THE MAGAZINE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY /

/ FALL 2020

TIME OF CHANGE



JETÉ PRACTICE

Ari Renai, a first-year finance major from Atlanta, appears to fly as he practices leaps outside Mussafer Hall. He said he dances almost every day and plans to audition later for the dance program but for now, "I'm just a normal student."

TULANIAN



FALL 2020 / VOL. 92 / NO. 1

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 In Brief

UP FIRST

- 8 Career Services
- 9 Bob Garry, Chad Roy
- **10** Athletics
- 11 Marshall Scholar, Social Network
- 12 New Orleans Bridge Over Troubled Water
- 13 Nature's Work Thomas Sherry
- 14 White Coats Medical students' photo goes viral.

WAVEMAKERS

36 Audacious Giving

TULANIANS

- 39 Class Notes
- 40 Ampersand
- 43 Impression
- 44 Impression
- 45 Farewell
- 47 Tribute

2

VIEWPOINT

48 President's Letter



REOPEN TO RECONNECT

In the middle of the pandemic — and with extensive precautions and safety protocols in place — students and faculty moved back to on-ground operations this fall.



22 THE VIRUS AND VACCINES

During the novel coronavirus global pandemic, the Tulane National Primate Research Center goes all out to combat COVID-19, an infectious disease like no other.

32 RACIAL RECKONING

Tulane renews and expands its commitment to making the university a more inclusive and supportive home for all. The time to act is now.



28 HEALTH EQUITY

As the COVID-19 crisis engulfs the Black community, Thomas LaVeist, dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, explains why — and leads the way to changing the unjust health gap.

\Rightarrow VISITTHE WEBSITE \Rightarrow EXTRA CONTENT \Rightarrow

Visit tulanian.tulane.edu





JUSTICE

FOR George Floyd Ahmaud Arbery

Yeah, You Write

From the Editor

We're so pleased to deliver this *Tulanian* to you. What a year it's been since we mailed the December 2019 issue! We actually had a spring 2020 issue all set and ready to go to the printer in March. Then the global pandemic hit, prompting the move to remote classes to slow the spread of COVID-19. This fall, Tulane opened again with on-ground teaching and strict health safety protocols in place. Students, faculty and researchers — in this unprecedented time of change — came back. The pandemic exposed inequities in health outcomes, while also bringing to light other inequities hidden in plain sight in the judicial and education systems. Tulane, led by President Michael Fitts, has recommitted itself to addressing these problems with sensitivity and the capacity to listen and to act. The resilient and determined spirit of Tulane, of which you all are a part, lives on.

To the Editor

[Email letters to tulanemag@tulane.edu]

Best Ever

The latest issue of the *Tulanian* [December 2019] was the best ever. My congratulations to the Staff.

Florence Hall, NC '45 New Orleans

Home Run

You hit a home run again with the December 2019 *Tulanian*! It was exciting to read each of the articles both long and short including an update on fundraising, new buildings going up on campus, new senior staff joining Tulane departments and the outreach that Tulane has not only in New Orleans but also statewide and in the Southeast region. Keep up your excellent editorship and writing!

Russell Hopley, B '61 Cincinnati

Don't Forget the Toddle House

Re: the December 2019 issue, ["Good Eating in the New Commons," by Angus Lind], how could you forget about the Toddle House? The 50-cent hamburgers and the chocolate ice box pie? Not to mention the colorful short-order cooks.

Dr. Howard Kisner, *A&S '61, M'65 Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

The Second Amendment, Too

I am writing in reference to the article, "Major Gift Launches First Amendment Clinic," published in the December 2019 issue of the *Tulanian*. The article states that the Tulane Law School will launch a new law clinic dedicated to First Amendment rights. While I laud the Law School for representing clients concerned about their rights of speech, shouldn't a similar clinic be offered for those concerned about Second Amendment rights? Without the Second Amendment, there may be no First Amendment. Is one Amendment more valuable than another?

Dr. Lovick Thomas VI, A&S '77, G '80 Santa Fe, New Mexico

Informed and Involved

Nearly 35 years, oh my! Certainly, much has changed. Most importantly, *Tulanian* continues with excellence, keeping me informed and involved with the university community and culture of New Orleans that I love. Thank you for your dedication and service to our beloved University.

Keith Mason, A&S '85 Corvallis, Montana

EDITOR Mary Ann Travis

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Melinda Whatley Viles

ART DIRECTOR Marian Herbert-Bruno

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Faith Dawson

CONTRIBUTORS

Keith Brannon Barri Bronston Jill Dorje Angus Lind Carolyn Scofield Alicia Serrano Mike Strecker Leslie Tate

SENIOR UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER Paula Burch-Celentano

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Kim Rainey

PRESIDENT OF TULANE UNIVERSITY Michael A. Fitts

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS Richard Matasar

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING Libby Eckhardt

Tulanian (ISSN 21619255) is published quarterly by the Tulane University Office of Communications and Marketing, 31 McAlister Drive, Drawer 1, New Orleans, La. 70118-5624. Business and Editorial Offices: 200 Broadway, Suite. 219, New Orleans, La. 70118-3543. Send editorial and subscription correspondence to Tulane University Office of Communications and Marketing, 31 McAlister Drive, Drawer 1, New Orleans, La. 70118-5624 or email tulanema@etulane.edu. Periodicals postage is paid at New Orleans, La. 70113-9651 and additional mailing offices.

Opinions expressed in *Tulanian* are not necessarily those of Tulane representatives and do not necessarily reflect university policies. Material may be reprinted only with permission. Tulane University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to: *Tularian* magazine, Tulane Office of University Communications and Marketing, 31 McAlister Drive, Drawer 1, <u>New Orleans, LA 70118-5624</u>.

Tulanian online: tulanian.tulane.edu

Front cover: Resident physician Dr. Amber Hardeman rests for a moment at the Black Lives Matter protest in front of the medical school in June. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)



In Brief

FROM CAMPUS

TUday & Tomorrow is

which to learn what's

a great source from

on the president's

mind. Email mike@

tulane.edu or

subscribe at

INFORMED SOURCES

TUday & Tomorrow, a weekly note from President Fitts, debuted this fall. It focuses on current issues and also looks toward the future.



Understand State St

Also, to spread the word about Tulane research during the coronavirus crisis, **Tulanian Now** was inaugurated in the spring. It's a digital newsletter with stories about work being done by researchers and in the community to address the global COVID-19 pandemic. An archive of past issues is available.

🕑 tulane.it/tulanian-now

And don't forget to check out **Tulane Today**, a daily e-newsletter that shares news, announcements, events and more. Subscribe to keep up with what's happening on campus.

🕑 tulane.it/tulane-today

ON CAMPUS DASHBOARD GETS 'A+'

Tulane's COVID-19 Dashboard, which is updated daily, includes the total coronavirus tests administered to faculty, staff and students, the number of cumulative positive tests vs. active cases, daily testing results and comparisons to state and local positivity rates. It's been receiving good reviews, including an "A+" rating from the Twitter account "We Rate COVID Dashboards," as it helps the university diligently monitor COVID-19. "We Rate COVID Dashboards" is managed by two Yale University School of Medicine professors who review and evaluate dashboards to track COVID-19 testing and active cases on university campuses.

V tulane.it/dashboard-gets-a+

ON CAMPUS

TECH SUPPORT

To assist faculty with the new enhanced learning technology implemented this fall, the Student Support Squad was created to provide on-campus and online support. The squad provides opportunities for student employment while helping faculty deal with Zoom classes and other technological educational challenges.

C tulane.it/tech-support

PODCAST



RESEARCH

On Good Authority is Tulane University's official podcast. It features fresh perspectives and lively discussions from leading experts on global topics and issues of the day. Our experts explain an issue, answer challenging questions and help listeners better understand what's important.

V tulane.it/on-good-authority

QUOTED

"At the Tulane School of Medicine, applications for admission to the class of 2025 are up more than 35% compared to the same time last year."

Reported in the American Association of Medical Colleges newsletter.

CULTURE BEARER

PORTRAIT COMMISSIONED

The Newcomb Art Museum will commemorate the life of the late Kim Boutte, a member of the Fi Yi Yi Mardi Gras Indian tribe and a longtime Sodexo employee at Tulane, through a portrait by New Orleans–based artist Brandan "BMike" Odums. The portrait, still being created, is in response to calls from the Tulane community to honor Boutte's contribution to the cultural landscape of New Orleans and the connections she made with students.

V tulane.it/portrait-commissioned

ARCHITECTURE

PRESERVATION

Researchers from the School of Architecture will assist in designing new uses for Louisiana mid-2oth-century African American schools that were abandoned in the wake of school desegregation. Laura Blokker, interim director of the Preservation Studies program at Tulane, along with Andrew Liles, assistant professor of architecture, received the biennial Richard L. Blinder Award for this work.

V tulane.it/preservation

ANNE RICE ARCHIVES ACQUIRED

Manuscripts, screenplays, journals and personal correspondence of the *Interview With the Vampire* author are available to researchers at the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library.

Tulane has acquired the complete archives of famed New Orleans author Anne Rice. Her first book, *Interview With the Vampire*, the first volume of *The Vampire Chronicles* series, was published in 1976 and is one of the best-selling novels of all time. Rice also wrote the screenplay for the 1994 film adaptation of *Interview With the Vampire*. The archives include manuscripts of most of Rice's published novels and unpublished short stories as well as screenplays, journals, personal artifacts, pieces of correspondence from her family as well as friends and fans and other materials documenting her literary and personal life. The collection also includes materials from her late husband, Stan Rice, including poetry manuscripts, correspondence and paintings, and documents from her sister Alice Borchardt, an author of fantasy, horror and historical fiction. The acquisition of the archives was made possible by a gift from Stuart Rose and the Stuart Rose Family Foundation.

V tulane.it/Anne-Rice-archives

Images from a graphic novel adaptation of *The Tale of the Body Thief*, one of the novels in *The Vampire Chronicles* series. Inset: Manuscript page from what became *Interview With the Vampire*. Images courtesy Howard-Tilton Memorial Library.



ON CAMPUS

SUKKAH BUILD IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

For the 12th year, architecture students built a sukkah on the uptown campus. Constructed by Oct. 1, the temporary structure for Sukkot, a Jewish fall harvest festival, had to go up quickly because of COVID-19 restrictions. Made of pine and measuring 10.5 feet by 12 feet, it had two walls to facilitate safe passage, instead of the traditional three, and built-in seats that allowed four people to sit socially distanced.

🕑 tulane.it/sukkah-build-2020



QUOTED

"By **shining a light on gene editing**, the Nobel committee is bringing a needed awareness of the wonders of nature and of the technology that will increasingly determine how nature works."

WALTER ISAACSON, professor of history, in *The New York Times* about Jennifer Doudna receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work on CRISPR, a gene-editing tool.

Valter-Isaacson-nyt-2020

Valentine, Valentene

"Do you wish to hold the interview here?" asked the vampire.

"Yes. This would be fine." The boy was startled. He hadn't expected such response. "You don't mind...that I publish the interview?



RESEARCH

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Jesse M. Keenan, an associate professor of real estate in the School of Architecture, served as co-editor of a report published by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, *Managing Climate Risk in the U.S. Financial System*, which is the first comprehensive climate change publication by a U.S. financial regulator.

The report addresses the role of U.S. financial regulators within existing regulatory frameworks and how those frameworks, including laws and regulations, can be adapted to better manage climate risk and take advantage of new opportunities for investing in a net-zero economy.

As an expert on climate risk and financial systems, Keenan has served as a Special Government Employee Advisor to the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission in his role as editor of the publication. Keenan formerly led climate adaptation research initiatives at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

"This publication represents a watershed moment for this country in rising to the challenge of addressing climate change," Keenan said. "Our work highlights that climate change is a dire concern for both Wall Street and Main Street."

V tulane.it/climate-change-financial

Google Earth image of tide-influenced Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta in Bangladesh, with Himalayas in the background.

COVID-19 RESEARCH

METABOLIC SYNDROME

Dr. Joshua Denson, assistant professor of medicine and pulmonary and critical care medicine physician, led a study that found that COVID-19 patients who have metabolic syndrome are three times more likely to die from the virus. Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of at least three of five conditions: hypertension, high blood sugar, obesity, high triglycerides and abnormal cholesterol levels.

V tulane.it/metabolic-syndrome

NEXT-GENERATION VACCINE

Microbiologist Lisa Morici and immunologist James McLachlan at the School of Medicine were awarded a \$150,000 Fast Grant for a project to make next-generation COVID-19 vaccines more effective. The team will test whether they can produce a better immune response in tissues most vulnerable to SARS-COV-2 infection by adding bacteria-based adjuvants to vaccines in development. Fast Grants are awarded within 48 hours of researchers applying.

Unit/next-generation-vaccine

DETECTION IN WASTEWATER

Samendra Sherchan, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, is lead investigator of a study that revealed the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in wastewater in Louisiana. Scientists collected wastewater samples in Southern Louisiana over a period of four months and monitored SARS-CoV-2 using an ultrafiltration method.

University tulane.it/detection-in-wastewater

ANTIBODY RESEARCH

School of Medicine researchers have designed a synthetic protein against COVID-19. Dr. Jay Kolls, John W. Deming Endowed Chair in Internal Medicine and lead author of the research, said the engineered protein, called MDR504, is designed to go to the lungs to neutralize the virus before it can infect lung cells. In addition to a treatment, the protein could be used as a pre- or post-exposure therapy for healthcare workers, first responders and vulnerable populations at high risk.

🕑 tulane.it/antibody-research

TRANSMISSION STUDY

Dr. Richard Oberhelman and others at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine have partnered with local healthcare providers for a COVID-19 study of patients and healthcare workers in New Orleans as part of a larger Centers for Disease Control and Prevention effort to better understand the virus. The study will provide estimates of how many people in a given area have COVID-19 and overall infection rates over time. It will also examine geographic, demographic and clinical trends.

Understand State Understand

HOW THE VIRUS WORKS

A team of researchers is studying how the coronavirus works and where and when it is shed through a \$700,000 grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. What researchers find could help explain why COVID-19 is causing higher death rates among Black and Hispanic residents of New Orleans. Assistant Professor of Medicine Dr. Dahlene Fusco, who is part of the team, said researchers want to learn whether specific factors related to the virus or something within the host contribute to the higher fatality rate.

V tulane.it/how-the-virus-works

"The still-unfolding crisis ... will be the defining moment for the current generation of college and high-school-aged students, the way WWII was for those we now call the 'greatest generation.' ... I think of this as the fractured generation."

BRIAN EDWARDS, dean of the Tulane School of Liberal Arts, in The Hill.

🕑 tulan.it/Brian-Edwards-the-hill

CANCER PATIENTS

Tulane has joined other institutions across the globe in a trial of a drug, TL-895, to treat severe COVID-19 in hospitalized cancer patients. Dr. Nakhle Saba, associate professor of clinical medicine at the School of Medicine, is principal investigator of the trial. Saba said that data show 40% of COVID-19 patients with cancer required hospitalization, 20% developed severe respiratory illness, and 12% died within 30 days.

