overrule decisions local government makes about the monuments it owns on property it owns and to decide whom to celebrate with those memorials.

Nevertheless, Peterson allowed witnesses freehand to discuss their diametrically different takes on the history and impact of slavery to the origins and meaning of the Civil War. Peterson said many supporters were impassioned by the belief they were protecting the memories of their Confederate soldier ancestors. But she also wanted to remember the experiences of opponents whose ancestors were enslaved.

When the HB71 was sent to Peterson’s committee, supporters erupted in the blogosphere claiming she would never allow a fair hearing.

Peterson said she received dozens of vitriolic emails. But she also was determined that everyone would get a chance to have their say.

Unlike the House committee hearing — where the chairman used an egg timer to limit testimony — Peterson let everyone talk as long as they wanted. The hearing lasted about 6½ hours. Rob Maness, a former U.S. Senate candidate who testified in favor of the legislation, complimented Peterson for her handling of the hearing.

All 13 of the supporters who testified in favor of the two bills were white. The audience groaned or clapped to various points made during testimony until scolded by sergeants-at-arms who were tasked with keeping order.

Some supporters argued slavery wasn’t really a racial issue. Daria Farley, of New Orleans, for instance, argued that tribal leaders in Africa sold slaves. Sen. JP Morrell, D-New Orleans, countered that was like saying South American cocoa farmers were more culpable for the sale of illegal drugs in America than crime lords.

Several witnesses making their first foray were taken aback at senators on the panel talking among themselves or checking their smartphones. Jenna Bernstein was angered that some of the senators were absent. “I came a long way, from Florida. I want them all here when I speak,” she said standing at the witness table and yelling at Peterson.

The chairwoman explained that a few members also were attending a Senate Finance Committee hearing at the same time.

Sen. Wesley Bishop, D-New Orleans, said he was concerned about the precedent that would set if a referendum was called whenever a group of people disagreed with the decisions made by local government.

The issue in New Orleans was vetoed by two commissions, which approved the removal of the statue. Then, the City Council voted 6-1 to remove the monuments. The procedure was challenged in court and upheld.

“Where does it end?” he asked.

Bishop said he was elected to be the voice of his constituents. And every four years, the voters can replace him if they don’t like what he says.

“That’s the way representative democracy works,” Bishop said.

Nicholas Mitchell, of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University in New Orleans, provided something of a history lesson. He said the monuments were put up after the Confederate States of America had lost the war as a reminder to people of color that white people were in charge. The memorials were erected as Louisiana was passing laws that restricted voting, housing and other rights for black people, he said.

Voting for both bills was identical and broke along racial and party lines.

Voting against SB198 and HB71 were Democratic Sens. Bishop, Morrell, Tarver and Troy Carter, of New Orleans.

Voting for both measures were Republican Sens. Neil Riser, of Columbia, and Mike Walsworth, of West Monroe.

State Rep. Thomas Carmody Jr., the Shreveport Republican who sponsored HB71, said he would bring the legislation back again next year.
Connecting kids with robots

Team Phoenix member Aaron Williams, 14, right, helps students Maria Atkinson, 10, and Scott Whitman, 9, program and control their Lego Mindstorms programmable robot using a Bluetooth-connected iPad on Tuesday during Hands-On Robotics, a one-day youth robotics class held to raise money for Team Phoenix, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette youth robotics team.

Team Phoenix, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette youth robotics team, held a fund raiser Tuesday to pay expenses to compete as a finalist in the FIRST Lego League Global Innovation competition in Washington, D.C., in June.

The team presentation is ‘Floating Island Sustainable Habitat.’ The winning team receives $20,000 to continue work on its idea.

At the Hands-On Robotics fundraiser, team members helped attendees build and use Lego robots that are commanded through Bluetooth on iPads.

Team Phoenix member Jacob Landreneau, 15, helps set up a robot Tuesday.

Spencer Johnson, 10, left, and Xander Atkinson, 11, work on a programmable robot during Hands-On Robotics.
Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser asked Mayor Mitch Landrieu on Monday to turn over Confederate monuments taken down in New Orleans over the past few weeks to his office. But city officials said Nungesser or other state officials would have to submit their proposals for review along with anyone else interested in taking possession of the displaced monuments.

Nungesser had opposed the monuments' removal. The city is expected to release a request for proposals this week to determine the fate of the statues. The city is expected to release a request for proposals this week to determine the fate of the statues of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and Confederate President Jefferson Davis and a monument to a white-supremacist uprising known as the Battle of Liberty Place.

The statue of Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard is not part of the process because the city and the statue was restored in 2015.

Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser speaks Monday in front of New Orleans City Hall about the future of the four Confederate monuments. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu invited Nungesser to be part of the request for proposals process with the city.

Nungesser on statues: 'Where do we stop?'

Lt. governor denied monuments, invited to join bidding process

BY JEFF ADELSONjadelson@theadvocate.com

The Advocate

May 23, 2017

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Section A

Columns 1-5
For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

And so say all of us. Judge Kaliste Saloom Jr. celebrated his 99th in style with a surprise reception at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette's Ernest Gaines Center. The august gentleman was born in 1918 and went on to have a stellar career in the military counterintelligence corps and the law, not the least of which was presiding on the bench for more than 30 years.

Among the nearly 100 guests wishing Saloom many happy returns of the day was wife Yvonne, Stuart and Ann Clark, first cousins Connie and Francis Boustany, Jim Prince and wife Nancy Van Eaton Prince, and Kaliste Saloom III.

The documentary film "Judge Kaliste J. Saloom Jr., A Lafayette Legend" will be endowed to UL-Lafayette Dupré Library's Louisiana Special Collections Section.
UL-Lafayette to offer new degree

Informatics graduate program launches next year

Advocate staff report

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will launch the state's only informatics graduate program next year, an emerging field of interdisciplinary study that draws heavily from computer science and data analysis.

The Louisiana Board of Regents on Monday approved UL-Lafayette's new master's degree in informatics. The program is set to enroll its first students in the spring 2018 semester.

University officials described the program as applied computer science, a field that focuses on designing and working with data tools to improve the efficiency of business and government.

UL-Lafayette began offering an undergraduate informatics major in 2011. Since then, the Lafayette area has seen continued growth in its technology sector, much of it linked to local offices established here by three large tech firms: CGI, Enquero and Perficient.

“"This program further solidifies Louisiana’s position as a national leader in computing and information technologies,” said Ray P. Authement College of Sciences Dean Azmy Ackleh. “It will also supply the Louisiana workforce with much-needed graduates who are trained in applied computing with an emphasis on solving real-world problems.”

The informatics master’s degree program has a 33-hour curriculum with thesis and non-thesis options, and university officials estimated that a full-time student could finish the program in two years.

The curriculum includes courses in business, web development, systems management and interactive media.

For information, visit cmix.louisiana.edu.