

TULANIAN

THE IMPACT

WE

MAKE



RAPT AUDIENCE

Students listen intently during the inaugural Presidential Speaker Series featuring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in McAlister Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 25. (See story on page 14.)



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DECEMBER 2019 / VOL. 91 / NO. 2

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Yeah, You Write

From the Editor

The Impact We Make is the theme of this *Tulanian* as our stories address the university's meaning, purpose and effect in the wider community. In "Ripple Effect," we report on the impact that Tulane has on the local economy and on the state of Louisiana. "To improve the life of people," is the purpose of research, says Giovanni Piedimonte, the new vice president for research. In "Turning Point," he looks forward to impactful, collaborative breakthroughs that will do just that. In "Green Impact," we see how Liz Davey has helped shape the sustainability efforts at Tulane for two decades. And in "Reading Is Fun," we anticipate the exciting New Orleans Book Festival that will bring authors and book lovers of all ages to campus in March.

To the Editor

[Email letters to tulanemag@tulane.edu]

A Long Way

It was a pleasure to read the article "Pioneers on Campus" [*Tulanian*, September 2019]. ... I was the second black basketball player to play for Tulane. I thought my experience could be uplifting for not only the student-athletes but for the students in general. Tulane has come a long way in being inclusive for all students.

David Renfroe, UC '74
Long Beach, California

Highest Ranking

As a former submariner commissioned through Tulane's NROTC Unit in 1978 while then Midshipman 4th Class David Berger was a freshman, I would like to point out a large (to the military) error in *Tulanian's* Gen. Berger profile [September 2019]. Your article introduces the general as a LT GEN, which signifies a flag officer with three stars and, though a very senior rank, is not what Gen. Berger is and does not match the profile picture you used. ... Gen. Berger is the Commandant of the Marine Corps and its leader, and as such, is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. By my recollection he is the highest ranking member of any branch of the military ever to have graduated from Tulane University.

Marcus Urioste, A&S '78
Philadelphia

Editor's Note: We regret this error. The Change of Command ceremony for Gen. Berger was July 11, 2019, and we did not change his rank before going to press.

Preparing Global Citizens

I read the September issue of *Tulanian* ("Global State of Mind") with keen interest and with pride in my alma mater. ... True confession: I used to "scan and toss" and now I read pretty much cover to cover!

Robert M. "Rick" Smith, A&S '73, B '74
Atlanta

Celebrating Diversity

While my time at Tulane made huge impressions on me, I envy current students who get that global aspect as part of their Tulane experience. I've been privileged to experience diversity in my personal and professional life, including my MBA at another university where international students were nearly 50% of the class. Kudos to Tulane to ... celebrate global diversity.

Stephanie Scroger Yoo, B '90
Macedon, New York

Proud to be a Tulanian

I enjoyed very much reading the nice piece about "Pioneers on Campus" (September 2019). As a native Costa Rican and as a biologist, I feel very proud to be in the company of fellow Tulanians such as Luis Guillermo Solís and Deidre D. Labat.

Maria Elena Amador, G '79, '82
New Orleans

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In Brief

COMMENCEMENT

2020 CEREMONY

The 2020 Commencement ceremony, scheduled for May 16, will be held in Yulman Stadium for the first time in Tulane history. Tulane commencements are among the country's most memorable celebrations of academic achievement, featuring renowned speakers and honorary degree recipients such as the Dalai Lama, Tim Cook and Helen Mirren. The university plans to bring many of the beloved commencement traditions to the ceremony at Yulman. This year's speaker has not been announced yet.

tulane.it/2020-commencement-venue

LAW

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Viking Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House, will publish a book by Amy Gajda, Tulane law professor, called *The Secret History of the Right to Privacy*. The book, set to publish in 2021, examines privacy's path in the United States, its threats to press freedoms and what privacy reveals about current concerns in a digital age.

tulane.it/right-to-privacy-book

ART

NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE

Newcomb Art Museum's latest show *NOT SUPPOSED 2 BE HERE* by visual artist Brandon "BMike" Odums opens Jan. 18, 2020. It is the first solo exhibition for Odums in a museum setting. The display, which features brand new site-specific installations, as well as past work, is part retrospective and part futurescape. Audiences will be able to envision and engage with the bold histories — and futures — that Odums' work encapsulates.

tulane.it/not-supposed-to-be-here

(Photo by Jeremy Tauriac, courtesy Studio Be)

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

NEUROSCIENCE CENTER

Tulane School of Medicine opened the Clinical Neuroscience Research Center, a new center aimed at improving care for patients with neurological diseases. Dr. Gregory Bix is the center's director, and Dr. Xiaoying Wang is the center's program director of brain injury and research. Bix's goal is to build on the university's existing stroke research and expand efforts in traumatic brain injury, aging and dementia.

tulane.it/neuroscience-research-center

MAKERSPACE

"MAKE 48" TEAM

A group of Tulanians competed in the APT/PBS reality show "Make 48," a MakerSpace-inspired show in which student teams have 48 hours to plan, prototype and pitch a new commercial product idea to a panel of judges. The team, called The Big Easy, consisted of Kyra Rubinstein, a junior majoring in biomedical engineering, Matthew Nice, a biomedical engineering graduate, Luke Artzt, an engineering physics graduate, and Jesse Williams, a School of Architecture graduate.

tulane.it/make-48-team

RESEARCH

LEAD IN TOP SOIL

Howard Mielke, pharmacology research professor at the School of Medicine, found that long-term changes in soil lead levels in New Orleans have a corresponding impact on blood levels in children. Mielke's research team collected rounds of soil samplings in the city over several years and compared them to children's blood level data, which revealed decreasing lead in topsoil played a key factor in the children's declining blood lead levels.

tulane.it/lead-exposure

ARCHITECTURE

NEW DESIGN MAJOR

Tulane's School of Architecture has launched a new Bachelor of Arts in Design. It offers a broad design education inclusive of multiple modes of practice and an understanding of the fundamental linkages between design, society and culture.

tulane.it/new-architecture-major

ATHLETICS/MEDICINE

PACT CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

The Tulane Professional Athlete Care Team had its most successful year in 2018-19, completing more than 600 patient screenings, including a record 139 former players at Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. Tulane's School of Medicine began providing medical services to former professional athletes in 2013. In 2015, a partnership with the NFL Player Care Foundation Healthy Body and Mind Screening program and PACT was formed.

tulane.it/pact-championship-year



TULANE RISES IN RANKINGS

As the university continues to grow and interest is at all-time high, national rankings improve.

Tulane rose to No. 40 in the *U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges* rankings, released in the fall. The publication ranked Tulane No. 3 in Service Learning, No. 18 for Best College for Veterans, No. 42 on its list of Most Innovative Schools, and ranked the university's undergraduate business program No. 43. Tulane also ranked high in the 2020 *Princeton Review* rankings as the No. 1 university for Community Service, No. 2 in the Students Love These Colleges category; No. 3 in College City Gets High Marks; No. 4 for Happiest Students; No. 6 for Best Quality of Life; No. 9 for Best-Run Colleges and No. 13 among Impact Schools. At this year's State of the University, Tulane President Mike Fitts referenced some of the rankings and stated the university is transforming. "We are attracting the type of innovative, world-renowned academic leaders that will guide us through the next chapter of the Tulane story. And the world is taking notice," he said.

tulane.it/rankings-2019

Students study and socialize in the Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex of the A. B. Freeman School of Business. Business school programs are among the highly ranked programs of the university.



QUOTED

"We're still standing on decisions that were made two or three generations ago."

MARK DAVIS, director of the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy and director of the ByWater Institute, said in *Time* regarding Louisiana's methods of trying to control the Mississippi River.

tulane.it/Mark-Davis-time

ATHLETICS

2019 HALL OF FAME CLASS

Tulane University Athletics inducted five new honorees into the 2019 Hall of Fame Class. Those inducted were the baseball program's all-time saves leader Daniel Latham; two-time all-American women's golfer Maribel Lopez Porras; all-American football player Ed Mikkelsen; two-time all-conference women's basketball star Gwen Slaughter; and longtime Tulane team physician Greg Stewart. The Billy Slatten Award was presented to *Times-Picayune* and *States-Item* columnist Angus Lind.



tulane.it/2019-hall-of-fame

RESEARCH

WILLOW RESIDENCES RENAMED FOR TRAILBLAZERS

The Décou-Labat Residences, formerly Willow Residences, were dedicated on Nov. 16 on the uptown campus. The residences are named in honor of Deidre Dumas Labat (NC '66, G '69) and Reynold T. Décou (A&S '67, A&S '79), the first African American undergraduates to earn degrees from Newcomb and Tulane, respectively. (See "Pioneers on Campus," *Tulanian*, September 2019.) The naming of the residences is part of the Tulane Trailblazers initiative.

tulane.it/tulane-trailblazers

 Visit tulanian.tulane.edu for additional content

RESEARCH

MAYA CIVILIZATION

Francisco Estrada-Belli, a research assistant professor in the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane, was part of a team of researchers who uncovered evidence that suggests extreme and violent warfare, along with a massive fire, led to the destruction of the Maya city Witzna nearly 1,500 years ago, in what is now northern Guatemala.

tulane.edu/maya-research-2019

RESEARCH

IMMUNE SYSTEMS

A team of Tulane researchers — James McLachlan, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, John McLachlan, Weatherhead Professor of Pharmacology, and Franck Mauvais-Jarvis, Price-Goldsmith Professor of Nutrition — will study how sex differences shape disparate immune responses in men and women.

tulane.it/immune-systems

RESEARCH

CANNIBALISTIC CANCER CELLS

Researchers from Tulane School of Medicine authored a study in the *Journal of Cell Biology* that suggests some cancer cells survive chemotherapy by eating their neighboring tumor cells. The study suggests the act of cannibalism provides the treated cancer cells with energy to stay alive and initiate tumor relapse after the course of treatment is complete.

tulane.it/cannibalistic-cancer-cells

ARCHIVES

GOING DIGITAL

The Newcomb Archives and the Nadine Robbert Vorhoff Collection of the Newcomb Institute are now accessible through a Digital Repository online. In addition, the Newcomb Art Museum will inventory and digitize its permanent collections with a Collection Stewardship grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America.

tulane.it/new-digital-archives

QUOTED

“What’s happening now is that the Chinese system is changing the nature of the internet.”

WALTER ISAACSON, history professor at Tulane, on CNBC’s “Squawk Box” regarding the relationship between the Chinese government and CEOs of American businesses like Apple and Facebook.

tulane.it/Walter-Isaacson-cnbc

ACADEMICS

TAYLOR CENTER 5TH ANNIVERSARY

The Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking celebrated its five-year anniversary in November. The center aims to support students as they identify their changemaking path through programs in teaching, research and practices of design thinking, social entrepreneurship and social innovation. The center was founded in 2014 with a \$15 million contribution from Taylor and the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

tulane.it/taylor-center-5th-anniversary

IN THE NEWS

NOLA CHARTER SCHOOLS

Douglas Harris, director of the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans and chair of the Department of Economics at Tulane, discussed on *NPR* his research on failing charter schools closing in New Orleans. “If you’re doing [closures and takeovers] well, then those opening schools are better than the ones that you’re closing and taking over. That’s going to lead to improvement in the city — and it did.”

tulane.it/nola-charter-schools

 Visit tulanian.tulane.edu for additional content



ATHLETICS

HOW DO WE KNOW GREEN WAVE FOOTBALL IS ON THE RISE?

Last year, it took the entire season of 12 games to become bowl eligible. This year, Tulane clinched bowl eligibility with a Nov. 1 homecoming victory against Tulsa — it’s ninth game of the season.

“To be bowl eligible with three games left just shows where we are heading,” quarterback Justin McMillan said after the game. “We are trying to build a program here.”

It is the first time since 1997–98 that the Wave is bowl eligible in consecutive seasons and the first time since 1979–80 that Tulane is likely to play in a bowl in consecutive seasons.

“Consistently playing in bowl games and competing for conference titles is the new standard for Tulane football,” said Troy Dannen, athletics director. “Coach Fritz, his staff and our student-athletes have raised the bar for excellence for which our program is measured, and we could not be more proud of their efforts.”

tulane.it/green-wave-bowl-eligible-2019

Above: Green Wave quarterback Justin McMillan leads the Tulane football team to a 38-26 Homecoming win over Tulsa on Nov. 1. McMillan completed 12 of his 16 passes for 184 yards.

“... the stereotype is that the environment is about tree hugging or saving exotic birds.”

THOMAS LAVEIST, dean of Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, in *Bloomberg Environment* on why he thinks black politicians haven't focused much on climate change.

tulane.it/Thomas-Laveist-bloomberg

CULTURE BEARERS

400 YEARS OF INEQUALITY

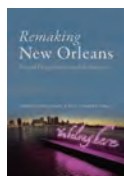
Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine observed the 400-year anniversary of the beginning of slavery in America and its lasting impact on inequalities in communities with a daylong event called “400 Years of Inequality: Changing the Narrative.” The School of Public Health plans to hold additional events as part of the series throughout the academic year.

tulane.it/400-years-of-inequality

CULTURE BEARERS

AUTHENTIC NEW ORLEANS

Matt Sakakeeny, associate professor of music at Tulane, is co-editor of *Remaking New Orleans: Beyond Exceptionalism and Authenticity* (Duke University Press, 2019). In an opinion piece Sakakeeny co-authored in *The Advocate*, he writes about the book stating, “... in celebrating the vibrancy of our traditions, we fail to understand that they're a tremendous driver of profit for those who can capitalize on them.”



tulane.it/authentic-new-orleans



ON CAMPUS

FITTS' FLAG

Students August Janow (left) and Rohan Goswami (right) present a flag to President Fitts with his likeness on it. Janow and Goswami asked Fitts to sign the flag. The flag was designed by another student, Yara Hantash.

tulane.it/fitts-flag

COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

Tulane students volunteered at more than 20 local organizations for this year's Outreach. The annual event is Tulane's largest and oldest community service event and gives students, along with staff, the opportunity to positively impact New Orleans.

tulane.it/outreach-2019



For more stories about Tulane, subscribe to Tulane Today

tulane.it/tulane-today

CULTURE BEARERS

LITERARY HISTORY

T.R. Johnson, professor of English at Tulane, is editor of *New Orleans: A Literary History* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), which provides detailed discussions on the most significant writing the city of New Orleans has inspired. In a video on the publisher's website, he mentions several major authors like Joan Didion, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner and Kate Chopin who spent time in the city. “I think people come in and spend a few months or even a few years and put their ear to the neighborhood grapevine, absorbing the folklore and the phantasms, and tracing the old faultlines to see what can be drawn from this. And the answer is usually quite a lot.”



tulane.it/literary-history

QUOTED

“I remember Katrina, we did not have enough psychiatrists and people to provide mental health care.”

DR. ANAND IRIMPEN, professor of medicine at Tulane, said in an *American Heart Association News* article about hurricane preparedness and the toll a hurricane can have on one's health.

tulane.it/Anand-Irimpen-aha-news



Beyond the Traditional Campus

A Studio in the Woods, a program of Tulane's ByWater Institute, is located on the Mississippi River bank in a bottomland hardwood forest within the city limits of New Orleans. The lush, precious and endangered woods are one of the few remaining tracts of forest in the area. A Studio in the Woods is dedicated to preserving the forest and offers interrelated programming that includes artistic and scholarly residencies, forest restoration and science-inspired art education.