V tulane.it/cancer-patients

LATIN AMERICAN RESPONSE

Nora Lustig, the Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics and director of the Commitment to Equity Institute at Tulane, organized networks of economists and researchers to examine Latin American countries' COVID-19 situation and policy responses. One group's work resulted in a partnership with the United Nations Development Program that focused on actionable items for governments, individuals and organizations to support countries' populations.

🕑 tulane.it/latin-american-response



COMMENCEMENT VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, an in-person commencement ceremony was postponed for the Class of 2020. But that didn't stop Tulane from celebrating the academic achievements of the class with a virtual celebration on May 16. "TUgether — Connecting the Class of 2020" featured Ellen DeGeneres, Madeleine Albright, Drew Brees, Hoda Kotb, Kelly Ripa, Apple CEO Tim Cook and many others who saluted the graduates.

Virtual-celebration

ACADEMICS BIBLIOPHILE RECOGNIZED

The Grolier Club, the oldest and most prestigious bibliophilic society in America, welcomed Tulane's Dean of Libraries and Academic Information Resources David Banush as a member this summer. The club consists of nearly 800 book collectors, scholars, librarians, printers and bibliophiles and fosters the study, collecting and appreciation of books and works on paper.

C tulane.it/bibliophile-recognized

RESEARCH PANIC DISORDER

Tulane Brain Institute faculty member and Assistant Professor of Psychology Jonathan Fadok is conducting research on panic disorder — one of the most common mental disorders in the United States, with nearly 5 percent of the population suffering attacks that cause extreme disruption in their daily lives. Fadok is working on the identification of neurobiological mechanisms through which the brain reacts to fearful stimuli. The research, funded by a \$2.24 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, could provide new insights into post-traumatic stress disorder and panic disorder.

V tulane.it/panic-disorder

QUOTED

"Most accounts of Katrina begin when the levees broke and conclude not long after. But these stories offer a denuded sense of what happened. ...

Somebody had to build the levees before they could break."

ANDY HOROWITZ, Tulane assistant professor of history, in an essay that *The Boston Globe* adapted from his book *Katrina: A History*, 1915–2015.

🕑 tulane.it/Andy-Horowitz-boston-globe

Seventy-five percent of Tulane undergraduates participate in an internship or field experience by the end of their senior year.

More than **one-third** of undergraduates conduct research with a faculty member. 30%

Within one year of earning a bachelor's degree from Tulane, **30% of graduates**

are continuing their education in graduate or professional schools.

Through Tulane Takeover Virtually Everywhere, a **Career Wave** program to connect students with alumni and parents, **1,200 virtual meetings** took place from 18 cities in May 2020.



Majors, Internships and Jobs is a 1-hour credit course that offers guidance on the career development process. Since it was established in 2014, **4,055 students have enrolled.**



CORONAVIRUS DETECTIVE

BY CAROLYN SCOFIELD

he viruses that cause common colds are known as coronaviruses, but when Tulane University School of Medicine virologist Robert Garry first saw COVID-19 at the beginning of this year, he worried this coronavirus could be the one scientists had long feared would lead to a pandemic. Previous viruses such as the first SARS outbreak sickened people to the point they had to stay home or were hospitalized, limiting much of the person-to-person transmission. This novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, had the ability to rapidly spread before people showed any signs of infection.

"There were some nights I lost sleep over this because this virus has similar features in its genome as other viruses that have gone on to cause pandemics," said Garry. "There's something in the spike protein furin cleavage site that makes the virus able to spread through the body and cause a lot of damage."

Now nine months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Garry has been sharing what he's learned about the virus with news organizations around the world. PBS NewsHour featured the Tulane researcher, connecting for an interview A GOOD remotely using Zoom. Garry Skyped with CBS and FaceTimed with **AUTHORITY** ABC. Garry, with years of expertise researching earlier outbreaks of viruses such as Ebola and Lassa Fever, is contributing a wealth of knowledge to this new threat.

Garry's lab in the School of Medicine is working on a number of emerging viruses including COVID-19. His research team hopes to develop next-generation diagnostics, which would provide quicker and more accurate results. They're also learning more about how the virus spreads and where it originated. At the same time, the team is continuing work on other potential threats like Zika, which could reemerge at any time.

"The lesson from COVID-19 is that we need to be better prepared for future pandemics," said Garry. "We need infrastructure already in place to rapidly develop effective diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to a newly emerging pathogen."

VIRUS **SURVIVES** IN AIR FOR HOURS

BY LESLIE TATE

irector of Infectious Disease Aerobiology at the Tulane National Primate Research Center Chad Roy was the lead investigator on a study that found that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can remain infective in aerosol for up to 16 hours.

Roy said that he was surprised by the results of the study, which was published in Emerging Infectious Diseases in September.

"We saw very little deterioration in the infectiousness of these aerosols after 16 hours. This is notable because we would expect it to behave similar to other coronaviruses that begin to decay over this amount of time — and, it didn't."

To conduct the experiment, researchers sprayed the viral aerosols into a slowly churning aerosol chamber and suspended them for 16 hours, continuously monitoring what changes were taking place.

Scientists already knew that large droplets, such as those that might be felt when someone sneezes, can effectively transmit COVID-19. But the infectiousness of tiny aerosol particles, measuring less than 2 microns and emitted when someone simply speaks or breathes, has been less understood.

While this research was conducted in an artificial, laboratory-type setting that didn't factor in real-world conditions like UV light or wind, Roy believes that the findings have practical implications.

"If anything, this research should serve as a warning light that this virus is more resilient than similar viruses."

"This is just one more piece of the puzzle in understanding how people are getting sick and how we can best protect ourselves and each other." CHAD ROY

Robert Garry is featured on a On Good Authority podcast, "Is COVID-19 Immunity Possible?'

GREEN WAVE JUSTICE

BY BARRI BRONSTON

hen Mónica Lebrón assumed the role of deputy athletics director and chief operating officer for Tulane University athletics in 2016, one of her prime goals was to ensure that Tulane's 350 student-athletes had the best college experience possible, both on and off the field.

One of those off-the-field experiences occurred in June 2020 with the creation of the Green Wave Justice for All program, following the murder of George Floyd by White police officers and the social unrest that ensued across the country.

"We held several Zoom meetings with our student-athletes and with our staff," Lebrón said. "We wanted to be sure we were there for one another while also encouraging everyone's voice to be heard. From those meetings, we determined that in order to see a change in the systemic racism that exists in our society, we must turn our talk into action and accountability."

From those meetings, the Green Wave Justice for All: Action and Accountability Plan was born. To help facilitate that plan, Lebrón took the reins as the Athletics Department's first chief diversity officer, her aim to help deliver on a promise to foster a more diverse, equitable, inclusive and just environment at Tulane.

However, she would not act alone. "Fostering that kind of environment is the responsibility and obligation of everyone, both at Tulane and beyond."

Lebrón has gotten off to a good start, establishing a Diversity Council consisting

of 33 student-athletes and staff from each of Tulane's nearly two dozen sports and throughout the department. The council meets every two weeks to discuss plans and has set its sights on such areas as voter education, diversity and inclusion training, and community service that addresses systemic racism.

"The student-athletes wanted to see immediate change," she said. "They have been involved every step of the way and will continue to remain a driving force.

"As we accomplish goals, we will cross them off the list while constantly adding new goals. It is through these actions and in holding one another accountable that we will start to see a positive change in our world."

Mónica Lebrón, the first chief diversity officer for Tulane Athletics, leads Green Wave Justice for All. She's also deputy athletics director and chief operating officer.



10



GHOST STORIES

BY PRAVEENA FERNES, PHTM '18

One of the most compelling pieces of narrative history is *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic — and How It Changed Science, Cities and the Modern World.*

uthor Steven Johnson charts an investigative tale with echoes of today's pandemic in The Ghost Map, mapping the source of the horrific cholera outbreak in 19th-century London. Protagonist John Snow coordinated with Henry Whitehead, a local curate and trusted community member, to collect data on residents' daily habits and the incidence of the disease. As pioneers of epidemiology, Snow and Whitehead used maps to document streetlevel knowledge. Their interdisciplinary collaboration and unfettered curiosity inspired my path as a data journalist and health researcher.

Their emphasis on community-based knowledge to solve a public health crisis parallels my innate respect for local people as experts of their lived experiences. My citizen science approach involves community members *leading* research projects.

Recently, I've been working on *Visible Ghosts of Isaan*, a virtual installation at https://www.visibleghosts.com. *Visible Ghosts* illuminates villagers' evolving relationship to the Mun River and wetlands in Thailand over the past quarter century. Since its construction in 1992, the Rasi Salai Dam on the Mun River has displaced people, violated their rights and destroyed natural resources.

This fall, I moved to the place that first sparked my fascination with public health storytelling to study political ecology at SOAS University of London. Then, I head to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to study the way microbes play out in the body politic and the unfolding story of today's most terrifying pandemic — and how it's changing science, cities and the modern world.

"It has been intriguing to live and work in different parts of the world's ecosystems from urban American metropolises to rural Thai wetlands."

PRAVEENA FERNES is Tulane's 24th Marshall Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar. Through social media, alumni, parents and friends post their thoughts on the reopening of Tulane this fall.

Y'all are doing a great job being flexible and working hard to give the students an in-person education — that's incredibly valuable! **Thank** you and Roll Wave ... Ted Reese

Thank you for keeping our kids safe and taken care of! Way to be on top of things!!

Carri Hudson Davis

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary leadership. Luckily Tulane has that in President Fitts. Thank you for leading Tulane through these incredibly challenging times. Roll wave!"

Nina Roa

Thank you for all the hard work & thoughtful innovations y'all have done!!!

@Gritngracetj

Thank you Tulane. You have done an amazing job. Well organized, safe. **Other schools can learn from your preparedness**. #bringthemback,

#tulanerocks

@Susanbrownnyc

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

Is 2020 this country's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," as sung by Simon & Garfunkel in the turbulent '70s before entering the '80s?

ecall that the '705 were filled with violence between police and protesters. Four Kent State University students were killed and nine were injured in 1970 when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on a crowd gathered to protest the Vietnam War. It was a watershed moment followed by violence and murders during the Wounded Knee Occupation in South Dakota fueled by mistreatment by the federal government of Native Americans.

There was tragedy at The Peoples Temple in Jonestown, Guyana. And there was tragedy at the '72 Olympics in Munich.

2020 seems like the year that won't end. Really, since all that has happened with the global coronavirus epidemic — clearly the dominant and ongoing tragedy topping the list — does anyone have a clear memory of the Australian wildfires? Maybe the California wildfires? The impeachment fiasco? Brexit and Boris? Then there was Kobe's helicopter crash, which shocked us into the reality of how fragile life is.

"Black Lives Matter" movement protests against police brutality and racially charged riots seemed to top the evening news every night on TV. And who amongst us could expound on the "murder hornets" chapter or the locust and cicada invasions, wherever they were.

Locally, Gayle M. Benson, president and owner of the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans, announced that Dixie Beer, also a Benson property in New Orleans East, would have a new name, the old name deemed offensive and synonymous with the Confederacy. The new name is Faubourg Brewing Co.

Also leaving the scene at age 90 was TV's beloved mad scientist, Morgus the Magnificent.

With Joseph R. Biden winning the presidential election in November, we can look back at past elections to find assistance or — discover advice for when he takes office. Here are some slogans from past elections that may be helpful for the leader of this nation:

"Return to normalcy." Warren G. Harding's 1920 slogan.

"We are turning the corner." Herbert Hoover's 1932 slogan. "Happy days are here again." Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1932 slogan.

And then in 1948, the classic of all presidential races and a media blunder for the ages. Harry Truman is holding up the front page of the *Chicago Daily Tribune*. The bold headline read "Dewey Defeats Truman." Unfortunately for the *Tribune*, Truman won.

At the beginning of the fall semester, we witnessed two potential hurricane threats, which seems to be a Tulane tradition, part of freshman indoctrination. Not one, but two dueling hurricanes. Then along came powerful Hurricane Zeta, which was a direct hit on New Orleans.

That is preposterous, simply incredible. Well, maybe not. This is 2020. 🛡



NATURE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS

Thomas Sherry has helped build the cornerstones of a Tulane education that nurture tomorrow's climate leadership. Recognizing the close relationship between the natural world and the well-being of humans, he pays particular attention to birds and their habitats.

homas Sherry has spent his career studying how nature works. A Tulane professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, Sherry concentrates on birds, especially the diversity of species of tropical birds. He's also Siegel Professor of Social Entrepreneurship at the Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking and president-elect of the American Ornithological Society.

He's dedicated to conservation biology. But, "I don't think we can take care of the natural environment if we're not taking care of the human environment."

He works diligently in his classes to raise consciousness about issues of environmental, social and racial justice.

As populations of humans grow and economic growth occurs, habitats such as forests are fragmented. As people expand in areas, "they survive by feeding on wildlife, birds, mammals and so on. And they are more likely to come into contact with whatever diseases are out there," said Sherry.



Thomas Sherry has spent his career studying how nature works.

"Zoonosis" is disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans. These diseases "have co-evolved with animals for long periods of time." The animals have evolved the ability to tolerate the viruses, but humans have not evolved for that.

While viruses are natural phenomena, when a virus such as SARS-CoV-2 jumps to humans causing a disease like COVID-19, "we suffer enormously until or unless we can develop vaccines," he said.

SARS-CoV-2 was formally identified by scientists in China in early January. The virus "got into the human population, probably ultimately from bats and probably from wildlife that was being sold in markets."

"Human impacts on the environment go back thousands of years," added Sherry. "Many of the viruses have been in native animal populations for probably millions of years."

Global pandemics have caused devastation for hundreds of years. As an example, Sherry pointed to the effects of the viral disease smallpox on Native Americans. That human population had no immunity against the disease, brought by colonizers to the New World.

Global travel today, too, is a major factor in the spread of COVID-19.

"What I've seen," said Sherry, "is that COVID-19 is probably not the last disease that is going to jump to humans. And we do tip the scales in favor of them jumping to humans as we move into areas where there are animal populations that harbor these viruses."

"I don't think we can take care of the natural environment if we're not taking care of the human environment."

THOMAS SHERRY

'RESILIENCE IS IN OUR DNA'

BY KEITH BRANNON AND FAITH DAWSON

A photo of African American students from Tulane School of Medicine made national news in December after it went "viral" on social media.

earing the white coats that mark their status as future physicians, the group of 15 first- and second-year med students pose in front of a preserved slave cabin at Whitney Plantation in Edgard, Louisiana. Second-year student Sydney Labat's original Twitter post of the photo from December 2019 garnered more than 88,000 likes and was retweeted more than 21,000 times. The post led to mentions and interviews with more than 400 international news outlets, from hometown newspapers to National Public Radio, USA Today, NBC News and CNN, as well as an appearance on "The Kelly Clarkson Show," among others.

Labat wrote in her post, "We are truly our ancestors' wildest dreams." She later posted to Instagram as well: "For Black people pursuing a career in medicine, keep going. For our entire community, keep striving. Resilience is in our DNA."

