Dillard University

Rising Above

The Effects of Hurricane Katrina
To find out more about helping Dillard University continue its legacy of excellence, contact:

Dillard University
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
1555 Poydras, 12th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 571-2177

www.dillard.edu
EXCELLENCE AND HERITAGE

Dillard University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in New Orleans, Louisiana, has long been a cornerstone of educational excellence and a critical part of the New Orleans community.

Dillard University offers a high quality, four-year comprehensive undergraduate education to students – the majority of whom are the first in their family to attend college. Dillard students represent 40 states and 17 foreign countries. In fact, Dillard University is the only university in the country engaged in the Melton Fellowship program for international collaboration with students from Chile, Japan, Germany and China.

We are dedicated to developing students to become future global leaders.
Dillard Students

Our students come from homes with an average income of $40,000 and ninety-seven percent of Dillard students receive financial aid. Tuition, including room, board and fees for 2005 was $18,900 per year.

We are serious about education. Students at Dillard earn Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees with majors ranging from Business, Natural Sciences and Public Health and Humanities to the Social Sciences, Nursing, Educational and Psychological Studies.

Established in 1942, our Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is the oldest accredited nursing program in Louisiana. And 100% of Dillard graduates in the Division of Education pass the Praxis Exam for teacher education.

More than 12,000 alumni and alumnae are global leaders in Education, Business, Medicine and the Arts. Some notable Dillard alumni and alumnae are:

- Brenda Marie Osby, *Poet Laureate* for Louisiana
- Garrett Morris, *Actor/Comedian*
- Dr. Ruth Simmons, *President*, Brown University
- Revius Ortique, Jr., Esq., *Louisiana Supreme Court Justice (ret.)*
- Glenda Goodly-McNeal, *Vice-President*, American Express Corporation
- Dr. John Ruffin, *Director*, National Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities
- Dr. Joyce Roché, *CEO and President*, Girls, Inc.
On August 23, 2005, with an enrollment of approximately 2,000 students in the Fall of 2005, the teachers and staff of Dillard University welcomed back upperclassmen and one of our most promising classes of Freshmen to date for registration and orientation.

We also welcomed our new leader, the ninth President and first elected female President of the University, Dr. Marvalene Hughes. Dr. Hughes began her tenure as president on July 1, 2005 after serving as President of California State University at Stanislaus for eleven years. Her long career reveals a deep commitment to academic excellence, community service and partnerships with public and private sectors.
As the projections of Hurricane Katrina’s trajectory changed, New Orleans became a target and we began to evacuate the campus.

On August 27, President Hughes prepared students for evacuation on busses to Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. The plan has been in place for years, but it is only the third time in the history of the school that we have evacuated the campus completely.
LANDFALL

Hurricane Katrina made landfall East of New Orleans as a strong category 3 storm, with wind gusts from 125 to 145 mph.

It also brought with it a tidal surge of 20 feet, overwhelming New Orleans’ levee system. This was the second largest storm (Second to Hurricane Camille in 1969) to hit the Gulf Coast in a century.*

*Ranked by Barometric Pressure of Landfall
RISING WATER

The city of New Orleans filled with contaminated floodwaters. Flood levels on campus ranged from four to eight feet, destroying the first floor of all dormitories, the Dillard University International Center for Economic Freedom building and the theater, housed in the Samuel DuBois Cook Fine Arts and Communications Center.

Aerial flood photos, Sept. 2005, courtesy U.S. Civil Air Patrol
COST TO LIVES AND PROPERTY

Over 1,000 lives were lost to Katrina in New Orleans alone. And the financial toll is estimated in the billions of dollars.

At Dillard, we count ourselves lucky that no lives were lost. All of our students are safe and accounted for. But the devastation to the campus and the scattering of students has forced the school to reduce faculty and staff by two-thirds (89 faculty and 112 staff layoffs).
THE DAMAGE

Many buildings on our historic campus sustained severe roof damage. Others will have to be razed as the damage is too extensive to repair. The campus information technology center was destroyed.

Fires broke out after the storm and destroyed three dormitory buildings. Much of the land requires drainage work, clean-up and landscaping to return it to its value prior to the hurricane.
RECONSTRUCTION COSTS

- Capital losses including infrastructure and cleanup efforts: $282 million
- Lost revenue from tuition and fees for 2005-2006: $25.9 million
- Payroll for faculty and staff (one year): $26 million
- Transitional costs until the campus is ready for reoccupancy: $13.7 million

Dillard estimates losses resulting from Hurricane Katrina at $347,600,000.00.
WIND, FLOOD AND FIRE DAMAGE

As of October 17, 2005, over $282 million in capital losses have been recorded on our 55-acre campus.
PLANS TO REBUILD

Clean-up and reconstruction is already underway. Efforts began in earnest in the fall of 2005. Roofs are being repaired along with the damage to drainage lines and other infrastructure. Some buildings have been totally leveled while others are undergoing major renovation.

We anticipate moving back on campus in the fall of 2006 with plenty more work to do after that.

“I promise you that on my watch, Dillard will continue.”

President Marvalene Hughes, Ph.D.
Dillard University is the only major local university unable to hold classes on its campus after the storm. In a truly great effort by administration, staff and students, a temporary campus was set up at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside to educate our returning students (which numbered 54% of those enrolled before the storm).

“\textit{It didn’t matter where Dillard was: a cruise ship, in trailers or at the hotel. We were determined to come back.}”

Reondra Hughes ‘09, Accounting Major
Christopher Stewart, ‘08, Political Science Major
THE NEW DILLARD

It is our intention to do more than repair the damage done by Hurricane Katrina. We will continue to expand our programs. We will continue to innovate. We will build the New Dillard with the same zeal that our founders displayed in 1866 as they laid the cornerstones for New Orleans University and Straight College – the predecessors of our Fair Dillard University.

With your support, we will continue to prepare young people to become global leaders, professionals and compassionate citizens. Now more than ever.
Let us “walk by faith and not by sight” toward the Dillard that is rising out of the struggles of these difficult days.

Marvalene Hughes, Ph.D.
President, Dillard University
in a letter to students
September 19, 2005