CURATOR OF JAZZ

BY JASMINE DAVIDSON

Melissa A. Weber, also known as DJ Soul Sister, has been named curator of the Hogan Jazz Archive, the leading research center for the study of New Orleans jazz and related musical genres. The archive is part of the Special Collections division of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library. Weber was previously program manager of the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Academic Programs.

"I am beyond thrilled to lead the next exciting phase in the Hogan Jazz Archive's history," said Weber.

Weber, a Tulane musicology master's student, has presented papers at numerous academic conferences, including the International Association for the Study of Popular Music-U.S. Annual Conference, the Museum of Pop Culture Conference and the National Council for Black Studies.

Weber juggled a wide range of responsibilities during her nearly 10 years with Newcomb-Tulane College, from managing the undergraduate research grant-funding program to producing the annual Lagniappe Series concert featuring renowned jazz musician Ellis Marsalis.

In her spare time, Weber is known as one of the longest-running live DJ artists in her native New Orleans. She hosts a nearly 25-year-old radio show called "Soul Power" on WWOZ-FM, on which she spins vinyl from her expansive collection of 1970s and '80s rare groove funk, soul and R&B. She also gives talks and presents film screenings throughout the city.

As curator of the jazz archive, Weber's responsibilities include developing partnerships across Tulane and the broader research community, securing new historical pieces to increase the archive's holdings, instructing students on how to use the archive to find primary sources, and supporting division outreach efforts by contributing to exhibitions and other programming.

"I would love to see the entire story of New Orleans music come up to the present, so that we can continue that story of music and culture. Because the story has not ended. It has continued, and it is happening right now." 🎧

MELISSA A. WEBER,

aka DJ Soul Sister, sits among the stacks of carefully preserved material in the Hogan Jazz Archive.

STARTUP ACTIVITY

BY KEITH BRANNON

Tulane's A. B. Freeman School of Business has released the results of the 2019 Greater New Orleans Startup Report, the first comprehensive overview of the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Working with 22 economic development groups and community organizations, Freeman's Albert Lepage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation surveyed more than 200 local startup-stage companies for the 60-page report, which aims to become the benchmark for tracking entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans.

Findings include:

- The majority (64%) of the city's startups are small businesses, while 34% are early stage technology companies and 33% describe themselves as high-growth startups.
- Most are lean — almost 54% have 2 or fewer employees and 18% have 3–5 employees; on the other end of the spectrum 1.9% have 100-plus employees and 1.9% have 50–99.
- Access to investment and other funding sources is scarce. Most area founders have relied on bootstrapping (reinvested revenue), personal savings, friends and family, and credit card debt to finance their operations.
- Health care is the top industry, representing 17% of the region's startups, followed by food and beverage (10%), hospitality (10%), media (10%), marketing (8%) and real estate (8%).
- While health care is the largest startup industry, energy and finance are projecting the highest revenue growth and have also raised significant investment capital.

View the report here:

🔗 tulane.it/startup-activity

Since 2006, Tulanians have founded at least 355 companies, a third of which are located in the New Orleans area.

A WINNING CULTURE

BY BARRI BRONSTON

Ron Hunter was happy in Atlanta. He and his wife, Amy, had a brand-new grandchild, and the couple had just completed their retirement home. Hunter had built the perpetual losing Georgia State Panthers into a winning basketball program and during his eight-year tenure directed it to six postseason appearances, including three trips to the NCAA's March Madness.

The thought of leaving never entered his mind — that is, until Tulane came calling.

"It was going to take something special for us to leave," Hunter said. "And I knew if I had to think about it, I wasn't going to do it."

He didn't have to think about New Orleans or Tulane. "When it was presented to me, I said, 'I'm doing it.'"

From the time he arrived on campus, with a welcome that included beignets and a second line, Hunter hasn't looked back. In just a few months, he has become a true New Orleanian, eating oysters, riding the streetcar and gearing up for Mardi Gras. He has even developed relationships with the Saints and the Pelicans, including rookie phenom Zion Williamson.

But the fun takes a back seat to the work he is doing on the Tulane basketball court. His goal when he arrived was to turn the Green Wave into a winning basketball program and convincing the Tulane and New Orleans communities

that his team is worth filling the seats for at Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse.

"A losing culture is tough to change," Hunter conceded. "And that's the thing you have to change — the culture. You have to change how you walk, how you talk. It starts with the culture, and it starts with me."

His expectations for his team — and himself — are lofty and, in some ways, unimaginable. A winning season in his first year, followed by a trip to March Madness, are among the things on his to-do list.

"If I finish .500, you're going to have to put me in an insane asylum," he said, only half joking.

"We want to get to the NCAA tournament every year. When you're trying to build a culture, you have to have extremely high standards, and I won't let anyone around me change that."

His message to would-be fans: "Give us one chance. Come and watch my team play. I promise our kids will play hard and you'll feel the energy in the arena." 🏀

Ron Hunter, the new Green Wave men's basketball coach, invites fans to experience the energy of the team this season.





LOUISIANA WRITER

BY BARRI BRONSTON

Tulane geography professor Richard Campanella, author of 11 books on the geography, history, architecture and culture of Louisiana, is the recipient of the 2019 Louisiana Writer Award. The award is presented annually by the Louisiana Center for the Book of the State Library of Louisiana.

Campanella was presented the award in November at the Louisiana Book Festival at the State Capitol in recognition of his outstanding contribution to documenting Louisiana's history, culture and people.

Campanella's works includes *Bienville's Dilemma: A Historical Geography of New Orleans*, described by the *New York Review of Books* as the "single best history of the city ... masterful." He is also the author of *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm* (University of Louisiana Press, 2006).

His book *Bourbon Street: A History*, was declared by the *New York Review of Books* as "absorbing ... persuasive ... gleefully subversive. There may be no one better qualified to write such a history than Campanella."

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Campanella is the only two-time winner of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Book of the Year Award. He has also won the Louisiana Literary Award, the Williams Prize, the Malcolm Heard Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Hannah Arendt Prize for Public Scholarship and the Tulane Honors Professor of the Year. In 2016, the Government of France named Campanella as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

Campanella's next book, *The West Bank of Greater New Orleans: A Historical Geography*, will be released by Louisiana State University Press in 2020. 📖

"The historical geography of New Orleans and Louisiana is the story of millions of people creating cityscapes and landscapes over hundreds of years."

RICHARD CAMPANELLA, senior professor of practice in the School of Architecture

The Twittersverse reacts to happenings and news about Tulane.

"Wow! @Tulane & @TUFitts establish a 4 year full ride scholarship for a student interested in public service in Sotomayor's honor."

Mirya Holman @profmirya

"Everyone needs someone in their corner and for more than 30 years, Angus Lind always had our back. We can't wait to welcome you as a member of our Athletics Hall of Fame!"

@TulaneAthletics #RollWave

"Women are doing great things at my alma mater! @Tulane researcher receives grant to improve diagnostic tools for congenital Chagas disease. Congratulations Dr. [Claudia] Herrera!"

Lisa Rice @LisaDRice

"Proud to see my second family being honored in this way. Mr. Martin was an amazing guy who deserves this honor, and it's been my pleasure to know him and his family for the past 30 years. Roll Wave!"

August Martin @creativbalance, on the announcement of scholarships named for the late Stephen A. Martin (A&S '68, B '73). Martin became the first African American to play varsity sports in the Southeastern Conference when he played on the Green Wave baseball team in 1965. A certified public accountant, Martin returned to Tulane as the internal auditor in the 1990s and later was the chief financial officer for Tuskegee University.

GOOD EATING IN THE NEW COMMONS

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

The astonishing options for healthy dining in The Commons match up to the spectacular architectural ambience of the new place to hang out on campus.



An observer of New Orleans and the Tulane campus, Angus Lind is a former *Times-Picayune* and *States-Item* columnist. This year, he was inducted into the Tulane Athletics Hall of Fame and received the Billy Slatten Award.

As I walked through Tulane's spectacular, angular and eye-popping new state-of-the-art \$55 million dining hall, a couple thoughts crossed my mind.

I wish a couple of my college buddies could have made the tour with me, just to witness their mouths agape and startled reactions to the 70,000-square-foot building, considering what dining was like in the Mesozoic Era when we were at Tulane.

The first thing that caught my eye when I entered this immense house of glass overlooking the fabulous oak trees and quadrangle across from Dixon Hall were the seemingly never-ending food stations: the "Carved" station on this day featured Korean BBQ shredded pork (Calories 150) and Jasmine rice (Calories 120). There was also Asian vegetable stir fry (Calories 90), Hoisin sauce (Calories 5) and Asian slaw (Calories 30).

Being a local student at Tulane, I had a lot of food options. I could mooch a meal from my aunt. I could eat at Bruff Commons or Der Rathskeller. I could eat off campus, maybe at Eddie Price's, the forerunner of The Boot. Or the venerable Frostop, still dependable across Claiborne Avenue from the baseball and football stadiums. There was also the Rendon Inn, Camellia Grill, Phillips Pizza and further down the food chain, Royal Castle.

Ultimately, I signed up for my fraternity's food plan. Rest assured, no calories were listed. Or counted. Or discussed. More on that to come.

The next food station I perused was called "Hearth" and it featured grilled salmon (Calories 200), and Southern-style green beans (90). The "Grilled" station advertised

a Cuban sandwich (470), a balsamic Portobello mushroom (50) and (Yikes!) French fries (210). I was relieved to see something not on many healthy diet plans. There was also a "Simmered" station, where there were soup options: chicken corn chowder (110), vegetable split pea soup (70) and three bean chili (150). The food choices vary from day to day and there are gluten-free, allergy-free and vegan options and an incredible salad bar.

Also a wood-fired pizza oven. I'm thinking our house cook once tried her hand at pizza and it must have been cooked in a petrified pizza oven. Not one of my friends recalled a single salad at any time. But we did have red beans and rice and sausage, hamburgers, spaghetti and meatballs and industrial-sized cans of green beans. Our housemother was a devout Catholic so there was always fried shrimp, fish and gumbo on Fridays. Hot dogs and chili. All kinds of po-boys and chips. Fried chicken, corned beef hash and the mysterious "Salisbury steak" were also available.

A couple of servers at The Commons told me the students were "wild about it."

It's a very cool place to people watch, hang out, converse or the always present heads-down smartphone routine.

Outside there was a classic New Orleans thunderstorm going on. Typical of the complimentary comments was this thumbs-up: "It's significantly better, leaps and bounds above Bruff Commons for both scenery and food," said finance major Luca Busalacchi, a Hahnville High graduate. He and two friends were still hanging out 30 minutes after they finished lunch, sans umbrellas. "And it's a great place to watch a rainstorm." ☔



WHY I VOLUNTEER FOR TULANE

BY ERICA WASHINGTON, PHTM '09

Tulane's synonymy with New Orleans is what drew me to the university. Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the Gulf region when I was an undergraduate senior at LSU in Baton Rouge. Although I was not directly affected by the storm, I saw the struggles that many of my friends and classmates endured as they sought to rebuild their homes with their families in a time of immense uncertainty that would forever reshape their lives.

While I was able to volunteer with my sorority in Baton Rouge to assist with those who were affected, I felt that the real work to be done was in New Orleans.

After completing my undergraduate degree, I researched Tulane and admired its history as an institution that sought to improve health outcomes in New Orleans. Public health felt like the niche for me, and thanks to Therese Carter and other welcoming staff at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, I found a home in the Department of Epidemiology.

School of Public Health epidemiology professors truly brought public health action and innovation to our classrooms. My adviser, Jeanette Gustat, mobilized our survey methods class to conduct sampling of pedestrian safety in order to describe how walkable the city's busy urban streets are. Additionally, Patti Kissinger and Emily Harville utilized students to look at migrant worker health and maternal and child health, respectively. In addition to epidemiology courses, I was able to participate in a life-changing trip to China to study health systems management wherein rural, migrant and urban health concepts were taught.

The three pillars of the Tulane Alumni Association's mission statement are to connect alumni, foster loyalty to the university, and enhance the lifelong Tulane experience. My personal connections started with my classroom experience and were enhanced through connections made through my classmates and the larger Tulane community. The transition to working in applied epidemiology was made seamless by Tulane alumni who hired me and staff who stayed connected with me through my professional development and beyond.

My Tulane experience started from the moment I set foot on the downtown campus and has been shaped through my 10 years after graduation. While our Tulanian stories may be different in origin, we are forever connected through our identity: an identity that speaks to the devotion we have to the university and carrying our alma mater's spirit forth faithfully. 🇺🇸

Erica Washington is president of the Tulane Alumni Association for 2019-20. She's served in other TAA volunteer positions, including president-elect, vice president and co-chair of the student outreach committee, since 2016. Her professional job is with the Louisiana Department of Health as program coordinator for healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance.

*Conversation with
the President*

JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR DISPENSES WISDOM

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS

Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the Supreme Court of the United States left the stage at McAlister Auditorium on Tulane's uptown campus Friday evening, Oct. 25, to walk among the more than 1,330 mainly students and faculty in the audience as she took questions, shook hands and gave hugs.

When asked by a student, what gives you hope? Sotomayor answered simply, "My hope is you."

Sotomayor was the inaugural guest for Tulane President Mike Fitts' Presidential Speaker Series, which he established "to invite inspirational leaders of our time to share their knowledge and life experiences with our community."

The question-and-answer session began with President Fitts, a former Yale Law school classmate of Sotomayor's, asking about her new illustrated children's book, *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*, which is about 12 young people who might be perceived as "different" because they have Tourette's Syndrome or are in a wheelchair or, like Sotomayor herself, are diabetic. Sotomayor said she's wanted to write such a book for 30 years.



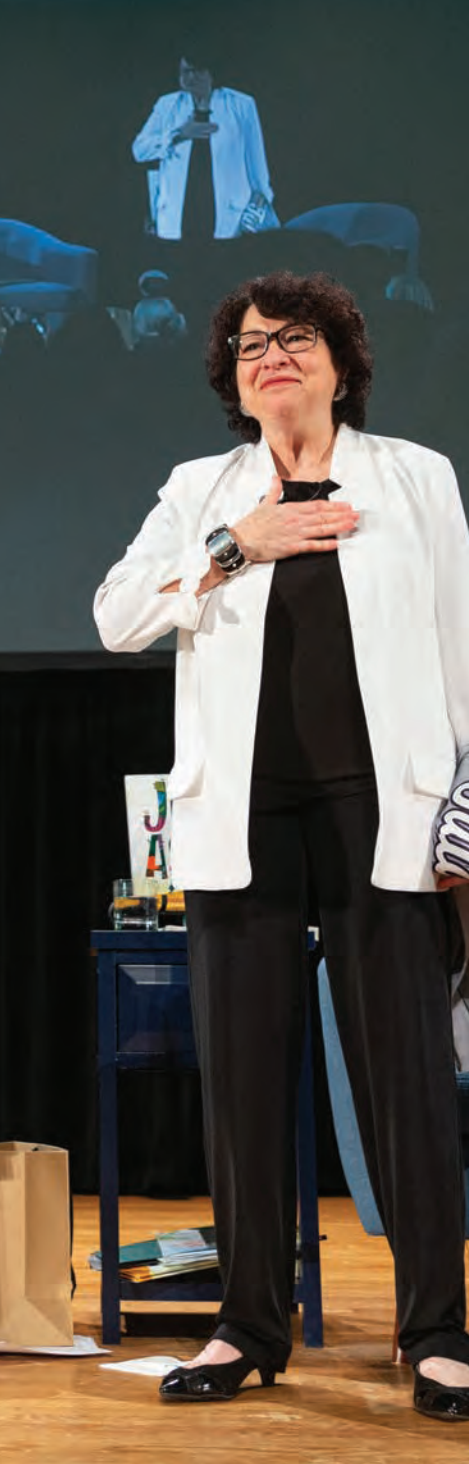
**"This is a seminar
in what it means
to be a great
human being."**

MIKE FITTS,
Tulane President

"What I have learned is that society still treats people who are different with both suspicion and with a sense of distrust," Sotomayor said. "How much we don't know about each other."