Second-year Tulane MD/MBA student Russell J. Ledet planned the Whitney trip for members of Tulane's Student National Medical Association (SNMA), an organization that supports underrepresented minority students in medicine.

He thought it would be an iconic statement if his fellow students donned their white coats on the porch of the former slave quarter for a group photo.

"It wasn't for the public. It was for us," he said, adding, "I knew it would be iconic." The slave quarters are housed on the site of one of the few plantations dedicated to recounting the experiences of slaves in the antebellum South. Ledet had been overwhelmed by his experience visiting the site that summer (2019) with his 9-year-old daughter. He wanted his fellow classmates in SNMA to see their own path to becoming a physician in the profound context of those denied a future because of the evils of slavery and its lasting legacy.

The publicity surrounding the photos spurred a national conversation about Black excellence and the need for greater representation in medicine for people of color.

African Americans make up 13% of the population in the United States, but account for only 5% of doctors and less than 7% of medical students, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The Tulane students formed a nonprofit called The 15 White Coats to get as many as 100,000 of the photos in kindergarten through 12th-grade schools across the country to inspire more young Black students to pursue their dreams in medicine, as well as raise money to help medical school applicants of color pay for the application process, which can cost between \$3,500 to \$10,000 per student.

"We want to change kids' perception of who can be a doctor, as well as help with the economic burden of applying to medical school," Ledet said.

Commitment to More Students of Color

It's a sentiment that administrators at Tulane University School of Medicine are solidly behind.

After the students' story went viral, Tulane School of Medicine Dean Dr. Lee Hamm provided media with a statement that said, "These are powerful images. Our students are our greatest strength, and we applaud their sense of purpose, community and service."

Hamm also sent a message to all students, staff and faculty recognizing the poignant photos, reiterating the school's commitment to recruiting more students of color.

"Increasing the number of students who are African American or otherwise underrepresented, and supporting them once they are here, is a top priority of our school and the university as a whole," Hamm said. "While the numbers are improving, we know we have a lot more work to do."

In speaking with reporters about Tulane, Ledet and his classmates repeatedly singled out one person they said was key to their success at medical school — Bennetta Horne, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Tulane University School of Medicine.

Horne recruited many of the students in the photos. For the past five years, she has been working to make sure classes are more diverse and better reflect the patient population students will eventually serve once they become doctors. She has spearheaded efforts to recruit more students of color and to create a supportive environment for them to succeed once they get to campus.

A group of 15 first- and second-year medical students pose in front of a preserved slave cabin at Whitney Plantation in Edgard, Louisiana, in fall 2019.

In 2013, almost 7% of the first-year class at Tulane School of Medicine identified as students of color. Now, more than 26% of the 190 students in the first-year class are students of color. In 2013, only 2% identified as African American or Black. That has grown to 11% in 2019.

"[Horne] knows every last one of us by name. She's the reason why we are here. That is why we are such champions for her," Ledet said. "It's one thing to recruit people of color to your school; it is another thing to keep them there and create an environment that allows them to thrive."

K-12 schools may sign up for a free #15WC 24-inch by 36-inch poster at the 15 White Coats nonprofit website, **the15whitecoats.org**. "We are truly our ancestors' wildest dreams." SYDNEY LABAT, School of Medicine student



ReOPEN

In the middle of the pandemic — and with extensive precautions and safety protocols in place — students and faculty moved back to on-ground operations this fall.

BY ALICIA SERRANO



ulane students began classes this fall on Aug. 19, five days earlier than a typical semester, in a year that has been anything but typical. The semester also finished just before Thanksgiving — nearly a month earlier than usual.

The reopening of the campus — after the shift to online classes in March in response to the COVID-19 crisis occurred after months of careful planning by university leaders and diligent work by numerous return-to-campus committees.

Adolfo Garcia was a member of a committee focused on the student perspective of returning to campus. "I remember the sense of urgency," he said.

Garcia is a senior and A. B. Freeman School of Business double major in finance and legal studies in business. He is also president of the Undergraduate Student Government.

The committee was concerned with getting students back to campus but also focused on individual experiences and the international community, Garcia said. Committee members were "thinking about our first-generation students and trying to make sure that the reopening process was equitable and safe for all parties involved. I appreciated that."

When Tulane transitioned to remote learning in the spring, Garcia left campus to go back home to Alamo, Texas. "I'm a first-generation, low-income college student and didn't have reliable Wi-Fi at home to support classes. And my parents didn't understand that I had to be on my computer all the time."

Åfter things calmed down, Garcia said that his routine became a little easier to navigate. He commended his professors for "putting their best foot forward" during that difficult time.

"The faculty stepped up to the plate, with offering the best things they can within the confines of the situation at hand."

Now back on campus and taking in-person classes, Garcia is looking forward to graduating in spring 2021. He plans to make the most of whatever his final semesters will hold.

"Come hell or high water, spring will be a time to remember. I'm going to push through and make it one of the best experiences of my life because you're only in college once," he said.

"There are many universities to choose from and I chose Tulane. It's the best decision I've ever made." Previous pages: In a biomedical engineering lab, students find ways to collaborate in a most unusual semester. This page: Mindful of COVID-19 precautions, Adolfo Garcia is pleased to be back on campus. Facing page: Signage reminds students to keep apart from each other in Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse, a venue called into service as a classroom.

Uptown Campus Reimagined

The reopening committees — composed of students, faculty, staff and experts in the medical and public health fields — established plans for in-person and on-campus instruction this fall in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and state and local governments.

The university established a robust COVID-19 testing program that requires that undergraduate students, living on campus and off campus, test twice weekly; and graduate and professional students test every other week. Faculty, staff and contract workers are tested monthly. Tulane School of Medicine labs turn around test results within 24-36 hours.

Other safety measures to mitigate spread of the novel coronavirus are reflected in decals on classroom doors indicating maximum capacity, desks and chairs placed at least 6 feet apart, plexiglass barriers throughout campus buildings, signs announcing that wearing masks is mandatory and deep cleaning of buildings.

Perhaps the most noticeable additions to campus are 18 temporary buildings for teaching as well as dining. The structures can accommodate up to 80 students in a socially distanced manner. They feature state-ofthe-art technology such as projectors, touch-screen monitors, highdefinition cameras, and wireless microphones and speakers to support in-person instruction as well as remote learning.



Nontraditional classroom spaces, such as the Newcomb Art Museum, the Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse and spaces in the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, are also now equipped for in-person instruction to provide more space for students to spread out.

Katherine Raymond, a professor of practice in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the School of Science and Engineering and co-director of undergraduate studies in biomedical engineering, served on the school's task force that met during the summer.

The group was "extremely committed and collaborative," she said. "I think that really enabled us to come into fall with a sense of confidence and the ability to understand the expectations of what we could do and how we could make it work for our students."

Students and faculty adjusted to a new way of learning and teaching, said Raymond. About teaching in the new temporary classrooms, she said, "We spent the first days of the semester with the students and professors having a lot of patience."

With the new, enhanced equipment, students have the option, with their professor's permission, to remotely log in to classes, particularly if they are not feeling well, are quarantining or aren't fully comfortable being there in person.

"It's convenient and safer for me to sometimes just Zoom in on my classes," said junior Frankie Gaynor, a School of Liberal Arts double major in political science and communication from Coral Springs, Florida. "I appreciate having that option."

First-year student Kaalan Day, an economics major from Los Angeles, described classes as being "pretty normal" other than not being able to sit close to classmates. He realizes, though, that he is missing the typical college freshman experience, especially in a city like New Orleans.

"It does suck not having club expos and going to big events and festivals, but I know eventually it's going to get here. It's extra hard because it's freshman year. And this is the year we're supposed to make connections and meet people."



One way in which Day has been able to connect with the city is through Newcomb-Tulane College's Reading Project selection for the first-year class, *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom.

"Reading the book gave me new perspective on some things," Day said of the book, which is about the loss of a family home during Katrina. "I've heard about the hurricanes and the destruction," he said. But learning about Broom's experience with people passing by her house after the storm, as voyeurs taking pictures of what her family had lost, was eye-opening.

As part of the effort to keep everyone on campus safe and healthy, the university initiated the Stronger TUgether: Be COVID Safe campaign. The pillars are to remind the community to wear face coverings, maintain a 6-foot distance from people not in their household, limit gatherings to no more than 15 people and frequently wash hands.

On the Tulane website, a COVID-19 Dashboard displays results from the university's virus testing of students and employees.

On-campus students who test positive for the virus may isolate in Paterson Residence Hall, which is staffed with medical personnel. If a student is a close contact to someone who has been exposed to the virus, the university provides rooms at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in which to quarantine, in a separate tower from other guests.

Nothing Is the Same

When "everything erupted" in March, Kyla Denwood, a senior in the School of Liberal Arts majoring in political science with a minor in Spanish, said the hardest part for her about transitioning to online classes was having time cut short with friends who had to leave campus or return home.

She said she realized, "Nothing is going to be the same from this point on."

Denwood was staying off campus but in New Orleans, when the announcement occurred. She returned to her home in Chicago in August.

Denwood previously had plans to study in Scotland this fall, and with special permission she is studying abroad now. She petitioned Tulane, verifying that the COVID-19 case count in the area of Scotland where she planned to study was less than in New Orleans. In addition, she provided a contingency plan in the event COVID-19 becomes prevalent in Scotland.

Denwood is hearing the messages about how the actions of students may have an effect on the New Orleans community.

Even though she isn't on campus for the fall semester, she is happy to see messaging on social media promoting COVID-19– responsible behavior among students.

Spreading the virus "is the last thing that we want to be doing to a majority Black community in the middle of a global racial reckoning, in the middle of a global pandemic," said Denwood.

After making the transition to remote coursework during the spring semester, Isaac Hoeschen of Milwaukee said, "I'm glad that all of my friends are in New Orleans again."

The junior economics major in the School of Liberal Arts said, "I can socially distance with masks on and still see all those people on a regular basis."

Hoeschen is concerned with the public health risk that the Tulane student body poses to the residents of New Orleans. However, he is impressed with how the student body adapted to taking the precautions to mitigate the virus's spread seriously.

"I think the student body is doing an incredibly good job of following guidelines on campus."



Resiliency

Leslie Scott, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the School of Liberal Arts, is teaching the Newcomb Dance Company course this fall in McWilliams Hall.

The class requires "a certain type of floor, a large open space and has a communal aspect," said Scott. The students are collaborating, in a socially distanced way, to create a short dance film in lieu of the traditional in-person final performance.

Scott is also teaching Philanthropy and Social Change, a service-learning course that allows her students to make strong connections within the New Orleans' performing arts community.

Supported by funding from the Learning x Giving Foundation, the class has 27 community partners. As part of the course, students will also award \$10,000 in grants to community arts organizations.

"I'm excited to watch the students go through the process of direct giving in our community," said Scott. "Hopefully, the importance of philanthropy, as an actively engaged citizen, will stay with them far after this course."

In these uncertain times, "I am impressed with the students' resilience and understanding in extreme circumstances," she added. "It makes me feel good about the type of students that we're sending into the world."

Raymond said that her biomedical engineering students, too, have adjusted to the new challenges, "meeting them with creativity, technology and resiliency."



"In engineering, we have a number of problem-solving tools," she added.

Raymond said the reopening and the return to in-person classes allowed faculty and students to reconnect.

"I think this is the best way to provide a thriving, learning community in college: by having a sense of connection. I hope that we can remain safe and thoughtful about it."

Looking Ahead

Students said they are mostly looking to the future with a sense of gratitude, patience and anticipation.

While Gaynor knows people who have lost their jobs, family members and friends to COVID-19, she reminds herself that this period of time is not permanent — and that effective treatments and vaccines are being developed.

"One more year of this is something that I can easily do," said Gaynor. She has set the end of 2021 as her deadline "for life to go back to normal." She is optimistic that a vaccine will exist. She hopes the vaccine will be accessible to everyone in the community and that the university "prioritizes the people that work and live in the Greater New Orleans community to get vaccinated first."

Day is looking forward to becoming more involved in campus life when the pandemic is over.

"I want to do certain things that I feel like will help me in life. I want to get connected and do things I wouldn't have access to at home like I have here."



Above, left: Biomedical engineering students give presentations in a temporary classroom installed on the uptown campus to allow for social distancing. This page: In a dance class in McWilliams Hall, everyone wears masks to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

THE VIRUS

During the novel coronavirus global pandemic, the Tulane National Primate Research center goes all out to combat COVID-19, an infectious disease like no other.

BY LESLIE TATE

VACCINES

or most of us, the novel coronavirus began as a whisper. News of a deadly virus slowly seeped into our national consciousness in much the same way that SARS and MERS had several years prior — murmurings of something awful happening "over there," an

international public health crisis that we viewed more as concerned spectators than participants.

But viruses in general and SARS-CoV-2 in particular don't care much about borders. Less than a year later, the disease that it causes, COVID-19, has taken an unimaginable toll and the lives of millions around the globe, including more than 245,000 Americans. As the

world anxiously awaits a vaccine for COVID-19, we have gained a new respect for the immense power of emerging infectious diseases that can shutter schools, devastate economies, and take countless lives in just a few short months. And we have gained a new appreciation for those who spend their lives studying them, knowing that perhaps they alone can get us to the other side of the biggest public health crisis of our lifetimes.

The morning after Mardi Gras, Carnivalweary employees streamed their way into the Tulane National Primate Research Center. For several weeks, things had been different. "We have the rare combination of emerging infectious disease expertise and resources here to help respond to this global crisis and with the support of the university, we dove in headfirst."

Jay Rappaport, director of the Tulane National Primate Research Center

Camera crews strode around the center, mics angled toward prominent researchers who normally toil behind closed doors, immersed in their work. A few weeks prior, the center had announced that it would be among the first research institutions to receive samples of SARS-CoV-2. Now the first vials had arrived, propagated from patient zero — a Seattle man who had contracted the disease while visiting family in China. As a result, the surrounding community of Covington was on edge, wondering how the virus that was wreaking havoc across the globe could be contained within the confines of these buildings.

Built to Study Emerging Pathogens

In truth, though, there may have been no better place to receive it. The center, situated in the piney woods north of Lake Pontchartrain, has been quietly working on infectious diseases since the early 1960s and already had world-class scientists at the ready. Its sprawling Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, part of the national biodefense system, is one of a few specifically built to study high-consequence emerging pathogens like SARS-CoV-2. Its highly specialized facilities allow for the study of more animals at a high level of biocontainment than any other place in the country.

> Center Director Jay Rappaport recognized that the center was uniquely poised to respond and moved quickly.

"We have the rare combination of emerging infectious disease expertise and resources here to help respond to this global crisis and with the support of the university, we dove in headfirst," said Rappaport.

As reports of the novel coronavirus swept through China and Europe, Rappaport and his team began



self-funded pilot studies to develop an animal model of COVID-19. A good animal model faithfully reproduces disease in the way that mimics how humans experience it — a particularly difficult task for COVID-19, considering the vast range of human and animal responses to the virus. But the ability to analyze what makes two individuals respond so differently to the virus can help scientists tease apart why some people experience few symptoms and others, a runaway immune response that leads to organ failure and death.