Fitts asked about Sotomayor's role models. Her mother and grandmother, she answered.

"And I tell people that what every child who succeeds in life needs is someone who has confidence in them and actually loves them and believes in them. Someone who affirms that they're special."



“If you don’t like something that is happening out there, get up and change it.”

SONIA SOTOMAYOR,
Supreme Court Justice

Importance of Friendship

“What should universities do to support students from different backgrounds?” asked Fitts. “Teach them how to study, budget time, write papers and master basic life skills,” Sotomayor replied. But also teach them how to make friends.

In her 2013 memoir *My Beloved World*, Sotomayor wrote, “With every friend I’ve known, in every situation I’ve encountered, I have found something to learn.”

Sotomayor told the Tulane audience this October night that she knows she’s lucky she found her passion early. She’s never wanted to do anything else but be a lawyer or judge, and she’s in a profession she loves.

But she gave this career advice: “What I wanted to tell you all, who might not know what you want to do, is look for that thing that makes you happy, that thing that engages you in a way that leaves you at the end of a night’s studying wanting more.

“And can you be honest enough with yourself to not judge yourself by others’ expectations.

“Enjoy what you’re doing, and if you enjoy what you’re doing, you can make a difference.”

Fitts, whose friendship with Sotomayor goes back 40 years, was pleased with her replies. “This is a seminar in what it means to be a great human being,” he said.

Fitts concluded the evening with the announcement that Tulane has established a four-year, full-tuition scholarship named after Sotomayor. The scholarship is designated for a student who is dedicated to public service. 🇺🇸

Her first judicial appointment was as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, in 1992. From her years on the bench she said she wanted the audience to understand, “The law is not just in a sense of right and wrong. If it were, there are so many things that would turn out differently in court.”

The law is “a way of regulating people’s relationships with one another.” It addresses “the competing interests that we have with one another.”

“But we’re not black and white, are we? So many things that judges deal with are in gray areas.

“The only justice we can give you is to tell you what the law says. But the sense of what the law says is something you can change.”

Sotomayor emphasized, “Laws are passed by men and women. They’re signed by presidents.”

But laws can be revoked, modified, amended and changed “when they’re no longer serving the purpose that we in our society think is the right purpose.”

“That’s what you have to remember about the law all the time,” said Sotomayor. “If you don’t like something that is happening out there, get up and change it. Don’t complain about it. Don’t give up. If you can vote, anyone who misses an election, shame on you.”

Throughout her life, she said she has found other role models, including teachers and professional mentors, who helped her grow “spiritually and emotionally.”

Sotomayor’s family is Puerto Rican, and she grew up poor in Bronx, New York. But with hard work, focus, friends and mentors (she set her sights on becoming a lawyer and a judge since she was 10 years old), she achieved the pinnacle of the legal world when she was confirmed to the Supreme Court in 2009.

Tulane's \$3.14 billion impact on Louisiana's economy and community includes jobs, discoveries, goodwill and more, a new study finds.

BY FAITH DAWSON



Ripple E



“Tulane has always been a little bit different in that it’s always been an outward-focused university.”

Mike Fitts, *President of Tulane*

In fiscal year 2018, Tulane spent almost
\$200 million
on research and development, an 18 percent increase over 2014.
Over \$100 million of that funding came from outside the local economy, supporting local jobs.

Research leads to successful startups: J. Lowry Curley (SSE '12), left, and Michael J. Moore, professor of biomedical engineering, collaborate in a lab. They are co-founders of AxoSim Technologies, which improves pharmaceutical drug development with faster, advanced testing.

This fall, Tulane released a report that reveals its profound economic value to the city, the Greater New Orleans area and the state of Louisiana. The university’s \$3.14 billion impact statewide, which directly and indirectly supports over 19,000 jobs, is one of the reasons the report declares Tulane “a force for good.”

Econsult Solutions (ESI) of Philadelphia compiled the report using data, input and guidance provided by the Office of Tulane Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Patrick J. Norton. The report’s overall economic impact includes direct activity attributable to Tulane as well as the spillover effect of that activity.

“Tulane has always been a little bit different in that it’s always been an outward-focused university,” Tulane President Mike Fitts said.

“We’re entering a new stage economically in our relationship with New Orleans,” he added, referring to Tulane’s exponential growth on both the uptown and downtown campuses. “Universities are about intellectual and human capital, and that’s important in this city.”

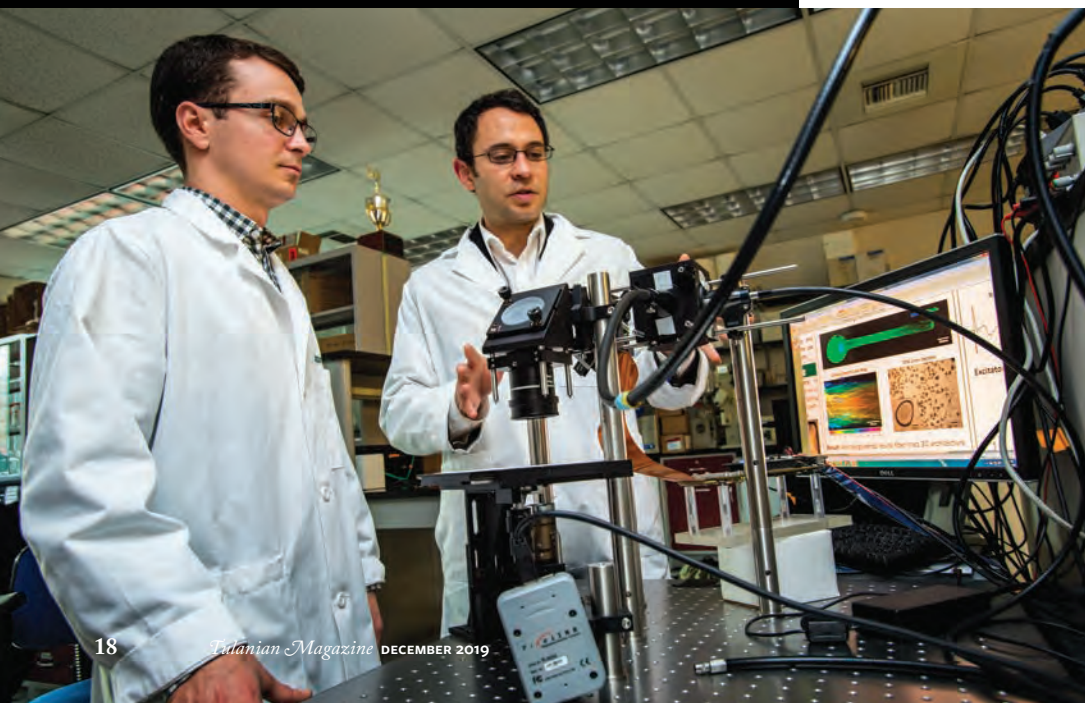
Fitts presented the report to city leaders and government officials in the fall, detailing Tulane’s contributions to the city and surrounding areas in four categories: operations, capital investments, wage premium and visitor spending.

But the true measure of Tulane’s impact and potential far surpasses dollar figures. The university’s mission of and dedication to education, research and service define its existence and are felt across the region.

In fiscal year 2018, Tulane spent almost \$200 million on research and development, an 18 percent increase over 2014. Over \$100 million of that funding came from outside the local economy, supporting local jobs.

“We’re adding more research capacity, and that produces a multiplier effect throughout the economy,” Norton said.

“There’s obviously a number of reasons that a healthy Tulane is good for the community,” said Vice President for Government Affairs Sharon Courtney, who worked with ESI on the report. “One is the job creation piece: The more research dollars we bring in from outside the state, the more good jobs we create. The healthier we are, the more it allows us to use our resources within the community. Being a strong institution allows us to help create wealth within the New Orleans community.”





Tulane offers good jobs: Christa Payne, bottom left, feels the love of her co-workers when receiving a President's Staff Excellence Award in 2018. Each year, Tulane recognizes the contributions to the university of several staff members with these awards.

Statewide,
directly and indirectly,
19,000
jobs
are supported by the university's
\$3.14 billion
impact.

The university directly creates quality jobs within the city and state, ones that start out with well-paying salaries.

Other good news for the city is that 26% of Tulane's alumni remain in Louisiana after graduation, creating an impact of \$382 million.

"We're looking to create good jobs and creating pathways for success for our students and all New Orleanians," Courtney said.

One of the Largest Employers in the State

From drawing in research dollars to the state to fostering entrepreneurship and technological innovations, Tulane raises the profile of the city.

The university measures its economic impact every few years, Courtney said, noting the last report was compiled in 2012.

"What we wanted to do differently this time was to have a deeper dive into our current economic and social impact on the city, state and region and use that as the jumping off point for the plans we have

for the future, and how that fits into the future of the city and the state," she said.

ESI verified Tulane's data and supplemented it with public data sources, in some cases averaging data over multiple years "to generate an appropriate assessment of typical annual activity," according to ESI.

Tulane's operations "support the university's continuing mission of cultivating the next generation of leaders through scholarship, research and service," the report's authors wrote. By employing more than 7,000 people at its various facilities and hospitals, the university is one of the largest employers in the state. Tulane also engages hundreds of local and regional vendors; these operations overall are responsible for more than \$2 billion in total output statewide.

When Tulane flourishes, the city and state are strengthened.

Tulane's operating budget includes building upkeep, student services, hospital expenditures, the university endowment and more, which directly or indirectly affect a variety of industries such as health care, administrative services and real estate.



Left: An architectural rendering depicts Steven and Jann Paul Hall for the School of Science and Engineering, for which construction will begin in 2020. Right: The Commons, a \$55 million project that opened this fall, is at the heart of the uptown campus. Facing page: Construction for a new residential learning community on the uptown campus is also scheduled to start in 2020.



Robust Construction

Tulane is building thriving campuses that attract and motivate talented faculty and students.

A recent notable addition to the uptown campus is The Commons, a 77,000-square-foot transformative space that opened in late summer next to the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life. Construction of The Commons — at \$55 million — is part of the university's \$122 million in total annual capital investment output in New Orleans, which generates 650 direct, indirect and "induced" jobs or positions created as a result of economic impact. On a state level, the annual capital investment output rises to \$143 million and 730 direct, indirect and induced jobs.

The Commons is part of the university's master plan, which prioritizes needs on campus.

"The areas that the president has been very direct about are Tulane's investment

in the student experience and the academic and research missions. We are very intentional in how we invest in these strategic areas," said Norton.

On the uptown campus, other upcoming master plan projects include renovations at the Richardson Building — future home of the Carolyn Barber-Pierre Center for Intercultural Life — and Richardson Memorial Hall — home to the School of Architecture. There's also construction of a new residential community for students and Steven and Jann Paul Hall, the new home of the School of Science and Engineering. Many of these projects will be under construction concurrently and will finish in 2022.

Paul Hall, a four-story, 76,000-square-foot building that will be located between Stanley Thomas Hall and Flower Hall, will include classrooms, labs and collaborative space for students and faculty.



The university's total annual capital investment output in New Orleans is

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 or positions created as a result of economic impact.

Kimberly J. Foster, dean of the School of Science and Engineering, is keenly involved in planning for Paul Hall so that it meets the needs of rapidly changing research.

“I am a strong proponent of building spaces that force intersection and interaction, because they enable the moments where discovery and invention occur,” she said.

With the schools of Medicine, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and Social Work located downtown, Tulane is contributing to the resurgence of post-post-Katrina New Orleans. Also situated downtown are the ByWater Institute on the banks of the Mississippi River and the A. B. Freeman School of Business Stewart Center for Executive Education on Howard Avenue. And more Tulane expansion downtown is anticipated in the coming years.





Tulane is responsible for some
750,000
volunteer hours
 over the past five years.

Community engagement: Left: Tulane students participate in activities that benefit nonprofit organizations and foster connections to the city. Right: Downtown at the Elk Place Health Spot, School of Social Work students help deliver healthcare services to passers-by.



Extra Spending

While new construction may be an outward symbol of progress, the university's impact affects Greater New Orleans in other ways as well.

For instance, spending by students and visiting families amounts to \$278 million within the state. Besides enrolled students, Tulane hosts thousands of visitors annually, thanks to events such as summer academic programs, campus tours, conferences and board meetings. Other types of spending stem from visitors who come to the city for Tulane athletics events, such as Green Wave football games or the 2020 Women's Final Four tournament, which the university will co-host in April of next year.

In the 2018–19 academic year, the university hosted 85 athletic events; about 136,500 of the 210,000 total attendees came from outside New Orleans, taking advantage of the city's shopping, dining and hospitality, for an estimated \$26 million output in the city.

Similarly, Tulane hospitals bring in 270,000 individuals per year for inpatient and outpatient visits, nearly all from within 25 miles of a given Tulane facility.

Social Impact

Tulane contributes to the well-being of the city and state.

The university is responsible for some 750,000 volunteer hours over the past five years, thanks to service learning programs, student organizations like CACTUS (Community Action Council of Tulane University Students) and other individual efforts, many of which benefit multiple agencies across New Orleans.

"Our engagement with 165 different nonprofit agencies gives them the ability to have additional human resources, and it also builds capacity within their organizations. In addition, the benefit for our students — to show them the world outside of the university — connects them to the city in ways that lead many of them to stay here after graduation," Courtney said.

Shortly after his arrival to Tulane, School of Social Work Dean Patrick Bordnick established a monthly street-level healthcare fair called Elk Place Health Spot near the busy transit intersection of Canal Street and Elk Place. Now in its third year, it brings together about 20 healthcare organizations such as clinics and municipal agencies who set up walk-in dental and medical screenings for passers-by. The school estimates that they reach between 100–150 individuals a month.

Elk Place Health Spot teaches School of Social Work students to interact with the community while delivering critical services to New Orleanians. Activities like these raise the university's profile while serving the city's needs.

▶ Visit tulanian.tulane.edu for additional content

The university considers quality of life both on and around the campuses. Neighborhood safety, both uptown and downtown, benefits from Tulane Police Department patrols; last November the department opened a new headquarters downtown near the School of Medicine.

Likewise, the new residential community, which will be built on the former site of Bruff Commons and will feature 800 beds, has the potential to bring in students who would otherwise live off-campus.

“We are incredibly excited about the work we are doing to design a new residential community on the uptown campus. Not

only will we be increasing the number of students that we house on campus, but this new community will provide spaces for students to engage with one another, faculty and staff in a number of different ways,” said Tim Lempfert, director of the Tulane Department of Housing and Residence Life. “When complete, the building will include small meeting rooms, seminar rooms, social lounges, kitchenettes and a large, amazing area for gathering, socializing and collaboration. We expect that this project will not only benefit the students living there, but will enhance the overall experience for all students on campus.”

On the Rise

In 2018–19, the university realized its most successful fundraising effort to date, with 73% of the gifts originating in states other than Louisiana. *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Tulane No. 40 among the country’s top national universities in the latest edition of its Best Colleges rankings. And, *Princeton Review* named Tulane the No. 1 school in the country for public service.

Tulane’s status as an economic engine, a force for good — and its mission to serve the community — resonate throughout its campuses and create ripple effects felt far beyond. 🏡

‘Earn and Learn’

BY MATT ROBERTS

Rodney Johnson, 19, didn’t even know what HVAC was before his high school career counselor suggested he apply to the Tulane Cowen Institute’s Earn and Learn Career Pathways program after graduation. Following his hands-on apprenticeship with Tulane Facilities Services, Johnson landed a full-time job at Tulane as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician and plans to one day own his own company.

“Without Earn and Learn,” Johnson said, “I don’t know where I would be.”

Johnson is among a group of young people called “opportunity youth.” Often, they hold low-wage jobs with little chance for advancement. They may have experience with the juvenile justice system or unstable living and transportation conditions, which handicaps their ability to hold a job.

The goal of the Earn and Learn program is to change that track. The program is open to young people in New Orleans between the ages of 18 and 24 who have earned a high school diploma and are looking to advance their careers.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, Earn and Learn was developed from job market projections specific to New Orleans and is one of only a handful of its kind in the country.

The program works with employers in the facilities management, hospitality and construction sectors to meet regional workforce demands.

Gallo Mechanical LLC, a family-owned mechanical construction firm, was having difficulty retaining entry-level workers and transitioning them to become union apprentices. Now, as an Earn and Learn program partner, Gallo screens and hires applicants, eventually working to get them into the Local 60 Steam and Pipefitters Union.

“We are committed to reinvesting in our community and its people,” said Gallo’s director of special projects, Maria Pote. “We know that if we provide the training and the targeted support that these young people need, they can develop lifelong skills for supporting their families.”

Cowen Institute Deputy Director Amy Barad, the program’s founder, said Gallo’s president, Tulane alum J.P. Hymel (E ’96), immediately understood Earn and Learn’s value proposition: to help ensure a reliable pipeline of talent in the skilled crafts industry.



Rodney Johnson

“Hard work, a good attitude and a willingness to keep learning are tools that ensure continued success and a bright future,” said Hymel.

Earn and Learn staff serve as on-the-job coaches to provide companies like Gallo with hands-on resources to support their apprentices.

Apprentices receive individualized life coaching — wraparound case management, college and career counseling, and transportation and child-care support — that helps provide the motivation needed to forge long-term, sustainable career pathways that contribute to financial prosperity.

Earn and Learn participants dedicate at least 28 hours a week over six months to the program, with the majority of the time working in paid apprenticeships with employers such as Tulane Facilities Services, Gallo Mechanical, Hilton Riverside Hotel and Brennan’s Restaurant. Participants also log several hours of classroom time, which includes academic, technical and social-emotional coursework.

To learn more about the Earn and Learn Career Pathways Program, visit coweninstitute.org.





TURNING POINT

Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, vice president for research, is leading Tulane toward a new era of impactful research that makes lives better.

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS

When Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, the new vice president of research, was asked, what is the goal of research? he said, “That’s easy: to improve the life of people.”

Everything that Tulane researchers do is focused on making “this very fragile primate (humans) have the most fulfilling, happy and healthy life possible,” he said.

Piedimonte, a distinguished pediatric pulmonologist, joined Tulane this fall from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, where he held the Steven and Nancy Calabrese Endowed Chair for Excellence in Pediatric Care.

At the announcement of Piedimonte’s appointment to Tulane, President Mike Fitts and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman issued a joint statement: “Dr. Piedimonte is an internationally renowned physician, researcher and healthcare executive. He brings to Tulane a passion for impactful research of all forms, and a special interest in collaborations that bring together scholars from disparate perspectives and areas of expertise. We are confident that his appointment will ensure that Tulane, which has been responsible for world-changing discoveries and innovations in areas that range from heart surgery and infectious diseases to coastal science and Maya archaeology, will play an increasingly prominent role in expanding our understanding of the world around us and improving the lives of people around the globe.”

Piedimonte received his medical degree from the University of Rome School of Medicine in Italy, completed his residency in pediatrics at the University of California–San Francisco, and received fellowship training at the Cardiovascular Research Institute of the University of California–San Francisco and the University of North Carolina–Chapel

Hill. He also received training in health-care management and managed care and capitation from the University of Miami School of Business; training in health policy and management from Harvard School of Public Health; training in healthcare finance and accounting from Baldwin Wallace University; and training in population health from Thomas Jefferson University.

Piedimonte's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more than 30 years and he has been principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 40 research projects. As an administrator, he'll lead the research enterprise at Tulane, which received \$137 million in funding for sponsored projects from the NIH and other external agencies in fiscal year 2018.

Piedimonte will also continue his own NIH-funded research at Tulane. His research has investigated respiratory infections, particularly in children. Lately, however, he's looking into the developmental origins of health and disease by studying the effects of a mother's illness, nutrition, environment and emotional state on the baby while in the womb — and after the child is born.

"More and more, we understand that almost anything that a mother experiences, in one way or another, is going to affect the fetus," said Piedimonte. "A lot of our fate, medically speaking, but not only medically speaking, is determined before we are born."

Piedimonte is pleased to bring his investigations that involve biomedical engineering, environmental studies and infectious disease research, as well as medicine, to the interdisciplinary setting at Tulane.

He'd like other Tulane researchers to know: "I am one of them."

From Coastal Ecosystems to Neuroscience to Medieval Manuscripts

In late September — when Piedimonte had been on the job for three weeks — he talked about his vision for Tulane research. He sat in his light-and-art-filled office on the sixth floor of the Boggs Center in the ByWater

"Things that are important to New Orleans are important to the entire globe."

Giovanni Piedimonte,
vice president for research

Institute suite on the uptown campus. He has an office on the downtown campus, too, and he'd just attended a ByWater Institute meeting held at the Tulane River and Coastal Center on the banks of the Mississippi River. The "common thread" at the gathering, Piedimonte said, was that "things that are important to New Orleans are important to the entire globe."

Forty faculty members, deans and senior administrators discussed coastal ecosystems and other issues on which the ByWater Institute is currently focused. If the sea level rises two centimeters, "New Orleans is going to have a big problem, but so will Copenhagen or Venice, or many other urban areas populated by millions of human beings," said Piedimonte.

Piedimonte wants to expand the ByWater Institute's focus to more areas of environmental safety, like pollution. "In my mind," he said, "the ByWater Institute can become one of the leading comprehensive centers of environmental research in the United States."

The Tulane National Primate Research Center, located on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain in Covington, is also among the university's most strategically important research centers, said Piedimonte. "There is a unique opportunity to do research at the Primate Center, which continues to be one of the best in the country."

The Tulane National Primate Research Center is one of seven National Institutes of Health-funded National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs), which form a "network

"dedicated to finding causes, preventions, treatments and cures for infectious diseases and chronic conditions that affect the lives of people and animals worldwide."

Piedimonte expects the impact of research at the Primate Center to "grow soon and rapidly." A factor in the importance of infectious disease research is the continual emergence of new germs all around the planet, said Piedimonte. "It is quite possible at a certain point we are going to have to deal with pathogens that either we know, but we cannot fight anymore, or new pathogens that we didn't know anything about."

Antibiotics have combatted infectious diseases such as pneumonia and increased life expectancy well beyond 40–50 years, which was the norm as late as the 1930s in the United States. But now "the use and abuse of antibiotics are creating superbugs that are going to be increasingly difficult to fight," said Piedimonte. Antibiotic-resistant superbugs present a big challenge. And new germs — similar to the 1918 Spanish influenza virus, which caused the biggest rise in the mortality rate in history — "are a threat to the entire humanity."

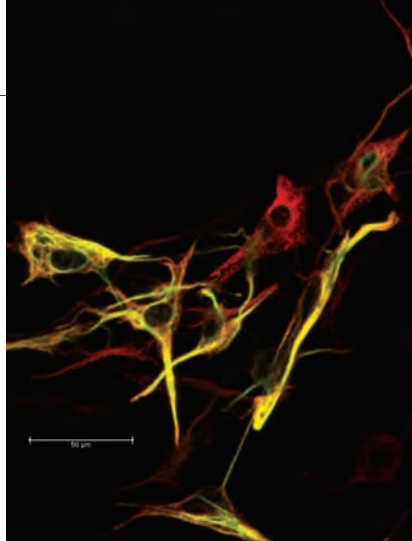
Among the research efforts at the Primate Center, investigators are working on vaccines against Ebola and Zika, viruses that have resulted in recent devastating epidemics. They are developing drugs to treat exposure to the toxin ricin, a potential bioterrorism agent. And they are finding methods to combat the continuing scourge of tuberculosis.

People are living longer, thanks to advances in infectious diseases treatment. But with longer life, "they have time to get sick for diabetes, for hypertension," said Piedimonte. The increase in chronic pathologies in the population can be tied to longer life expectancy.

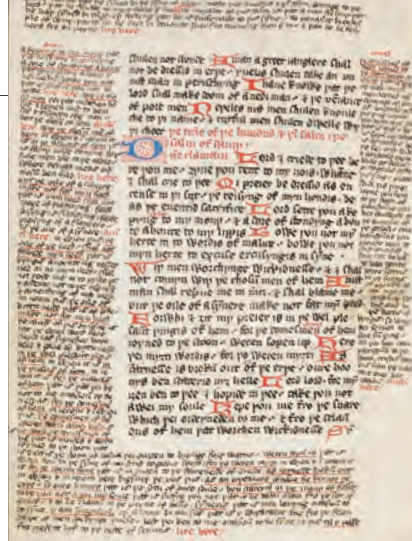
"It's good that people live longer, but we want them to be healthy while they age," said Piedimonte, pointing to other research centers at Tulane that he envisions will grow significantly: the Brain Institute and the Center for Aging. Through these centers, researchers address central nervous system degenerative diseases such as dementia and Alzheimer's and examine tools that allow people to maintain the functionality of the nervous system as they get older.



PHOTO BY PAUL MORSE



COURTESY TULANE NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER



COURTESY BODLEIAN LIBRARIES, OXFORD

“There is incredible research going on across all nine schools at Tulane,” said Piedimonte. As examples, he mentions School of Social Work Dean Patrick Bordnick’s research into virtual reality technology to cope with addictions and School of Liberal Arts Professor of English Michael Kuczynski’s investigation of medieval manuscripts.

Primordial Soup

Piedimonte plans to foster collaboration among researchers whose worlds may look distant. It is synergy that he’s hoping will be sparked. From his three decades doing research, he is convinced that “great research comes from the combination of experiences that are as different as possible. When you put together an engineer and a medical doctor, when you put together a public health specialist and somebody who is interested in literature, that’s when new and standard-breaking research is created.”

Piedimonte’s No. 1 goal is “to bring together people with different talent, with different backgrounds, with different knowledge to basically answer the questions that cannot be answered by the individual specialties.”

The enthusiasm that Piedimonte has encountered on all the campuses of Tulane is “palpable,” he said. It’s as if research activities at the university are in a “primordial soup that is simmering.”

“If we are able to bring these elements together, the effect is going to be an incredible growth in our research mission, which is essential because that is a fundamental mission of Tulane.”

Tulane is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an elite group of high-research universities (60 in the United States and two in Canada) that are invested in the improvement of humanity through research.

An Enzyme to Trigger the Tipping Point

Piedimonte sees that all the pieces are in place for “exponential growth” in research to occur at Tulane.

“All the ingredients — talent, facilities, energy and forward-thinking leadership — are here for the dawn of a new era of research,” he said.

“My goal is to try to bring these ingredients together, like an enzyme, to create a reaction, to make Tulane one of the best institutions in the country.”

A favorite book of Piedimonte’s is *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. (Gladwell, by the way, is scheduled to participate in the New Orleans Book Festival on campus in March. See “Reading Is Fun,” on page 32.) According to *The Tipping Point*, the phenomena of transformations, such as water reaching the boiling point, don’t follow linear paths. Rather, “there is a point in their growth when they start to grow exponentially,” said Piedimonte.

The tipping point comes about after “a certain process goes on a steady pace, and then all of a sudden, when the environmental conditions are ideal, exponential growth occurs.”

This inflection point, he said — the tipping point — is where Tulane is right now. 📖

“Great research comes from the combination of experiences that are as different as possible.”

Research at Tulane ranges over many areas. Top, left: The Louisiana coast near Isle de Jean Charles is a focus of the ByWater Institute. Center: The Zika virus is detectable in the brain of an infected macaque primate in the investigations of Nicholas Maness, research assistant professor. Right: Oxford, MS Bodley 554, fol. 76v. From *A Glossed Wycliffite Psalter*, 2 vols. (Oxford University Press, 2018–19), by Professor of English Michael Kuczynski.



Liz Davey, director of the
Office of Sustainability

greenIMPACT

Tulane is on target to meet the goals for its Climate Action Plan to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions. Liz Davey, director of the Office of Sustainability, has worked closely with students and administrators for 20 years on recycling efforts, energy efficiency and sustainable construction to get to this point, but there's still more to do.

BY ALICIA SERRANO

“I just love seeing people out riding their bikes. It's so many more people than ever before riding their bikes, and [now we have] better accommodations for bicyclists,” said Liz Davey, director of Tulane's Office of Sustainability.

Throughout Davey's two decades at Tulane, she has contributed to many “wonderfully successful” projects involving students, including the New Orleans regional bicycle master plan for which her office was awarded a grant in the early 2000s.

“Our students were involved from the ground up,” said Davey.

That a number of Tulane alumni, as city employees and advocates, are still involved with maintaining and expanding the city's bicycle infrastructure is “so rewarding,” she said.

The word rewarding can easily describe Davey's 20-year career as director in the sustainability office. She has been an innovator in making the Tulane campus more sustainable and environmentally conscious, serving as a resource to campus partners, usually students, to push Tulane toward becoming a model green university.

In 2015, Tulane adopted a Climate Action Plan that Davey is working to implement. This road map includes ways in which the university can reduce its environmental impact in its daily operations. There is a short-term goal of reducing the campus's greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by the end of 2020 and a long-term goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

“In addressing climate change, our energy use is our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions, so we want to shrink that as much as possible and eliminate the dumb waste of energy,” Davey said. “I often say, if people could somehow see the wasted energy in the same way that we can see trash, people would be much more outraged about it.”

Tulane President Mike Fitts enthusiastically backs the Climate Action Plan. During his State of the University address on Sept. 6, he announced that the university is on track to meet the short-term goal and remains committed to the long-term goal. Tulane is also continuing to ensure that new buildings are constructed to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification — the U.S. Green Building Council standard for green building design and operations.

“One of the top priorities of my administration is reducing the environmental impact of our operations and supporting sustainability efforts across the Tulane community,” Fitts said.

Roots of Recycling

Growing up in Madison, Wisconsin, Davey’s passion for sustainability issues and sustainability research took root.

“My inspiration for the things I’ve worked on come from my hometown,” Davey said. “Madison has a lot of parks and bicycling facilities.”

Besides her parents, she had great mentors as an environmental studies undergraduate at Dartmouth College. They impressed upon her the seriousness of addressing climate change.

“Some of the individuals in my life as a young person were dedicated both to protecting the natural world and to creating communities that were healthy and beautiful for everybody.”