Before the human population can receive vaccines or therapeutics for COVID-19, the safety and effectiveness of these products must first be tested in animals, which is only possible if the animal has a response comparable

to humans. Nonhuman primates, like the widely used rhesus monkey, often make ideal candidates for disease models due to their physiological similarity to humans and because so much is already known about their immune systems.

All Necessary Resources

In early spring, the center paused non-COVID-19 research, redirecting all necessary resources toward COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutic efforts deemed priority by the National Institutes of Health, which oversees the seven National Primate Research Cen"The rapidity with which progress is being made is astounding, and the work that has been done during this time has been some of the most intense and gratifying of my career."

Skip Bohm, associate director and chief veterinary medical officer

ters. This has required the centers to work more closely together than ever before — stretching and prioritizing resources according to necessity, rapidly sharing data to minimize the use of animals, and harmonizing protocols to ensure reproducibility. Instead of keeping early results close to the vest, as is most often the case in the highly competitive world of research, information is shared and learned in real-time.

Under normal circumstances, significant discoveries are released to the scientific community only upon peer review and publication in academic journals. It is a time-honored, laborious and deliberately slow process to ensure that results are replicable — meaning that what is seen in one lab can be reproduced in another. But during a pandemic, time is a scarce resource. This new way of collaborating advances preclinical work that would normally take upward of five years into less than one. And all of this must happen before these vaccines or treatments can safely be used in humans.



"We've never seen so much open sharing and coordination among entities that are often seen as competing," said Rappaport. "While this has been a stressful time for everyone, it has also been very encouraging to be a part of this all-hands-ondeck approach."

Center Associate Director and Chief Veterinary Medical Officer Dr. Skip Bohm oversees the veterinary aspects of research at the center and plays a key role in coordinating veterinary protocols between dif-

ferent entities as part of this harmonization effort. He stresses that while no corners have been cut to move this work forward as quickly as possible, processes have been expedited and those involved have been working longer hours — including nights and weekends — for several months on end.

And yet for many involved in this work, the extraordinarily long hours and rigorous schedule involved in getting us to the other side of the pandemic bring a sense of pride and purpose. For Bohm, the profound challenges of the pandemic have been balanced by an opportunity to serve and contribute to real solutions.

"The rapidity with which progress is being made is astounding, and the work that has been done during this time has been some of the most intense and gratifying of my career. I am thankful in these times to have a job that allows me to help," said Bohm.





Left to right: Monica Vaccari, Tracy Fischer and Mairi Noverr

FAST GRANTS FOR MORE COVID-19 RESEARCH

For **Monica Vaccari**, an Italian-born immunologist, reports from her family in Northern Italy about the virus's impact on the region last spring hit home. Using her expertise in host-immune responses to pathogens, Vaccari received a Fast Grant to contribute to understanding of earlyhost-immune responses to SARS-CoV-2.

There is a huge variation in the range of disease that people infected with SARS-CoV-2 experience, from asymptomatic infection to death, and Vaccari hopes to learn what happens in the early stages of infection that determines how individual immune systems may respond.

Tracy Fischer has long studied persistent inflammation in the brain due to HIV/AIDS and seeks to investigate what lasting neurological damage might result from COVID-19, a disease that causes a cascade of inflammatory responses throughout the body. According to Fischer, understanding how COVID-19 contributes to neurological disease is needed for appropriate treatment of infected patients, as well as for relevant follow-up care after recovery. She received a Fast Grant to investigate the major organ systems implicated in COVID-19 in a nonhuman primate model, which has led to a subsequent investigation on the disease's longterm effect on brain tissue, particularly in the absence of severe disease.

Mairi Noverr's research focuses on how the administration of some live attenuated vaccines, like measles-mumps-rubella, can create anti-inflammatory immune responses in nonhuman primates that protect against possible sepsis or death from severe fungal infections. When she saw reports about severe inflammation and septic shock that often precede death from COVID-19, she realized that there was incredible overlap.

Sitting on what she thought was an essential piece of information that might provide people with an additional layer of protection, Noverr applied and received a Fast Grant award to investigate the idea of using specific vaccine boosters for prevention as a way to activate that anti-inflammatory response. "You want to be able to help in whatever way you can, and this was a way that I could contribute to helping people avoid some of the worst outcomes in a low-risk, high-impact way."

Fast Grants are unusual in their speed — as they are awarded within 48 hours of application in order to get funding to researchers as quickly as possible. The grants are funded through the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Fast Grants are modeled after the work of the National Defense Research Committee, an organization that provided quick funding for scientific discoveries and technological developments during World War II.

Quality Assurances

As an emerging pathogen, SARS-CoV-2 is highly regulated, and animal research involving it must take place in ABSL-3, or animal biosafety level-3 laboratories. These highly specialized facilities are essential for the testing of potential treatments or vaccines against COVID-19, but there are only a handful of them in the country. The Regional Biocontainment Laboratory at the center, built in the aftermath of 9/11 to bolster our national biodefense system, has both an unusually high capacity for handling this type of work and a team of highly skilled biosafety professionals that can safely get it done.

As a result, pharmaceutical and biotech companies needing to conduct preclinical trials for their products contacted the center nonstop in the early days of the pandemic, booking the facility's calendar solid for the next six months. This work, in conjunction with the research deemed priority by the NIH, has kept the facility humming at full capacity.

Tulane Director of Biosafety and Center Director of Biocontainment Angie Birnbaum leads the team of biosafety professionals at the center who ensure that all Birnbaum said that the experience of managing this work in the context of a global pandemic has made her more flexible in her thinking.

"No one who works in this program feels like they are punching a clock when they come to work," said Birnbaum. "We are thinking outside the box and becoming problem solvers."

Resources once taken for granted, like the availability of personal protective equipment, now need to be carefully rationed. Staff working long hours now have children stuck at home with distance learning, and instead of being solely concerned with the live virus in the biocontainment laboratories where there are ample safeguards in place, there is now the concern of exposure outside the lab, where the virus is lurking in the community. Birnbaum credits her team as incredible professionals who make immense personal sacrifices to ensure that no matter what, the work continues on schedule.

"The university has been a leader in this research, and we should all be proud of the amount of work being done at the center that is at a level and pace that neither the staff nor scientists have experienced before," she said. \Box

"We've created a highly efficient way to advance this preclinical work quickly by creating a core team of individuals that can get it done right here. Our capacity is huge — but so is our talent and proficiency."

Angie Birnbaum, director of biosafety and biocontainment

of this work runs like clockwork. The quality assurance protocols that Birnbaum established at the center have been standardized for use at other centers, and in leading by example, Birnbaum and her team have established one of the largest, most productive COVID-19 research programs in the country.

"We've created a highly efficient way to advance this preclinical work quickly by creating a core team of individuals that can get it done right here," said Birnbaum. "Our capacity is huge — but so is our talent and proficiency."



HEALTH

s the mysteries of the novel coronavirus unfolded during the first half of 2020, reports surfaced that the disease disproportionately affected African Americans and other people of color as compared to the overall U.S. population.

EOULY

Social scientists sought to explain how inequities in health care, some rooted in decades-old racially based practices, placed people of color more at risk. Housing often contributed to COVID-19 infection rates. So did mass transportation.

Thomas LaVeist, dean of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, who also serves as the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity, emerged as a national expert whose research showed how COVID-19 affected African Americans and how years of racial discrimination could have lingering effects on health outcomes.

Like other researchers, LaVeist, a medical sociologist, recognized COVID-19's ability to take hold in communities with a pattern of underlying conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but he was skeptical that these underlying conditions were the primary reason for race disparities in COVID-19 deaths.





BY FAITH DAWSON



LaVeist has spent more than 30 years studying disparities in health care, specifically how social and behavioral factors explain race differences in health outcomes, and what has been the impact of social policy and interventions on the health of African Americans. COVID-19 was only the most recent example of these disparities at work, even if it was the illness that got all the media attention this year. LaVeist has been featured on NBC News, ABC News, National Public Radio, and other national and international media outlets.

"Categories that determine how healthy a population is include your genetic endowment; your health behavior plays a role; then there's what you are exposed to, what environmental risks might be where you live," LaVeist said.

"But then there's also the social environment — transportation being one example, or a food desert: an environment where there just isn't access to healthy foods, or there is a great deal of community violence or your occupation. Minorities are more likely to hold jobs that they cannot do from home." The combination of many of these factors increases minorities' risk of contracting COVID-19.

New Orleans data supports these insights. In a city where African Americans are overrepresented in certain employment fields that place them at higher risk for COVID-19 infection, 77% of New Orleans' overall COVID-19 deaths were in the African American or Black population as of June 5, 2020, according to the Data Center of New Orleans, working from reports provided by the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office.

That means for all age groups 50 years or older, Black people in New Orleans are dying at a rate three to 12 times greater than for White people, the center concluded.

Body of Research

LaVeist brings to his deanship a vast body of research, experience in Congressional testimony, professional affiliations and numerous awards.

He was the first faculty member to hold one of Tulane's endowed presidential chairs, created to support the recruitment of exceptional, internationally recognized scholars whose work transcends and bridges traditional academic disciplines. When he arrived at Tulane in July 2018 after serving on the faculties of Johns Hopkins and George Washington universities, he already knew how New Orleans fit into a snapshot of national health outcomes.

"The disparities that we see in this city are steeped in the history of this country," he said. "In public health, in the United States, we don't teach the history of this country sufficiently. I think many highly educated people do not know the history of the United States, especially as it relates to race and how things have come to be as they are.

"It's easy to come [to New Orleans] and say, "Well, what I see is the Black people tend to be poor. And the White people tend to be better educated and more affluent." But without any understanding of the city's history, the casual observer might draw the wrong conclusions about the city and its inhabitants.

"That's a simplistic way of viewing the world, but I think that's how the human brain operates. We try to draw conclusions from incomplete information," LaVeist said, adding, "for some of our students" — New Orleanians — "this is their only experience they have in the United States. New Orleans is what they see."

Multiple Fields of Study

LaVeist's route to the dean's office went by way of the football field, the band room and a gym — an early sign that he would create a career that drew from and touched on different fields of study.

He said as an undergraduate, he had multiple interests and explored several different majors, all while playing drums in University of Maryland Eastern Shore's marching band and playing on the school's football team. After a while he settled on sociology, then pursued graduate degrees in that field at the University of Michigan, and worked as a social worker during the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York in the 1980s.

While he was writing his PhD dissertation in political sociology, which examined the effect of African American governance on the quality of life for African Americans in select cities, the research revealed that African Americans had a worse health profile across the board, and that health measures often served as an indicator of quality of life. Around the same time, LaVeist said, he was on the way to the gym when he noticed a sign outside the university's School of Public Health. Curiosity led him inside, where he randomly encountered a faculty member who explained to him the basics of public health. That meeting with a professor, combined with LaVeist's introduction to the analysis of health measures, set his career on a different path entirely.

"I became fascinated by this idea that the work that we're doing in sociology has "When Black and White people live under similar conditions, their health status is similar, which tells us that if we want to fix the disparities problem, we're not going to fix that through biological or genetic or even medical solutions. We're going to fix that through social and economic solutions, by equalizing the living conditions that people have."

Thomas LaVeist, dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

implications for the health of populations. I had no idea that the skills I was learning could be used in this way. And I became fascinated by whether or not we could understand why there was this race disparity in health."

He joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins in 1990. While there, one of his significant studies was the EHDIC study, "Exploring Health Disparities in Integrated Communities," which was published in the *Journal* of Urban Health in 2008.

"What we wanted to do was address this issue of whether or not racial disparities were based on biological or genetic differences between race groups. But it's a hard question to answer when you have a country that is racially segregated," said LaVeist, the lead researcher. Nonetheless, he and his colleagues identified a community where there was no difference in the income or education levels of Black and White residents, "as close to a laboratory condition as you could expect to find naturally occurring in a community," he said.

The researchers found no racial disparities in that community; the study suggests that "when Black and White people live under similar conditions, their health status is similar, which tells us that if we want to fix the disparities problem, we're not going to fix that through biological or genetic or even medical solutions. We're going to fix that through social and economic solutions, by equalizing the living conditions that people have."

The Skin You're In

Founded in 1912, the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is the first school of public health established in the United States. It is also the only school to combine the fields of public health and tropical medicine.

The school was recently ranked 13th in the country for "best public health schools" by *U.S. News and World Report* (2019). Next year, one of its most innovative programs, the collaborative MD/MPH degree program, a joint degree program shared with Tulane School of Medicine and the first of its kind, celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Under LaVeist's leadership, the school has been intentional about its place in the COVID-19 response. In March 2020, mere weeks after the first case of COVID was identified in New Orleans, the school launched *Tulane Outbreak Daily*, an email newsletter with "a curated daily wrapup of the timeliest and most relevant news and data focused on emerging infectious diseases like COVID-19." Faculty members trained in fields like epidemiology, infectious diseases and environmental health applied their knowledge bases to COVID-19, embracing COVID-19 research opportunities along the way.

In April, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that LaVeist had been appointed as a co-chair of the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, whose mission is to provide recommendations related to health inequities that affect the communities heavily impacted by the coronavirus, including best medical practices and protocols and testing availability and access for all communities.

LaVeist had also brought to the university his brand "The Skin You're In," a multimedia effort "that aims to inspire a movement to produce positive change to close the unjust health gap that plagues African Americans."The project originally addressed public health conditions such as heart disease and cancer, as well as mass incarceration and police brutality, but in 2020 it made a sharp turn to encourage healthy behaviors during the pandemic, such as physical distancing and wearing masks. Today the exterior of the School of Public Health, housed on well-trafficked Canal Street in downtown New Orleans, received a facelift with colorful graphics reminding New Orleanians to physically distance and wash hands often.

"We just made our first PSA featuring [New Orleans musical artist] Big Freedia, educating people about wearing masks," he added.

As dean, he also hopes to raise the research profile of the school, review the curriculum to ensure that it meets 21st century needs, and help public health students integrate better into the community — at the very beginning of their education.

"One of the things that we are doing in the School of Public Health is looking at our student orientation. We started this year for the first time adding information about the history of the country, adding into the curriculum history of policy, the ways in which government policy produced the inequities that we see. People need to be educated about it so that they have a better understanding about how to intervene and make a difference. I think that's really core to public health."

Previous page: Thomas LaVeist in his office at the School of Public Health. Facing page: "The Skin You're In" murals offer timely messages. LaVeist walks in downtown New Orleans.

RACIAL RE



CKONING

Tulane renews and expands its commitment to making the university a more inclusive and supportive home for all. The time to act is now.

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS

he George Floyd killing by police in Minneapolis this spring — captured on cellphone video triggered what may be the largest and most widespread protests in U.S. history.

"When you are actually seeing it, the emotions are right there," said Carolyn Barber-Pierre, assistant vice president for student affairs and namesake of the Center for Intercultural Life. "It's having an effect, not just on marginalized communities. Now everybody's seeing and feeling it."

As an institution of higher learning, "we need to have more discourse around these issues."

As a result of technology and social media, today's students are more knowledgeable and ready to engage around diversity, equity, race and inclusion issues than previous generations of Tulane students, said Barber-Pierre, who has been at the university for 36 years.

Student activists have always led the way for social change through their demands for accountability, but now they have a different level of sophistication and awareness that Barber-Pierre said is new.

"I've been inspired to stay because of our students," she said. "I try to give them a sense of home away from home in creating safe and brave spaces, programs and opportunities that reflect their culture, their identities, so that they can thrive in this institution."

The challenge is to continue to change and "make this place the place we all want it to be, a place where all students can come here and achieve the possibilities that they've always dreamed about."

A Plan for Racial Equity

In response to the events of the summer, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts announced a new plan for promoting diversity, racial equity and inclusion at Tulane.

"The historical significance of this moment must be underscored," said Fitts. "Each of us is challenged to address our behaviors, practices and systems."

Some of the elements of the plan, such as a required course on Race and Inclusion for undergraduates and the Presidential Commission on Race and Tulane Values, had already been established; they are now being enhanced. The commission, for example, has been renamed the Presidential Commission on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, with the goal to gain as much participation and as many perspectives as possible from across the university. Other efforts are new or more sharply focused, such as increased support for marginalized students, increasing staff diversity and a new Health Equity Institute, led by School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Dean Thomas LaVeist. [See "Health Equity" on page 28.]

An essential component of Fitts' plan is for more community discussion. "I believe the most successful efforts in creating positive change begin by listening," he said.



"The historical significance of this moment must be underscored. Each of us is challenged to address our behaviors, practices and systems." MIKE FITTS, president



"When you are actually seeing it, the emotions are right there. It's having an effect, not just on marginalized communities. Now everybody's seeing and feeling it."

CAROLYN BARBER-PIERRE, assistant vice president for student affairs

Medical students and resident physicians gather on Tulane Avenue near the medical school in support of Black lives on June 11. The group observed a moment of silence for African Americans who have experienced racially motivated injustices.

Vulnerability and Resilience

One faculty member to whom Fitts has listened is Michael Cunningham, professor of psychology and associate provost for graduate studies and research.

Cunningham appreciates the priority Fitts and other university leaders have given to the grassroots activism of students.

"Things have changed dramatically from when I first started in 1996," said Cunningham.

Cunningham said when he was "young and slim" and the first Black person hired in the psychology department, he was more than once mistaken for a student-athlete as he walked across campus.

Cunningham recalled, "Somebody said, 'Oh, are you new here?' and I said, 'Oh, yes.' And they said, 'Oh, you should try out for the baseball team.""

That kind of stereotyping, while maybe not intentional, amounts to a "microaggression," a petty slight that as a single event may be merely irritating. But microaggressions, one after another, can pile up.

"Microaggressions get at you after a while," said Cunningham. "That one little aggression may not be enough to make you vulnerable. But it may be the fifth or sixth thing that day that happens to you. It sets you off. You can't concentrate. It makes you prone to mental health challenges."

The psychology research is clear: Microaggressions can be harmful. While microaggressions are not equal to murder like the George Floyd police brutality case, microaggressions such as the incident this year in which a White woman threatened to call the police on a Black man bird-watching in Central Park because he asked her to leash her dog happen more often than most people think, Cunningham said.

"That type of microaggression stuck with me," Cunningham said. "That could have been me walking down the street because people don't look at me and say, 'Tulane University professor.'They see me as a Black man, and they get afraid of who I am, instead of trying to understand who I am and my true, authentic self."

In his scholarly research, Cunningham studies the process of resilience in African American youth, particularly young men and boys, who have been exposed to adversity — "and then do better than expected in terms of outcomes."



"[People] see me as a Black man, and they get afraid of who I am, instead of trying to understand who I am and my true, authentic self."

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, professor of psychology and associate provost for graduate studies and research



"The Tulane community is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the social injustices that characterize this particular American moment."

PAULA BOOKE, director of the Newcomb-Tulane College Center for Academic Equity

"People who are resilient have some significant person in their life," said Cunningham. That could be a parent, uncle, aunt, grandparent, coach, teacher, peer, mentor — someone like Carolyn Barber-Pierre — or an academic adviser.

In addition to holding faculty appointments in psychology and Africana studies, Cunningham is associate provost for graduate studies and research in the Office of Academic Affairs. In the future, he'd like to see more "minoritized" students encouraged to apply for postgraduate opportunities. He noted that between 35% and 45% of all students at Tulane are in the university's graduate and professional schools.

He also pointed to a statistic that shows progress: Tulane has increased the percentage of PhDs it has awarded to underrepresented minorities, as defined by the National Science Foundation, to 24% over the last five years.

Pressure From the Outside World

Paula Booke, director of the Newcomb-Tulane College Center for Academic Equity, said that the students served by the center are "feeling a lot of pressure from the outside world."

"The Tulane community is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the social injustices that characterize this particular American moment."

Students are experiencing an increase in stressors around racial equity and inclusion. "There's a lot that they are trying to process.

"In some cases, our students have had loved ones who have passed away as a consequence of COVID-19."

The center's mission is "to provide an equitable academic environment" on campus "by fostering social equality and culturally conscious learning."

It offers a resource lending library with learning tools such as computers. It also offers students access to summer school scholarships and research grants as well as financial support to help students participate in enrichment opportunities like unpaid internships, which can lead to well-paying jobs.

Booke's hope is that each student has "access to the full Tulane experience" — and that students will succeed in the classroom and have "the option to pursue graduate education or enter industry at the top of their field."

"We are all about removing barriers and obstacles that students face that may impact how they can move through their undergraduate careers."

Booke is pleased with President Fitts' commitment to making Tulane an "antiracist" institution. "When I hear the president say that, I interpret that to mean that it is now Tulane's mission to ensure that race is not a determining factor for student success in any way, shape or form."
Actively Antiracist

"Racism is not a problem for people of color to solve," said Anneliese Singh, Tulane's inaugural chief diversity officer and associate provost for diversity and faculty development. Singh is the author of *The Racial Healing Handbook*. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tulane in 1991 and received a master's in counseling and PhD in psychology from Georgia State University.

As part of Tulane's endeavor to be "actively antiracist," Singh is in the process of looking at the university's policies, practices and procedures where there are inequitable racial outcomes.

"One of the most important things in making Tulane a more welcoming place for students of color is engaging conversations about racism with White folks on campus — White students, White faculty, White staff, White administrators. I think students of color, faculty of color, staff of color are usually pretty used to thinking about racism a lot."

These conversations about racism begin with the question, what is race? What does it mean to be White? What does it mean to be Black, Indigenous or another Person of Color (BIPOC)? Is the "White" way always the right way?

"The goal of an education at Tulane is being prepared to engage in some of the most courageous and challenging conversations of our time about race and racism," said Singh. "We know if racism exists in the world, then there will be racism at Tulane. If we acknowledge that reality for BIPOC community members, then we can get less afraid of making mistakes in discussing racism and get busy changing our policies, practices and procedures. We can become more vigilant and determined about developing antiracist practices and engage in conversations about race and racism more boldly, with innovation, compassion and patience — but also determination to make social change."

Hip-Hop Lived Experience

From her experience as an undergraduate (she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1994 and returned to the university as an English department faculty member after earning a PhD from the University of Illinois),



"One of the most important things in making Tulane a more welcoming place for students of color is engaging conversations about racism with White folks on campus."

ANNELIESE SINGH, chief diversity officer and associate provost for diversity and faculty development



"You have to be open to being reeducated. Because there's a lot of miseducation."

NGHANA LEWIS, associate professor of English

Nghana Lewis thinks Tulane has done a good job of providing safe spaces "in which students feel comfortable expressing themselves and sharing their experiences in an unfiltered way."

An associate professor now, Lewis has been teaching at Tulane since 2005. Every year, she feels, "I've got the most brilliant students in the world."

The level of "wokeness" in students in the past five to seven years is "extraordinary," said Lewis. "They are bold. They are bright. They are thinkers. They are doers."

Faculty can learn from their students, said Lewis, if they listen to them.

"We are charged to teach and educate and expand their horizons. But there's so much they can teach us, from what they've lived and what they've experienced and what they're doing. And that's across the board: Black, White, Hispanic. They're coming in with a level of knowledge and know-how — knowing how to do things, knowing how to organize — that's inspiring."

Faculty have to continue to push students to be constructively critical in analysis of the dynamics of inequity at all levels — institutional, social, cultural, personal, said Lewis. These inequities have an impact on "people's lived experiences in material ways."

"Woke" is imported from hip-hop language, an art form that Lewis has extensively studied. As a native Louisianian from Lafayette, Lewis said that hip-hop is her "lived experience." She's also explored White Southern women writers. In her book, *Entitled to the Pedestal: Place, Race and Progress in White Southern Women's Writing, 1920–45*, she argues that these writers are not "monoliths," but they "wield power and influence" from their positions of esteem in White society.

Lewis' current focus of research is the HIV-AIDS epidemic and its impact on Black women.

When asked by a White colleague shortly after the George Floyd murder, "What can we do?" in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, Lewis said, "You can educate yourself."

It's important to understand racial issues from multiple contexts, historic and current, said Lewis. And then, "you have to be open to being reeducated. Because there's a lot of miseducation."

Next is to commit to action. "What that action is, I don't know," said Lewis.

"It has to match what the context calls for. You have to decide where you can act, what you can do, what resources you can bring to the action, because not everybody is going to be able to do the same thing."

Tulane is "an environment where we're thinking, thinking, thinking, "said Lewis.

"We're always charged to think. And think broadly. That's what we train our students to do. But in the context we're currently living in, if you cannot commit to some form of action, your thinking is not of much value. If your commitment is to institutional equity, racial equity, you have to commit to some form of action."

> Visit tulanian.tulane.edu for additional content

Wavemakers



A LEGACY OF SERVICE

he chance meeting of a pair of Tulane University students at a medical school fraternity party almost 75 years ago led to a life filled with family, service and a lasting legacy that will continue at Tulane for years to come. After Lenore Benson Raborn (SW '47) met Robert Raborn (M '48), the two fell in love and were married for 52 years.

In 1974, the Raborns set up a trust for the benefit of Tulane valued at \$750,000. In 1999, Robert passed away. The remainder of the now \$1.925 million trust will eventually go to the couple's alma mater, including 60% to the School of Medicine and 40% to the School of Social Work.

"The future gift from the Raborn family will have a significant and lasting impact on the School of Medicine," said Dr. Lee Hamm, dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president. "I am grateful to Lenore Raborn and her late husband, Dr. Robert Raborn, for their generosity and support."

"This gift will provide opportunities for the school to increase our impact by doing work that matters, both in our community and across the globe," said Patrick Bordnick, dean of the School of Social Work.

Robert was a pioneer in the use of technology and medicine. He was a charter member and past president of the Bethesda Memorial Hospital medical staff, a hospital he helped found in 1959 in Boynton Beach, Florida. Lenore used her medical social work background and worked professionally in New Orleans and supported many volunteer efforts throughout her life.

"When I would come home from school in my teens, I remember my mother asking, 'Well, what have you done today for the good of the world?' My mother was a medical social worker all her life, far beyond the years it was her paid profession," daughter Robin Raborn said.

MEDICAL LEARNING ACADEMY ESTABLISHED

r. Cheryl Levine Leone (NC '66, M'69) and Dr. Philip Leone (A&S '64, M'68) met and fell in love as medical students at Tulane. In 2015, they established the Drs. Philip and Cheryl Leone Scholarship Endowed Fund for medical students; last year they made a \$1 million gift to establish a learning academy at the School of Medicine.

"Tulane shaped our lives," said Philip Leone.

Today the Leones are both pathologists who have worked in academic and private practice, and for more than three decades co-headed the Department of Pathology at Caromont Health in Gastonia, North Carolina.

The Leone Learning Center opened earlier in 2020 and is located in the Murphy Building. It is the first named learning academy in the School of Medicine. In learning academies, groups of students are brought together with a faculty mentor to learn from one another, building strong peer networks around shared areas of interest. That mentorship aspect appealed to the Leones, who treasure their ties to the Tulane men and women who guided them, including emeritus professor Dr. Richard J. Reed, and alumnus Dr. Wallace Clark.

"These guys were the guys who trained us, who demanded quality, and we learned a lot from them," Philip Leone said. "So we owe Tulane."





GIFT ENHANCES COVID-19 TESTING

ulane University has received a \$1 million gift from Elana Amsterdam and her husband, Rob Katz, to significantly expand its molecular pathology lab to increase COVID-19 testing capacity within the region.

The funding will enable Tulane University School of Medicine to purchase new equipment and hire additional full-time staff to ramp up capacity to process up to 1,000 COVID-19 tests per day at its downtown lab. Medical school researchers are also working on highly sensitive next-generation tests that use CRISPR genetic editing technology to screen samples; the lab will be equipped to incorporate those tests as they are developed and approved for clinical use.

Amsterdam is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of Elana's Pantry, and Katz is the chief executive officer of Vail Resorts.

"We know that widespread testing is critical in stopping the spread of COVID-19. With support from Elana and Rob, we will substantially increase our ability to test individuals in the community who are symptomatic, those who have been exposed to the illness as well as vulnerable populations who are most at risk," said Tulane University President Michael Fitts.

"Rob and I feel very fortunate to be able to provide support to the amazing team at the Tulane School of Medicine and the work they are undertaking to improve and broaden COVID-19 testing. We cannot recall another moment during our lives that has caused so much disruption — to our work, our health and our communities. Making testing widely available is critical to address the challenges we all face," said Amsterdam.



During Tulane University's third annual giving day held on June 25, over \$1.1 million was raised from more than 2,700 gifts. "Give Green: A Day for the Audacious," a 24hour event, had been postponed twice by the university out of respect for the challenges faced by members of its community. But the "Give Green" event stands as a giving day watermark for the university. Contributions came from all 50 states and from 12 countries.



UNIVERSITY VALUES

eonard A. Lauder, chairman emeritus of The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc., has made a gift to Tulane University to establish The Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values. The inaugural holder of the professorship will be Walter Isaacson, professor of history in the Tulane School of Liberal Arts and co-chair of The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University.

The gift will also support speakers on American history and values at The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University, as well as the Values in America Speaker Series, which features a variety of leading voices on the topic of values in America.

"As a student of history, a veteran and someone who loves the common values that unite this nation, I hope that this professorship allows the next generation to learn from the lessons of the past and from a variety of voices so that together we can continue to build a brighter future," Lauder said.

Lauder spent three decades as chief executive officer of The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc., one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of prestige skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care products. In addition to his role with the company, Lauder is extremely involved in education, art, politics and philanthropy.

"Leonard Lauder has always been interested in American history and how it informs our values," Isaacson said. "He's been generous in funding American history and values programs at the University of Pennsylvania and the Aspen Institute. He has helped fund a speaker series at Tulane that brought people such as Madeleine Albright, Jon Meacham, Annette Gordon-Reed and Ken Burns to campus in the past year to talk about American history and values."