Davey said she aims to leave that same lasting impression on Tulane students. She’s been in her role at Tulane since 1999, when her position was created as a result of student activism — and at a time when sustainability on university campuses was still considered a new idea.

In 1996, an undergraduate environmental sociology class conducted an environmental report card of Tulane. One student in the class, Aaron Allen, became interested in universities as laboratories for learning about sustainability and wrote his honors thesis, “Greening the Campus: Institutional Environmental Change at Tulane University,” on how to institutionalize greening at Tulane. He concluded the university needed to hire someone dedicated to leading sustainability work.

He then lobbied the university administration to create the position that Davey has held since.

“(At the beginning) I would partner with anyone who wanted to add an environmental dimension to their program,” she said. Recycling programs, however, have always been the core of student projects. She remembers students showing her how they collected discarded cardboard boxes as people moved into their residence halls.

“We do that every single year now. It’s a huge part of the recycling program and what we do.”

“If people could somehow see the wasted energy in the same way that we can see trash, people would be much more outraged about it.”

Liz Davey, director of the Office of Sustainability

Dinwiddie, the First LEED Building

The Office of Sustainability conducted its first Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in 2002, one of the first in the country. Its author, then a student, now assistant director of the ByWater Institute, Shelley Meaux, updated and expanded it in 2008. Each year since a senior student collects new data and updates the report.

After Katrina, the university stepped up its efforts to implement greener practices.

In 2008, Tulane signed the Presidents’ Climate Leadership Commitment, pledging to engage in creating a more sustainable future and to address climate change.

That same year, the university began its first LEED project: Dinwiddie Hall.

The renovation of that historic 1923 building, home of the Department of Anthropology and the Middle American Research Institute, stands out to Davey.

“The idea was, in the scope of this renovation, we will all learn about the LEED green building system together,” she said.

The renovation preserved more than half of the original interior surfaces. Green versions of drywall, floor tile and metal framing and stairs with a high recycled content are strategically incorporated throughout the building, according to the building’s LEED case study. Low-flow fixtures to reduce water use, daylight sensors that dim the overhead electric lighting when rooms receive enough natural light and occupancy sensors to turn off the lights when rooms are empty lessen the environmental impact as well. A shower is even available for bike commuters, and several bike racks line the building outside to support bike use.

The \$12 million project was completed in 2010 and received LEED’s Gold Certification for Major Construction and Renovation.

“The university architect’s office, the contractor, the local architect; we basically all had this attitude like, ‘we’re all doing this for the first time,’ and it turned out to be a beautiful building. I think it shows how sustainability and historic preservation go together,” Davey said.

Native cypress trees — which are also scattered across campus — were planted in front of the building and help reduce the sunlight absorbed by the sidewalk, also known as the “heat island effect.”

“That row of cypress in front of Dinwiddie is extra special,” Davey said. “They add to the large existing cypress that is tucked up against the building.”

Other LEED projects on campus now include two residence halls, Weatherhead Hall and Barbara Greenbaum House; the Hertz Center, home to Tulane’s volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball teams; the Donna and Paul Flower Hall for Research and Innovation; Yulman Stadium; the addition to the Goldring/Woldenberg Complex, home of Tulane’s A.B. Freeman School of Business; new lab spaces in the J. Bennett Johnston Health and Environmental Research Building on Tulane Avenue; and the School of Social Work space within Elk Place. Davey played a significant role in planning the green features in spaces within the buildings or added to the buildings.



Davey's Mark

- Tulane's campus recycling program is the longest running and largest in the city besides New Orleans municipal curbside collection.
- Water bottle-filling stations are available on the uptown campus in over 20 locations, with current students now surveying buildings to identify additional locations.
- With the implementation of a 15-cent charge for single-use plastic bags at all dining and bookstore locations, the Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus ordered 60% fewer plastic bags in fall 2019.
- Tulane Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reports were first conducted in 2002, and have been done every year since 2006.
- Eight buildings/facilities on the uptown campus and two on the downtown campus are LEED-certified. The Tulane River and Coastal Center is also LEED-certified.
- The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education presented Liz Davey with a Campus Sustainability Research Award in 2018.

Liz Davey, center, relies on students and staff members to help her run the Office of Sustainability. Front row, left to right: Sam Hinerfeld, Darrah Bach, Liz Davey, Hannah Cohen, Ella Cat Strahan. Back row, left to right: Nick Pellegrini, Juwan Magee, Jordan Stewart, Lee Lowery.

Waste Reduction

When Davey isn't assisting in planning campus LEED building projects, she is often meeting and working with students, and her collaborations have blossomed into practical, on-the-ground initiatives.

During the past few years, the Office of Sustainability has spearheaded the university's Climate Action Week, held every spring. The week includes panels, lectures, workshops, and a campus and community organization fair to connect students with groups involved in environmental projects.

The promotion of waste reduction and the development of reusable items has also lately played a key role in the efforts of the sustainability office.

With Davey's guidance, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Sustainability Committee was able to organize the installation of water bottle-filling stations on campus in an effort to reduce single-use plastic water bottle waste. After USG passed a resolution to university administrators to charge 15 cents for single-use plastic bags at all dining and bookstore locations, Davey helped them implement the policy in early 2019. For the fall semester, the Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus ordered 60% fewer plastic bags.

"They (students) come up with their ideas for projects. I do an awful lot of telling students some of the roadblocks they may encounter with some of their ideas, helping them connect with people who can help them or answer their questions to move their project proposals along," Davey said.

The Office of Sustainability is also home to a group of student volunteers called the Waste Warriors, who work

on campaigns and events focused on reducing and reusing campus waste. They help promote reusable mugs, utensils and a reusable dining container available at certain dining locations on campus.

"Students are involved in very real ways in doing the work of this office," she said.

A Greener Future

Although students are major team players, Davey remains at the helm of it all, and she has garnered national recognition for her work. In 2018, she received the Campus Sustainability Research Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The award is presented to individuals or organizations whose research leads and inspires the advancement of sustainability in higher education.

She received the honor after authoring an article, "Recapturing the Learning Opportunities of University Sustainability Indicators" in the *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* (2017). The article explains how the university and its students can measure, evaluate and address sustainability in the university community.

Even though Davey's contributions have paved the way for Tulane's green path, more work is ahead. Tulane is tapped into the best practices of what other universities are doing nationwide, but now is an important time to scale up the efforts.

"It's such a privilege to have a job like this; that you can work with students, working in education. It's very rewarding," she said. "But it also is a responsibility, and I feel like everyone in my spot has to ramp it up.

"If you think about being a sustainable community, it's not just the environmental impact, it's also our impact on the larger community. Are we helping to create a more just community, a more equal community? That's part of having a healthy, sustainable community in the long term." 🌱



THOMAS ADAMS | IÑAKI ALDAY | JAMI ATTENBERG | C. MORGAN
 BOUDREAUX | DONNA L. BRAZILE | DAVID BROOKS | SARAH M. BROOM | GEORGE
 CARTER | JEAN CASE | STEVE CASE | JILL CONNER BROWNE | JUSTIN DE
 CHERYL GERBER | MALCOLM GLADWELL | EDDIE GLAUDE | ANNETTE
 GRISHAM | YURI HERRERA | LADEE HUBBARD | VALERIE JARRETT | MARGAR
 NANCY LEMANN | NICK LEMANN | MICHAEL LEWIS | ERIC MOTLEY | JUSTIN N
 POWER | SISTER HELEN PREJEAN | CAROL MCMICHAEL REESE | PETER RICC
 SCARBOROUGH | ALON SHAYA | KATY SIMPSON SMITH | ANNE SNYDER | M
 SEAN TUOHY | SHEBA TURK | MARK VANLANDINGHAM | KIM VAZ-DEVILLE



For book lovers of all ages, the New Orleans Book Festival is poised to be a premiere national literary event. The festival welcomes everyone to campus in March to meet and greet famous authors and celebrate the joy of literature.

BY BARRI BRONSTON

BABST | JOHN BARRY | JASON BERRY | ROY BLOUNT JR. | BEAU
 NNY BRZEZINSKI | MIKA BRZEZINSKI | RICHARD CAMPANELLA | STEPHANIE
 VILLIER | BRIAN EDWARDS | DAVE EGGERS | FREDDI EVANS | EMMA FICK
 GORDON-REED | RICHARD GRANT | ROBERTA BRANDES GRATZ | JOHN
 ITA JOVER | MOLLY KIMBALL | MITCH LANDRIEU | KRIS LANE | ERIK LARSON
 YSTROM | PETER S. ONUF | TOM PIAZZA | LAWRENCE N. POWELL | SAMANTHA
 CHIUTI | SUSAN RICE | MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN | MATT SAKAKEENY | JOE
 MIKE STRECKER | EVAN THOMAS | MICHAEL TISSERAND | POPPY TOOKER |
 CLEO WADE | DARREN WALKER | JEANETTE WEILAND | CHRIS YANDLE

“Events like this make our campus and the Tulane experience available to everyone, especially the young minds and aspiring writers of New Orleans.”

Mike Fitts, *President of Tulane*

Staging a book festival to expose children to the joy of reading was one of Cheryl Landrieu's most rewarding achievements as first lady of the City of New Orleans. Partnering with civil rights activist and educator Ruby Bridges in observance of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of public schools, Landrieu envisioned a celebration of learning replete with author readings, book giveaways and literacy resources for parents.

And that is exactly what she got, with families of all backgrounds, from all parts of the city, gathering on the lawn of Milton H. Latter Memorial Library in 2010 for the inaugural New Orleans Children's Book Festival.

Nearly a decade later, the festival is about to take a major leap into the literary world with a three-day extravaganza that organizers predict will become one of the premiere book events in the country. The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University, scheduled for March 19–21, 2020, will continue the tradition of children's programming but will go well beyond cartoon characters, juice boxes and storytelling.

“It is Tulane's great honor to host a festival that brings together the world's leading authors, book lovers of all genres and the children of our community,” President Mike Fitts said. “Events like this make our campus and the Tulane experience available to everyone, especially the young minds and aspiring writers of New Orleans.”

Landrieu is partnering with Tulane's own Walter Isaacson, a history professor who knows a thing or two about the literary world, to co-chair the festival. Author of such best-selling biographies as *Steve Jobs*, *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, and most recently *Leonardo DaVinci*, Isaacson has appeared at countless book festivals

across the country and couldn't help but think that his hometown was missing out on something special.

“As an author, I noticed that so many cities around the country have major book festivals,” Isaacson said. “I love all the festivals in New Orleans, but it seemed to me that somewhere in the cultural calendar between food and wine and jazz it would be fun to do a major literary and ideas festival.”

To have Tulane as a partner convinced Landrieu that the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane, even in its inaugural year, would be one for the ages. “It's a natural literary thing to have a university as partner, and with Walter's connections, we felt we could really put on something special,” she said.

The list of authors who have committed to the festival reads like a who's who of the literary and media worlds, beginning with an opening night keynote discussion and reception with John Grisham, whose legal thrillers from *A Time to Kill* to *The Reckoning* have sold upwards of 275 million copies and been translated into 42 languages.

The festival will continue throughout the weekend with panel discussions, keynote lectures, books fairs and workshops. It will be divided into seven tracks — American Society, Health & Science, Food, Sports, New Orleans Culture, Fiction and Children. At least one major plenary session featuring a leading author will be held each day, and a variety of social events and sponsorship opportunities will take place across the city, including a patron dine-around at neighboring Audubon Place.

The lineup as of *Tulanian* press time includes David Brooks (*The Road to Character*), Donna L. Brazile (*For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics*), Sarah M. Broom (*The Yellow House*), Jill Conner Browne (*The Sweet Potato Queens*), Malcolm Gladwell (*Talking to Strangers*), Eddie Glaude (*Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*), Annette Gordon-Reed (*Most Blessed of the Patriarchs: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of Imagination*), Mitch Landrieu (*In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History*), Michael Lewis (*The Undoing Project*), Samantha Power (*The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir*), Sister Helen Prejean (*River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*), Susan Rice (*Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For*), and Sean Tuohy, whose story about adopting football player Michael Oher was the basis for Michael Lewis' book *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*.

Dozens of local authors, including Tulane professors Richard Campanella (*Lost New Orleans*) and Mark VanLandingham (*Weathering Katrina*), will also be participating in the festival.

Mika Brzezinski (*Know Your Value*) and Joe Scarborough (*The Right Path: From Ike to Reagan, How Republicans Once Mastered Politics — and Can Again*) of MSNBC's “Morning Joe” will broadcast from Tulane on Friday, March 20. (Isaacson makes regular appearances on “Morning Joe.”)

The family portion of the festival will be especially engaging, with author readings, parent workshops, a reading corner and costume characters all part of the experience. In partnership with Scholastic Corporation, a multinational publishing and education company, and the City of New Orleans' Department of Youth and Families, the festival will reach out to teachers and school organizations in advance of the festival to encourage attendance.



“We want kids to come and meet authors and learn what authors do,” Landrieu said. “We want them to see a college campus and meet professors. We want it to be a very energetic, dynamic, diverse experience. And most important, we want kids to see that reading is fun.”

As part of the planning process, she and Isaacson met with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who couldn’t have been more thrilled with the idea but emphasized the importance of family programming.

“She was enthusiastically supportive,” Isaacson said. “But she was the one who suggested that we emphasize family literacy and make it a celebration of community literacy. We want it to be a fun day but also a valuable educational opportunity.”

The Book Fest committee, which also includes Allison Hjortsberg and Lindsey Billips, is working with local public school and library systems to make sure that families are not only aware of Family Day but know that it is free.

Among the organizations that the festival is partnering with is 826 New Orleans, a nonprofit group that cultivates and publishes the writing of New Orleans children and teens. The group is a chapter of 826 National, which was co-founded by Dave Eggers, author of such award-winning books as *Zeitoun* and *What Is the What*.

“We provide a safe space for young writers to develop their craft,” 826 New Orleans Executive Director Brooke Pickett said. “We believe strong writing skills lead to self advocacy and self empowerment.”

She said the New Orleans Book Festival presented an ideal opportunity to showcase the organization’s mission with the wider New Orleans community.

“We’ll have a tent and we’ll be providing activities for young kids centered around writing,” Eggers is expected to be in attendance to highlight the work of New Orleans participants.

Family Day will take place on the Berger Family Lawn in the center of campus, while the other parts of the festival will be spread among the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, The Commons, Freeman and McAlister auditoriums and the Myra Clare Rogers Memorial Chapel.

Except for a few ticketed events — such as the John Grisham keynote and patron dinners and receptions — admission to the festival is free.

“This is not an invitation-only event,” Isaacson said. “We want this to be accessible to anyone who wants to come. We want to involve everyone, from all walks of life and all ages.”

NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL AT TULANE, MARCH 19–21, 2020.

Book Fest team members (left to right) Allison Hjortsberg, Lindsey Billips, Walter Isaacson and Cheryl Landrieu join Tulane President Mike Fitts at the announcement of the Book Festival lineup in October.

Wavemakers

TULANE EXPERIENCES ANOTHER RECORD FUNDRAISING YEAR

For the third straight year, Tulane University has posted a record-setting fundraising pace, inspiring an unprecedented 25,221 donors to give more than \$130 million in the fiscal year 2018-19, second only to last year's total of \$150 million.

This fiscal year's fundraising totals pushed Tulane past the billion-dollar mark of the *Only the Audacious: The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane*. Tulane has currently raised \$1.04 billion toward its goal of \$1.3 billion. So far, nearly \$250 million of the campaign's overall commitments will support innovative research that ranges from combating infectious diseases to the latest breakthroughs in brain science.