Opposite page, left: Lenore Benson Raborn and Dr. Robert Raborn established a trust that will benefit the university; right: Dr. Cheryl Levine Leone and Dr. Philip Leone established a learning academy at the medical school . This page, from left: A gift from Rob Katz and Elana Amsterdam increases COVID-19 testing; Leonard A. Lauder's gift establishes the Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values.

DONORS SUPPORT SPORT AND HEALTH

wo programs with ties to sport received generous gifts this year. The innovative and interdisciplinary Center for Sport received a \$5.5 million gift from the Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation, Inc., and the newly created Tulane University Center for Brain Health, also a program of the Center for Sport, received a \$12.5 million gift from The Avalon Fund.

The Tulane Center for Sport is devoted to the study, research and support of all areas where sport engages society, including health, legal issues, labor agreements, sports marketing and finance, media, data analytics and venue architecture. The Center for Brain Health, which will work in conjunction with the School of Medicine, will specialize in the treatment of traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder in U.S. military veterans.

The Hertz Family Foundation fund for the Center for Sport will support initiatives for current faculty members and leadership, attract prominent faculty members, visiting professors and adjunct instructors to the center while continuing to support and expand its existing nationally recognized programs.

"This generous gift continues the Hertz family tradition of providing transformative support to the academic mission of Tulane," said President Michael Fitts. "This gift will strengthen the Center for Sport's role as a national leader in the study of athletic competition and its far-reaching impact on so many aspects of the human condition."

"Our family is thrilled to support the vision of interdisciplinary studies on a subject that has become so important in the daily lives of many Americans," said Doug Hertz (A&S '74, B '76), the immediate past chair of the Board of Tulane.





Hertz and his family are the catalysts behind the gift. Hertz, along with his wife, Lila Loewenthal Hertz (NC '76), daughter Amy Hertz Agami (NC '02), son Michael J. Hertz (B '05) and sister Patricia Jill Hertz Reid (B '79) all graduated from Tulane.

"Through the support of the Hertz family, we will be able to enhance our interdisciplinary study, research, teaching and community engagement of all levels of the sports industry,"said Gabe Feldman, the Sher Garner Professor of Sports Law, the Paul and Abram B. Barron Professor of Law, and the director of the Tulane Sports Law Program.

Feldman and Dr. Greg Stewart, the chief of the Section of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and W. Kennon McWilliams Professor in Sports Medicine, are co-founders and co-directors of the Tulane Center for Sport. Stewart, who is also the director of Tulane's Professional Athlete Care Team, which has cared for retired professional athletes through partnerships with the NFL Player Care Foundation and The Trust (Powered by the NFLPA), will oversee the clinic at the Center for Brain Health.

"I fully expect that Dr. Stewart and his team will make unique contributions to the care of veterans in the New Orleans area and well beyond," said Dr. James Kelly, executive director for the Marcus Institute for Brain Health, on behalf of the Avalon Fund.

"We are very proud and excited about the launch of the Tulane University Center for Brain Health. Our focus on veterans caring for former members of our armed forces — is an honor beyond words," Stewart said. ♥

Top: Dr. James Kelly (left), Avalon Fund representative, and Tulane's Dr. Greg Stewart (right) sign the agreement for the creation of the Center for Brain Health. Left: Immediate past chair of the Board of Tulane Doug Hertz (center) and members of the Hertz family made a generous gift to the Center for Sport.

Tulanians





BRENDA SEABROOKE (NC '63) has published stories in three anthologies: "The Nautch Night Case" (The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories Part XIV: 2020 Annual [1882–1890]); "The Naval Man" (Sherlock Holmes Adventures in the Realms of Edgar A. Poe); and "The Case of the Spanish Bride" (Sherlock Holmes and the Great Detectives). She lives in Virginia.

GENE LANDRUM (UC'65) of Naples, Florida, was the creator and first president of Chuck E. Cheese Family Entertainment. Since taking it public in 1982, he has written 45 books on success and has been a motivational speaker, and is professor emeritus of business at Hodges University. **DR. JEFFREY FEINGOLD (A&S '67)** of Delray Beach, Florida, has been appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the organization that guides the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

An exhibition of works by **EUGENE RAY** (A '69), "Radiant Architecture: The Visionary Works of Eugene Ray," was mounted at San Diego State University from August to October 2019. Ray lives in La Jolla, California.



SARALYN RICHARD (NC '71) published *A Palette for Love and Murder*, a Detective Parrott Mystery. She also writes children's books. She lives in Galveston, Texas. MARLENE ESKIND MOSES (NC '72, SW '73), an internationally recognized family law expert and founding manager of MTR Family Law PLLC in Nashville, Tennessee, is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2021*. She has also been named president of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

RANDOLPH READ (A&S '72) of Houston was named an All-American in Masters Long Distance Running for 2019 by the USA Track & Field Association in the 5,000-meter run.

The University of Oklahoma Press announced the release of *Nashville's Songwriting Sweethearts: The Boudleaux and Felice Bryant Story* by **BOBBIE MALONE (NC'75, G'79, '90, '94)** and former faculty member Bill C. Malone.

JAMES W. HUNTER (A&S '76) was awarded a Doctor of Ministry from

Did you eat lots of ramen in your dorm room? What food fueled you during late-night study sessions? Tell us your campus dining memories!



The realization that the Louisiana style food in Bruff was actually good (compared to everything else) changed my whole freshman year. Paul Beebe (TC '00)



Salad bar at Bruff, weekend brunch at Bruff, which usually took me the rest of the day to recover from. I have never had biscuits as good as the ones from the UC.

Carolyn Dorow White (NC '91)



"Care packages" from home with cans of Vienna sausages, Spreadables, Beanie-Weenie, Underwood Deviled Ham, sardines, tuna, and Cup-o-Soup supplemented by walks to the nearest Popeye's for chicken and biscuits...and Tab soda. Karl A. Doss (A&S '83)

SOPHIA OMORO SURGEON, DESIGNER SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR



Sophia Aomo Omoro (M'oo,'o2) always knew she wanted to be a surgeon. However, her passion for science and her dedication to becoming a top-notch surgeon didn't lessen her desire to pursue other interests that are close to her heart, including fashion design, entrepreneurship and mentorship of young women.

"We all have a purpose, and it is not defined by our job or our title," she said. "People get lost in this, and the world wants to put us in little boxes, but we must break out and live in a wider, fuller way."

HOUSE OF AOMO

Omoro's journey took her from her home in Nairobi, Kenya, to Canada and ultimately to New Orleans and Tulane, where she earned a PhD in physiology and an MD.

She eventually completed a residency in otolaryngology surgery, also at Tulane School of Medicine, and is now a surgeon and department chief at Midwest Surgical Specialists in Lima, Ohio.

As a female surgeon, Omoro felt that she had to prove herself in a male-dominated field, but she also wanted to express her artistic side. One vehicle of expression came in the form of fashion design.

Omoro's mother was a seamstress, so the appreciation for craft and the beauty of fabric was natural for her. The sixth child of eight, she began designing clothes in childhood in order to set herself apart from her similarly dressed siblings.

This desire to present a unique face to the world continued into adulthood. On visits to Kenya she would bring her designs and commission talented seamstresses to make the clothing. Over the years she accumulated a large collection and was often asked, "Where do you get your clothes?" In 2014, when her friend and medical colleague Amy Trainor learned that she designed her own clothing, Trainor challenged Omoro to show her line in a fashion show. It was a huge success and odAOMO ("House of Aomo") was born. Soon after the fashion show, the first odAOMO store opened on Chartres Street in New Orleans' French Quarter, and in 2017 another store opened in Nairobi, Kenya. All the materials for the clothing and accessories are environmentally sourced in Africa and produced in Kenya and Ghana. The Nairobi store is operated by three Kenyan women who are heads of households, and Omoro's entire team, including craftspeople, receive generous wages and have opportunities for career growth. In this way odAOMO directly supports communities in Kenya.

"The inner circle ripples out to others all around them. One of the beaders and handbag makers was able to open a school in his village," Omoro said of the impact the business is having on Kenyan communities.

Just like other business owners, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges for Omoro, but her resilience and the dedication of her team are making it possible to plan for the future. The French Quarter shop remains strategically closed for the time being; however, the store in Kenya has reopened with heightened safety and health protocols in place. New ventures, such as a virtual fashion show and an outdoor fashion show in Nairobi, as well as exploring social media, have provided new ways for Omoro to reach out and engage with her customers in a meaningful way.

IDENTIFYING ONE'S PURPOSE

Another project of Omoro's that directly affects lives is the Blooming Lily Foundation. The foundation, which was named in honor of her sister Lily, who passed away before she had the opportunity to "bloom," empowers girls to identify their purpose, overcome obstacles and develop the resilience to pick themselves up if they stumble.

Blooming Lily supports programs in Kenya and also St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana, where each year 20-25 girls are selected to participate in a four-day, all-expense-paid retreat. Since the foundation's beginning in 2014, 125 girls have completed the program.

Though Omoro has already pursued so many endeavors she is not content to sit with her accomplishments — she is already working on another project. Her humility and wisdom are as inspiring as her work.

"Tm not special," she said. "It's a decision one makes, to find and define your purpose and move toward that. We all have the same amount of time in a day, so we simply must reclaim wasted time, purposely use it, be present and aware and then we can accomplish anything."



SPEAK EASY DONALD J. PALMISANO, MD, JD, FACS, Tulane Medical Alumni Association's 2013 Outstanding Medical Alumnus, has published his latest book, *A Leader's Guide to Giving a Memorable Speech*, which was released in April. The book gives tips on how to overcome fear and give speeches worthy of a standing ovation, including two powerful stories about legends in Tulane medicine: Drs. Oscar Creech and Charles Dunlap.

Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, in May 2019.

Murder in the Bayou Boneyard, the sixth book in **ELLEN (SEIDEMAN) BYRON'S (NC'77)** award-winning *Cajun Country Mystery* series, launched in September. Byron lives in Los Angeles.

DAVID "CHET" CHIDESTER (A&S '77) is presiding over a mental health treatment court, which diverts nonviolent felonies for defendants who undergo rigorous mental health treatment and addiction counseling. Judge Chidester is in his 19th year on the bench in Porter County, Indiana.

BETH A. HOUGHTON (NC '77, B '78) has been appointed CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County in Clearwater, Florida.

The Citizen Advocacy Center awarded **ZENO W. ST. CYR II (PHTM '78)** as a recipient of the prestigious Dr. Benjamin Shimberg Public Service Award. St. Cyr is a retired federal healthcare executive in the Washington, D.C., area.

HOWARD SCOTT WARSHAW (A&S '78, E '79), a licensed psychotherapist in Silicon Valley, wrote an article called "Quarantine Lifestyle in the Age of Unforeseen Consequences" to help people deal with the symptoms and frustrations of quarantine.

DR. SCOTT SWANSON (M '79) has been elected the president of the American Urological Association. He is a urology

Did you eat lots of ramen in your dorm room? What food fueled you during late-night study sessions? Tell us your campus dining memories!



1988, pizza delivery from Dino's to Monroe Hall at 3 AM.
SE Rusnak (E '92, PHTM '95, PHTM '02)



McAlister Market! I got lunch there so many times. Jenny Walton (SLA '12)



Avoided Bruff at all costs but ate lunch in the Parlor nearly every day. Saturday or Sunday morning brunch in the UC was a ritual. Carol Bayersdorfer Cohen (NC '80) Submit your news to alumnitulane.edu/news and follow @tulanealumni on Facebook to join the conversation.

specialist and consultant for the Department of Urology at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona.



LINDA AXELROD GREENFIELD (B'80) is the owner and president of Essential Career Counseling in the Los Angeles area.

CHRISTIAN T. "CHRISTY" BROWN (A&S 282, L '85) of New Orleans was elected to the shareholder board of directors of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United Inc. Brown is chairman of the board of directors of McIlhenny Co., as well as managing director of NOLA Holdings LLC, a private-equity investment firm.

KURT FINKE (E'84) of Washington, D.C. received the 2020 "HTM Leadership Award" from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation for his work as director of the Office of Healthcare Technology Management for the Veterans Health Administration.

REID HARRELL (A&S '84) has been promoted to chief executive officer of Argent Trust Co. in San Antonio. Harrell is chairman of the trust management committee.

ANDREW D. SHENKAN (A&S '84) was promoted to vice president and general manager of WLEX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Lexington, Kentucky.

DAVID SUSSMAN-EPPNER (A&S '84) and his wife, **AUDRY FRIEDMAN (NC '84)**, moved back to New Orleans. Sussman-Eppner, a licensed addiction counselor, received his MA in psychology from Argosy University in 2013 and completed his MSW at LSU in 2019.

Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta announced the addition of **HAROLD M. "SONNY" COHEN (A&S '85)** as a partner in the firm's corporate practice.

MELINDA RAINEY THOMPSON (NC '85) published her fifth book, *If I Were The Boss of You.* She is an author, speaker and an assistant lecturer in English at Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama.

STEPHEN D. WHEELIS (L '85) was appointed by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in April 2019 to serve as a bankruptcy judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Louisiana at Alexandria and Monroe. **BETSY M. SUPPES (G'86, B'99)** presented a paper, "Appraisals: Norming the Data for Comparable Sales of Unconventional Resources," at the Society of Mining Engineers Conference in Phoenix in February. Suppes lives in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

KENNETH BESSERMAN (A&S '88) has been named director of government affairs and special counsel for the Texas Society of CPAs. He was previously general counsel with the Texas Restaurant Association.

THOMAS M. FLANAGAN (L'89) and SEAN P. BRADY (L'06) of Flanagan Partners LLP in New Orleans have been named to the 2021 edition of *Best Lawyers*. Additionally, Flanagan has been recognized as the 2021 New Orleans appellate practice "Lawyer of the Year" and has been invited to serve on the board of directors for The Pro Bono Project.

DAVID M. KAPLAN (A&S '89) recently published *Food Philosophy, An Introduction.* He is associate professor of philosophy at the University of North Texas.



KAREN DUNN (NC '90) was named the new director of business development at Wegmann Dazet & Co., a CPA firm in metro New Orleans.

CARL DIMANNO (G '93) won the state of Virginia's top wine honor, the 2020 Virginia Governor's Cup Winner, for his 2017 Vidal Blanc Passito.

DAVID MELTZER (L '93), member of the Rose Bowl Legacy Board, was honored before the 2020 Rose Bowl Game. He signed the Tulane helmet in the Rose Bowl Museum. Meltzer is the co-founder and chief executive officer at Sports 1 Marketing in Irvine, California.

WILLIE E. SMITH (UC '93) was selected as the chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors.

Fiction writer **N.K. JEMISIN (NC'94)** was named a MacArthur Fellow for the Class of 2020. She was previously Tulane's Zale-Kimmerling Writer-in-Residence for 2019.

DR. BRANDI K. JONES (NC '94, M '98) a senior internal medicine and pediatrics physician at Ochsner Health Center-Driftwood in Kenner, Louisiana, was named Ochsner Health's 2019 Physician of the Year.