Increasing scholarship funding is a major priority of the campaign. To that end, 228 endowed and current-use scholarships and fellowships have been created since the launch of the campaign in December 2017. The percentage of first-generation students in Tulane's incoming class has also increased by approximately 28 percent since 2017.

"While excitement is building at Tulane as we near our goal, the success of this campaign will have the greatest impact beyond our campuses," Tulane President Mike Fitts said. "We raise funds to support today's most advanced research and teaching, preparing tomorrow's leaders to address society's most intractable problems. Our success would not be possible without our hundreds of campaign volunteers across the country led by co-chairs Catherine D. Pierson, Hunter Pierson, Phyllis Taylor and Richard Yulman."

This year's fundraising success was boosted by events such as the second-annual day of giving, Give Green, which raised more than \$780,000 in 24 hours. Donors from all 50 states and worldwide contributed more than 3,000 gifts and

raised 70 percent more than during the inaugural Give Green in 2018.

"This was another tremendous year for Tulane University, and I applaud the efforts of everyone involved," Yulman said. "The success of the *Only the Audacious* campaign will allow Tulane to continue to attract the brightest and most accomplished students from around the world, pursue top faculty and staff and enhance the overall campus experience."

Below: Fans of Tulane on Give Green Day. Facing page, left: James McLachlan (center) will lead an immune system study with John McLachlan (left) and Dr. Franck Mauvais-Jarvis (right); right: A gift from Robert and Elizabeth "Libby" Alexander will benefit research faculty.





Tulane receives \$1 million to study why women have stronger immune systems

Do women have an extra line of defense in their immune systems that gives them an advantage over men in fighting infections?

That's one of the questions Tulane University researchers hope to answer using a \$1 million grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation to study how sex differences shape disparate immune responses in men and women.

The grant was awarded to a team of School of Medicine scientists led by James McLachlan, associate professor of microbiology and immunology. He will work with his father, Weatherhead Professor of Pharmacology John McLachlan, a national expert in women's health and estrogen action, and Price-Goldsmith Professor of Nutrition Dr. Franck Mauvais-Jarvis, a leading researcher of sex differences in metabolic diseases.

"One of the most fundamental, unanswered questions in immunology and inflammation is why males and females often exhibit vastly different immune responses," said James McLachlan. "Females respond more vigorously to infection and vaccination compared to males, but they also exhibit a greater incidence of many autoimmune diseases."

"We made the surprising discovery that females appear to have evolved an immune system that is distinct and separate from that of males," McLachlan said. "It is possible that this novel immune system can explain why female immunity is often much more potent across species."

Based in Los Angeles, the W. M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 by the late W. M. Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Co. The foundation's grant-making is focused primarily on pioneering efforts in the areas of medical, science and engineering research.

DONORS GIVE \$2 MILLION TO HELP FACULTY COMPETE FOR RESEARCH DOLLARS



Tulane alumna and board member Elizabeth "Libby" Alexander (NC '84) and her husband, Robert, have pledged \$2 million to set up a fund to support faculty and the university's research grant proposal development initiatives so that researchers can spend more time pursuing world-changing discoveries.

"After speaking with researchers and learning they were spending an inordinate amount of time on administration — putting grants together and doing follow-up reporting — rather than focusing on impactful research, we knew there had to be a better solution," said Libby Alexander. "Lifting these administrative burdens will enable Tulane researchers to secure funding even faster and with a higher success rate than ever before."

The gift will support Tulane's newly expanded Office of Research Proposal Development, an office solely dedicated to helping faculty across the university prepare the best possible proposals for federal research grants from sponsors such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and others.

"Research is at the heart of Tulane's mission," said Tulane University President Mike Fitts. "We're so grateful to Libby and Robert Alexander for their generous support as we work to significantly expand our

research enterprise across the university and across all disciplines."

The gift will support research grant proposal development initiatives in the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the School of Science and Engineering, the Tulane National Primate Research Center, and elsewhere in the university, including cross-disciplinary research efforts. It will also help researchers in meeting compliance and reporting requirements for existing grants.

"If we can help relieve investigators from all of those different administrative tasks in proposal development, so that they can just focus on the science, we've done them a tremendous service and we're enabling them to submit more grant applications to pursue even more research," said Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, Tulane vice president of research. "I think that we're going to see some exciting returns on those investments, and some great science will be coming out of the process."

Libby Alexander is the former vice chairman of the board of Cotiviti Inc., the successor company of her family's retail and healthcare payment integrity business, Connolly Inc. Robert Alexander is the former chief information officer of Connolly.

MAJOR GIFT LAUNCHES FIRST AMENDMENT CLINIC

With support from a nearly \$1 million gift from the Stanton Foundation, Tulane Law School will launch a new law clinic dedicated to First Amendment rights, Dean David Meyer announced.

The gift will cover the full operating costs of the new clinic for five years and enable the law school to hire a new faculty member to lead the clinic.

Once in operation, the clinic will represent clients seeking to vindicate First Amendment rights of speech, of the press, to petition and of assembly under the supervision of faculty mentors.

"This is an exceptional opportunity to extend Tulane's signature strength in clinical education, while leveraging our faculty's leading expertise in the First Amendment and serving vital community needs," Meyer said. "We're grateful to the Stanton Foundation for partnering with Tulane in making this possible."

The Stanton Foundation was created by Frank Stanton, a longtime president of CBS News, to advance First Amendment and democratic values through an informed citizenry.

The foundation partnered with Tulane in the new clinic both because of Tulane's renowned strength in clinical education and its leading faculty expertise on the First Amendment.

One of the first law schools in the country to launch a clinical program, Tulane remains a national leader in providing professional skills training to students. The school celebrated the 40th anniversary of its clinical program last spring.



GIFT WILL TRANSFORM JEWISH STUDIES

Tulane University has received a generous gift from Stuart and Suzanne Grant of Wilmington, Delaware, to establish the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience. It is among the largest gifts to the Tulane School of Liberal Arts and the largest ever to the Department of Jewish Studies.

The gift from the Grants' I Could Do Great Things Foundation will double the number of research faculty in the Jewish Studies department. The gift will also provide operating support for the center that will bear their name.

"With this visionary gift, Tulane is poised to become a national leader in the study of the American Jewish experience, with a particular, unique and interdisciplinary focus on the history of Jews in the Gulf South and the region more generally," Tulane President Mike Fitts said. "We are so grateful to the Grants for their support, which will position Tulane as a hub of excellence and the global leader in the study of the American Jewish experience."

"Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Stuart and Suzanne Grant, we will build a world-class faculty and implement

a dynamic and innovative slate of programming," said Michael Cohen, Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies and chair of the Department of Jewish Studies.

The Grants formed the I Could Do Great Things Foundation in 2009 to support a range of social initiatives related to education, Jewish causes and projects that strengthen communities. They also provided an initial gift to an initiative at Tulane University that fosters academic collaboration between U.S. and Israeli universities.

Stuart Grant is the co-founder of Grant & Eisenhofer P.A., and the co-founder and managing director of Bench Walk Advisors.

Suzanne Barton Grant serves as the chair of the board of the Delaware State Pension Fund. She is former president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the immediate past national campaign chair for Jewish Federations of North America.

The Grants' son Sam graduated from Tulane in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. He is now a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. 🇺🇸

Above: A donation by Tulane parents Stuart and Suzanne Grant, pictured with their son Sam (SSE '19), will create the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience.

Tulanians

Submit your news to alumni.tulane.edu/news and follow @tulanealumni on Facebook to share your memories and join the conversation.



What impact did your Tulane education have on your career? Did you meet a future business partner? Take a class that changed your career direction?



Tulane has everything to do with my career (now a professor of social work and a clinician), from the psych professor who advised me into social work, to the faculty at the School of Social Work, to the fantastic internships.

It was all Tulane.

Stacy Lang (NC '87, SW '88)



I came to Tulane after being recruited by the Army ROTC program. I never expected to make the Army Reserves a career choice. Now, 23 years later, I'm an Army colonel, recently completed my doctorate in public health, started teaching future healthcare administrators and am launching a new venture to help seniors age safely at home. I'd say accepting a seat with the Class of 1996 was a great choice for me!

Caroline Pogge (NC '96)

SCENES FROM WAVE 2019

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2019 brought together the reunion classes of 1979 and 1984, among others. Glorious weather and a football victory kept spirits high.

PHOTOS BY CHERYL GERBER



IMPRESSION

WELLINGTON 'DUKE' REITER

Wellington "Duke" Reiter (A '81) is convinced "bending the curve of the future will require thinking at scale."

He is the founder of TEN ACROSS (10X) whose main goal is "awareness-building" for the critical issues of our time including water, energy and immigration, all of which he suggests are found in their most dramatic forms along the Interstate Highway 10 corridor.

To plan effectively for the future, "it takes leadership, it takes policy changes, it takes public will, it takes patient communication, and, to some degree, a disregard for conventional boundaries," said Reiter, an architect and urban planner.

The I-10 corridor — stretching 2,400 miles from Los Angeles to Phoenix, Houston, New Orleans and Jacksonville, Florida — "provides the most compelling window on the state of the

country, one which presents the challenges of the 21st century in the highest relief," said Reiter.

Reiter has called two cities on the I-10 home where water is crucial to their futures. One is New Orleans, which has an abundance of water, and Phoenix in the desert Southwest with a scarcity of water.

Water — too much or too little — is of vital importance to these two cities and thus a logical point of initiation for this project.

The formative years that Reiter spent in New Orleans as an architecture student led him to this moment, he said. His Tulane thesis was on disaster housing. Then his graduate work at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard was on how New Orleans could plan more effectively for the inevitable significant weather events that visit the city on a regular basis. (Reiter brought 50 Tulane architecture students to Arizona State University when Katrina struck in 2005.)

When Reiter moved to Phoenix, he saw similar consequences with regard to preparedness. He is now the senior advisor to the president of Arizona State University. He's in charge of large-scale, multi-stakeholder projects such as establishing a major campus

in downtown Phoenix 15 years ago, at which 13,000 students are now enrolled. He's also the former dean of the ASU College of Design. He serves on the Tulane School of Architecture Advisory Board.

He's usually dealing with concerns related to the built environment of the university, and "why we are where we are, and what we plan to do there."

He also runs the University City Exchange at ASU, which addresses what can the university do for the city? And what can the city do for the university?

Reiter said he cares deeply about the relationship between cities and universities.

TEN ACROSS (10X)'s next summit (www.10xwatersummit.com) is scheduled for March 23-25, 2020, in Houston and will use water as a leading indicator of how we will deal with large-scale issues of all kinds.

"10X is about building a network of networks," Reiter said. In dialogue with like-minded universities, like-minded mayors and a community of foundations, "everyone is going to benefit from the knowledge exchange." 🍷

1960
1969

Former Louisiana politician **JAMES H. "JIM" BROWN (L '66)** has just published his fifth book, *My Louisiana Odyssey*, in which he describes his personal relationships with a number of the state's governors, as well as tales of meeting different presidents. His banjo playing helped him get through Tulane Law School and also led to a brief acting career. He lives in Baton Rouge.

TIM BERRA (G '67, '69) published his ninth book in 2019, *Bourbon: What the Educated Drinker Should Know*, which is illustrated with 275 of his own photos. He also presented two lectures at Tulane this spring, one discussing his recent book, *Darwin and His Children: His Other Legacy*, and a research seminar entitled "Chasing Nurseryfish and Avoiding Crocodiles in Northern Australia." Berra lives near Bellville, Ohio.

1970
1979

MARLENE ESKIND MOSES (NC '72, SW '73) has been selected for inclusion in the 2020 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. She has been recognized by Best Lawyers for over 10 years for her family law practice in Nashville, Tennessee.

NATALIA COKINOS OAKES (NC '73) was elected judge of the 33rd Juvenile Family District Court of Harris County, Texas, in November 2018, for a four-year term. Oakes lives in Houston.

KENNETH E. ARNOLD (PHTM '75, L '84) was appointed vice chair of the board of directors for Covenant Health in Massachusetts this summer.

The Association of American Medical Colleges announced the 2019 recipients of the association's annual awards, which honor individuals and institutions making significant contributions to medical education, research, clinical care, and community engagement. **N. KEVIN KRANE, MD (M '77)**, vice dean for academic affairs and professor of medicine at the Tulane School of Medicine, received an Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award for his "ability to lead and collaborate, which ensured Tulane medical students and faculty were quickly able to resume their work after Hurricane Katrina, [and] his passion for innovation that has led to thoughtful curricular reforms that have helped students keep up with the rapid proliferation of information."

DR. TERRY PROPPER (NC '77), a Nashville endodontist, was named president of the Tennessee Dental Association.

New works by mixed media artist **SHERRY KARVER (G '78)** were on display at Stremmel Gallery in Reno, Nevada, this fall. Her "Surveillance Series" was featured in the August 2019 issue of *Edge of Humanity* Magazine. She was also chosen as a finalist for the Texas Photographic Society National Photography award. Karver lives in Oakland, California.

GORDON LOVE (M '78) was appointed chair of the Department of Pathology at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans in May 2019. He is a microbiologist and mycologist

and holds the Jack Perry Strong, MD, Endowed Chair of Pathology. His second text, *The Color Atlas of Mycology*, was published in November 2018.

SCOTT MEXIC (A&S '78, B '80, L '83) of Washington, D.C., was recently named to the board of a national charity, State Funeral for World War II Veterans, whose purpose is to gain presidential support for a state funeral for the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

1980
1989

WILLIAM TEMPLE BEAM JR. (A&S '80), who lives in Prospect, Kentucky, has retired from a career in political and public service in that state. He continues to attend Tulane homecoming annually and serve on various boards, including the Kentucky Derby Museum and Kentucky Country Day School.

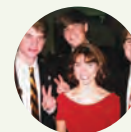
Morris Adjmi Architects in New York City, led by principal **MORRIS ADJMI (A '83)**, published *A Grid and a Conversation*, the first monograph on the firm's work.

MICHAEL J. BELL (A '83, L '90) of Bell Architecture in New Orleans celebrated the design of the firm's 500th home for New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity this summer. Bell has created 15 different designs and donated the drawings for 500 new homes, including those in the now iconic Musicians' Village.

CAMERON M. WEBER (B '83) has produced his 25th television show for the Brooklyn Free Speech Media Network. The monthly show about libertarian political economy, also available on YouTube, is called "Hardfire TV." Weber, an economics professor at St. John's University in Queens, New York, also earned a dual PhD in economics from the New School for Social Research.

MARTIN MOELLER (A '84) and **STEVEN DICKENS (A '89)** are taking a yearlong sabbatical in Italy and Miami. Moeller left his position as senior curator at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., and plans to work full time as an independent curator and writer and will be a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome this fall. Dickens is taking a leave of absence and will return to work at Eric Colbert & Associates following the sabbatical.

What impact did your Tulane education have on your career? Did you meet a future business partner? Take a class that changed your career direction?



When I was accepted to Tulane, I was offered financial aid and the opportunity for a work study.

I worked on the Direction Speakers Symposium, overseen by Carolyn Barber-Pierre, and participated in a panel where Joyce Carol Oates came to speak. During the panel, she said: "All we can ever ask for is an opportunity."