JARED LEVINTHAL (A&S '94) joined Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC as a partner in the firm's Houston office.

ELIZABETH "ELLEN" HATTON (A '97), a principal architect at the firm Barnes Vanze Architects in Washington, D.C., was elected to the Washington, D.C., chapter of the American Institute of Architects as a director at large on the 2020 Board of Directors.

DR. MARK RIDDLE (M '97, PHTM '97) is currently the associate chief of staff for research and a physician at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System in Reno, Nevada. Riddle, a Navy veteran, was featured in the series "VA Researchers Who Served."

ROBERT J. ALEXANDER (TC'99, B'05) has been named dean of admissions, financial aid and enrollment management at the University of Rochester in New York.

CHRISTINE SOW (G '99) has been appointed chief executive officer of Humentum in Washington, D.C.



SUMMER HUGHES NIAZY (NC '00) has been named a "Rising Star" for 2020 by the legal ranking guide Maryland Super Lawyers. Niazy practices in the commercial litigation group at the Baltimore law firm Kramon & Graham.

LOVE RUTLEDGE (NC'00) parlayed 19 years of federal government experience into a podcast for federal employees called "FedUpward."

Delgado Community College Professor **DEREK D. BARDELL (G '01, '02)** of New Orleans has been inducted into the International Educators' Hall of Fame by Youth on the Move. Bardell teaches in the business administration and teaching and learning departments.

MATTHEW CHARLES CARDINALE (TC'03) published his first book in 2019, *Tales of Audacity at the Turn of the Millennium.* The book includes accounts of life at Tulane; English Professor Rebecca Mark assisted Cardinale with writing and editing part of the book when he was a student. Vermont Academy, a small coed college preparatory school in Saxtons River, Vermont, recently awarded LT. COL. DEMERE KASPER HESS (NC '03) with the Florence Sabin Distinguished Alumni Award.

CARNEY ANNE NASSER (L'03) is the director of the animal welfare clinic at Michigan State University College of Law, and one of only four full-time animal law professors in the world. Nasser, of New Orleans, built the wildlife trafficking case against "Tiger King" Joe Exotic.



BIG WINNER

The book Kindred Spirits by **KEVIN BROWN (A '88, '04)** was recently honored with several literary awards: 2019 Indie Diamond Book Awards grand prize winner, 2019 Best Indie Book Awards winner and finalist for the 2019 National Indie Excellence Awards. In addition, an interview with Brown was published in Publishers Weekly / Booklife Magazine. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

STEWART SPIELMAN (L'03) is part of a five-partner team that has joined Hinshaw & Culbertson in New Orleans.

MELODY BAHAM WALTZ (NC '05) married Shawn Waltz on Nov. 16, 2019, in New Orleans.

SEAN CLUNE (TC '06) has been promoted to lead of Clune Construction's New York operations.

In May, **ERIC SEDRANSK**(B'06) launched a charity golf auction that raised over \$100,000 to feed frontline hospital workers in New York City.

KATHERINE MCCOY RIVERA (B'07), marketing and communications manager at Adams and Reese LLP in New Orleans, has been named the Legal Marketing Association Southwest Region Member of the Year.

LILY FILSON (SLA '08), an adjunct professor of art history at Tulane, received Did you eat lots of ramen in your dorm room? What food fueled you during late-night study sessions? Tell us your campus dining memories!



Miss Grace! "Come on baby, what are you having today?" She was the best. Cyril Brockmeier (UC '97)



Women's cafeteria regularly served my favorite food, artichokes, and Monday was red beans and rice! Lisette Markham (NC '72)



Netflix and chili. Shelby Pinkerton (SLA '16)



CINDY REESE MITCHELL

indy Reese Mitchell's (NC '99) journey to her current position as Founding Chief Executive Officer of Mill House Ventures in Canberra, Australia, began when she was a girl growing up in Macon County, Alabama. As a high school student, her passion for service was already stirring within her, so when the time came to apply to university, Tulane was one of her top choices. She received a full academic scholarship, choosing to major in sociology and economics.

"My Tulane experience was foundational for the person I have become. I felt that from the moment I walked into Newcomb Hall, I had found my belonging place. I had amazing women around me, and they showed me a way that I could give back through dedicated service," said Mitchell.

In 2003 she traveled to Australia on what was to be a six-month contract and has lived there ever since. Mitchell's goal of using business to create measurable social change resulted in her first endeavor into social entrepreneurship, the creation of No Sweat Fashions. This organization provides employment, training and social engagement for migrant and refugee women living in the Canberra area.

In 2016 Mitchell was asked by the University

of Canberra to write a business plan to build a social enterprise community hub. She suggested a different approach, one that would promote a community of social innovators, and Mill House Ventures, a social enterprise business development consultancy, was born. Mill House provides training in the principles of business and social entrepreneurship and assists aspiring social innovators to establish these hybrid businesses through the Social Enterprise Accelerator Program and the Mill House Clinic.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in Canberra, Mitchell's dedication to serving her community was once again demonstrated when she partnered with local service organizations to establish the Canberra Relief Network. The network was a response to the overwhelming need for emergency food relief during a critical phase of the pandemic.

Mitchell's outstanding work, inspiring women and girls across the Canberra region, has received much well-deserved attention, and she was selected as the 2020 ACT (Australian Capital Territory) Woman of the Year. She recalled the evening of the awards ceremony vividly:

"After the ceremony, I had many women of color come up to me, saying 'We won!' It meant so much to them to see a Black woman, an immigrant, settle in a new community and make a contribution that is recognized. That makes me proud. It's the culmination of all the women who loved and encouraged me. Now, it's my time to be that to the next generation."



IMPRESSION SUSAN HASSIG

fter years of studying HIV transmission, Susan Hassig (PHTM '84, '87), associate professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, became a go-to media source on the prevention and spread of COVID-19.

Her insights on how the virus spreads in places like salons and restaurants offered practical information for everyday situations and were widely reported in outlets including Conde Nast Traveler, Business Insider, Fox News and *The New York Times*.

Hassig, an epidemiologist, saw similarities between the emergence of the coronavirus in 2020 and HIV/AIDS in the 1980s, when preventing the spread of HIV prompted huge shifts in human behavior.

"I see some real parallels, and the pushback — in terms of the kinds of things that will prevent coronavirus — feels, to me, very similar to what we experienced in trying to do HIV prevention," she said.

After she earned a doctor of public health degree at Tulane, Hassig worked for Tulane on a project run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health in the Republic of Zaire (now known as Democratic Republic of the Congo). She returned to New Orleans for a Tulane faculty position in 1996.

"[Tulane] had the kind of strong international focus that, as a returned Peace Corps volunteer, I was looking for," she said.

Hassig said HIV research over the past decades provides a foundation for today's coronavirus research. In the future, she hopes to study COVID-19 as well, but "a lot of the things I want to do probably are going to have to wait until the outbreak is over."

Meantime, her classes in outbreak investigation and epidemiology have doubled in size. The developing nature of the pandemic can be beneficial to students.

"It gives an immediacy, in terms of what real-time public health is like, that is [otherwise] challenging to generate within a classroom setting," Hassig said. "I'm constantly using the real-time experience in helping students to think, if you were at a public health agency right now, what kinds of decisions would you have to make?"

One easy decision can be to mask up. "I've tried to make it fun with interesting designs," Hassig said. "Until this virus has gone, masks are going to be part of our lives." 🛡 a 2020 Renaissance Society of America Short-Term Grant. The grant will finance a research trip to the British Library in London to digitize previously unpublished Renaissance woodcuts by the German engraver Jorg Breu.

RYAN MCMAHON (B'08) has launched a new company, Elite Custom Adventures, whose mission is to help guests plan/prepare, transport/guide and photograph adventures in U.S. and Canadian national parks.

KAYCI PETENKO (B '08) recently cofounded the law firm Fleming Petenko Law in Philadelphia.

COURTNEY ALICIA COFFEY (SSE '09) was named the 17th president of Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the oldest Greek-letter organization for African American college-educated women.



DR. LENA GAMBLE (G '10) is spending her post-residency as a family medicine doctor at Kalekembe Hospital in Angola, Central Africa, through Samaritan's Purse. She also helped create safe COVID-19 protocols — including designated isolation areas, handwashing stations and mandatory mask wearing.

DANA AND NED HILDEBRAND (SLA '10) welcomed a son, Noah, to their family on Oct. 2, 2019.

JEFFREY CONNELL (SLA '11) joined the Atlanta office of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton as an associate on the Technology, Privacy and Cybersecurity Team.

JESSICA DRAKE-THOMAS (SLA'11) has published a book of poems called *Burials* from CLASH Books. She lives in Texas.

DR. LEANNE REDMAN (M '11) professor and director of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Women's Health Laboratory at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has been named associate executive director for scientific education.

New Orleanian **REED WENDORF (SLA'11)** teamed up with current student Sarah Manowitz to start a meal assistance program for hospitality industry workers, gig economy workers, and the LGBTQ community during the pandemic. **CAMILLE E. GAUTHIER (L '12)** and **MEGHAN F. GRANT (L '12)** of Flanagan Partners LLP in New Orleans have been named to the 2021 edition of Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch.

The Sonnet Response Series is a collaborative performance art project conceived and developed by **SHEA DONOVAN** (**SLA '13**) in collaboration with Indigo Arts Collective, in which Shakespeare's sonnets are transformed into personal, interdisciplinary creative acts.

SHELLEY WHITEHEAD (PHTM '13) and Daniel McCombie Jr. announced their engagement in May 2020. The couple plan to make their home in Bradenton, Florida, where Whitehead is senior entomologist at Manatee County Mosquito Control.

SAMUEL WAGSTAFF (SLA '14) and Rachel Appiah Kubi announced plans to be married in their Washington, D.C., home in June.

BROOK LAFLOE (SSE '16) was accepted into the FINNOVATION Lab Fellowship Program, where she plans to help reduce early childhood disparities for American Indian children by mobilizing an Indigenous artist and educators collective.

SAM SGROI (SLA'16) recently co-founded the Washington, D.C.–based nonprofit Tables Without Borders (TWB), which pairs emerging refugee and asylum-seeking chefs with local restaurants to participate in a paid culinary training program hosted by the restaurant. Sgroi and his co-founder were selected to participate in the Halcyon Incubator Fellowship for social entrepreneurs beginning in February.

ALEXA CANDELORA (B'17) has joined the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson LLP as an associate in the Casualty Litigation practice group.

COLLEEN DYCHDALA (SLA '18) and **KATHERINE CONROY (SLA '19)** started a new blog, "RDC Insider Insights," at their company, RDC, in Philadelphia.

DAVID MAPLES (A '18) is now a licensed architect in the state of California.

Z. CARTER FIGUEROA (L '20) has joined the law firm of Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer LLC in New Orleans as a transactional attorney.

Farewell

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

Jane Darrah Claflin (NC '38) Ethel Strack Thompson (NC '40) Sylvia Yonkelowitz Kravitz (NC '42) Dardanella Preto Pajares (UC '42) Ashley J. Shocket (A&S '42) James M. Jennings Jr. (E'43) Anne Moore Dlugos (NC '44) Helen Daspit Fabre (NC '44) Eve Heinemann Fortson (NC '44, M '55) Thaia Leopold Pick (NC '44) Helen Edwards Farris (B'45) Jo-Ellyn Levy Kupperman (NC '45) Robert C. Lancaster (M'45) Rene Lehmann (A&S '45, L '49) James H. Snell Jr. (E'45) R.M. Hicks (B'46) Raymond J. Pritchard (B'46) Robert V. Whittaker Jr. (B'46) Walter J. Amoss Jr. (B'47) Patricia Maxwell Burton (NC '47) Henry J. Dauterive Jr. (A&S '47, G '48) Barbara Wedemeyer Edmonson (NC '47, G'49,'88) Daniel S. Scharff Jr. (B'47) Doris Tisdale Spain (NC '47) Elmer C. Freed (A&S '48) Gabriel Hausmann Jr. (B'48) Carol Gates Lewis (NC '48) Frederick H. Lowe Jr. (A&S '48) Betsy Stein Matek (SW '48) John F. Santos (A&S '48, G '52, '58) John S. Treen (A&S '48, B '49) Raymond J. Boudreaux (A'49) Benjamin D. Bourgeois Jr. (B'49) Marie Louise Tureaud Grosch (B'49) Mary Lu Murray Hickman (M'49) J.W. Hill (B'49) Leonard R. Kennedy (A&S '49)

Oscar Z. Levy Jr. (B'49) Elizabeth Nairne McDermott (NC'49, G'66) William K. Althans (A&S '50) Harold F. Bolding (M '50) Yale Citrin (M'50) Carl B. Hakenjos Sr. (E'50) Suzanne Hodgman (G'50) Norman H. Hyams (A&S '50) Dorothy Jung King (NC '50) Dorothy Mccutcheon Lill (G '50) William E. Martin Jr. (E'50) Edouard M. Plauche (B'50) James L. Reynolds (A&S '50, M '53) Saul H. Schneider (A&S '50) Murdoch M. Watkins Jr. (E'50) Pearl Wiener Weiss (SW '50) Earl T. Bellanger (E'51) Robert N. Bruce Jr. (E'51, '53) Wade W. Burnside Jr. (A&S '51, M '54) Elwyn L. Cady Jr. (L'51) Reginald L. Caro Jr. (B'51) Joycelynn Crites (NC '51) Jeanne Abadie Daussin (NC '51) Brooke H. Duncan II (L'51) Donald M. Gallant (A&S '51, M '55) Charles E. Harrell (B'51) Kenneth McLeod Jr. (A&S '51, M '54) Marilyn Murret (UC '51) William J. Oberhelman Jr. (A&S '51) Curtis L. Powell (A&S '51) Cromwell O. Smith Jr. (E'51) Joseph G. Tranchina (UC '51) Edward E. Wright (A&S '51) Wilfred L. David Jr. (A&S '52) Gordon P. DeWolf Jr. (G '52) Salvador J. Ferreri (A&S '52, M '54) Albert N. Hudgens (A&S '52) James W. Sewell (M '52) Archie M. Suthon Jr. (A&S '52) John C. Tomlinson (M '52) Cyril J. Verret (B'52) Donald B. Wolfe (E'52)

Lynne Youmans Bolvig (NC '53) June Baughman Ellis (SW '53) John F. Jackson (M '53) Elsa Taylor Kalmbach (NC '53) Arthur M. King (B'53) Beryl D. Lovitz (A&S '53, M '56) Dosite H. Perkins Jr. (L'53) Charles R. Smith (M '53) Christine Willingham Doyle (SW '54) Edwin H. Frank (E'54) Harold M. Harger (A&S '54, M '57) Sandra Peilen Heller (NC '54, SW '86) Bertha Fisher Kern (B'54) Robert Liles Jr. (A&S '54, L '56) Cedric W. Lowrey (M '54) E.J. Miranne Jr. (A&S '54) James R. Price (B'54) Emily Stix Rosenberg (NC '54) Julia Douglass Spivey (NC '54) Avery Stirratt III (B'54) Barbara Vigo (NC '54) Ursula Goedecke Aston (NC '55) James V. Boone (E'55) Edwin A. Bowman Jr. (M '55) Howard D. Clark (M '55) John M. Currier (E'55, L'59) Jack D. Dienes (B'55) Leo W. Hebert (UC '55) R.H. Kinser (SW '55) Warren B. Kirsch (G '55, '58) John F. Lucas Jr. (M '55) Billy D. McKellar (M '55) William W. Messersmith III (B'55, L'59) Morton M. Pepper (A&S '55) Mason J. Seals (E'55) Robert B. Williams (M '55) Maurie D. Yager (L'55) Sue Francis Balmer (NC '56, G '61) W.D. Baptist (B'56) Harris M. Dulitz (A&S '56, L '59) Hoffman F. Fuller (L'56) W.D. Jackson (E'56)

TULANIANS continued

${\small Submit your news to a lumnitulane.edu/news and follow @ tulanealumni on Facebook to join the conversation.}$

Joy Ellison Nabi (UC '56) William W. Paine (A '56) H.D. Prescott Jr. (A&S '56) Sollie J. Rebouche Jr. (UC '56) Samuel T. Alcus III (A&S '57) Carol DeJean Fisher (B'57) Robert B. Jackson Jr. (A&S '57) Noel B. Koll (A&S '57) Louis P. LeBourgeois Jr. (A&S '57) Nathaniel W. Plotkin (A&S '57) Leonard C. Pronko (G'57) K.D. Ruppert (M'57) Paul B. Shaw (M'57) Joseph G. Stassi Sr. (E'57) David A. Treutel Sr. (B'57) Evelyn Nelson Wadsworth (NC '57) Paul B. Alker Jr. (E'58) Sarah Young Beacham (NC '58) Barbara Bode-Carneiro (G '58, '74) James M. Davis (SW '58) Victor S. Igal (M '58) Herman Lefkowitz (B'58) Lee R. Leonard (A&S '58, L '59) William O. Owings (M '58) Wiley B. Tanner (PHTM '58) James D. Whitman Jr. (G '58) Frances Glass Day (UC '59) George E. Dexter (G'59) William A. Heine Sr. (B'59) Eugene J. Jax (SW '59) Mary Montgomery Mahaffey (NC '59) Henry H. Plauche Jr. (B'59) Charles T. Scarborough Jr. (A&S '59, G '64) William C. Capps (B'60) Dorothy Storey Charbonnet (NC '60) Ejner J. Jensen (G'60, '65) W.D. Judlin (E'60) Victor J. Law (E '60, '62, '63) Teck S. Lian (G '60, M '60) David S. Royal (M '60) Margaret Hillery Villere (NC '60, B '93)

Charles P. Abbott (M '61, '67) William H. Bergeron (A&S '61) Frances Wolf Friedman (NC '61) Anita Garcia (NC '61) James M. O'Neal (A&S '61) Andree Planche (B'61) Henry R. Schorr Sr. (E'61) Carl E. Warden Jr. (B'61) Kennard W. Wellons (SW '61) Rodolfo G. Zaffirini Jr. (A&S '61, M '64) Etta Harrell Arata (NC '62) Stephen A. Cohen (A&S '62, M '65) Virginia McCall Engelhardt (SW '62) David J. Gardberg (A&S '62) Delph A. Gustitus (A&S '62) Robert C. Kagy (A&S '62) Thomas E. Lowe Jr. (M '62) William B. Mathews Jr. (M '62) Howard A. Nelson Jr. (M '62) David A. Pang (A'62) Charles E. Richards Jr. (B'62, L'64) Michael C. Abrahm Jr. (B'63, L'66) Mary Richardson Berridge (SW '63) Carl R. Catherman (G'63) Theodora Bray Clark (NC '63) E.F. Eyster (M '63) Euin E. Frank (G'63) Howard J. Hershberg (A '63) Peter D. Thompson Jr. (E '63) J.W. Bradford (A&S '64) Carol Waldman Cohen (NC '64) David A. Combe (A&S '64, L '71) Norman J. Esquerre (UC '64) Donald L. Glancy (UC '64) David A. Paysse Sr. (B'64, L'67) William F. Ryan (G'64) Ronald J. Scrudato (G'64) John R. Sellers (G '64, '68) Delery Eagan Strassel (NC '64, G '71) Neil A. Wilson Jr. (A&S '64) James D. Carriere (L'65) Charles J. Carter (UC '65)

Alexander J. Fisher Sr. (UC '65) K.M. Laughlin (M'65) John M. Nunez Sr. (UC '65) Tadeusz K. Wiewiorowski (G '65) Karen Janssen Buford (NC '66) David T. Butler (UC '66) John W. Hutchison (L'66) Linda Rochkind Katz (NC '66) Yukiko Hayakawa Llewellyn (G'66) David M. Moore (A&S '66, G '69) Hudson R. Nichols (A&S '66, B '72) Ralph R. Basile (A&S '67) James R. Davis (A&S '67) Stephen B. Edelson (M '67) Donald R. Flint (G '67) Stephen G. Davidson (L'68) Joseph F. Margues III (G '68, A&S '86) Thomas M. Nosewicz (A&S '68, L '73) John P. Pasqua Sr. (UC '68) Eads Poitevent III (A&S '68) E. Stewart (NC '68) Gerard P. Sunderland (A&S '68) Gerald M. Weiner (A&S '68) John G. Williams (L'68) Billie J. Fluker (E'69) Carolyn Lovejoy McNeal (G'69) Bobby L. Sledge (B'69) Mignon Upchurch Beranek (NC '70) Doyle E. Campbell (SW '70) Thomas R. Graves Jr. (M '70) Donald W. Jones (L'70) R.B. McKeever Jr. (A&S '70) Wayne J. Munsch (A&S '70, UC '83) Patricia Ford Watts (PHTM '70) James G. Dalferes (A&S '71, L '74) Peter M. Goldman (M '71) Millard M. Bosworth II (A&S '72) Jack E. Cohen (A&S '72) Maria Paradelo Friguls (NC '72) William M. Garrett Jr. (M '72) Rodney T. Hartman (A&S '72) Truman L. McCasland (PHTM '72)

Russell A. Mericle Jr. (B'72) James E. Pawelak (SW '72) Darrell A. Pope (PHTM '72) Sandra Mutina Rudloff (G '72, '76, L '79) Jay I. Antis (A&S '73) Edith Balot (SW '73) James L. Bergman (M '73) Rose Davenport Bouldin (G '73) D. M. Burnett (E'73) William L. Hyde (A&S '73) Wayne E. Julian (A&S '73, M '77) George B. Kohn (A&S '73) J.H. Allender (G '74, M '78) Lawrence B. Fabacher II (L'74) Dorcas Hough-Lynch (PHTM '74) Diane Rauch Kern (G'74) Robert R. McJimsey (G'74) Marilyn Morton (PHTM '74) Keith W. Petrie (L'74) Raymond S. Prats Jr. (A&S '74) Patricia Sammons Sheats (NC '74) Myrtis Snowden (PHTM '74) Joanne Yianilos (NC '74) Robert S. Chase (A&S '75) David W. Duffner (A&S '75) Jean Roempke Hammett (NC '75) Anne McGee Kelley (G '75) William H. Barnwell (G '76) Dean A. Dessem (A&S '76) William C. Hathaway (PHTM '76) F.O. Kendrick (L'76) Joseph C. Le Fevre (G '76) Peggie Wingo Marrs (PHTM '76) Robert H. Matthews (L'76) Raoult C. Ratard (PHTM '76) Oliver S. Delery Jr. (E'77) Christopher M. Gaines (E '77) Nancy Goldy Malis (NC '77) Anna Hutton Riley (SW '77) Reynaud W. Alexander (G '78) Jacqueline Owers Favret (PHTM '78) Sharon Fernan Henry (SW '78)

Mark D. Miller (L'79) Michael S. Owens (A&S '79) Carrie Chalker (PHTM '80) Leon J. Grabert Jr. (UC '80) Elizabeth Dietrich Hickey (SW '80) Michael S. O'Brien (L'80) Sameh R. Abul-Ezz (PHTM '81, '90) R.C. Llewellyn II (L'81, E'84) William M. Loftin (B'81) Shirley Arnold-Johnson (UC '82) Alfred L. Hansen (L'83) Andrew D. Fredman (A&S '84) Wendy Schornstein Good (L'84) Toni Metoyer Booker (NC '86) Beverly Chaignaud (NC '86, M '90) Kelly Duggan (L'86) Ron S. Goodstein (A&S '86) William H. Henkel III (E'87) Harold J. Lind III (UC '87)

Michael P. Magi (E'87) Sally Simmons Zarinski (UC '89) William F. Allen (G'88) Dorothy Holleman (NC '88) Randal E. Bissel (B'89) Bruce E. Fleury (G '89, '96) Holly Parks (SW '89) Daniel A. Castro Jr. (G '90, '94) Hussein Hekmatdoost (E'90) Laurie Fredricks Buckley (SW '91) Janet Hacking Burke (NC '91) Andrew J. Englande III (B'91, PHTM'96) Joyce Schouest Phillips (UC '91) Jordan I. Lebamoff (L'92) Philip H. Dodson (UC '93, '96) Heather Robb (PHTM '93) John W. Blassingame Jr. (L'94) Suresh Jayabalan (TC '94) Thomas M. Powell (B'94)

Paul M. Allen (PHTM '95, '02) Javier A. Cristiani (A '95) Khristopher A. Hoven (TC '95) Michael R. Ward (L'95) Andrea Bell (UC '96) Stephen V. Pearce (B'96) Julia Penick (UC '96) Michael D. Roche (TC '97, L '01) Connie Woodruff Douglas (G '98) Laura Smith Weight (L'98) Jason S. Lane (PHTM '99, M '04) Geza V. Loranth (PHTM '99) Gerald B. Weathers (L'05) Alexander K. Kriksciun (L'08) Alexander R. Brooks (B'10) Roxann Gonsoulin (SCS '12) Melaine Sebastian (SSE '13)

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'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.)



BERTHE AMOSS

Berthe Marks Amoss (NC '46, G '86) passed away in Pass Christian, Mississippi, on Oct. 6, 2019, at 94 years of age. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher, writer, illustrator ... but to me, she was a muse. I did not know her well or for long, nor she did she know the inspiration she has become to me.

Our story started in 2010, at the first annual New Orleans Book Festival. We asked local authors to join us, and Berthe eagerly agreed to participate in the inaugural event at Latter Library. In addition to presenting her Children's Choice Award–winning book, *The Cajun Gingerbread Boy*, Berthe also presented homemade gingerbread boy cookies, to the delight of every child on the lawn.

That day was my first brush with Berthe's magic. As the years went on, I saw her only at our annual festival — once she gifted me a collection of her books, many of which were no longer in print. In preparation for this year's festival at Tulane, I joyously rediscovered the stack and spent the afternoon reading, loving every word on the pages ... making a note to reconnect with Berthe. The next day, I learned she had passed away.

Inspired by her words, I spent the next weeks learning about Berthe, discovering that she was born and raised in New Orleans, graduated from Newcomb College in 1946, and 40 years later received a Master of Arts from Tulane. In the intervening years, Berthe married her childhood sweetheart, became a mom to six successful sons, and followed her passion of becoming a writer and illustrator of children's books.

Through sheer will and a serendipitous personal visit to a publisher in New York City, she published dozens of children's books, now housed in the Amoss Collection of Children's Books at the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library.

But it is one of her stories, about Sophie, the roth Muse, that has inspired me the most. It tells about love, poetry, and magic ... all things I now know made Berthe such a creative and beautiful writer. Thank you Berthe for the art, the inspiration, the cookies — and for being the 11th Muse to the child in all of us.

-Cheryl Landrieu, former first lady of the city of New Orleans, founded the New Orleans Book Festival and is co-chair of the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University.

WHY WE CAME BACK

BY MIKE FITTS, President

hen I last wrote in this space, I began with a quote from Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "The way to build a great city is to create a great university and wait 200 years."

With Tulane at 186 years old and New Orleans at 300, I declared that the time was now for Tulane to join civic and business leaders in transforming our hometown into a startup leader, a healthcare and biotech hub and home to a diverse mix of entrepreneurs, artists and innovators.

The Spring Tulanian, which included this message, never happened. Blame COVID-19. But Tulane's impact on the city and the world only increased with our researchers seeking COVID-19 treatments and a vaccine, our medical professionals caring for COVID-19 patients, our epidemiologists assisting the World Health Organization and more. The urgency of these efforts was a major reason we returned to campus for in-person instruction and operations this fall. With its deep relational culture, hands-on learning and research and its location in one of the world's most culturally and environmentally significant regions, Tulane benefits



Ensuring a rewarding academic and social experience for our students, creating a more diverse and just university, continuing our life-saving research and transforming the heart of our city into a high-tech and

healthcare hub are why we came back — and why we are here to stay.

greatly from the physical presence of its campus population.

To make our return to campus possible we launched one of the country's most rigorous safety, testing, tracing and isolation/ quarantine programs. This allowed a return to campus life and prioritized the safety of the Tulane community and our neighbors. For instance, we regularly test thousands of students, faculty, staff and contract workers, many of whom are full-time NOLA residents and who would not know their infection status if not for Tulane. We have also provided thousands of community-based test results for first-responders, nursing homes, incarcerated individuals and mental health patients. In addition, we are hoping to assist the New Orleans Parish School Board in a testing program for teachers and staff.

The transformative expansion plans I mentioned at the beginning of this piece are still in full swing. I recently joined



The university invested in the installation of 18 temporary buildings on the uptown campus for teaching as well as dining to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus this fall.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell at a ribbon-cutting for the long-vacant Warwick hotel, which we plan to fill with apartments and retail space for downtown students, researchers, physicians and faculty. We are also planning to be the anchor tenant in the redevelopment of the Charity Hospital building, hoping to fill more than a third of it with laboratories, classrooms, offices and clinical space. Our goal is to place more labs and scientists near the central business district where their discoveries can come to market faster and spur future investments.

In addition, we are committed to creating a better Tulane by building a culture that embraces diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for all. Part of this includes increasing the diversity of our student body through efforts like the Louisiana Promise. Through this new program we will make a Tulane undergraduate degree more affordable for Louisiana students from low- and middle-income families and create initiatives to increase access to higher education overall for students in New Orleans. We want to be a university that recognizes diversity as fundamental to advancing intellectual rigor, learning and scholarship. And through business, civic and social partnerships we seek to build and support a fairer and more equitable New Orleans and Gulf Coast region.

Ensuring a rewarding academic and social experience for our students, creating a more diverse and just university, continuing our life-saving research and transforming the heart of our city into a high-tech and healthcare hub are why we came back and why we are here to stay.







save the date March 23, 2021

Last year, more than 2,100 Tulanians joined together to support Tulane University in one single day. Give Green will be back in 2021 and you can help make it even bigger and better. Get excited for our annual day to celebrate our collective power and transform Tulane through audacity and generosity!

#givegreenTU

givegreen.tulane.edu





ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage **PAID** PPCO