In my career in energy, I have been fortunate to participate directly in the largest natural gas discoveries in history, converting a large percentage of the U.S.' electricity plants from coal-burning to natural gas.

Tulane (and a lot of red beans and rice Mondays) gave me the opportunity to be part of this global change. I will always be grateful for the influence of Carolyn Barber-Pierre and to have been part of the class of '96.

Joan Williams Dunlap (NC '96)



I started Advano [a nanotechnology startup].
Alexander Girau (SSE '12)

HEALTHCARE LEADER

NYU Langone Health announced that New York University School of Medicine will be renamed the NYU Robert I. Grossman School of Medicine in honor of the current dean of the school and CEO of NYU Langone Health, **ROBERT GROSSMAN (A&S '69)**. Grossman was the principal architect of many historic initiatives in health care, including the recent decision to provide tuition-free medical education for all current and future students in the school's MD degree program. He was also behind the creation of NYU Long Island School of Medicine — a partnership between NYU and NYU Langone Health — offering full-tuition scholarships with an accelerated three-year curriculum exclusively devoted to training primary care physicians.

New Orleans artist **BARBARA BRAINARD'S (NC '85, G '88)** solo exhibition of monotypes, "Tour Guide," was displayed at Cole Pratt Gallery this fall. Her drawing is also the cover art for *Sweet Spots: In Between Spaces in New Orleans*, a collection of essays on the New Orleans urban landscape published by Mississippi University Press.

JOSÉ R. COT (A&S '85, L '88), a partner at Hurley & Cot, APLC, in New Orleans, moderated "Federal District Courts in Louisiana: Differences and Practice Pointers," a panel discussion sponsored by the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

BRIG. GEN. PAUL FRIEDRICHS (A&S '86) recently became the joint staff surgeon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, where he provides oversight of operational medicine for the Department of Defense.

HEATHER MCARN (NC '86) joined the New York office of Hinshaw & Culbertson in October 2019 as a partner in the Consumer Financial Services Practice. She was previously the chief of staff and special counsel to the superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services.

EDOUARD FONTENOT (A&S '87) is chief clinical officer at Commonwealth Psychology Services LLC, a multidisciplinary psychology services practice in Boston, Newton, Wellesley and Cambridge, Massachusetts. He also earned a Master of Divinity and a PhD. He and



MUSIC ... AND MURDER

In September **ELLEN SEIDEMAN (N '77)**, who writes as Ellen Byron, published *Fatal Cajun Festival*, the fifth book in her award-winning *Cajun Country Mystery* series. A former cater-waiter for Martha Stewart, Seideman will also debut her *Catering Hall Mysteries* series next year. She lives in Los Angeles.

his husband, Christopher Bellonci, MD, live in Boston and Truro, Massachusetts.

Registered architect **JAMES SMITH (A '87, '04)**, AIA, joined the Baltimore office of Quinn Evans Architects. With nearly 20 years of experience, Smith has completed numerous new construction, renovation and adaptive use projects. His portfolio includes the transformation of a 90-year-old grain elevator into the Silo Point residences and the award-winning Clipper Mill redevelopment in Baltimore, and the expansion and renovation of the Banneker Douglass Museum in Annapolis.

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR HAS WHO'S WHO OF FORMER STUDENTS

Robert Bruce, professor emeritus, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has taught a few engineering alumni who have been in the news: **GEN. DAVID BERGER (E '81)**, the newly assigned commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, businessman and Olympic sailor **JOHN DANE III (E '72, '75)** and astronaut **DOUG HURLEY (E '88)**. Bruce also counts among his former students Tulane biomedical engineering Professor of Practice **KATHERINE RAYMOND (E '99, '07)**, who leads a program improving health care in remote villages in Peru, and businessman **ROBERT S.**

BOH (E '80, '81), who served as Rex during

Mardi Gras 2019.

"It's been wonderful to watch where my students' careers and activities take them," Bruce said.

THOMAS FLANAGAN (L '89), an attorney at Flanagan Partners LLP in New Orleans, was named in the "Band 1" list for general commercial litigation in Louisiana, in the 2019 *Chambers Guide to the Top Lawyers and Law Firms in the USA*.

JON LEWIS (B '89), a partner in the law firm of Lewis and Feldman LLC recently joined The Neutral Solution, a mediation firm in Birmingham, Alabama.



New York-based artist **DEBORAH CZERE-SKO (G '92)** recently won the glassblowing competition on the Netflix reality series "Blown Away." Her works are also on display in the exhibition "New Glass Now," a global study of contemporary glass at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York.

EDUARDO A. FEBLES (A&S '92) published his English translation of Patrick Autéaux's novel, *In the Valley of Tears*, this fall. He is an associate professor and co-chair of modern languages and literature at Simmons University in Boston.

The American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a leading national legal organization, presented **BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE (A&S '92)**, the Texas Supreme Court's clerk of the court, with the Kathleen McCree Lewis Award for Appellate Justice at its conference in April.

ANDREW WALSH (A&S '92) has joined the law firm Wilson Elser as an attorney in the Birmingham, Alabama, office. His practice focuses on the defense of registered motor carriers and their commercial drivers. Wilson Elser is a founding member of Legalign Global, a close alliance of four of the world's leading insurance law firms.

STEFANIE BROWN NAUMANN (NC '93), a professor of management in the Eberhardt School of Business at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, co-authored a book with her late grandfather called *How Languages Saved Me: A Polish Story of Survival*. Orphaned in Poland at age 13, Tadeusz "Tad" Haska survived World War II on the run, narrowly evading the Nazis every step of the way. After the war, he daringly escaped jail by the Soviet Secret Police, fled to Sweden and launched an elaborate plan to smuggle his wife in a coffin on an all-male naval ship.

SHANNON WEBER (SW '93) recently published a new book, *Show Up Hard: A Road Map for Helpers in Crisis*. Based at the University of California–San Francisco, she is the founder and director of PleasePrePMe.org and the creator of LoveYou2.org.

TOM WAGUESPACK (A&S '94) recently published his debut novel, *Sigimmortal*, with Alban Lake Publishing. The novel combines elements of steampunk, science fiction and historical fiction.

BIG SCORE

Seven-year-old Walker Richardson, son of **ANGELIQUE DAIGLE RICHARDSON (B '01)** and **WIL RICHARDSON (B '99)**, recovered three home run balls during a second-inning run in a baseball game against Southeastern Louisiana University on April 9. In that inning, Tulane scored an unprecedented three home runs, for a total of seven runs.

ISABEL GONZÁLEZ WHITAKER (NC '94) was recently appointed to the new role of senior advisor, corporate social responsibility, for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She was selected as a 2018 Presidential Leadership Scholar, as supported by presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, for creating the award-winning Sara J. González Memorial Park, the first park in Georgia named for a Latino. In 2019, after leaving her role as deputy editor of *Billboard* magazine, she served as the Mike Curb Institute Scholar in Residence at Rhodes College in Memphis.

MARIA GAZTAMBIDE (B '95, G '01, SLA '15) is the inaugural director and chief curator for public art for the University of Houston System. Gaztambide published two books in 2019: *El Techo de la Ballena: Retro-Modernity in Venezuela* and *On Site: 50 Years of Public Art of the University of Houston System*. One of her essays also



IMPRESSION

KIM VAZ-DEVILLE

As a child, Kim Vaz-Deville (NC '81, G '83) spent many hours at her grandparents' and great-grandparents' double on North Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans, and she remembers vividly the hustle and bustle of that vibrant neighborhood. Growing up in the '60s and '70s, Vaz-Deville experienced the rise of African American political and social power, but also witnessed the devastation of the Claiborne Avenue community that resulted from the construction of Interstate Highway 10. She recalls sadly how Mardi Gras masking traditions waned within the black community.

After completing undergraduate and graduate work at Tulane, Vaz-Deville earned her PhD from Indiana University, and is now a professor of education and associate dean of

the College of Arts and Sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana. As a feminist scholar, she has contemplated the ways in which African American women have created their own traditions and made a mark on New Orleans.

Vaz-Deville became particularly interested in the Baby Dolls, groups of working-class women who began masking for Carnival around 1912. Dressed in baby doll costumes of short dresses, garters and bonnets, these women would strut and shake as they walked down the street, singing bawdy songs. They defied social norms and the traditional perception of the place of women of color in society.

"You could contrast [the Baby Dolls] with black people's [customary] participation in Mardi Gras as servants at balls and as flambeaux carriers ... they weren't allowed to go on Canal Street, so they made their own Mardi Gras," Vaz-Deville said.

Vaz-Deville's curiosity about these strong, defiant women led her to write *The Baby Dolls: Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition* (2013). The

book explores the Baby Doll tradition and its evolution to the modern day.

The Louisiana State Museum also presented an exhibition, "They Call Me Baby Doll: A Mardi Gras Tradition," at the Presbytere in 2013, based on Vaz-Deville's research. This collaborative spirit led to Vaz-Deville's 2018 publication, *Walking Raddy: The Baby Dolls of New Orleans*, a collection of essays and visual art by New Orleans scholars and artists.

Traditionally, masking groups only came out for Mardi Gras and St. Joseph's Night, but today there are over a dozen Baby Doll groups who also participate in Jazz Fest, Satchmo SummerFest, funerals and parties. As a new generation of Baby Dolls revives the tradition in New Orleans, Vaz-Deville sees connections that are meaningful for this century.

"It's a new cultural era where people have more opportunities," she said. "They are forming a sisterhood; they are there to support and celebrate each other." 🍷

IMPRESSION

BILL GROOM

As a child growing up in California, Missouri, Bill Groom (G '74) used his imagination to entertain his family at his grandmother's house every other Sunday with self-produced plays in the living room and the occasional circus in the backyard. He would rearrange furniture and use household textiles to create sets, and he and his cousin Connie would star. At the time it was just a hobby and not intended to be the start of a career path, but "turns out it was."

Groom has since launched a highly successful and illustrious career as a production designer and art director for both television and film. He has worked with such directors as Martin Scorsese, Ryan Murphy and most recently Amy Sherman-Palladino on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (for which he drew inspiration from his own nostalgia for "old New York"). He has also designed for "Saturday Night Live" (during the time of Gilda Radner and Eddie Murphy) and "Boardwalk Empire," for which he won four Primetime Emmys.

Having originally planned on majoring in art, Groom's need for structure and story led him to study theater as an undergraduate. He was offered an assistantship and full scholarship to Tulane's graduate school after being scouted by the then-chair of the theater department at a regional undergrad competition. He recounted that at this time, the theater department was housed in a wooden World War II-surplus building at the front of campus near St. Charles Avenue.

After graduating from Tulane with an MFA, Groom took a teaching position at Stony Brook University (just outside New York City). Four years later he moved into the city to freelance, and after passing the required scenic design

tests for the union, he landed the art director job at "Saturday Night Live," where he "learned to work really fast." Not long after that, he was offered what he considers to be his big break as production designer for *A League of Their Own*, and the rest is history.

"My career's never been better," Groom said, before stating that most of his success

happened after he turned 60. He feels grateful to have had opportunities to work on very different projects throughout his career (such as "Boardwalk" vs. "Mrs. Maisel"). Asked what kind of project(s) might be up next, he said that he is just happy working.

"You just see what's in front of you and make a choice." 🍷



GRADS CONTINUE TO BUILD TOGETHER

The Tulane School of Architecture gave rise to a network of Tulane alumni with ties to Los Angeles. **DAVID THOMPSON (A '91)** of Assembledge+, an architect whose firm specializes in high-end residences and hospitality spaces, recently joined the board of the School of Architecture. Thompson previously practiced in New York City with **SCOTT SATIN (A '90)**, who is now a biotelemetry entrepreneur. Thompson recently helped Satin remodel his Washington, D.C., home. Thompson also works with renowned Los Angeles interior designer **JAMIE BUSH (A '93)** on many high-profile projects. And finally, **HAILY ZAKI (NC '99)**, a Los Angeles-based creative communications executive, works with Thompson's firm, Assembledge+, as a client.

appeared in *Contesting Modernity: Informalism in Venezuela, 1955–1975*.

PETER LOWY (L '95) shareholder in the Houston office of Chamberlain Hrdlicka, has recently received the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Achievement. Through Houston Volunteer Lawyers, Lowy provided support to a fellow volunteer attorney on a pro bono tax case. The pair helped a client file suit for refund in the United States District Court for The Southern District of Texas and upon successful resolution obtained more than \$200,000 in refund checks from the IRS.

BRIAN STAFFORD (M '95, PHTM '95) left his position as the Anschutz Family Chair in Perinatal and Early Childhood Psychiatry at Children's Hospital Colorado to retrain as an eco-depth psychologist and wilderness guide. He recently founded Wilderness Is Medicine to support nature-based resilience and leadership for healthcare providers. He is also the vice president of the California Teachers College and co-founder of Seminary of the Wild, as well as a guide and trainer with the Animas Valley Institute. He guides primarily in Ojai, California.

DEREK HOEFERLIN (A '97) has been named chair of the landscape architecture and urban design programs in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. Hoeferlin joined the university in 2005 and has expertise in water management systems and adaptive land strategies.

SCARLET PAOLICCHI (A&S '97), Nashville-based founder of Family Focus Blog,

just published her first book, *Sharing Stories, Making Memories: A Journal for Grandparents and Grandchildren*.

MADELINE VANN (PHTM '98) recently completed a Master of Education from William & Mary and is now a resident in counseling at The Farley Center, a residential addiction treatment facility in Williamsburg, Virginia.



DR. SOPHIA OMORO (G '00, M '02), visited the downtown campus to give a lecture titled "How Significant Are You?" to the Tulane Group on Women in Medicine and Science. Omoro, a native of Kenya who is now an otolaryngology surgeon in Lima, Ohio, is also a social entrepreneur, having created Blooming Lily, a foundation established to empower young girls. She is CEO and sole designer behind "odaOMO," (The House of Aomo), a line of modern women's wear that supports improved social and economic conditions in Kenya through opportunity.

KENNETH ROHMAN (B '00) has been named chief marketing officer of Wind Creek Hospitality, overseeing global marketing operations for the organization's 10 casinos and resorts throughout North America and the Caribbean. He lives in Alabama.

KRISTIN BANEK (PHTM '01) just completed her PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her dissertation evaluated adherence to malaria medications in children under 5 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She is now an NIH

Fogarty Global Health Fellow with the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, working in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Los Angeles-based artist **BETSY ENZENS-BERGER (NC '01)** graduated with a degree in abstract painting and a minor in molecular biology. Her artwork falls within the pop art genre; she sculpts small and large resin Popsicle sculptures. Her solo show in Hamburg, Germany, sold out completely on opening night.

SARAH TRAVIS (NC '02) is an assistant professor of art education at the University of Illinois–Champaign–Urbana. She earned her PhD from the University of North Texas in 2018.

MAJ. DAVID LEIVA (UC '03) was deployed with 184th Sustainment Command to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as the Headquarters Company commander. In August he received the Meritorious Service Medal.

LESLEY MCCALL GROSSBERG (NC '04) and **BENJAMIN GROSSBERG (TC '05)** welcomed Zelda Lorraine Grossberg on Oct. 14, 2018. She joins older brother Trevor Brennan. The family resides in Philadelphia.

KAREN ROSS (NC '04) is a zookeeper at Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans and is also a graduate student in Miami University's Global Field Program. This summer she studied Maasai communities and sustainable approaches to human/wildlife coexistence in Kenya.

ALEXANDRA PICHETTE (NC '06) of Morgan, Brown & Joy was recognized by 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers as a Rising Star. Rising Star candidates must be younger than 40 years old or have been in practice for 10 years or fewer.

VIRGINIA CAILLETEAU (SW '07) is a licensed independent clinical social worker in Olympia, Washington. She provides clinical services to an agency participating in the Thurston-Mason County Behavioral Health Organization and also operates a small private clinical practice in nearby Tacoma, Washington.



EARTH-FRIENDLY

AARON HOOPES (A&S '86), the founder of Zen Yoga in Vermont, published a new book, *Reconnecting to the Earth: Reclaiming Our Relationship to Nature and Ourselves*, this summer. He has also written books on yoga, mindfulness and meditation.

HONORARY ALUMNI

The Tulane Alumni Association recognized the outstanding devotion of five university employees by naming them as honorary alumni at a reception in November. Each of the individuals honored have helped to shape the university for at least 25 years. The new honorary alumni include **OLIVE DAW**, a member of the Tulane University Police Department for 37 years; **LEE HAMM**, senior vice president and dean of the School of Medicine, who has been a faculty member there for 27 years; **FAINA LUSHTAK**, a member of the faculty since 1981, who serves as the Downman Professor of Music and leads the piano division of the Newcomb Department of Music; **GAIL MAST**, who has been with Tulane for 29 years and has established a comprehensive infrastructure that played an essential role in the university's successful fundraising efforts; and women's basketball coach **LISA STOCKTON**, who in her 25 years at Tulane has led the Green Wave to the postseason on 18 separate occasions.

2010
2019

BENNETT ROGERS (SLA '11) was recently hired as the liquid fuel manager for Black Rock City Department of Public Works, Burning Man Project, in Nevada.

MICHAEL B. GREENBERG (SLA '12) of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP practices intellectual property and commercial litigation in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His article, "What Wearable Tech Could Mean for Sports: A Lesson From the Alliance of American Football," was published in the August 2019 issue of *The Licensing Journal*.

SARA MUCHNICK (SLA '14) married Isaac Zafarani on Sept. 8 in New York City. The wedding party included fellow Tulane alumni **MORGAN WINSTON (B '15)**, **ZACHARY SPERLING (SLA '14)**, **ELLY HOWARD (SLA '14)**, **SAM CHASSE (SLA '14)** and **BRYN MCKERNAN (SLA '14)**.

MAX GOODMAN (SLA '15) recently started an online jewelry store with his mother called The Jewel in Giving. The philanthropic business gives 12.5% of every purchase to a charity chosen by the buyer.

KELLYN MORRIS (SLA '19) has been selected to participate in the Television Academy Foundation's 2019 Internship Program. She is one of just 50 students chosen from across the country for the program.

Farewell

We say goodbye to Tulanians whose deaths were reported to us during the past quarter.

Sue Strahan Gladden (NC '42)

Theodore H. Dexter (A&S '44, G '47)

Ralph N. Jackson (L '44)

Mildred Levitan Krieger (NC '44, L '62)

William T. Patton Sr. (A&S '44, M '46)

Dorothy Eaves Kostmayer (NC '45)

Marion Wilbert Benbow (NC '46)

Louise Munson Dupont (NC '46)

Clifton L. Ganus Jr. (G '46, '53)

Lee R. Ledbetter (B '46)

Catherine Bensabat Schneider (NC '46)

Cyrus D. Crites (A&S '47)

Thomas N. Lennox (A&S '47)

Mary Holmes Stephens (NC '47)

Charlton H. Lyons Jr. (L '48)

Irwin Reicher (A&S '48)

Robert F. Cahn Sr. (B '49)

Sam J. Mattina (B '49)

James H. Stroud (L '49)

John H. Tucker (SW '49)

Max Bruck (SW '50)

Vivian Gussin Paley (NC '50)

Simon Shlenker III (B '50)

William L. Crull III (B '51)

Ann Anderson Morris (A&S '51)

Isabel Peal Posner (NC '51)

Harold J. Trepagnier Sr. (A&S '51)

C.W. Marionneaux (A '52)

W.R. Newman (B '52)

Waymond L. Rone (A&S '52)

N. Ward McCauley (NC '53)

Wesley L. McFarland Sr. (M '53)

Paul J. Bowron Jr. (A&S '54)

Jack E. Hale (M '54)

H.I. Marcus (B '54)

Donald A. Pavy (M '54)

Alfred L. Robelot Sr. (A&S '54)

Glenn D. Whiteman (B '54)

Mathews Benzaquen (A&S '55)

Frederick R. Bott (B '55, L '60)

Robert H. Brumfield Jr. (A&S '55, M '58)

T. Harris (A&S '55)

E.E. McNaughton Jr. (A '55)

A.B. Russell Jr. (M '55)

Louis M. Bravo (B '56)

Robin C. Brown (A&S '56, M '59)

George Y. Kimura (A&S '56, L '59)

Henry E. Markel Jr. (E '56)

Joel Grossman Myers (NC '56, G '71)

William W. Watson (B '56, L '58)

Jerome N. Conger (PHTM '57)

Robert E. Jones (A&S '57, M '60)

Claude L. Kohler II (B '57)

Anthony Sachitano Jr. (UC '57)

Royden B. Wonder (B '57)

Mary de la Houssaye Baron (NC '58)

Gerald R. Fuchic (E '58)

Sara Merritt (A&S '58)

Michael R. Romano (B '58)

Leon H. Russell Jr. (PHTM '58)

Caroline von Rosenberg (NC '58)

John T. Siegwart (G '59)

Elizabeth Warren Dimitry (NC '60)

T. E. Newton Sr. (UC '60)

Jan N. Ogletree (A&S '60)

Wayne F. Cooper (A&S '61, G '65)

Guillermo N. de Falcon (G '61, '70)

Miguel I. Estrada-Samano (L '61)

E. J. Grovier III (A '61)

Jay L. Buckman Sr. (B '62, L '64)

James D. Gatts (M '62)

Jane Bishop Johnson (NC '62)

Benjamin W. Boyd Sr. (PHTM '63)

Eileen Link Broadwater (NC '63)

Barry M. Fox Sr. (A '63)

Barbara Lee Montgomery (G '63)

Ronald L. Naquin (A&S '63, L '66)

W.L. Barlow (A&S '64)

Charles R. Bigelow (M '64)

Adrian J. Combe III (E '64)

J.M. Gregory (M '64)

William T. Mason Jr. (G '64)

Lester R. Schmidt (A&S '64)

Jo Ann Judge Anderson (NC '65)

Edward K. Caldwell (B '65)

Eugene E. Cobb (UC '65)

V.G. Rufi (M '65)

Robert C. Barker Jr. (M '67)

Richard J. Boutall (A&S '68, L '72)

Douglas Crimp (A&S '68)

Mary Jones Marques (PHTM '68)

Grant B. Hieshima (M '69)

William H. Atkinson (A&S '70)

Charles L. Lutz (M '70)

Julene Mayewski (UC '70)

Leamon E. Howell (B '71)

Kathleen Rogge (NC '71, L '75)

Sarent Sarntinoranont (PHTM '71)

Frank P. Battard (A&S '72)

William H. Cahill Jr. (G '72)

Josephine Church (SW '72)

Philip J. Dorsey (B '72)

James H. Douglass (SW '72)

Edward H. Miler (B '72)

Susan Fine Naughton (UC '72)

Joseph V. Guillotte III (G '73)

Gerald V. Williams Sr. (PHTM '73)

Glenn J. Boquet (A&S '74)

Roseanne Gerone Leediker (NC '74, G '79)

Michael D. Meyer (L '74)

Fernand J. Milhas III (A&S '74)

James W. Ritter (G '74)

Bruce F. Brodney (A&S '75)

Michael R. Seitzinger (M '75)

Roland Von Kurnatowski Jr. (A&S '75, B '77, L '91)

W.A. Bryant Jr. (G '76)

Paul L. Rubin (A&S '76)

Priscilla Domingue Tircuit (NC '76)

John T. Barnes II (E '77)

Larry E. Clowers (G '77)

Gordon K. Travers (L '77)
 Joan Dunaway Keenan (NC '78)
 Stephen P. Turner (A&S '79)
 Rosemarie Hartwich-Young (NC '80, G '86)
 Victor D. Gonzalez (M '82)
 James W. Marks (B '82)
 Cindy Ross Schoenberger (A '83)
 Harold M. Thiedeman (UC '84)
 Mark F. Gourley (M '85)
 Thomas A. Guarisco (B '85, PHTM '85)
 Leslie Hodge (NC '90)
 William A. Oliver (B '90)

Justin A. Borra (A&S '92)
 William P. O'Dowd (A '92)
 Jon K. Van Valkenburg (M '92)
 Joyce Burgin Storehalder (SW '94)
 Jeffrey P. Straesser (A '95)
 Jeffrey M. Duperon (UC '96)
 Nicholas Tsoudis (L '96)
 William G. Powell (PHTM '97)
 Nosakhare O. Ekunwe (E '02)
 Dalton L. Truax Jr. (TC '05)
 Kyle R. Alt (SSE '10)
 Parker B. Prince (SoPA '17)

KEY TO SCHOOLS

SLA (School of Liberal Arts)
 SSE (School of Science and Engineering)
 A (School of Architecture)
 B (A. B. Freeman School of Business)
 L (Law School)
 M (School of Medicine)
 SW (School of Social Work)
 PHTM (School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine)
 SoPA (School of Professional Advancement)

A&S (College of Arts and Sciences, the men's liberal arts and sciences college that existed until 1994)
 TC (Tulane College, the men's liberal arts and sciences college that existed from 1994 until 2006)
 NC (Newcomb College, the women's liberal arts and sciences college that existed until 2006)
 E (School of Engineering)
 G (Graduate School)
 UC (University College, the school for part-time adult learners. The college's name was changed to the School of Continuing Studies in 2006.)
 SCS (School of Continuing Studies, which changed its name to the School of Professional Advancement in 2017.)

TRIBUTE

JAMES F. KILROY

James F. Kilroy, Tulane provost, dean and emeritus English professor, passed away on June 13, 2019, in New Orleans. With a life dedicated to teaching the liberal arts, Dr. Kilroy taught me and others who had the opportunity to know him one of the most important life lessons: Success is simply being a friend and leaving the world a little better than you found it. His leadership in the Tulane community made a difference in my life and made Tulane a better institution.

We first met in 1984, when I was a student. He was the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His personality would readily put someone at ease. His informal manner made him an authority figure who was inviting but not intimidating. When our paths crossed, we would talk about family, school-work and campus life. The conversations could last five minutes or one hour — regardless, you were his center of attention.

His support would ultimately open the door for me to attend medical school. During my sophomore year, Dr. Alvin Poussaint of Harvard University spoke at one of our Black History Month programs and suggested I apply for his internship program for premedical students. It was late in the application process, with a 24-hour deadline. I ran to Dr. Kilroy's office and asked for a letter of recommendation, which was due the next day. He blocked out time

to complete it. I eventually received an invitation to travel to Boston. Dr. Kilroy's act of kindness and concern transformed my future.

Dr. Kilroy followed my plans with interest, asking how we could improve the undergraduate experience at Tulane. In my junior year, I was elected president of the Tulane College of Arts and Sciences Senate, which brought the college unexpected media attention. I had become the senate's first African American president, and part of my success came from Dr. Kilroy making me feel welcome as a student. His style of counseling would be a model for others to help first-generation college students succeed.

After I attended medical school and practiced for a few years on the East Coast, I eventually returned to Louisiana. Dr. Kilroy and I would have lunch and continue our conversations. We pondered the problems of New Orleans and the world. We discussed whether we as a community were achieving progress in social justice and equity of opportunity. I learned that his life experiences as the son of a labor union leader and as a commuter student at DePaul University in Chicago prompted his compassionate leadership. He empathized with the challenges and obstacles of the poor and working class.

His impact on Tulane has made it a small oasis for students from Louisiana and around the world. His example showed me how one can conduct one's life to change the destiny of an individual, a community and the world.

Thank you, Dr. Kilroy. 🙏

—Ernest Sneed, MD (A&S '86), is a staff physician at the New Orleans Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



WHAT HAPPENS AT TULANE DOESN'T STAY AT TULANE...

BY MIKE FITTS, President

“**T**ulane University is a force for good at the local, regional and global levels.”

That is the main takeaway of a recently released study on Tulane’s economic impact. This report (see “Ripple Effect,” on page 20) reveals that Tulane’s operations, capital investments and other activities contribute \$3.14 billion to the Louisiana economy each year and are responsible for more than 19,000 jobs statewide, including 13,934 jobs in New Orleans. The university also attracts \$312 million in spending by visiting parents, alumni, potential students and patients.

In other words, what happens at Tulane — our scholarship, research, recruiting, innovations and more — has a far-reaching economic and social impact on our city, state and world. This was true long before Tulane became the economic engine it is today.

From our founding in 1834 by seven young doctors determined to eradicate tropical diseases from their hometown, Tulane has always been an outward facing institution. What our founders discovered about New Orleans’ annual epidemics brought a wealth of knowledge to regions around the world facing similar threats.



Tulane graduates stride with confidence into the world after the commencement ceremony in 2017.

Protecting our hometown eventually grew into a multimillion-dollar research enterprise that seeks cures globally.


Tulane’s importance to New Orleans and the surrounding region was reaffirmed after Hurricane Katrina when we reoriented our curriculum to ensure that students applied the knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to help our struggling city and state recover.

That commitment to public service remains stronger than ever today and is now coupled with the transformative economic impact of a major research university. America is replete with cities that have been renewed, reenergized and reborn by the presence and power of anchor institutions such as universities. This is nowhere truer than in post-post-Katrina New Orleans.

Since 2006, Tulanians have founded at least 355 companies, a third of which are located in the New Orleans area. This ranks Tulane 21st nationwide in business incubation, just below Duke and above NYU, Dartmouth and Northwestern.

Building our region’s workforce, spurring the startup boom in Louisiana, preparing the entrepreneurs, creators and the artists of our future, and adding employee compensation of nearly \$585 million to the local economy, which leads to higher employment overall, is all part of our growing role in the future of Louisiana.

All businesses have some economic impact. But at Tulane everything we do goes back to the community — from improving K-12 education to training the next generation of local doctors; from studying the best method of rebuilding our coast to creating a more educated populace; from preserving folkways to bringing in fresh new talent. And our economic impact will only increase in the future as we add a new science district and residential quad to the uptown campus, expand our downtown campus, and attract more top talent to power New Orleans- and Louisiana-based medical advances, technology, innovation, creativity and discovery.

“What happens here, stays here,” is a good slogan for some places — but not for our university or hometown. 



What happens at Tulane — our scholarship, research, recruiting, innovations and more — has a far-reaching economic and social impact on our city, state and world.



The **NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL** *at Tulane University*

March
19|20|21
2020



Join us! In March 2020, The New Orleans Book Festival will bring the world's leading authors to Tulane University for a multiday celebration of their works. The Festival will feature both fiction and nonfiction and convene readings, panel discussions, symposia and keynote speeches. It will also provide an opportunity for authors and readers to interact with each other in one of the most vibrant and culturally diverse cities in the world.

bookfest.tulane.edu |    @nolabookfest



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Holiday decorations on a home in the 1300 block of Chartres Street add a festive flair to the French Quarter neighborhood. The salmon-colored shotgun house is decorated with a garland of extra-large decorative lights and pine branches.





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PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO