

THE MAGAZINE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY / WINTER 2022

# TULANIAN

Re



The Inaugural  
Research,  
Scholarship and  
Artistic Achievement  
Awards



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## ***CONNECTED BY SHARED EXPERIENCE***

Students stream down the walkway near the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life and The Commons. After Hurricane Ida, the campus quickly rebounded to its usual hustle and bustle, and students were happy to be back on campus again.









# Contents

TULANIAN

WINTER 2022 / VOL. 93 / NO. 2

## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 In Brief

## UP FIRST

- 8 By the Numbers, DRLA
- 9 Architecture's Renovation, Talk About Race
- 10 Athletics
- 11 In-Person Dance Artist, Social Network
- 12 New Orleans Wish You Were Here
- 13 Note to New Inhabitants
- 14 John Clemmer: A Legacy in Art
- 36 Research Awards

## WAVEMAKERS

- 37 Audacious Giving

## TULANIANS

- 40 Class Notes
- 42 Ampersand
- 44 Impression
- 46 Farewell
- 47 Tribute

## VIEWPOINT

- 48 President's Letter

# 16

MAIN FEATURE

## HALL OF FAME

For the first time, Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Awards were bestowed on Tulane's stellar researchers and scholars. We devote 21 pages and five stories to them in this issue of the *Tulanian*. First up, are the Research Hall of Fame Award recipients, aka lifetime achievement honorees.



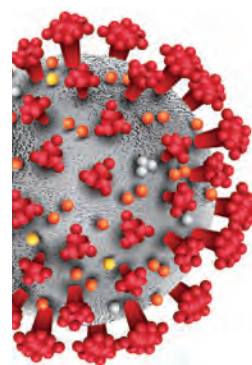
## 22 SPIRIT OF TULANE

The Spirit of Tulane Award recognizes individuals whose work during the COVID-19 pandemic embodies Tulane's motto: *Non sibi, sed suis* (Not for one's self, but for one's own).



## 30 EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Provost's Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion recognizes research that addresses societal inequities and promotes social change.



## 26 INNOVATION

The Innovation Award recognizes scholars/investigators who develop and explore novel ideas, approaches and insights through interdisciplinary scholarship to address clinical, public health or societal challenges.

# Make Way

MORE CONTENT AT  
[tulanian.tulane.edu](https://tulanian.tulane.edu)



# Yeah, You Write

## From the Editor

In this *Tulanian*, we celebrate the breadth and depth of the research conducted by Tulane faculty members. Their investigations, explorations, innovations and discoveries make a difference to lives around the world. The researchers featured on pages 16–36 received recognition at the inaugural Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Awards held on a cool, lovely evening in November. While the awards go by different names, the overall theme is the same: To be a Tulane researcher is extraordinary. Tulane researchers lift up colleagues, patients and students. Everyone sits up straighter when it is known that a Tulane researcher is in the room. In the vignettes presented here, award recipients talk about their career paths and their solid, determined dedication to further knowledge and eradicate suffering, especially in the time of the coronavirus.

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## To the Editor

[Email letters to [tulanemag@tulane.edu](mailto:tulanemag@tulane.edu)]

### JYA Memories

Thank you, Joel Gardner, for your article in the fall 2021 *Tulanian* sharing a memorable Junior Year Abroad experience. It was a reminder of how JYA has enriched the lives and education of thousands of Tulane students since the program's founding in 1955. My personal brush with fame came on my JYA in Paris. I attended a lecture by Jean-Paul Sartre at the Sorbonne. Simone de Beauvoir was there watching from a front row seat off to the side. And then Pamplona on summer vacation — was that really Hemingway we saw at the café or his infamous impostor?

**Marcelle d'Aquin Saussy, NC '61, G '74**  
*Director, Tulane-Newcomb Junior Year Abroad, 1977–1997*  
New Orleans

### Don't Forget Traditional Energy

I read the latest piece on alternative energy ["Energy in Motion," fall 2021] and it struck me that *Tulanian* writes so much about alternative energy and fighting climate change but never about alumni contributions to traditional energy. There are so many alumni who contribute to America's energy independence and go completely unrecognized.

**Brandon Calvo, B '07**  
*San Diego*

### Energy Future

As we choose to move away from fossil fuel, we must do so with a rational strategy, and not a blast of unbridled

enthusiasm to do good and avoid evil. Our dependence on fossil fuel is critical to our economy and our national security.

**Lawrence Beckman, E '64, G '69**  
*Houston*

### Magazine Fit for a Top 50 University

Congratulations on giving my alma mater the magazine that a Top 50 university deserves and doing so consistently. The spirits of Quentin Ault [A&S '47], Merrill Gerstner [A&S '56], Adelaide Hawn and Armand Bertin would be joyful.

**Ronald A. Pyke, A&S '62**  
*Highland Park, Illinois*

### Share of the Pie

Having just read Prof. Gary Hoover's quote in your fall 2021 issue regarding his thinking that people at the top of the income distribution fear that helping people at the bottom means their share of the pie will be smaller, I can only hope it was taken out of context. Most high-income people I know think their share of the pie will increase over time by their investments in a growing economy. Higher taxes can be offset by increased income through wage growth and investments. Of course, the opposite is true as well. Transferring income through higher taxes in a no-growth economy will certainly shrink their share of the pie.

**Geoff Snodgrass, A&S, '77, L '80**  
*New Orleans*

### A Reader's Comment

Love getting the *Tulanian*.

**Christopher G. Moore, A&S '74**  
*Tinton Falls, New Jersey*



# In Brief

## ACADEMICS

### NEW BUSINESS SCHOOL DEAN

Paulo Goes is the new dean of the A. B. Freeman School of Business. His vision for Freeman is to develop interdisciplinary programs, continue the school's experiential learning and expand research. Goes previously served as dean of the University of Arizona's Eller College of Management. Goes replaces Ira Solomon, who stepped down after a decade as dean.

[tulane.it/new-business-dean](https://tulane.it/new-business-dean)

## ACADEMICS

### GULF SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The National Academies' Gulf Research Program has selected Tulane to join the newly launched Gulf Scholars Program. The program aims to cultivate future leaders who will serve the region as scientists, engineers, educators, community leaders, policymakers, designers and innovators in local communities.

[tulane.it/gulf-scholars-program](https://tulane.it/gulf-scholars-program)

## ON CAMPUS

### LEASE FOR CHARITY HOSPITAL BUILDING

Tulane University, along with developers 1532 Tulane Partners and SKK Opportunity Zone Fund I, LLC, announced in November a new phase in the redevelopment of the former Charity Hospital building, which will result in Tulane initially occupying nearly 350,000 square feet through a long-term lease. Over the next few years, the developers and Tulane will transform Charity, which has been empty since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, into a mixed-use complex with apartments, retail, educational institutions and other use, all anchored by Tulane's academic and research presence.

[tulane.it/charity-lease](https://tulane.it/charity-lease)

## QUOTED

“Portraying women and men as inherently falling along stereotypical gender roles as ‘natural’ or ‘innate’ **perpetuates incorrect gender role myths, stereotypes and sexism.**”

CATHERINE MCKINLEY, associate professor at the School of Social Work, in a *Verywell Mind* article, about a study that found women are not more emotional than men.

[tulane.it/catherine-mckinley-verywell-mind](https://tulane.it/catherine-mckinley-verywell-mind)

## ACADEMICS

### BYWATER DIRECTOR

John Sabo, a leading scholar on water resources and river ecology, stepped into his role as the director of the ByWater Institute in the fall. He also is a professor in the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering. Previously at Arizona State University, Sabo served as a professor and founding director of Future H<sub>2</sub>O, a nationally renowned initiative to create solutions for water abundance that can scale to the world stage. Sabo studies the importance of water in determining the viability and resilience of animal and plant populations in river ecosystems.

[tulane.it/bywater-director](https://tulane.it/bywater-director)

## RIVER-COASTAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

### RIVER FORECASTING

Ehab Meselhe, a professor in the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering, will develop an online forecasting tool to help scientists, ecologists and engineers evaluate how freshwater diversion and other coastal restoration projects may impact marine mammals, shorebirds, barrier islands and fisheries from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. The project, funded by a grant from the NOAA RESTORE Science Program, aims to fund research that reduces the uncertainty around the management of natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico region.

[tulane.it/river-forecasting](https://tulane.it/river-forecasting)



## FROM CAMPUS

### NEW PODCASTS AVAILABLE

On *Good Authority*, Tulane's official podcast, continues with its second season with episodes featuring School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine's John Barry discussing the pandemic, Tulane Law's Gabe Feldman discussing college athletics' new era of compensation, A. B. Freeman School of Business' Pierre Conner discussing what's in store for the energy industry in the United States, and more.

[tulane.it/on-good-authority](https://tulane.it/on-good-authority)





Students get together at a Global Cafe event in the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life. Global Cafe is a space for international and internationally minded students to gather for coffee and cookies every Tuesday.

## BOUNCE BACK FROM HURRICANE IDA

Hurricane Ida struck the city of New Orleans and Louisiana as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29, the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Katrina.

Tulane evacuated students who had sheltered in place during the storm, including on-campus and off-campus undergraduates and graduate and professional students, to Houston, where a hub was established at the university's expense to provide students with food and lodging until they were able to get flights home.

Tulane closed the campus and cancelled classes through Sept. 12. Online classes resumed on Sept. 13 and continued for two weeks while damages were assessed and repairs were made to buildings and grounds. Students returned to a fully operational uptown campus for in-person classes on Sept. 27 — two weeks earlier than initially expected.

Tulane Athletics moved its operations, including all student-athletes, to Birmingham, Alabama, until the return to campus. The football team's home season opener on Sept. 4 against the University of Oklahoma was moved to Norman, Oklahoma. The team utilized facilities at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Other Green Wave home football games were hosted at Legion Field in Birmingham until the team's return to Yulman Stadium on Sept. 25.

Rigorous protocols for COVID-19 testing continued to be followed on campus and vaccine requirements enforced throughout the fall semester. 🇺🇸

### ACADEMICS

#### RANKING AMONG THE BEST

*U.S. News' Best Colleges* 2022 edition ranked Tulane No. 42 among the nation's top National Universities list, No. 29 among National Private Universities and No. 34 among the list of Most Innovative Schools. The publication also ranked Tulane No. 4 among the Best Schools for Service Learning, and Tulane's Undergraduate Business Program ranked 41st in the nation. Additionally, the *Princeton Review Best 387 Colleges: 2022 Edition* placed Tulane in the top universities that are Most Loved, Best Run, and have the Best College City, Best Quality of Life and the Happiest Students.

[tulane.it/rankings-2021](https://tulane.it/rankings-2021)



### COMMUNITY-MINDED

#### RECYCLED GLASS 'SAND'

A Tulane team will work with the New Orleans-based glass recycling center Glass Half Full to develop a plan to divert glass from landfills and turn it into glass sand products to restore coastal communities and preserve historic sites. The project, led by Julie Albert, associate professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, was inspired by a service-learning collaboration.

[tulane.it/recycled-glass-sand](https://tulane.it/recycled-glass-sand)

### ON CAMPUS

#### ESPN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

ESPN selected the Tulane University Special Olympics (TUSO) program as one of the Top 5 Unified Special Olympics Sports groups in the nation and also named TUSO to its 2021 Honor Roll for intentionally promoting meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting environments.

[tulane.it/espn-special-olympics](https://tulane.it/espn-special-olympics)



# COVID-19

## RESEARCH

### VIRAL LOAD

A study co-led by Dr. Xiao-Ming Yin, chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Dr. Donald R. and Donna G. Pulitzer Professor, found that cycle thresholds from PCR tests — an indicator of the amount of virus an infected person carries — aren't a reliable gauge for identifying those most likely to transmit COVID-19.

[tulane.it/viral-load](https://tulane.it/viral-load)

### INHALED VACCINE

Researchers at the Tulane National Primate Research Center found that an inhaled vaccine currently being developed induces a robust and long-lasting immune response against SARS-CoV-2 in nonhuman primates, similar to the protection provided by the Moderna vaccine.

[tulane.it/inhaled-vaccine](https://tulane.it/inhaled-vaccine)

### WASTEWATER DETECTION

Tiong Aw, assistant professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, is developing more efficient ways to test and measure viruses in wastewater so engineers can evaluate how to best eradicate them.

[tulane.it/wastewater-detection](https://tulane.it/wastewater-detection)

**Make Way**

Visit [tulane.it/covid-19-research](https://tulane.it/covid-19-research) for more COVID-19 research news.

#### CULTURE BEARERS

### BLACK STUDIES BOOK CLUB

The Africana Studies Program has launched its new Black Studies Book Club. “Our plans are to bring in a scholar (once per semester) whose recent publication has shifted the conversation in Africana Studies to deliver a public lecture and to facilitate a more intimate, book club-style conversation,” said Mia L. Bagneris, director of the Africana Studies Program. The conversation aims to bring together diverse constituencies of the Africana Studies Program, including students, faculty, staff and local community members as well as students and faculty from New Orleans Math & Science Charter High School, the program's high school partner.



[tulane.it/black-studies-book-club](https://tulane.it/black-studies-book-club)

#### BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

### ALTERNATIVE TO OPIOIDS

Michael J. Moore, a professor of biomedical engineering at the School of Science and Engineering, is part of a national study that aims to provide solutions to the national opioid overdose crisis by creating a living bioengineered nerve circuit that mimics the pain transmission pathway in the spinal cord. The circuit of living cells is designed to help scientists test the effectiveness of non-addictive alternatives to opioid painkillers. The study is Moore's first paper under the HEAL Initiative, or Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, a \$945 million, multiuniversity funding endeavor sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

[tulane.it/alternative-to-opioids](https://tulane.it/alternative-to-opioids)

#### RESEARCH

### TICK GROUP

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has selected Monica Embers, associate professor of microbiology and immunology and director of vector-borne disease research at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, to serve as one of 14 members of the 2021 Tick-Borne Disease Working Group. The primary function of the Working Group is to develop a report of findings and recommendations regarding the federal response to tick-borne disease prevention, treatment and research.

[tulane.it/tick-group](https://tulane.it/tick-group)



#### ANTHROPOLOGY

### MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu, the most famous landmark of Inca civilization, was believed to be built around A.D. 1438. A new study, co-authored by Jason Nesbitt, associate professor of anthropology at the School of Liberal Arts, suggests the citadel may have been built some two decades earlier. Nesbitt, along with researchers from Yale and the University of California–Santa Cruz used accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) — an advanced form of radiocarbon dating — to determine the age of human remains recovered during the early 20th century at the site.

[tulane.it/machu-picchu](https://tulane.it/machu-picchu)



“Developing the building in a way that is true to the roots and spirit of the historic former Charity Hospital has been a guiding principle for Tulane University since this project’s inception.”

**PATRICK NORTON**, senior vice president and chief operating officer at Tulane, commenting in November on the signing of the lease for the Charity Hospital building redevelopment.

#### ON CAMPUS

##### MINIMUM WAGE

As part of its commitment to support income growth and greater equity and economic well-being in the community, Tulane has raised its minimum wage for all staff to \$15 per hour. The change in minimum compensation, from the current rate of \$10.82 per hour, puts the university’s minimum wage at more than double the federal and state minimum. The university has also standardized student wages by raising the minimum hourly rate to \$10 per hour from \$7.25 per hour.

[tulane.it/minimum-wage](https://tulane.it/minimum-wage)

#### LIBRARIES

##### SENIOR THESES DIGITIZED

The 2021 cohort of Newcomb-Tulane College Senior Theses and Projects are available to view online through Tulane University Libraries’ Digital Repository. The repository includes 67 theses and research projects from recent Tulane graduates that cover a wide range of subjects such as motherhood in prison and healthcare delivery barriers experienced by the Navajo Nation.

[tulane.it/senior-theses-digitized](https://tulane.it/senior-theses-digitized)



#### CULTURE BEARERS

##### MARCHING BAND IN DUBAI

The Tulane University Marching Band played at the 2020 World Expo in Dubai on Nov. 28, 2021. The band took the stage as the only college band to perform on U.S. National Day. Formerly known as the World’s Fair, the six-month Expo began Oct. 1 and will run through March 31, 2022. World Expo showcases innovation and culture from 192 countries, with 25 million visitors worldwide expected to attend. It had been postponed from last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[tulane.it/band-in-dubai](https://tulane.it/band-in-dubai)

#### QUOTED

“These are the types of traumas that chip away at your resilience. ... And **people of color have to be more resilient because we face more trauma.**”

**THOMAS LAVEIST**, dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, in an article in *The Washington Post* about COVID-19 deaths causing gaps in grief.

[tulane.it/laveist-washington-post-2021](https://tulane.it/laveist-washington-post-2021)

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# Up First 2012

The only program of its kind in the nation driven by social and environmental justice, the **Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA) at the Tulane School of Social Work** provides interdisciplinary knowledge that bridges the gap between logistics and people to help build resilient individuals, families and communities.

**The year of the first DRLA graduate** was 2012. DRLA was established after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 revealed inefficiencies and disparities in disaster response and recovery. DRLA was formed to share and generate knowledge around innovative and equitable leadership and resiliency approaches.

## 122

To date, DRLA has 122 **alumni**. DRLA graduates go on to hold specialist and executive positions at the American Red Cross, Team Rubicon, local and state offices of emergency and preparedness, and national corporations like Nike and Uber.

## 7

The DRLA curriculum includes seven **core competencies**. The curriculum extends the focus of many programs that typically only address disaster operations to include human and social factors, operations and policy, economy and business, the environment and infrastructure, leadership, measurement and evaluation, and analytics and statistics.

## 3



DRLA offers three **program options in graduate-level education**, including a Master of Science in Disaster Resilience Leadership, a dual degree with a Master of Social Work, and a graduate-level certificate.

## 26

DRLA encompasses 26 **disciplines**. It is an interdisciplinary academic center with diverse faculty and students with interests and expertise in architecture, law, management, public health, economics, sociology, psychology, engineering, technology, education and mathematics, among others.

## 100%

DRLA provides 100% **professional insight**. Every faculty member supporting students in the DRLA program is actively working in or retired from a government, nonprofit or corporate position related to disaster preparedness, management, response or recovery.





# ARCHITECTURE'S MAJOR RENOVATION


BY BARRI BRONSTON

**R**ichardson Memorial Hall, the 113-year-old building that houses the Tulane University School of Architecture, is gearing up for a renovation that promises to bring the school to the next level of architecture and design education. Groundbreaking on the construction project is scheduled for early spring 2022, with the building open again in fall 2023.

Plans call for the renovation to restore the historic Richardson Memorial Hall's façades, structure, stairs and interior spaces while making additions to the back of the building. The goals of the renovation are to enhance the existing studio, classroom and office spaces; to bring the building up to code; and to provide essential teaching spaces. The additional space will add more stairs and elevators, increase the number of restrooms, provide more space for reviews and exhibitions, and coherently relocate faculty and staff offices. The renovation will also centralize the school's Fabrication Labs, integrating analog fabrication (wood, metal and concrete) and digital fabrication (2D and 3D printing, laser cutters and robotics).

"I'm thrilled to announce this much-needed renovation," said School of Architecture Dean Iñaki Alday. "We are especially grateful for the support of Tulane University and to our donors, who recognized the need for the renovation, which will enhance the top-notch education our students are already receiving."

Built in 1908, Richardson Memorial Hall is located on the Gibson Quad between Dinwiddie Hall and Richardson Building, just off St. Charles Avenue. Originally constructed for the Tulane School of Medicine, the limestone building has housed the School of Architecture since 1968. Trapolin-Peer Architects of New Orleans is overseeing the renovation, which includes conservation work necessary to preserve the original Romanesque brick and limestone façade designed by architects Andry and Bendernagel.

Plans call for the renovation to be LEED-certified at the silver level. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the world's most widely used green building rating system. 

A rendering of renovation plans for Richardson Memorial Hall, home of the School of Architecture, shows the north façade of the building with additional space for reviews and exhibitions. [Image provided by TrapolinPEER]

## TALK ABOUT RACE


BY LANCE SUMLER

**H**aving "the talk" is a task shouldered by millions of Black families each year as parents try to protect their children from racist experiences, including the possibility of being unfairly profiled by the police. What would happen if critical and honest conversations about race, racism and eliminating discrimination were also a rite of passage for White parents and their children?

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$3.4 million grant to a Tulane University researcher to find out.

David Chae, director of the Society, Health and Racial Equity Lab and associate dean for research at Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, was awarded a grant to develop an app to guide parents and children from kindergarten up to second grade in having "Color Brave" (as opposed to colorblind) conversations.

Around 70 to 80 percent of White parents think that these conversations are important — and that they should have them — but many don't know how to talk to their kids about complex issues involving race, Chae said.

Children's attitudes about race and racism can be shaped early by multiple factors, including what they see reflected in TV and other media, witnessing how members of racial groups are treated in various settings, and through explicit instruction, both formal and informal education practices. Chae hopes the app can help parents overcome their reluctance to have difficult conversations about race and enable their children to resist internalizing racist societal views. 

**"There's research showing that when low-prejudice kids are paired with the high-prejudice kids, levels of prejudice in high-prejudice kids go down."**

DAVID CHAE

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

# RESHAPING COLLEGE SPORTS

BY BARRI BRONSTON

**T**he NCAA Constitution Committee is billed as a panel that will reshape college sports, and Tulane University Athletics Director Troy Dannen made no secret of his desire to be part of it.

"I made my interest known," said Dannen, who as a member of two other NCAA committees, including serving as chairman of the NCAA Football Competition Committee, is a familiar face among the NCAA hierarchy.

In August 2021, Dannen was one of four athletics directors named to the committee by the NCAA Board of Governors, along with 19 other college presidents, conference commissioners and student-athletes. The committee is being led by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, also a former president of Texas A&M.

The goal of the committee, according to the board, is to "propose dramatic changes to the NCAA constitution to reimagine aspects of college sports so the Association can more effectively meet the needs of current and future college athletes."

"The last time there was a constitution committee was in the 1980s," Dannen said.


"It's a rare committee and, in some ways, it's about as substantive as you'll ever have in terms of involvement at the NCAA level. It's reimagining and reinventing the entire intercollegiate athletic enterprise."

Topics expected to be addressed include regulation of the laws that now allow athletes to earn money from use of their "name, image and likeness" and the *NCAA v Alston* case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that NCAA restrictions on the amount schools pay for education-related expenses of student-athletes violated antitrust laws.

Other issues include budget inequities between small and large schools and a

possible new governance model that would enable small universities and those without football programs to operate successfully. "Right now, we're all under the same governance umbrella," Dannen said.

He began meeting with the committee in September, and a vote on the committee's recommendations by the Board of Governors is expected in January.

"I'm not at the table to solely represent the interests of Tulane, but rather the greater interests of intercollegiate athletics as a whole. That said, I'm proud Tulane has a voice in how athletics will best function within higher education for years to come." 

Athletics Director Troy Dannen is serving on the NCAA Constitution Committee, which is recommending sweeping changes to college sports.







## IN-PERSON DANCE ARTIST

BY JUANITA SMITH

Choreographer Ronit Ziv established her place in the dance world with her first work, “Rose Can’t Wait,” in 1999.

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, the Department of Theatre and Dance, Newcomb Dance Program is welcoming a guest artist to be in residence. Although some great guests have Zoomed in during the past two years, the program is excited that Ronit Ziv — one of Israel’s most active choreographers — will be on campus, in person in spring 2022.

With over 20-plus original works to her credit, Ziv has been dancing and evolving her choreography since the late 1990s. Well known for prizewinning works and her appearances with dance companies

throughout Europe, the Middle East and the United States, including the Batsheva Ensemble, CNDC l’esquisse and Campania Instavel, Ziv performs and teaches the Release Technique in contemporary dance. She is an in-demand performer and teacher who has mastered the Release Technique’s difficult constellation of movements, breathing and muscle practices.

She holds an MA in Research of the Performing Arts and is a current PhD candidate at Tel Aviv University. Ziv attracted the eye of Tulane faculty with her interesting work and kind and open nature.

With such achievements and credits to her name, the department feels lucky to have Ziv’s presence for the spring semester. Ziv will be teaching contemporary technique classes for both advanced and mid-level students and creating an original contemporary dance piece that will be performed at the end of the semester as the Department of Theatre and Dance, Newcomb Dance Program annual spring dance concert. This performance, from April 26 to May 1, will be open to the public. 🎭

Dancers perform ‘Say it Once Not Twice’ (above) in a new work created by Ziv, who will be a guest artist for spring 2022. She’ll choreograph an original piece for the Newcomb Dance Program concert.

Through social media, parents of Tulane students post comments on Wave ’21 Homecoming, Reunion and Family Weekend; COVID-19 testing protocols and vaccine requirements; and post-Hurricane Ida recovery.

**Amazing weekend and so happy to be back on campus visiting!**

Lara Mordenti Perrault

**Hurrah. I love that Tulane has consistently put science and public health best practices first in making policy. That’s why our students are having a normal college experience again now.**

Julie Hardwickl

**My son cannot wait to get back. Thank you for getting them back earlier than first thought.**

Jennifer Warsaw

**Tulane has got GRIT! So proud 🤖**

Ronelle Brockway

# WISH YOU WERE HERE

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

Postcards depicting travel scenes and inscribed with cryptic messages are a dwindling form of communication.

**C**'mon, fess up. When's the last time you bought a postcard and mailed it to someone?

"Dear Mrs. A. Here we are in the sunny South. Summertime in January, Flowers are all around. Roses, poinsettias, oleanders in gardens. Markets and cemeteries very quaint, Am taking pictures. So many historical places. Never dreamed New Orleans was so full of history, Went to a reception Wed. and met some writers and musicians. You would enjoy it so much, Hope to stay until April. Love to Cece, 1601 Esplanade Ave. Lillian F. Beales."

This handwritten postcard with a picture of the New Orleans waterfront with steamboats, paddle wheelers and bales of cotton was postmarked in New Orleans, Jan. 25, 1909, and mailed with a 1-cent stamp to Mrs. Eva Mills Anderson in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Postcards, a semi-endangered species in today's social media world of cellphones with cameras, Instagram and Facebook, takes us time traveling to New Orleans over a century ago. The weird and wonderful messages crammed into a small space were a forerunner to Twitter in that the messages were limited and much less than 180 words.

They provided weather reports. They told of hotels and hotel rooms where they were staying. Cemeteries were also prominently mentioned. Not surprisingly, they

talked about restaurants. A postcard with no dated postmark from later in the century says: "Hi! Having a good time. Nightclubs are beautiful. It is 90 degrees today. Moscas are really showing us around. We'll see you soon. Love, Dom & Jen." It was sent to Mr. & Mrs. Lee Castelli in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

According to the Library of Congress, the Detroit Publishing Co. by the late 1890s had accumulated a large stock of negatives and prints that were used to sell calendars and prints suitable for framing. The company also offered tourist views of hotels and resorts and landscapes such as Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone Park.

Privately printed postcards began appearing in Europe and the United States. The first American "postcards" were souvenir mailing cards sold at the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893. No writing was permitted on the backs of these cards so they were not very popular. When the "Greetings from ..." caption became available, they still weren't well accepted because writing was forbidden on the address side, the message offered no privacy and postage was 2 cents — the deal breaker.

Without putting everyone to sleep with postalese reasoning, in 1896 the U.S. Postmaster General finally OK'd writing on the back of the cards and a reduced 1-cent postage. The first postcards as you know them today appeared in 1898. Today that same postcard rate is 36 cents.

The New Orleans scenes on the postcards are predictable, but many are altered today. The old Brulatur Courtyard is now part of The Historic New Orleans Collection Museum. The vine-shrouded gateway to Metairie Cemetery has given way to the I-10 Expressway. The waterfront at Jackson Square is now the Moonwalk.

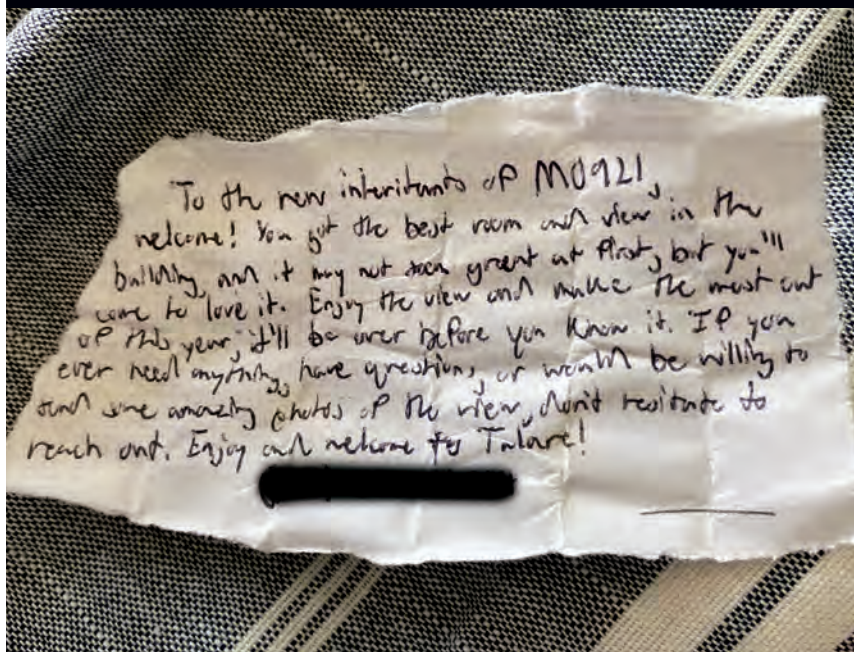
Luckily, Pirate Alley is still Pirate Alley. The Napoleon House still serves a thirst-quenching Pimm's Cup, the venerable Antoine's still has its famed baked Alaska, Arnaud's still features oysters Bienville and Commander's Palace's tour de force is turtle soup.

New Orleans still beckons. C'mon down and buy a postcard and mail it to someone. 📮



From the author's personal collection is a postcard circa 1930 from Antoine's Restaurant on St. Louis Street in the French Quarter in New Orleans.





A note on a crumpled piece of paper welcomes to Tulane future, unknown inhabitants of room 921 in Monroe Hall, offering advice to savor every moment of their time in college.

## NOTE TO NEW INHABITANTS

BY JILL DORJE

Students connect years apart through a slip of paper left in a hole in the wall in Monroe Residence Hall.

Moving to a university campus is a time full of excitement and nervous anticipation for first-year students just beginning their academic journey, and friendly words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. For new students Jack Harty, a Newport, California, native who plans to major in neuroscience and minor in public health and real estate, and Nico Sabia, from Northfield, Illinois, majoring in finance, this support came from an unexpected source — a hole in the wall of their room in Monroe Residence Hall.

On the first evening in their new room, Harty was sitting on his bed trying to decide how to decorate when he noticed a little hole in the wall with what looked like a piece of paper sticking out of it. He used tweezers to extract the piece of paper from the hole. Harty and Sabia discovered that it was a note from a student who had occupied the room in 2018.


The note welcomed the new, unknown inhabitants of the room, advised them to savor every moment of their time as Tulane students and offered to answer any questions they might have.

"It was really cool reading the note. I was thinking, what are the odds that out of every single dorm at Tulane mine is the one with the note," Harty recalls.

The note writer, Jonathan Gan, a 2021 Tulane graduate, included his phone number, and a text correspondence between the three ensued.

Gan, who studied marketing with minors in Spanish and public health, and also served as the medical captain for Tulane EMS, recalls his motivation for leaving the note and how the significance of this action has increased over the years.

"My freshman year I found a similar, smaller version of a note in my wall, the same place I placed this one. I decided to write this note as a bit of a pay-it-forward, and the meaning has grown since then. The purpose was to communicate that freshman year will be great, and even if at times it isn't, it'll all be OK and that you're not alone. I included my number to be a support system and someone to call on at any time. I was very fortunate to have a great support system throughout my time at Tulane and wanted to ensure the next generation of Tulanians had that as well."

Gan, Harty and Sabia were amazed that the note had remained tucked away for so long without being found and were delighted that the discovery led to the interaction. The spirit of the Tulane motto "Not for one's self, but for one's own" is exemplified by connections like these. 

**"I was very fortunate to have a great support system throughout my time at Tulane and wanted to ensure the next generation of Tulanians had that as well."**

JONATHAN GAN, B '21

# JOHN CLEMMER: A LEGACY IN ART

BY JUDITH H. BONNER, G '83

A teacher of drawing and painting at the School of Architecture, chair of the Newcomb Art Department and producer of modernist art, the late John Clemmer is remembered for his generosity and impact on the New Orleans art scene.

**B**orn in Acadiana on July 22, 1921, John Clemmer was a generously spirited luminary of the New Orleans art scene for seven-and-a-half decades. Between 1939 and 2014, he produced a substantial body of modernist art. Largely an abstract artist, he also executed portraits, landscapes and still lifes. A recent exhibition, *John Clemmer: A Legacy in Art*, debuted at The Historic New Orleans Collection on the centennial of his birth and featured 62 of the artist's works, including paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture. A companion exhibition, *Clemmer's Circle: His Teachers, Students, and Colleagues*, presented artworks by 76 artists he knew during his lengthy career. These included artists associated with the Arts and Crafts Club, the Orleans Gallery, Newcomb College, Tulane University, and the city at large.

Clemmer's family relocated to New Orleans when he was 7 years of age. Throughout his four years at Fortier High School, he was enrolled in art classes, primarily freehand drawing with Josef Smith, and also took a course in mechanical drawing. After graduating in 1939, Clemmer attended the Arts and Crafts Club's New Orleans School of Art on a scholarship. He studied in the French Quarter with the best-known artists of the day: Paul Ninas (1903–1964), Xavier Gonzalez (1898–1993), Enrique Alf  rez (1901–1999) and Julius Woeltz (1911–1956). Clemmer enjoyed long-standing friendships with these artists.

After his studies Clemmer served as a teacher at the school. Following two years of military service in World War II, in 1946 he became executive secretary of the club and director of its School of Art. He was the only person in the club's history to have been a student, teacher and director of the club's School of Art. The Arts and Crafts Club was the center of cultural life in the French Quarter from its incorporation in 1922 through the 1940s during which the city saw a flowering of the arts and literature; no comparable institution existed in the South. After students learned the basics of compositional design and craftsmanship, they were encouraged to explore artistic expression through non-traditional art movements.

This principle served Clemmer throughout his career. During his early years of development, he explored Cubism, the prevalent international art trend at the club. Clemmer retained line and geometry as structural elements for his work, but as his artworks matured, they were singular.

Following the Arts and Crafts Gallery's closing, Clemmer was invited to teach at Tulane University's School of Architecture. From 1951 to 1978, he taught alongside artists who were associated with the Arts and Crafts Club, notably James Lamantia, Robert Helmer,

Jack Hastings and Newton Howard — artists whose work was displayed in the *Circle* exhibition. Clemmer then chaired Newcomb's Department of Art and was the first recipient of the Maxine and Ford Graham Chair of Fine Art. He retired as emeritus professor of art in 1986.

Throughout his career Clemmer immersed himself in creative reinterpretation of his subjects, which is most evident in his still lifes, each of which is radically different from the others. He maintained it was essential for artists to step away from a work and study the progress continuously. He adhered to the instruction of the club's teachers, who advised students to reinterpret artworks creatively based on each individual's perspective.

Clemmer traveled frequently and strove continuously to learn about art, art history and classical music. He was awarded a travel grant from the School of Architecture in 1962 to visit schools of architecture in Colombia, after which he began an eight-years series of abstract paintings and collages based on South America. He received another grant in 1967 to study form and color at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kenneth Ducote (A&S '71) remembered Clemmer's tenacity in learning. "When I was a sophomore at Tulane, he was teaching in the architecture school. I had General Biology 101 in one of the old-school amphitheater lecture rooms. Clemmer was auditing the class, sat in the front row, and diligently took notes. I always assumed that he was getting ideas about incorporating elements of nature

John Clemmer (third from left) teaches a class on the balcony of the Arts and Crafts Club in 1949. The club was the center of cultural life in the French Quarter from its incorporation in 1922 through the 1940s. Clemmer began teaching at Tulane in 1951. (Photograph by the Times-Picayune, courtesy Capital City Press/Georges Media Group, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.)



in his designs.” He also audited a course in Early Christian and Byzantine manuscripts, which informed his paintings in his Topographia series. Each of the paintings in this series features a circle-within-a square, an inspiration of the Compass Rose seen on early navigational charts. After navigators learned the 32 navigational charts perfectly, it was called “Boxing the Wind.”

An exhibition catalogue was supported by the Tulane University School of Architecture’s John F. Clemmer Fund established by Martha Walters Barnett (NC ’69) and Richard R. Barton Jr. (A ’68). A wide-reaching exhibition, *John Clemmer:*

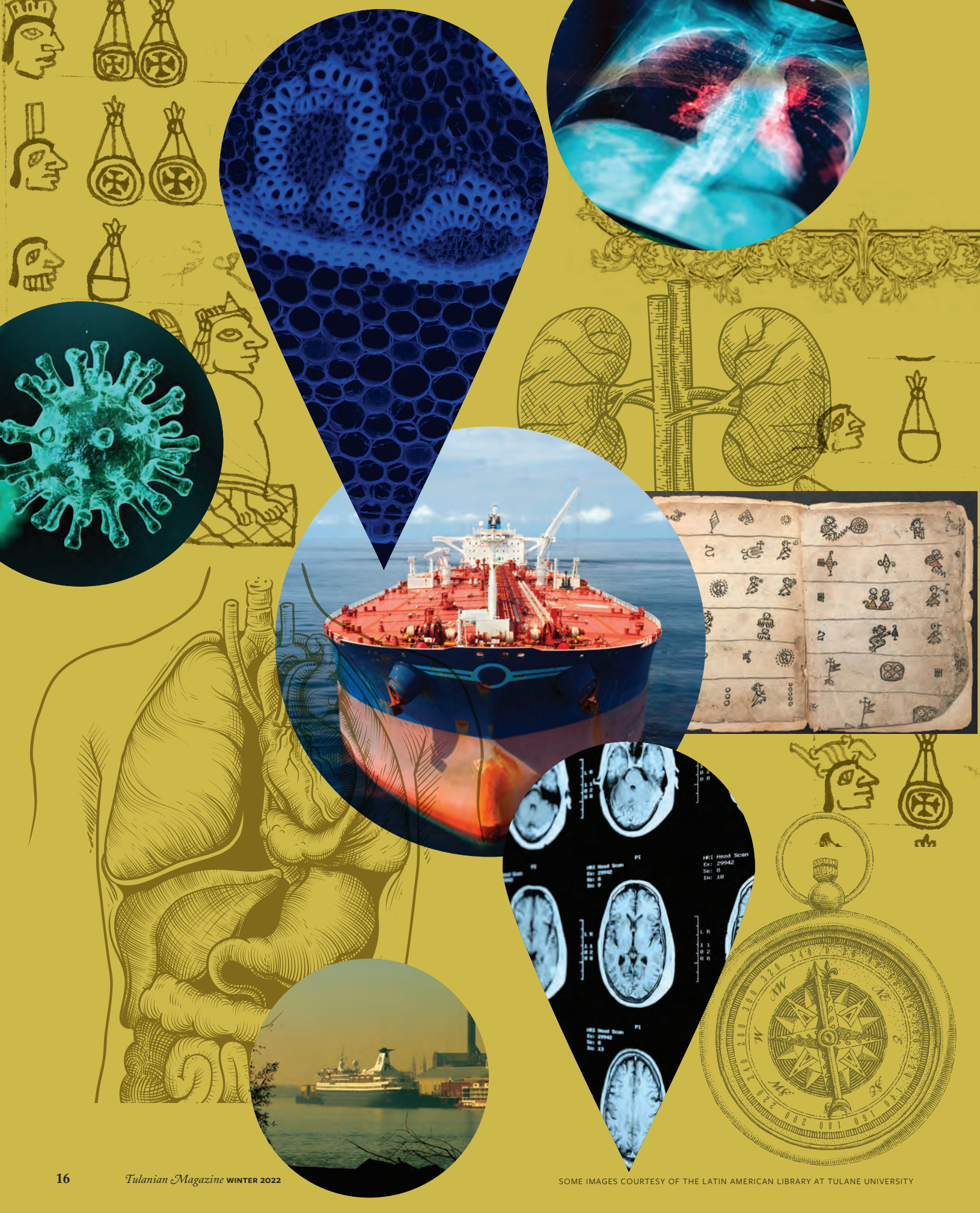
*A Legacy in Art* covered much of the history of art in the city of New Orleans during the 75 years of Clemmer’s career. ▮

*Judith H. Bonner earned a master’s degree from Tulane in 1983. She met John Clemmer while a graduate student in art history in the Newcomb Art Department, after which Clemmer invited Bonner to curate the Newcomb Centennial exhibition at the New Orleans Museum of Art. The author of several books on Southern art, Bonner came to The Historic New Orleans Collection in 1987 and is now Senior Curator and Curator of Art.*

***After students learned the basics of compositional design and craftsmanship, they were encouraged to explore artistic expression through non-traditional art movements.***











# HALL *of* FAME



For the first time, Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Awards were bestowed on Tulane's stellar researchers and scholars. We devote the following 21 pages and five stories to them in this issue of the *Tulanian*. First up, are the Research Hall of Fame Award recipients, aka lifetime achievement honorees.

**BY FAITH DAWSON**

What drives a career in research: Is it the thrill of discovery, the endless questions why, the sharing of newfound knowledge with students?

Established scholars might say all of those factors contribute to a successful research career. And Tulane is an exceptional place to embark on such an adventure of discovery — the university has long sought new ways of analyzing the world, what makes it run and what keeps it from running well.

The four professors — Elizabeth Boone, Robert Force, Dr. Jiang He and Gabriel Navar — who received Tulane's Research Hall of Fame Award were recognized for their national and international renown and substantial contributions to advancing knowledge over their academic careers. Having lived lives in the spirit of knowledge and discovery, they embody the principles on which Tulane was founded.

## Elizabeth Boone

Elizabeth Boone, professor emerita of art history at the School of Liberal Arts, originally came to Tulane seeking a professional challenge. After 15 years as the director of the Pre-Columbian Program at the Dumbarton Oaks Museum in Washington, D.C., Boone said she wanted to pursue work related to 16th-century Mexico and thought that an academic position would facilitate that mission.


"I wanted to advance my own personal intellectual interests, which included the interaction between the Americas and Europe following the Spanish conquest, and larger issues related to graphic communication," Boone said. "A university is a vast collection of professors, researchers, staff and students from many disciplines and with very different perspectives and interests. The very diversity of a university cultivates cross-disciplinary work and innovative thinking."

Since then, she has become one of the foremost scholars of painted books in Aztec Mexico, which include not only historical and scientific manuscripts but civil documents like court and census records.

"At Tulane I have been able to develop a series of books that together provide a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the Mexican tradition of pictographic writing and painted books, books of native paper or hide that were created and used before and after the conquest. These include books of history, philosophy, science and divination. Too, I have been able to show how, for indigenous Americans, art largely serves to communicate knowledge the way we think writing does, and that for indigenous Americans, the reverse is also true: Writing is art."

When she arrived at Tulane in 1995, Pre-Columbian art was still developing as a disciplinary focus.

"Pre-Columbian art history challenged traditional art historical approaches by asking us to think about an art

A portrait of Elizabeth Boone, an older woman with short white hair and glasses, wearing a dark red jacket over a white top and a black and white beaded necklace. She has her arms crossed and is standing in front of a wall decorated with several colorful masks.

***"I like to think that [my work] agitates and irritates that space between the domains commonly known as art and writing and challenges our conception of both."***

Elizabeth Boone

that functioned as both art and writing, was largely anonymous, and was a significant actor in the fabric of society," Boone said. "This caused the discipline of art history to rethink its definition of art and to consider visual culture more broadly as means to communicate ideas."

In her years at Tulane, Boone served as the Martha and Donald Robertson Chair in Latin American Art. Now, as art historians begin to examine cross-cultural influences in all periods of the art world, Boone's work is evolving accordingly.

The intersection of writing and art "leads to larger questions about how humans throughout time and in different places recorded knowledge without 'alphabetic writing.'"

Boone has just published *Descendants of Aztec Pictography: The Cultural Encyclopedia of Sixteenth-Century Mexico*, a book that sheds light on the time frame that she originally came to Tulane to study: after the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1519. After the Spanish arrived, religious leaders, colonial officials and indigenous rulers



came together to create pictorial books that were guides to New World evangelization and governance.

"I like to think that [my work] agitates and irritates that space between the domains commonly known as art and writing and challenges our conception of both."

## Robert Force

Robert Force holds the Niels F. Johnsen Chair of Maritime Law and is director emeritus of the Maritime Law Center at Tulane Law School. His legacy at Tulane includes a career of maritime study and the establishment of the Maritime Law Center.

Maritime trade is thousands of years old but is still the cheapest method of transporting goods between countries. Technology advances last century have improved the field in terms of speed, cost and volume, such as the containerization of cargo, and, in this century, through the development of autonomous vessels. The Maritime Law Center keeps pace with the evolution of the industry, bringing in international scholars for lectures and research.

"I've traveled all over the world," Force said. "I've spoken to maritime law professors, I've spoken to maritime practitioners, judges who tried maritime cases. We can talk the same language, we understand each other. Basically, the problems are the same; the solutions are relatively limited. Consequently, there is a certain universality to maritime law."

When he arrived at Tulane in 1969, Force already had some admiralty (or maritime) experience, but quickly made his mark because of his expertise in criminal law: He was named a special master in a class-action lawsuit against Orleans Parish Prison. In fact, most of his work in the maritime field came about after Force joined the law school faculty.

Force recognized that the university had very little by way of an admiralty curriculum. Some law schools at the time didn't cover maritime law at all or had no full-time maritime law faculty — so Force seized the opportunity to build a program in New Orleans.

He started by increasing the curriculum in maritime law, developing advanced courses on topics like personal injury and carriage of goods. Later, when he served as acting dean of the law school, he considered expanding the maritime offerings into a full program. Today the school offers a Master of Laws in admiralty and maritime law, as well as a Certificate of Maritime Law.

"I thought we could ... exploit our strength in maritime law because not only do we have all these courses, some taught by full-time faculty, we also had a maritime journal, which was a student-run journal," Force said. Tulane had also hosted the biennial Admiralty Law Institute.

The idea was met favorably but never blossomed until the arrival of the new dean, who assigned a fundraising committee to the effort. In 1982, the Maritime Law Center opened, with Force as its first director.

Force developed one of the first courses nationwide to address the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. He still enjoys teaching as a complement to his research, noting that every semester a student asks a question he's never considered.

"I like the stimulation of academic thought, and putting theory into practice,"

he said, "and the impact that technology has on my areas of interest. And the great thing about teaching is that, although hopefully the students in my class have a good learning experience, I learn from them."

***"Basically, the problems are the same; the solutions are relatively limited. Consequently, there is a certain universality to maritime law."***

Robert Force



## Dr. Jiang He

Dr. Jiang He holds the Joseph S. Copes Chair and is professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and is director of the Tulane University Translational Science Institute.

A chance to build his own research program brought Jiang He to Tulane in 1997. Since then, he has established himself as a nationally and internationally renowned expert in the clinical, translational and epidemiological research of cardiovascular and kidney diseases.

During his career at Tulane, he has participated in more than 40 research projects with total costs of \$185 million from the National Institutes of Health and served as principal or multi-principal investigator of 20 grants.

He has authored more than 600 research papers in scientific journals, including more than 40 publications in the top five journals: *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *JAMA*, *Nature* and *Science*.

His research has high impacts in scientific communities, clinical practice and public health policy. In addition, He's research topics have informed national and international guidelines on hypertension prevention and treatment; provided the first estimate of the global burden of hypertension; and helped the World Health Organization make hypertension a

global public health priority; and his work was cited in the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Smoking Cessation to support national smoke-free policies.

As the founding director of Tulane's Translational Science Institute, he will help develop clinical research at the university. Among his studies is a recent \$8.7 million grant from NIH. The team will work with local churches to improve cardiovascular health in African American communities in New Orleans.

The region's high rates of "lifestyle diseases" lend an air of immediacy to He's studies.

"Clearly cardiometabolic diseases, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, heart attack, stroke and high cholesterol are major public health problems in our region. The epidemic of these conditions in New Orleans and in the Deep South provides the unique opportunity to conduct research with real impacts on the population's health locally," He said.

He added that he is grateful to university leadership for support through the years, as well as to his mentors, colleagues and other Tulanians who make his success possible. "I hope all faculty members agree with our leadership that researching is as important as educating and training tomorrow's visionary leaders and innovators at a prestigious AAU member university, like Tulane."

Despite these many ongoing studies, He still finds time to teach two courses and to mentor students and junior faculty. In 2017, Tulane bestowed on him the Oliver Fund Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring.

He said that the key for a successful and impactful research program is to train and support the next generation of scientists. Many of his Tulane trainees have gone on to independent and successful research careers.

He had recently finished his PhD when a Tulane dean invited him to consider a position here. Eager to build his own research program, he joined the Tulane faculty — a decision he has never regretted. The research continues to intrigue him, even on a personal level.

"I'm very passionate about the research ... writing papers or thinking about the research ideas, I feel very peaceful inside. I enjoy all the new discovery. It makes my life meaningful."

***"I'm very passionate about the research ... writing papers or thinking about the research ideas, I feel very peaceful inside. I enjoy all the new discovery."***

Dr. Jiang He





## L. Gabriel Navar

L. Gabriel Navar is professor and chair of the Department of Physiology and co-founder of the Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence at the School of Medicine.

Navar almost pursued a career in veterinary medicine — but a course in physiology set him on a new path.

Navar arrived at the university in 1988 and has since focused on his research of kidney function, especially in cases of hypertension and diabetes.

The son of a Texas Mexican farmer, Navar completed two years of veterinary school and thought his training would eventually bring him back to his father's ranch and dairy farm. But his father encouraged him to get as much education as possible, and the younger Navar eventually got hooked on physiology. After earning his PhD from the University of Mississippi, Navar stayed on to work in the laboratory of his mentor, Arthur Guyton, and later at Duke University and the University of Alabama–Birmingham. Tulane recruited him to chair its physiology department in 1988.

“I started out by experimenting and modeling how the kidney worked,” Navar said, handling a resin model of the glomerulus. “This is a 3D-printed reconstruction of one glomerulus; you have about 2 million glomeruli in your two kidneys. Each one of these filters the blood [that pumps through] and starts the process of urine formation. And that fascinated me, as you can imagine, how interesting it is that you have such an intricate structure,” which requires precise control of its blood flow and pressure.

Today Navar continues to study the role of the hormone angiotensin in hypertension and diabetes and has more than 400 peer-reviewed articles, lectures around the world, and numerous grants funded by national entities. His longevity in the department is rivaled only by the demand for his work.

“Every time you answer some questions, more come up,” Navar said. “As the questions ... evolve, you're requiring new techniques to answer those questions. And then it becomes more and more apparent that cellular and molecular techniques are

needed to answer integrative questions. We have to recruit people that are trained to do it.”

Navar is always eager for his students and staff to share in any recognition and has mentored dozens of young trainees through the years, often with the assistance of his late wife, Randa. He is often remembered for his famous catch phrase: “Show me the data!”

In the physiology department and in the hypertension and renal center, Navar balances his investigative work with administrative duties, answering plentiful emails but also answering the call of investigative work.

“There isn't enough time. I want to say, ‘OK, the last three or four years here, I'm going to write papers all day’ — but I'm still running experiments.”

Of his time at Tulane, he added, “I look back and I think, 33 years! Life goes by very fast when you're continuously chasing another deadline and answering another exciting important question.”



***“I look back and I think, 33 years! Life goes by very fast when you're continuously chasing another deadline and answering another exciting important question.”***

L. Gabriel Navar





# Spirit of Tulane

The Spirit of Tulane Award recognizes individuals whose work during the COVID-19 pandemic embodies Tulane's motto: *Non sibi, sed suis* (Not for one's self, but for one's own).

**BY MARY ANN TRAVIS**



An art historian of the African Diaspora, a physician-scientist and an immunologist were selected by President Michael A. Fitts for the Spirit of Tulane Award. The recipients of this special recognition have enhanced the research mission of Tulane through education, creative expression, mentorship and collaborative effort to advance knowledge.

## Mia L. Bagneris

“Art history is my method, but Black studies is my discipline.”

That’s the take of Mia L. Bagneris, associate professor of art history and director of the Africana Studies Program at the School of Liberal Arts. Bagneris focuses on African Diaspora art and studies of race in Western art.

Bagneris earned her undergraduate, MA and PhD degrees from Harvard University. She joined Tulane’s Newcomb Art Department in 2009.

If any young Black girl from New Orleans was destined to be an art historian, it was Bagneris. Her mother, Althea Leonard Foster, earned a Master of Arts in art history from Tulane in 1994.

“I grew up at the New Orleans Museum of Art to the point where security guards knew my name,” said Bagneris. “I’ve always loved museums. I have a second-grade journal, where I wrote something like, ‘When I grow up, I want to be an impressionist and impressionists are artists who paint with light.’”

Bagneris said, at Tulane and in the discipline more generally, “I’m trying to build an art history where people who look like me and have the interests that I have, feel like it is a field that they can work in and build careers in and use to effect change.”

Her scholarship centers on representations of people of color, specifically people of African descent, in British and American art more than a century ago. In her teaching, she strives to open her students’ eyes to “connect what they are learning about the past to what they see today.”

Her latest publication, “Miscegenation in Marble: John Bell’s *Octoroon*” (*The Art Bulletin*, 2020), drawn from her current book project, *Imagining the Oriental South: The Enslaved Mix-Race Beauty in British Art and Culture, c. 1865–1900*, explores this case in point.

John Bell was a 19th-century British sculptor who never set foot in New Orleans. But he imagined life in Louisiana and romanticized, as did several British artists of that time, the ideal of an “enslaved mixed-race beauty.”

Bagneris’ first book, *Colouring the Caribbean: Race and the Art of Agostino Brunias*, explores similar themes, as well as the role of visual images, more generally, in constructing race in the 18th-century British West Indies.

Bagneris also works on 19th-century Black artists and is co-author of a work in progress, *Beyond Recovery: Reframing the Dialogues of Early African Diaspora Art History & Visual Culture, c. 1700–1900*.

Bagneris said that her goal, as director of Tulane’s Africana Studies Program, is to build a vibrant and thriving Black studies department that becomes a regional and eventually national hub for the discipline. The program has recently secured funding from Tulane’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Committee for a three-year pilot program dedicated to building an intergenerational Black studies scholarly community that will support bringing prominent Black studies scholars to Tulane; provide scholarships for students to study abroad in Africa; and offer undergraduate research fellowships for students to work with faculty mentors.

“Building this program is part of my dream,” said Bagneris. “I am committed to it.”

“Art history is  
my method, but  
Black studies is  
my discipline.”

Mia L. Bagneris



## Dr. Gregory Bix

Right before Mardi Gras in February 2020, Dr. Gregory Bix traveled to attend the International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles. From California, he flew to Brisbane, Australia, to work with colleagues at Queensland University of Technology.

Prior to his flight back to New Orleans, he was closely questioned about his travel plans and his next of kin. He knew something serious was up.

Then, everything shut down due to the pandemic.

"I started thinking, what am I going to do? I can sit back and say, 'Woe is me,' or I can think about how I might be able to help and make a difference," Bix said.

He did not sit back.

Bix had joined the Tulane School of Medicine in fall 2019. He is a professor of neurology, holder of the Vada Odom Reynolds Chair in Stroke Research, and director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Center.

With a desire to facilitate better communication among Tulane researchers, he organized CREST (COVID-19 Researchers at Tulane), a group open to anyone at the university who "has any interest in clinical, translational or basic research related to COVID-19." CREST began meeting every couple of weeks and continues to meet today.

Through CREST, Bix saw the need for a biobank to collect tissues from coronavirus patients and make these samples available for future research. By summer 2021, he had established COBALT (COVID-19 Biobank and Library), safely storing hundreds of biological samples.

Long COVID-19 is especially poorly understood, said Bix. Patients get sick from the coronavirus and seem to recover but then have long-term neurological problems such as forgetfulness, brain fog, headaches and fatigue.

Bix and Dr. Michele Longo, assistant professor of neurology, started the Long COVID Clinic to help these patients. "People are coming in, they want help, they want answers," said Bix.

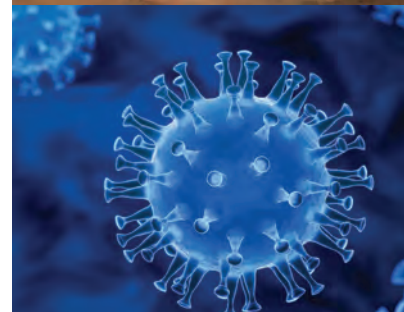
For Bix, an "aha" moment occurred early in the pandemic when he was reading about the virus. He speculated that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was binding to a cell receptor, called an integrin, which he had been studying in his work on vascular dementia.

"That was the spark," he said. "I realized the same therapies that I was developing for dementia are also clinically relevant to the virus."

When he learned that COVID-19 infection can cause strokes, Bix pivoted his vascular dementia research to concentrate on the coronavirus. He has collaborated with Angela Birnbaum, director of biosafety and biocontainment, and others to help generate supportive data and file an application for a U.S. patent for a COVID-19 therapeutic. He already has several patents related to stroke treatment.

Bix is grateful to work on alleviating the effects of COVID-19. He's thrilled to be at Tulane, where he was given encouragement to follow his instincts. Leaders such as Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, vice president for research, told him, "You have this idea, go for it."

"I'll never forget that support," said Bix.



"I realized the same therapies that I was developing for dementia are also clinically relevant to the virus."

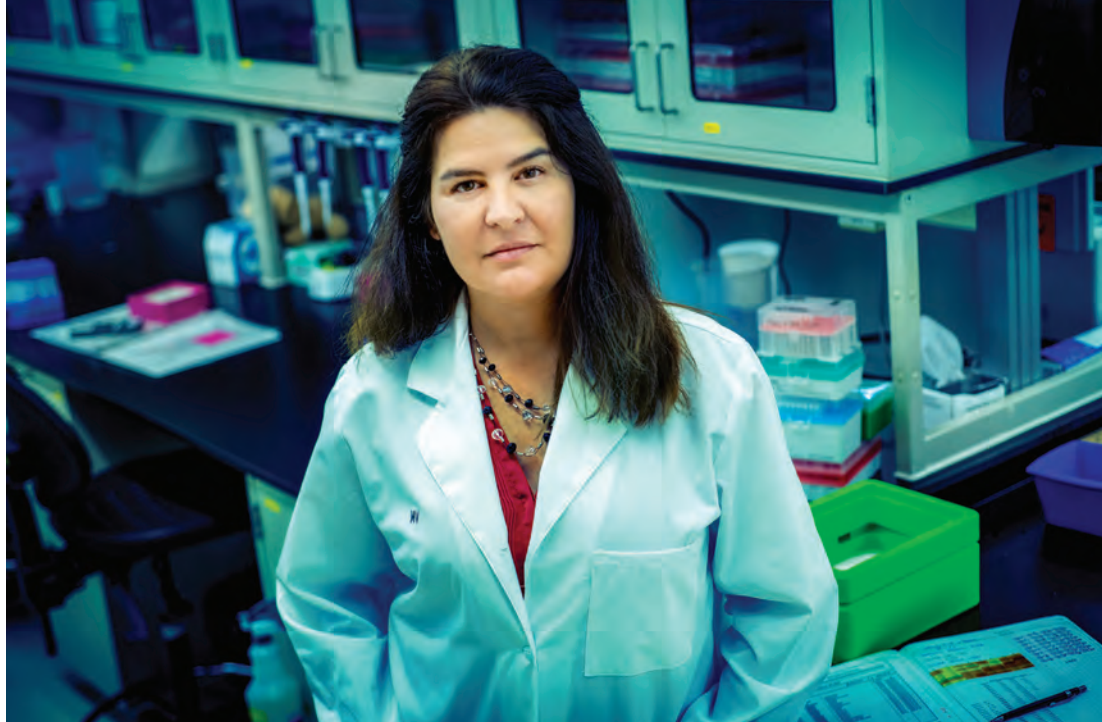
Dr. Gregory Bix





“I want to make a dent in diseases that I’m studying.”

Monica Vaccari



## Monica Vaccari

“It’s coming! It’s coming!” That’s how Monica Vaccari sounded the alarm about the pandemic to her new colleagues in February 2020.

Vaccari had joined the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) and the School of Medicine that month as a faculty member in the Division of Immunology and an associate professor of microbiology and immunology.

A native of Italy, Vaccari was monitoring closely what was happening with novel coronavirus cases in her home country, where her parents live.

“I was on high alert,” said Vaccari. “I was constantly looking at Europe and China.” She knew the wave of the pandemic would soon be in the United States.

At that time, lots of people were sick and dying in Italy. “We knew what it was. But we had no idea how to stop it. There was no prevention, and it was spreading.”

Vaccari came to Tulane from a position at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C.

It was serendipitous that Vaccari had been recruited to the primate center. Jay Rappaport, TNPRC director and chief academic officer, and others at the center were already doing urgent planning to study the virus and the disease. Rappaport and the team proactively sought to obtain SARS-CoV-2 live virus to study it using their unique facilities and expertise.

The TNPRC was among the first institutions approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to receive the viral stock. And its researchers, including Vaccari, jumped ahead to do early studies, supported by Tulane, even before federal grant money was available — a bit of a risk.

Rappaport prioritized developing an animal model of the coronavirus that simulates how the disease affects the human

body. COVID-19 research soon became the primary focus of the primate center.

Vaccari immediately began to study early host immune responses to SARS-CoV-2. By December 2020, she published a study in *Nature Communications* that shows that having a robust initial immune response to coronavirus infection might be detrimental in fighting off the virus.

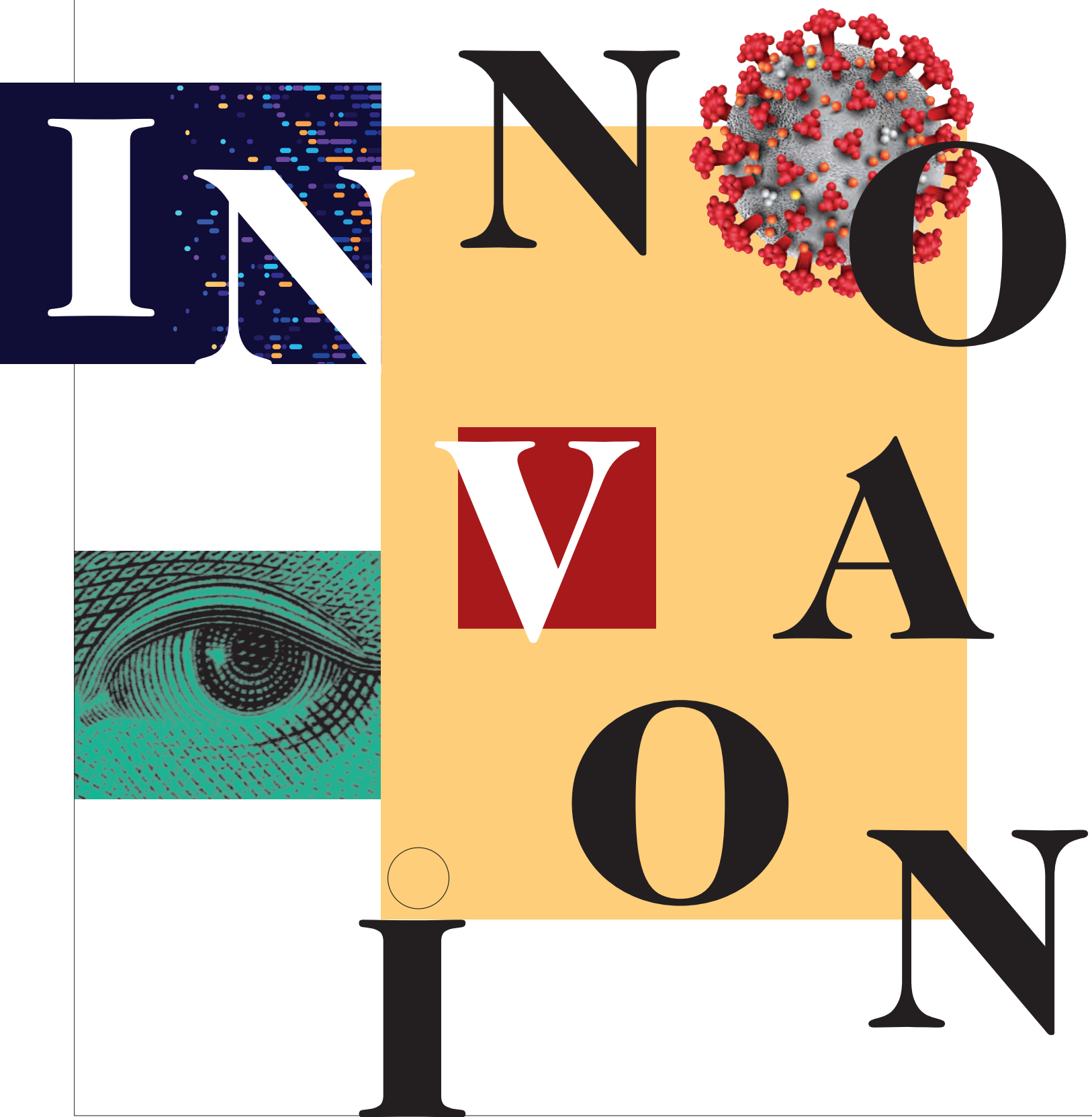
After 15 years investigating HIV vaccines using nonhuman primate models, Vaccari was well prepared. “Each virus wants to survive,” said Vaccari, “and they will do what they can in your body to try to replicate and survive. Each virus evolves not to kill the host because they will lose. They don’t want to kill you.”

But viruses do sometimes kill when they hijack immune systems. As Vaccari hypothesized and then proved, some immune systems respond to the coronavirus in a “dysregulated fashion.” They respond with a cytokine storm of excessive inflammation. The immune system is “doing too much. And then in the end, it is killing you instead of killing the virus.”

Vaccari has a passion for the complex immune system and its reactions. The immune system is “always evolving. It’s never boring. Every few months, we discover new molecules, new cells, new avenues,” she said.

“I want to make a dent in diseases that I’m studying,” she added. She is continuing her work on COVID-19, involved in research that delves further into the illness’s inflammatory symptoms. She’s also looking at therapeutics and the development of vaccines with longer efficacy. She’s building up her laboratory and teaching graduate students.

For Vaccari, Tulane’s motto “not for one’s self, but for one’s own” is “a sophisticated way of saying that we are doing research for health — and that benefits everybody. It’s beautiful that we put it in the spirit of Tulane.”





The Innovation Award recognizes scholars/investigators who develop and explore novel ideas, approaches and insights through interdisciplinary scholarship to address clinical, public health or societal challenges.

**BY LANCE SUMLER**



**The recipients of the Innovation Award — selected by Tulane Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman — were Tony Hu, Tanika Kelly and Nora Lustig. These distinguished researchers talk about the trajectory of the careers, the impact of COVID-19 and their motivation to conduct innovative research to improve the lives of people around the world.**

## **Tony Hu**

“The oddest inventions or technology developments happen when you have a clear understanding of what is needed,” said Tony Hu. “We focus on what the need is and then go from there.”

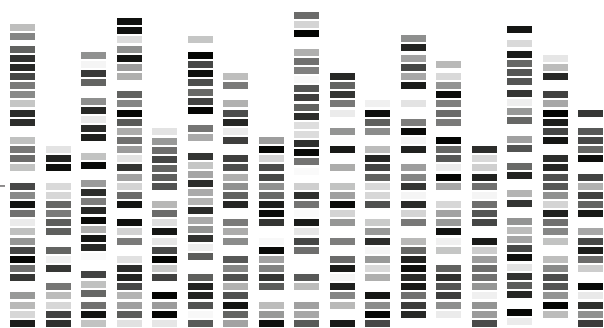
Hu holds the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation at the School of Medicine. He’s also the director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnosis. He has a primary appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and secondary appointments in the School of Science and Engineering, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and the Tulane National Primate Research Center.

When COVID-19 upended the world in 2020, accurate tests played a vital role in public safety and health initiatives, and they still do. More than 500 million people throughout the world have taken a COVID-19 test. But early in the pandemic, Hu recognized the need for more accurate testing than the popular PCR test.

“PCR-based COVID-19 tests are widely used. They’re done via nasal swabs because the virus actively replicates in the upper respiratory tract immediately after infection, but virus levels in the nose can decrease significantly after initial infection, which can result in false negatives in some patients,” Hu said. “That’s one of the main reasons why my team and I did research to find a solution to this.”

During the height of the pandemic, Hu and his team worked around the clock to develop a highly sensitive test to intensify a genetic fragment of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The blood test has been successful in detecting COVID-19 in some patients who initially tested negative using PCR tests that weren’t sensitive enough.

The critical need for accurate testing during the pandemic revealed the significance of traditional first responders as well as





researchers like Hu, who aren't necessarily seeing patients daily but are doing vital research to defeat COVID-19.

"Most people don't picture a researcher or scientist when they think of a first responder, but we operated around the clock as essential workers in our research lab at the School of Medicine," said Hu. "Even though we have protocols in place to keep everyone safe, there's still risk involved in a situation like this."

Before becoming a world-renowned researcher, Hu recognized his purpose while attending a research conference in Italy as 37-year-old assistant professor.

"I was at a small conference when I saw this special group of guests walk in and they were all 5- to 9-year-old girls. Since this was a research conference, I didn't understand why they were there and then someone said to me, 'All of them are HIV-infected, and they came from Romania as a part of today's presentation.'"

Hu said this was a pivotal moment in his career.

After going back his hotel that night, he asked himself: "With all of the research I've done over the years, is there any piece of knowledge that I can use to help those kids?"

That experience ignited a new passion in Hu that shaped his career and fostered his innovative spirit.

"Regardless of whatever project I'm working on at any given moment, I always keep in mind why I'm doing it so that I can focus on the real need: How will this research help people and how can I help to make the world a better, safer place to live?" Hu said.

**R**  
**"Regardless of whatever project I'm working on at any given moment, I always keep in mind why I'm doing it so that I can focus on the real need: How will this research help people and how can I help to make the world a better, safer place to live?"**

— Tony Hu

## Tanika Kelly

Over the last decade, there have been significant advancements in molecular technology, a key component in uncovering biological processes underlying disease, which could ultimately help people live healthier lives.

Tanika Kelly, professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and director of the Center for Public Health Genomics, is a leading scientist in the world of genetic epidemiology. Some of her latest projects aim to curb kidney and cardiovascular diseases using next-generation sequencing technology.

"I want to make a difference," said Kelly. "Chronic kidney disease has been the focus of some of my most recent research. One ongoing project is a whole exome-sequencing study of diabetic kidney disease. Here, we are testing to see whether DNA sequences in any of the 20,000 to 25,000 human genes differ in patients with diabetic kidney disease compared to those without. Identified genes could serve as targets for drug development to treat this condition."



**I**  
**"I want to make a difference. Chronic kidney disease has been the focus of some of my most recent research."**

— Tanika Kelly

Kelly's team leverages innovations in molecular and computational technologies to conduct multiomics research, using sets of biological data, with applications to cardiovascular disease prevention. She said adopting new technologies for discovery is key to innovative research.

"When I was younger, I thought I would be a basic scientist," said Kelly. "I was really interested in cellular and molecular biology. However, during undergrad, I worked for four years in a maize genetics lab and found that bench science was not my passion. So, I took a couple years off after graduation to figure out what I wanted to do."



Kelly's journey to becoming an award-winning genetic epidemiologist was sometimes filled with uncertainty. When her mother suggested she look into a Master of Public Health program, she said her path became more clear.

"My mom, interestingly, is a nurse focused specifically on HIV patient care," Kelly said. "She's retired now, but at the time she worked in grant-funded clinics for a major university in Chicago. PhD students in public health would come into the clinic to work on various research projects. One day, she said to me, 'You know, you should think about doing a degree in public health. These students always remind me of you.' And so, I looked into it."

Kelly went on to earn a MPH and PhD in epidemiology from Tulane and is an avid mentor to students pursuing their doctorates.

"I love working with my PhD students. Training the next generation of researchers to do this work is so important," Kelly said. "COVID slowed us down a little bit, but my research team is young and ambitious, and mentoring them is one of the most rewarding parts of my work. I'm glad that we were able to push through and move along with our projects despite COVID-19."

Over the years, Kelly has been awarded millions of dollars in grant funding geared toward genetics research. Her next big project will involve studying the consequences of clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminant potential, a condition that causes an expansion of mutated peripheral blood cells and increases risk for hematologic cancers in patients with chronic kidney disease.

## Nora Lustig

Inequality is a global problem that worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nora Lustig, professor of economics at the School of Liberal Arts and holder of the Samuel Z. Stone Chair of Latin American Economics, has spent much of her career trying to lessen inequities through studying the dynamics of economic inequality and poverty and proposing public policies that are most effective in combating unfairness.

Lustig migrated from Argentina to the United States with her family as a teenager. The contrast in living standards between her home country and the U.S. made her decide to study economics at the University of California–Berkeley, where

she obtained her bachelor's degree and PhD. Due to the high out-of-state fees, she first attended a junior college that was 80% African American at the time.

"This experience opened my eyes to the inequities embedded in the U.S. that affect the African American and Latino populations. I certainly saw the American dream, but I also saw the American nightmare from day one. That reinforced my interest in studying inequality."

Lustig, an internationally renowned scholar of global inequity, has been at Tulane for 12 years. During her time at the university, her research has expanded to include fiscal redistribution analyses in low- and middle-income countries around the world. She's also the founding director of the Commitment to Equity Institute (CEI), a project she began in 2008. The institute is committed to reducing inequality and poverty through tax and benefit incidence analysis, and active engagement with the policy community. Lustig and her team have completed studies on 62 countries, including the whole Latin American region and many countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

"My hope is that more countries take advantage of the handbook we published to serve as a guide for estimating the impact of fiscal policy on inequality and poverty and for implementing pro-poor policymaking," she said.

The 800-page guide provides a step-by-step method called the CEQ method that can be used to determine the extent to which fiscal policy reduces inequality and poverty in a particular country. The adoption in 2020 of the CEQ indicator of fiscal redistribution by the United Nations is an important validation of the relevance and timeliness of the institute's work.

"We definitely want to work with more countries and engage in new partnerships that will allow our data center to become sustainable," said Lustig.

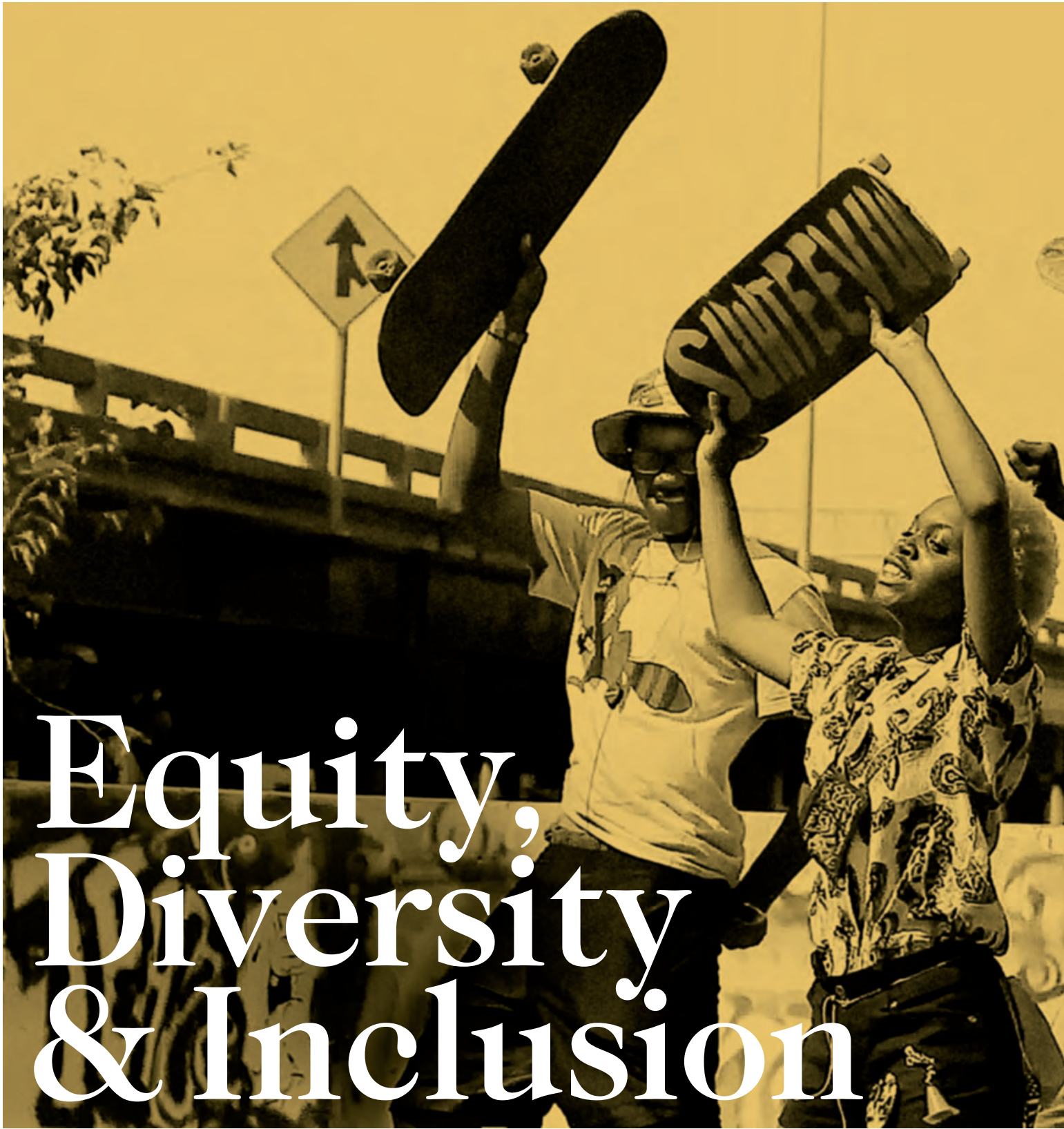
More than \$7 million in grant funds have been dedicated to helping the institute achieve its goals, including a recent \$1 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of this grant is to study COVID-19's effects on inequality and poverty.

"COVID-19 put a strain on communities around the world that were already vulnerable to begin with," said Lustig. "School closures will result in growing educational gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged children and exacerbate inequality. We hope our research will trigger policy actions worldwide to contain these unequalizing effects." Hopefully, the world will listen and act fast. 🍀



**“COVID-19 put a strain on many communities around the world that were already vulnerable to begin with. ... We hope our research will trigger policy actions worldwide to contain these unequalizing effects.”**

— Nora Lustig



# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion





The Provost's Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion recognizes research that addresses societal inequities and promotes social change.

**BY ALICIA SERRANO**

**T**he recipients of the Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion — selected by Tulane Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman — were Elisabeth McMahon, Brigham Walker, Robert St. Martin Westley, and the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design, represented by Ann Yoachim, director and professor of practice; Rashidah Williams, former assistant director of operations; Jose Cotto, adjunct lecturer; Nick Jenisch, adjunct lecturer; and Emilie Taylor Welty, Favrot II professor of practice and design/build manager.

**Skaters find fun and fellowship at the Parisite Skate Park, a project of the Small Center for Collaborative Design at the School of Architecture.**

**“The larger goal is trying to understand where inequalities come from and the systems that create them.”**

— Elisabeth McMahon



## Elisabeth McMahon

**E**lisabeth McMahon, associate professor of history and Africana Studies in the School of Liberal Arts, grew up questioning issues surrounding race, gender and forms of inequality, partly due to the influence of her grandmother, a civil rights activist.

“She was a prolific letter writer,” said McMahon, who has kept all of the letters.

McMahon heard stories from family members about how her grandmother would attend civil rights marches and bring others along the way.

“My father recently said to me, ‘Your grandmother never let up. She was always pushing everybody to desegregate.’ My grandmother didn’t talk about it that much directly to us, she just lived it.”

As an undergraduate, McMahon studied the history of other countries and then African history and the Swahili language. She began transferring her interests from thinking about systems of inequality and oppression in the United States to thinking about them in Africa. She noticed that a reoccurring theme of international development was to help or “fix Africa.”

“International development was premised on economic transformation of African societies, yet that didn’t happen.”

The recognition that it wasn’t only economic systems reinforcing inequality in international development drew McMahon to researching more about the continent.

“The larger goal is trying to understand where inequalities come from and the systems that create them, so that once we can understand those systems, then maybe we can actually do something to transform them,” McMahon said.

In 2020, McMahon co-authored the book *The Idea of Development in Africa: A History* (Cambridge University Press). It demonstrates that early discourse about the development of Africa occurred around the same time that theories of racial differences — posited as scientific evidence — emerged.

“There’s this ‘justification’ by Europeans that [Africans] ... are racially inferior, therefore we need to develop them.”

After the Holocaust, the terminology used to describe Africa shifted away from one of racial difference but the underlying concept did not change.

“Then it becomes this notion that Africa is culturally different from us, and not racially different from us,” McMahon said.

In her teaching, McMahon tries to help students “learn how to reflect on the ethnocentrism that Americans use in their approach to Africa.”

She is currently working on a book about the women who refused to live by the rules of East African society.

She is also working on, in collaboration with the Amistad Research Center, the African Letters Project. The project includes a database of more than 5,000 letters written between Americans and Africans from 1945 to 1994. The database allows researchers around the globe to digitally access the letters. McMahon said that it’s also a form of restitution to African scholars.

“These are letters written by Africans that are not accessible to most African scholars, and so by digitizing them, putting them in this format, it makes them available to them as well.”

The African Letters Project is currently underway and will be updated at [AfricanLettersProject.Tulane.edu](http://AfricanLettersProject.Tulane.edu).

Of receiving the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award, McMahon said, “It certainly allows me to feel appreciated by Tulane and appreciative of what Tulane offers us, as scholars, to be able to do the kind of work that is important, both locally and globally.”



## Brigham Walker

**“H**ealth is an inescapable feature of everyone’s life, and if there is a systemic barrier to it, then that unfairness is worth measuring and finding ways to disrupt.”

In a nutshell, that’s the motivation and philosophy of Brigham Walker, research assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Much of his work focuses on using field experimental methods — research techniques that seek to identify causal relationships in the real world — to measure inequities in access to health care, education and jobs.

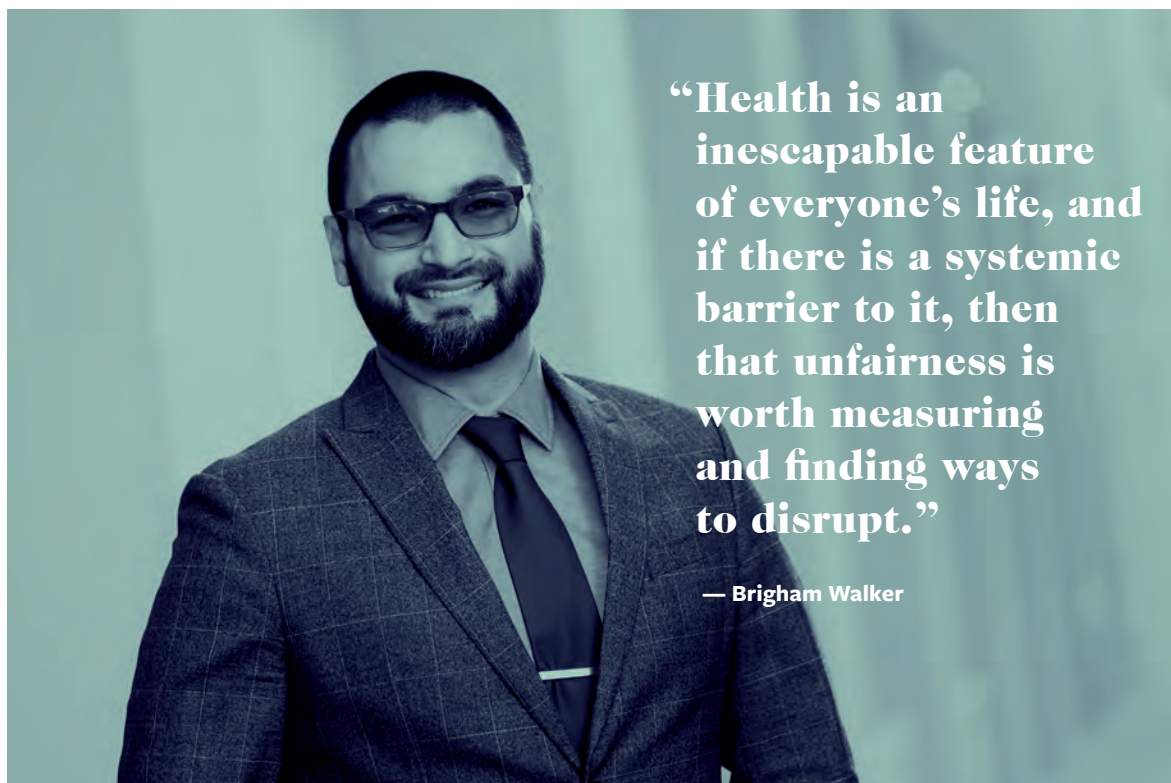
Walker recently published a string of studies with his departmental colleague, Janna Wisniewski, on unequal access to primary care. One study found that, compared with White women, Black and Hispanic women were much more likely to be asked whether they had health insurance before being offered an appointment. When offered appointments, they were often scheduled further in the future than those slots offered to Whites.

A follow-on study found that White women were offered appointments most often while Black and Hispanic patients were more likely to be told that their insurance wasn’t accepted despite having the same insurance on average. The findings also showed that discriminatory effects were most pronounced among the uninsured, suggesting that increased health insurance access may reduce inequitable healthcare access more generally.

Walker’s ongoing collaborations continue to identify disparities in other healthcare settings and have focused on patient- and provider-focused interventions that are aimed at improving equitable access. In these studies, Walker said, “We are trying to use these measured inequities to target and pilot new ways to engage with healthcare providers to see how we can narrow the gaps.”

Walker has also examined equity outside of health care. He collaborated with Patrick Button, associate professor of economics at the School of Liberal Arts, to examine differences in access to job callbacks among Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in the United States. He has ongoing work with colleagues in the economics department regarding unequal access to schools along racial and ethnic dimensions. He is currently working on several projects including measuring patient bias against physicians, differences in telehealth utilization during the pandemic, and the interplay between health, health coverage and financial health.

Through all of this, Walker is “incredibly flattered” to be recognized with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award. He said, “I am just trying to advance knowledge in the research domain that I care about and am incredibly grateful to be able to collaborate with such amazing colleagues in that pursuit.”



**“We prefer not to talk about it (race), we wish that it would just go away. ... That makes it difficult to deal with.”**

**— Robert St. Martin Westley**



## **Robert St. Martin Westley**

**“W**e prefer not to talk about it (race), we wish that it would just go away,” said Robert St. Martin Westley, Louisiana Outside Counsel Health and Ethics Foundation Professor of Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility at Tulane Law School.

“That makes it difficult to deal with. I feel that it’s important to work through the issues so that we can realize the progress and the promise of equality and justice for all.”

Westley has both a PhD in philosophy from Yale University and a JD from the University of California–Berkeley.

While he was in law school in the early 1990s, the law was in a transitional phase where many of the gains of the civil rights movement were starting to be rolled back. “In particular, there was a huge attack being mounted on affirmative action,” Westley said. “My feeling was that affirmative action was not something that the Black community ever asked for.”

Westley wrote one of his first law review articles on reparations. To deal with historical injustices, Westley determined that compensation should be provided in order for the nation to move forward.

“I started writing about it (reparations) in part in response to the fact that we weren’t talking about reparations, and when we did talk about reparations, we always seemed to exclude the Black experience from it.”

Westley has been teaching a critical race theory seminar for more than 20 years.

Critical race theory was first coined by Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, a professor at Columbia University and the University of California–Los Angeles, and colleagues in 1989 as a way to understand how law has created and sustained race in U.S. society.

“What scholars attempted to do was to try to give an explanation of why, despite the creation of what we in law sometimes refer to as ‘formal equality,’ progress towards substantive equality for Black people and for other people of color in this country has been so slow,” Westley said.

Westley’s next book will take a deeper look at reparations and what he refers to as “contemporary White American memory work.” He is seeking to examine who is doing memory work, their motivations and responses to it.

A good example of memory work is from a *New York Times* article about a woman who inherited her family’s farm in Georgia. She discovered that her family had owned slaves and that the land was taken from Cherokee Tribe members following the Trail of Tears. (The Trail of Tears refers to the forced removal process of Native Americans by the federal government following the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830.)

The woman’s response to this discovery, according to Westley, was: “I need to find these people who were dispossessed and harmed by my family. I need to find the descendants of those people and start a dialogue with them to figure out how to redress it.”

Westley said that he is honored to be a recipient of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award. He acknowledges the many EDI pioneers who came before him.

“In accepting the award, I also feel like it’s an award to those folks,” he said.



## Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design

**T**he nationally recognized Albert and Tina Small Center at the School of Architecture is committed to collaborating with community partners through providing pro bono design and architecture resources on projects that address inequity in the built environment throughout the city of New Orleans.

During its 15-plus-year tenure, the center has worked with numerous nonprofits across Orleans Parish, including Operation Restoration, Parasite Skate Park, Arts Council New Orleans and Jericho Road, to name a few.

In a typical year, the center collaborates with over a dozen organizations in various capacities. Through the center's annual Request For Proposals process, community partners are identified. Then the center supports bringing the projects and ideas to fruition.

This year, the Small Center is partnering with Sugar Roots Farm for the center's design-build studio. With sustainable farming as its foundation, Sugar Roots Farm is a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to build food sovereignty and community resilience in the Gulf South." Tulane architecture students and faculty are working with the farm, located on the West Bank of New Orleans, to build an outdoor kitchen for community cooking and plant medicine classes.

Another community partner this year is Covenant House in New Orleans. For this visioning project, the Small Center's staff, faculty and students are helping the nonprofit organization reimagine its Care Center Welcome Lobby in order to better serve its mission to provide shelter, crisis care and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness and to survivors of human trafficking.

Ann Yoachim, director of the Small Center and professor of practice at the School of Architecture, said, "We see opportunity in all of our projects, whether they be built work, graphic design, urban planning or visioning, to use the design process as a coalition and capacity builder to create change."

The Small Center also supports local governments through design and planning efforts and architecture firms as they work to embed engaged processes into professional practice.

"It's about expanding who leads the conversations that shape the built environment," Yoachim said. She noted that Parasite Skate Park, which won the 2019 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence Silver Medal, stands out in that regard. The Small Center collaborated with Transitional Spaces, a nonprofit organization led by local skaters, to work with the city of New Orleans and see their vision for the park come to fruition in 2015. The center is now working with the next generation of leadership to design an expansion. The park, located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 610 and Paris Avenue, served as a relief supply drop-off after Hurricane Ida.

Outside the annual Request For Proposals program, the Small Center provides other forms of assistance to community partners, including guiding them to other organizations for support.

Yoachim said that Small Center faculty and staff are committed to continuing long-term relationships with community partners. The Small Center's mission is to constantly reflect on its fundamental practices, especially with an emphasis on equity, diversity and inclusion.

"We're always willing to expand, question and critically reflect on the work we're doing and how we could improve it. It's required for change to actually happen," Yoachim said. 🐾

**"It's about expanding who leads the conversations that shape the built environment."**

**— Ann Yoachim**



# Research, Scholarship & Artistic Achievement

The Tulane University Research, Scholarship, and Artistic Achievement Awards were presented for the first time in November at a gala at the Higgins Hotel near The World War II Museum in New Orleans.

**P**resident Michael A. Fitts directly addressed the more than 30 honored researchers in the audience of 150 faculty members, guests and administrators. He said, “In looking at you, you are the past, present and the future of Tulane University. I’m really proud of all of you.”

He said that the awards honor the researchers’ “extraordinary work that makes a difference to the lives of the world.”

Fitts also noted that research at Tulane has recently experienced an incredible period of growth. “Over the last five years our federal funding has gone up close to 50 percent.”

Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, vice president for research, whose office organized the awards’ selection and ceremony, said that 2020 was a record year in Tulane’s history for total research and federal research funding. “Even more remarkable, these records were set in the midst of the worst pandemic of the century.”

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman also took the stage. He said that although it’s the first time the university has held the event, the university’s researchers and their work are often discussed among colleagues.

“We’re sharing our sense of excitement and pride in your latest discoveries, ideas and creations, in your latest books and papers and latest collaborations,” Forman said.

He continued, “It’s great to have this chance to celebrate together and to celebrate all the ways in which you make our communities healthier, safer, happier, more resilient and more just.”

On the previous pages of this *Tulanian* are stories about the Research Hall of Fame, Spirit of Tulane, Innovation, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award recipients.

Other 2021 awards and their recipients include:

## Galaxy Award

This award recognizes substantial achievement of scholars/investigators who have a strong five-year history of funding and of enhancing Tulane’s research mission through scholarship, education, mentorship and collaborative efforts. **LISA MORICI**, School of Medicine, **DR. LYDIA BAZZANO**, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, **HANK ASHBAUGH**, School of Science and Engineering, and **DOUGLAS HARRIS**, School of Liberal Arts.

## Funding Awards

These awards recognize a) the scholar/investigator in the STEM fields who has been awarded the largest combined dollar amount of funding for direct costs during the prior calendar year, and b) artist/scholar/investigators in the non-STEM fields who have been awarded the largest combined dollar amount of funding for direct costs during the prior calendar year. **STEM: CHAD ROY**, School of Medicine and Tulane National Primate Research Center. **NON-STEM: MIA L. BAGNERIS**, School of Liberal Arts, and **ADRIAN ANAGNOST**, School of Liberal Arts.

## Convergence Award

This award recognizes Tulane scholars who successfully collaborate across schools, units and departments to surpass traditional academic disciplines and further the research mission. **DR. STACY DRURY**, School of Medicine, and **JAY RAPPAPORT**, School of Medicine and Tulane National Primate Research Center.

## Student/Trainee Research Mentoring Award

This award recognizes exceptional research mentors.

**PATRICIA KISSINGER**, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and **JANA LIPMAN**, School of Liberal Arts.

“In looking at you,  
you are the past,  
present and the  
future of Tulane  
University. I’m really  
proud of all of you.”

— Michael Fitts, president

## Rising Star Award

This award recognizes the work of assistant professors, within five years of appointment to Tulane, who demonstrate exceptional growth and impact in one or more research areas. **COURTNEY BRYAN**, School of Liberal Arts, **MICHAEL NAGUIB**, School of Science and Engineering, and **MAEVE WALLACE**, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

## Citation Award

This award recognizes the Tulane author of the peer-reviewed article with the highest number of citations during the prior calendar year. The recipient must be the corresponding author and Tulane must be the corresponding institution. **ROBERT GARRY**, School of Medicine, for “The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2,” *Nature*, April 2020.

## Publication Award

This award recognizes Tulane scholars/investigators with the best book and the best journal article published in the prior calendar year. **BOOK: ANDREW HOROWITZ**, School of Liberal Arts, for *Katrina: A History, 1915-2015*, Harvard University Press, published 2020. **JOURNAL ARTICLE: J. QUINCY BROWN**, School of Science and Engineering, for “Pulmonary and cardiac pathology in African American patients with COVID-19: an autopsy series from New Orleans,” *Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, July 2020.



# Wavemakers

## Tulane surpasses fundraising mark, sets new goal

**T**hanks to unprecedented support from alumni and friends across the globe, the *Only the Audacious*, *The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane* initiative quickly surpassed its record-setting \$1.3 billion goal and has now announced a new goal of \$1.5 billion that will build on the campaign's extraordinary momentum.

Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said the extended campaign will focus on three areas critical to Tulane's future — empowering the universitywide research enterprise, completing a new residential quad that will significantly enhance the on-campus living and learning experience for students, and fueling a major expansion of the university's downtown campus. Funds will also support equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, robust financial aid, and research and internship opportunities for students.

"Tulaneans have shown that when you think and dream big, you can reach further," Fitts said. "Our purpose in setting a new campaign goal is to make a Tulane education available to more students, to transform undergraduate life with opportunities that educate the whole student, and to expand our downtown campus to serve as an engine for research, innovation and discovery."

Carol Lavin Bernick, chair of the Board of Tulane, the university's main governing body, said the upward momentum is the result of an extraordinary group of alumni and supporters. "Tulane's ongoing surge of momentum is exhilarating! Alumni and friends alike are inspired by the groundbreaking research, top-quality students and faculty," along with the vision of President Mike Fitts, Bernick said.

Milestone achievements of the campaign include funding: nine of 10 Presidential Chairs to attract faculty members in biomedicine, coastal restoration, health equity, nanotechnology and emerging fields of discovery; construction of the \$73 million Yulman Stadium; construction of The Commons, a \$55 million state-of-the-art dining facility; construction of Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex, a \$35 million project to unite the A.B. Freeman School of Business' two buildings; and the establishment of The John W. Deming Department of Medicine through a \$25 million gift supporting physician-scientists working on clinical and translational research.

The campaign's co-chairs, longtime Tulane supporters Richard Yulman, Phyllis M. Taylor, and Cathy and Hunter Pierson, the Executive Campaign Council and the National Campaign Council have offered their guidance since its 2017 launch.



President Michael Fitts introduces the *Only the Audacious* campaign in 2017.

## GIFT CREATES FOGELMAN HALL IN NEW RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE

**T**he alumnus whose name is synonymous with Tulane basketball is now providing the lead gift to build the preeminent student residence hall on the uptown campus.

A gift from real estate magnate Avron B. Fogelman (A&S '62) and his wife, Wendy (NC '63), will propel the construction of Fogelman Hall, one of five new buildings in a residential village.

Tulane helped prepare Avron Fogelman for a successful career not only in real estate but in professional sports management. Under his co-ownership, the Kansas City Royals baseball team won the 1985 World Series.

"The naming of Fogelman Hall in honor of Wendy and me is very meaningful," Avron Fogelman said. "We both are products of the Tulane residence halls and know how important a freshman dorm is to an incoming student. It is where they live independently for the first time, where they meet lifelong friends, and helps mold the rest of their lives."

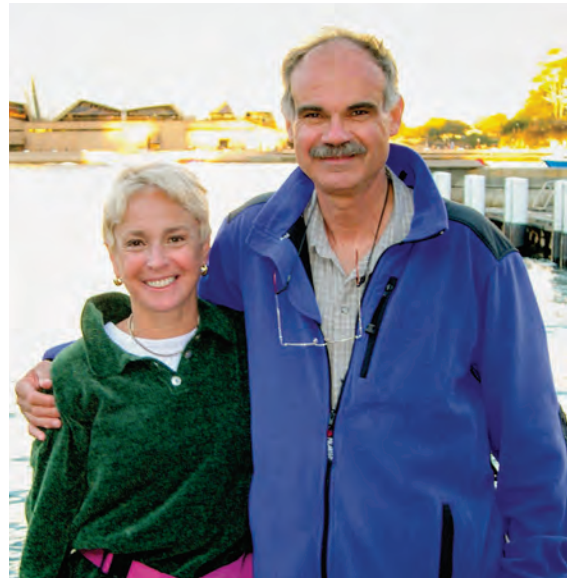
Fogelman Hall will house more than 280 residents and will feature a classroom and other amenities that foster round-the-clock academic enrichment. Construction begins this year.

Avron Fogelman, his family, and the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Foundation have made numerous donations to Tulane through the years, most notably in 1988 with a \$1 million pledge that created the Avron B. Fogelman Arena. In 2018 the Fogelmans gave \$1 million to establish the Fogelman Life Preparation Program. He served on both the President's Council and the Board of Tulane in the 1980s. The Fogelmans are also members of the Paul Tulane Society.

They have three sons, Rick, Mark (B '92) and Hal, and two grandchildren who are current Tulane students.



Avron B. (A&S '62) and Wendy Fogelman (NC '63) have pledged a gift that will propel the construction of Fogelman Hall.



The gift of Drs. Phil (A&S '64, M '68) and Cheryl Leone (NC '66, M '69) establishes the university's ninth presidential chair, to be based at the School of Medicine.

## New Presidential Chair Established at School of Medicine

**A** husband-and-wife team who first met as Tulane undergraduates is donating \$5 million to create the university's ninth Presidential Chair, which will be based at the School of Medicine.

The Drs. Philip and Cheryl Leone Presidential Chair Endowed Fund will support a medical school professor who will also hold a joint appointment in another school or unit and focus on areas such as public health, immunology, parasitology or anthropology.

Phil (A&S '64, M '68) and Cheryl (NC '66, M '69) Leone are retired pathologists and current members of the School of Medicine Board of Governors. They view their donation as an expression of gratitude to their alma mater and an important investment in medical education and innovation.

"Tulane University has played a major role in our lives and the lives of our family members," Phil Leone said. "Our son graduated from Tulane, and Cheryl's siblings earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the university. Our education impacted us all personally and professionally in very positive ways, and we have always wanted to give back."

"Endowing a Presidential Chair with an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic study allows us to contribute to



the university in these challenging times,” Cheryl Leone added. “We hope our gift will strengthen the medical school and help train future physicians who can significantly advance the field of medicine.”

Over the years the Leones have given prolifically to Tulane. In 2015 they set up the Drs. Philip and Cheryl Leone Scholarship Endowed Fund to benefit medical students in financial need. In 2020 they donated \$1 million to launch the Leone Learning Center, the primary teaching center for first-year medical students.

“Phil and Cheryl’s deep devotion to Tulane could not be more inspiring,” said L. Lee Hamm, MD, senior vice president and dean of the School of Medicine. “Their support — from scholarships to the state-of-the-art learning center and now to their Presidential Chair — propels the school forward in every mission and at every level. Their Tulane spirit is phenomenal.”

Residents of Naples, Florida, the Leones have worked in both academic and private practice. They belong to Tulane’s National Campaign Council for South Florida, which supports *Only the Audacious*, *The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane*, and the Paul Tulane Society, which honors individuals and organizations that have donated \$1 million or more to the university.

The Leones have two children, including Seth (A&S ’95).

## Gift Endows Career Services for Student-athletes

**T**ulane University has received a \$1.4 million gift from the Valerie and Michael McKeever family, \$1 million of which will be used to establish the McKeever Family Athletic Career Development Endowed Fund. The fund will expand Tulane Athletics’ career development initiative to its 350-plus student-athletes by providing for a full-time staff member to support the postgraduate aspirations of Green Wave student-athletes.

“The significance of this gift cannot be overstated. It empowers our commitment to career development into perpetuity, ensuring that our student-athletes are as prepared for success after graduation as they are during their playing careers,” Director of Athletics Troy Dannen said.

In addition, a multipurpose classroom within the Don and Lora Peters Academic Center will carry the McKeever family name, to be used for instruction, committee meetings, presentations and career development programming.

Michael McKeever (A&S ’73, B ’75) studied economics while competing on the men’s swimming and diving team. Since then, McKeever has had a successful career in finance including leadership roles at Lehman Brothers and Legacy Venture Partners, LLC. Valerie McKeever also specialized in finance during her 10-year investment banking career at Kidder, Peabody. The McKeever family and their three children live in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The McKeever family’s seven-figure gift is the third contribution of its size to Tulane Athletics this year as part of the *Only the Audacious* campaign. 🏆



Michael (A&S ’73, B ’75) and Valerie McKeever have given a \$1.4 million gift to Tulane Athletics.

# March

# 22,

# 2022

SAVE THE DATE

GIVE GREEN

a day for the audacious

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Get excited for GIVE GREEN 2022, our annual day to celebrate our collective power and transform Tulane through audacity and generosity!

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# Tulanians



## WAVE '21 HOMECOMING, REUNION AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Homecoming weekend festivities featured the Alumni Band performing with the Tulane University Marching Band during halftime at the Green Wave's game against the University of Tulsa in Yulman Stadium on Nov. 13. There was also tailgating on the Berger Family Lawn with activities such as face-painting and the opportunity to pose as the Angry Wave.

PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

1960  
1969

**RUSS HERMAN (A&S '63, L '66)**, senior partner of Herman, Herman & Katz LLC in New Orleans, has produced the play *Empire the Musical*, the story of how New York's landmark Empire State Building came to be built. The play will debut on Broadway this winter, with a nationwide tour launching in New Orleans to follow. In addition, Herman recently completed his third anthology of poetry.

Four Tulane alumni from Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, have been named 2022 Best Lawyers in America. **ALAN H. GOODMAN (A&S '67)** was recognized for

bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights, **PAUL M. HEBERT JR. (A&S '67)** for family law, **PETER J. BUTLER JR. (B '84, L '87)** for appellate practice and commercial litigation and **STEPHEN R. WHALEN (A&S '86)** for litigation and insurance.

Calling themselves the **CAVALIERS**, **JEFFREY ROSENBLUM (A '67)** and his wife, **MICKEY KRONBERG (NC '67)**, from South Carolina; **BERT SEYFARTH (A '67)** and his wife, Susan, from Michigan; **DAVID RITTENBERG (A '67)** and his wife, Joanne, from North Carolina; and **ED ROEHM (A '67)** and his wife, Fran, from Virginia, met in Charlotte, North Carolina, in July to visit the "Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Charlotte."

1970  
1979

**SARALYN JACOBSON RICHARD (NC '71)**, the award-winning author of the Detective Parrott Mystery Series, will be publishing a new book, *Bad Blood Sisters*, in March 2022 from Encircle Publications. The story takes place on the Gulf Coast of Texas where Quinn McFarland must deal with the death of her estranged friend and "blood" sister. Richard lives in Galveston, Texas.

**NEAL BRANTLEY (A&S '73)** won first place in opaque painting at the 55th Montgomery Art Guild-Regions Bank Exhibition held in Montgomery, Alabama. Brantley also had a painting accepted into the art collection of the

Crescent Care health facility on Elysian Fields Avenue in New Orleans.

**EUGENE GOLDBERG (A '75)**, a retired architect living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has published a children's book, *Once Upon a Pizza: Eight Crazy Ways Pizza Wasn't Really Invented, And One It Might Have Been*.

A new book, *The Promise of the Pelican*, by **ROY HOFFMAN (A&S '75)** will be published this spring. It's a literary crime novel about an 82-year-old defense attorney in Alabama — a child Holocaust survivor — who comes out of retirement to defend a young Honduran man accused of murder. An intergenerational family drama, the story is set in the multicultural South where the past and present collide.





## EARTH'S MYSTERIES

**SANDY KARP'S (G '78)** book *Origins, Vol. 1 of Sentience* was published by The Graeae Press this summer. *Origins* is the first volume of the three-volume series *Sentience*, which is a 21st-century discussion of the origins, history and practices that have formed, evolved and sustained planet Earth and its sentient inhabitants. Karp lives in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

**WILLIAM KLEIN (A&S '78, PHTM '92)** is the recipient of the George E. Schafer Award from the Society of United States Air Force Flight Surgeons. The award recognizes outstanding contributions by Air Force flight surgeons to the health, welfare, safety and mission effectiveness of USAF aircrew as well as celebrating long-term service to aerospace medicine. Klein practices at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

**MICHAEL M. MILLER (M '79)** is the past president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, former director of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and former director of the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine.

**ELLEN G. SARRETT (SW '79)** retired on Feb. 1, 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, from her position as a prison social worker for the state of Maryland. She resides in Takoma Park, Maryland.

1980  
1989

**BRUCE LANDY (M '80)** recently submitted a patent application for a noninvasive blood glucose detector and method using infrared. The patent is pending. Landy lives in Parker, Colorado.

**MARC ALEXANDER (B '82)** launched a new company and platform in digital

health, Motusi Corp., in partnership with Bosch Sensortec and Unity Software. The goal is to improve injury assessment, prediction and performance compliance for the return-to-sport marketplace. Alexander resides in Clackamas, Oregon.

**ALBERTO JOSE CARDELLE (A&S '86)** was appointed in September by The State University of New York Board of Trustees to the position of president of the State of New York College in Oneonta, New York. He is the first Cuban American to become president of a SUNY school.

**JOHN STRASBURGER (A&S '86)**, partner of the Houston based firm, Bissinger, Oshman, Williams & Strasburger LLP, was selected for inclusion in Texas Super Lawyers, a peer-review lawyer guide. He was chosen as one of the state's leading business litigators for 2021.

**RODNEY NATHAN (B '88)** has accepted the position of associate vice chancellor for talent acquisition and performance at Houston Community College. Nathan has 30 years of progressive leadership experience in human resources and government relations with an emphasis on talent acquisition, diversity, equity and inclusion.



## ART AND INTRIGUE

**LINDA STEWART HENLEY (NC '70)** published her debut novel, *Estelle*, a look at a little-known portion of French painter Edgar Degas' life that was spent in New Orleans between 1872–73. The first of two storylines chronicles Degas as a struggling artist visiting his brother, Rene, and his wife, Estelle. The second is a contemporary story of Anne Gautier, who finds a painting of her great-great-grandmother and a journal that tells the story of her family's connection to Degas. The book was published by She Writes Press. Henley lives with her husband in Anacortes, Washington.

**MARCELLA DURAND (NC '89)** was named the 2021 recipient of the C.D. Wright Award in Poetry from the Foundation of Contemporary Art. Her sixth collection of poetry, *To Husband Is to Tender*, was published by Black Square Editions in fall 2021. Durand's other recent books include *The Prospect*, published in 2020 by Delete Press, and her book-length translation of Michèle Métail's *Les Horizons du Sol, The Earth's Horizons*, which was published in 2020 by Black Square Editions. Durand lives in New York.

1990  
1999

**LAURA WALTHER KLIGMAN (NC '90, L'94)** and **MARC KLIGMAN'S (L '95)** son Elie Kligman was selected by the Washington Nationals in the 20th round of the 2021 amateur draft. However, he decided against signing a pro contract and is pursuing his education at Wake Forest University. Elie is one of only two Orthodox Jewish players ever to be drafted by a major league team. The Kligman's daughter, Tova, is a freshman at UCLA and their younger son, Ari, is a senior at Cimarron-Memorial High School in Las Vegas.

**JULIA DOOLIN (G '91)** of Shreveport, Louisiana, and her daughter, **KELLEEN DOOLIN (SLA '18)** perform mother-daughter duos and post the songs to their YouTube channel #ThreeGenerationsSinging. One of their recent posts is a cover of the Taylor Swift song, "The Best Day."

**RHONDA GOODE-DOUGLAS (UC '92, L'95)** was elected as a judge to the Criminal District Court, Section E in New Orleans in November 2020.

**ADAM JONES (A&S '92)**, a commercial film director who resides in Portland, Oregon, has recently released his first documentary feature, *Fish & Men*, which explores issues in the seafood industry. The film was screened at 40 film festivals and won 11 awards.

**PETER WICKERSHAM (L '92)**, president of Peter H. Wickersham, PC, was recognized by Best Lawyers as the 2022 Health Care Law "Lawyer of the Year" in San Antonio.

## Where was your favorite place to study as a Tulane student?



I feel I can FINALLY tell this story 20+ years later. I was an undergrad from '94–98. A roommate of mine and I went to the bookstore and bought "Tulane Law" hats. We used to "sneak" into the law school classrooms and library, where it was always quiet. In my 20 years of law practice since, that lesson — "appearing and believing you belong somewhere" — educated and emboldened me to succeed.  
**Michael Hoffman (TC '98)**



Anywhere outside on campus! I love the physical environment that is Tulane — the embracing oak trees, the grass on the quad, the inspirational architecture on the campus.  
**Dana Pudenz (NC '89)**

TRIVIA FRAZIER

# RESEARCH SCIENTIST & BUSINESS INNOVATOR

**Trivia Frazier (SSE '08, M '12, B '18)**, president and CEO of Obatala Sciences, is passionate about her company's work and is thrilled to be blazing a path for others interested in bioengineering research. Frazier and her co-founders at Obatala spent many years conducting stem cell research that led to the development of the technology that launched the company.

## MYTH MEETS THE POWER OF SCIENCE

Obatala's "fat on a chip" technology offers research scientists tissue models that represent patients of varying demographics. The availability of diverse samples allows for a far earlier indication of response to drug compounds from a much wider patient population. Eliminating nonviable compounds quickly not only speeds up the testing time, which could result in less expensive prescription drugs, but also reduces adverse patient events.

Obatala Sciences is named for the West African god who was tasked with sculpting the human body. The significance of this name is two-fold for Frazier, who is a native New Orleanian and of Nigerian ancestry.

"Obatala [the mythic god] used naturally occurring materials, clay and mud, to form the human body, and we're using naturally occurring biological materials. We start off with what's routinely discarded as medical waste and then use those tissues to build more tissues that mimic tissues of the body. It seemed naturally fitting, considering that our goal is promoting diversity in research, to name the company after this West African deity."

## STEM CELL RESEARCH

Frazier was the first African American woman to complete the dual degree program in Physics and Biomedical Engineering from Tulane and Dillard Universities, and this experience was fundamental to her future in medical research.

While a graduate student in Tulane's School of Medicine PhD program in Biomedical Sciences, Frazier met Dr. Jeffrey Gimble, a faculty member who shared her research interests. After she completed her doctorate, Gimble offered Frazier the opportunity to work with him on a National Science Foundation-funded project.





"This project isolating stem cells from fat tissue and reconstituting them in a three-dimensional environment using silk led to the founding of Obatala. We were engineering fat tissue using stem cells; it was a way to take the original small volume of tissue and expand it," said Frazier.

Frazier took a turn in her career to join Dillard University's faculty as chair of the physics program but continued collaborating with Gimble and another scientist who became a co-founder of Obatala, Dr. Xiyi Wu.

In 2016 the three were awarded a small business, innovative research grant that allowed them to commercialize the technology and offer it to pharmaceutical companies for testing drug compounds. Frazier then gave up her academic position to focus on Obatala. She also enrolled in the MBA program at Tulane's A. B. Freeman School of Business to acquire the skills necessary to run a successful startup.

Obatala is now a thriving company, with a team of 13, that distributes its samples internationally and is contributing to the budding New Orleans biotech industry. For Frazier, the company's location is significant.

"It's important for me to create opportunity for others in my hometown because I remember thinking, do I have to move to get this kind of experience? I wanted to be home for many reasons, one to be close to my mother, and if it were not for the opportunities I was given, I may not have pursued this pathway." 📍

#### ARTHUR E. APOLINARIO (M '96, PHTM '96)

is president-elect of the North Carolina Medical Society. He is on the board of directors and chair of the medical affairs committee of Carolina Complete Health. He is also co-chair of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Task Force and on the board of directors of Aledade Laffey ACO, for value-based care expertise.



#### ANCIENT WISDOM SERVES MODERN BUSINESS

##### L. J. BOURGEOIS III

(A&S '68, B '70) co-authored *The Tao of Strategy: How Seven Eastern Philosophies Help Solve Twenty-First Century Business Challenges*, published by the University of Virginia Press. The book combines the ancient wisdom of Eastern philosophical thought and lessons from modern-day business leaders as a method of producing innovative approaches and strategic breakthroughs for readers and their organizations. Bourgeois is emeritus professor at the Center for Global Initiatives at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**JEHNNIE BURNS (NC '96)** published a book in October, *Mixtape Nostalgia: Culture, Memory and Representation*, which explores the history of the mixtape from its beginnings in the 1970s to its resurgence as an icon of nostalgic analog technology. Burns resides in Pittsburgh.

**RYAN E. DAVIS (A&S '96)** from the Winter Park, Florida, law firm of Windermere, Haines, Ward and Woodman, PA, was recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022. Davis specializes in bankruptcy, creditor debtor rights, reorganization law and commercial litigation.

**ROB GALAMAGA (A&S '96)** was appointed to the position of medical director of

outpatient care centers of Arizona at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Phoenix, where he serves as a member of the bone marrow transplant team and treats patients with cancer and blood disorders. He also earned a Master of Science from the Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program at the University of Maryland, the first graduate program in the U.S. to focus on policy, science and therapies related to medical cannabis.

**WESLEY RICHARD (E '96)** is a 2021 inductee into the Chief Information Officers Hall of Fame. The CIO Hall of Fame was created in 1997 to recognize outstanding information technology leaders who have made significant contributions and influence the IT discipline. Richard lives in Atlanta.

**ERIC BLOCK (TC '97)** has completed a book, *The Stress-Free Dentist: Overcome Burnout and Start Loving Dentistry Again*, which addresses the mental health issues dentists face and offers solutions to avoid burnout. He lives and practices dentistry in Acton, Massachusetts.

**ALIX MILLER (NC '98)** has been named president and CEO of the Florida Trucking Association, the sole liaison between the trucking industry, Florida Legislature and state regulatory agencies.

**MARY LYNNE GASAWAY-HILL'S (G '99)** book *Horizons of Joy: Poetic Thresholds for Winter* has been published by River Lily Press. Carol Coffee Reposa, the Texas Poet Laureate in 2018, praised the book. Gasaway-Hill lives in San Antonio.

2000  
2009

**BRIAN SILENGO (TC '00)** has been named head of sales for The Motley Fool LLC, a financial and investing advisory company based in Alexandria, Virginia.

**GRANT TREGRE (E '01)**, in his role as associate director of the NASA Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate at Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, assisted in leading an organization involved in testing the core stage of NASA's new Space Launch System.

#### Where was your favorite place to study as a Tulane student?



Sophomore year, I loved pulling out a chair on the Irby balcony. A mix of the sun, trees and campus buzz was serene and "classic Tulane" for me.

**Zachin Rao (SLA '20)**



I liked to sit in the big arched windows looking out into the trees in front of the Architecture building.

**David Burt (A '83)**



The little garden behind Jones Hall was my absolute favorite place to study! I used to perch on the wide stone tiles on the edge of the fountain and read for hours.

**Brady Plunger (SLA '13)**



## IMPRESSION

# BILLY WITZ

**B**illy Witz followed in his father's footsteps to Tulane 41 years ago and took the road less traveled in becoming an award-winning sports journalist. Witz (A&S '84), who currently covers college sports for *The New York Times*, has been a sportswriter all his life. It's all he's known since his early days of walking the uptown campus.

Witz came to Tulane as a freshman in 1980. His father, Mort, briefly played football for the Green Wave but left New Orleans to study photography in Los Angeles. Witz picked up where his father left off by attending Tulane, but didn't know what he wanted to study when he arrived. He tried business and English before finally settling on sociology, a degree he says is very relevant in today's journalistic environment.

"I played baseball in high school and tried out for the Tulane baseball team but didn't make it," Witz said. "So, I needed something else to do. One of my good friends in high school was the editor of our high school newspaper, so I decided to give it a shot at Tulane."

Witz ended up at the alternative school newspaper, *The Torch*. Even though the publication had a very brief

existence, the experience was enough to pique his curiosity, something the profession still does today, and send him down a career path in journalism.

"I felt incredibly at home at *The Torch* but had no idea what I was doing. The people there were so smart and quirky and really opened my eyes up to journalism. I was hooked. My first summer of college, I went home and was able to wrangle a clerk job at the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*," Witz said.

Following graduation, Witz began his professional career by taking high school football scores over the phone at the *Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram*. He later worked at Fox Sports and the *Los Angeles Daily News* before landing his current job with the *Times*.

Witz has attended Tulane alumni events in New York City and made it back to campus for this 35th graduation reunion in 2019.

"The lessons of my Tulane education helped shape the way I think, as have many other things in the last 30 years, but there is no question it's one of the foundations for me," Witz said. 🍷



**ANDI BEDSWORTH (G '04)**, a costume designer in Oxford, Mississippi, has been chosen as a grant recipient from idea accelerators Builders + Backers and Heartland Forward. The grant will help fund her technical education programs.

**BRIAN FREEMAN (B '05)** worked for a decade in the strategy group of the hospital company HCA and has started a new company, Mployer Advisor, which creates greater transparency for employers regarding their healthcare costs. The new company now has over 15,000 employers across the country using the platform each month. Freeman resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

**RYAN NEVIN (B '08)**, a trust adviser with Regions Private Wealth Management in Nashville, Tennessee, was selected for the American Bankers Association's "40 Under 40" in Wealth Management.

2010  
2021

**AMANDA LIPSHUTZ KULE (B '11)** is employed at a healthcare startup, K Health, that is offering free virtual doctors' visits for Louisiana residents impacted by Hurricane Ida. K Health doctors work 24/7 and are able to call in prescriptions for people who evacuated without their medication and give guidance if someone should seek in-person care.

**LEESHAN TINSON-TULLOS (SCS '11)** married Jason Tullon on Aug. 14, 2021, at La Bella Vita Reception Hall in Meraux, Louisiana. Tinson-Tullon also began co-writing for FifthQuarter.net., bringing the best in Tulane sports and culture to Twitter under FQTULANE.

**DIANA GUZMAN-MCMAHON (SCS '12)** was confirmed in July by the City of Hammond Council as their new director of human resources. Guzman-McMahon lives in Kenner, Louisiana.

**LINDSAY MERRELL (SW '12)** focused on health care after graduating but has since transitioned into real estate and is helping healthcare heroes with housing in Phoenix.

**NATHANIEL BOSSICK (SW '16)** is being recognized as the 2021 Emerging Leader of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter, for his work to spread mental health awareness. Bossick lives and works in Chicago.

## Where was your favorite place to study as a Tulane student?



I always loved studying in Gibson Quad under the big oak trees!  
**Christina Armstrong (SSE '08)**



On a warm, dry day ... in the stands at Tulane Stadium.  
**Nick Vaccaro (A&S '76)**



I was a grad student, so had a carrel in the Latin American Library on the top of the Howard Tilton Library — thanks to Bill Nájera who was a great mentor to me in grad school.  
**Jennifer R. "JR" Clark (G '95)**



### DECONSTRUCTING GUTENBERG

**MELISSA TURNER DRUMM'S (NC '83)** sculpture "Deconstructing Gutenberg" was recently moved from Kirk Hopper Fine Art in Dallas to the Cathedral of Hope Phillip Johnson Interfaith Peace Chapel in Dallas. The piece references the Gutenberg Bible, the first mass-produced Bible, and explores the ideas that the printed word is becoming obsolete, and that people often misconstrue the words of the Bible for their own purposes. The relocation of the sculpture is in honor of Drumm's late father Bill Turner and her unofficial "godfather," the late **JIM LAMANTIA (A '43)**, who were both professors of architecture at Tulane. Drumm's husband, **LLOYD DRUMM (A&S '82)**, is a Tulane graduate as was her late father-in-law **HUGHES DRUMM (A&S '54)**.

### KEY TO SCHOOLS

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

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

## Farewell

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

Betty Frew Smith (NC '38)

Alice Dayries Manson (NC '42)

Wallace B. Diboll Jr. (E '44)

Cindy Klegar Rosenberg (B '45, L '46)

Esther Finegold Wedner (NC '45)

Gaston J. Bourgeois Jr. (B '46, A&S '47)

Martha Witherspoon Brannan (NC '46)

Earline Rutter Denis (NC '46)

Louise Gottesman Brooks (NC '47)

Eugene A. Frisch Jr. (E '47)

John D. Lawyer (L '47)

Robert L. Magee (A&S '47, M '50)

Clyde E. Noble (A&S '47, G '48)

Andrew J. Reck (A&S '47, G '49)

Robert G. Beadle (E '48)

Mary Haase Brown (NC '48)

Mary Jackson Loflin (NC '48)

Johnnie Brownlee Bakkum (SW '49)

William B. Bizzell II (A&S '49)

Sarah Koretzky Carp (SW '49)

William M. Voss (B '49)

Robert C. Witcher Sr. (A&S '49)

Robert H. Charbonnet (A&S '50)

Mary Withers Donworth (NC '50)

Frank J. Ebel Jr. (E '50)

Frederick A. Evans (E '50)

Catherine Hodges Hamilton (NC '50)

John V. Ramoneda Jr. (B '50)

Joyce Rosenthal Schechter (SW '50)

Robert B. Acomb Jr. (B '51, L '53)

Robert E. Blackwell (A&S '51, L '58)

Harry C. Frye Jr. (M '51)

John T. Kitchings (M '51)

George M. Markey Jr. (A&S '51)

Melvin B. Myers Jr. (M '51)

Jack R. Reid Sr. (E '51)

Irving H. Smelson (A&S '51)

Lewis E. Ward Jr. (G '51)

Nolan A. Bourgeois Jr. (E '52)

William L. Geary Sr. (A&S '52, M '55)

Barbara Cherry Owen (NC '52)

Richard J. Reed (M '52)

Gerald G. Woodruff Jr. (M '52)

Insa Sternberg Abraham (B '53)

Herbert J. Ackermann Jr. (A&S '53)

Grace Ramsay Benson (NC '53)

Henry J. Boisseau Jr. (E '53, B '60)

Nolen L. Brunson (L '53)

Eugene C. Hoy (E '53)

Franklin C. Johnson (A&S '53)

Harvey B. Karsh (A&S '53)

George J. Stoll III (E '53)

Charles W. deBoisblanc Sr. (A&S '54)

Charlene Mutz (NC '54)

Richard F. Stanco Sr. (A&S '54)

Generes D. Bayle (B '55)

Edward H. Bravo (B '55)

Janet Tyson Cram (NC '55)

Harry B. Jordan Jr. (A&S '55)

Raoul J. LeBlanc Jr. (B '55)

Joseph F. Newhall Jr. (M '55)

Lawrence P. O'Meallie (A&S '55, M '57)

Henry C. Pitot III (M '55, G '59)

Jim M. Hercher (M '56)

William A. Killinger (M '56)

Carolyn Goodwin Mattison (NC '56)

Clarence M. Rittelmeyer (A&S '56, M '59)

Joe B. Black (G '57)

Magruder S. Corban (M '57)

Brenda Wallbillich Dupuy (NC '57)

Virginia Chamblin Greene (G '57)

Carolyn Clawson Prickett (M '57)

Francis E. Brown (G '58)

Ronald B. George (M '58)

Seth P. Novoselsky (A&S '58)

James R. Shamblin Jr. (M '58)

Robert A. Turkel (M '58)

Edward L. Weitz (B '58)

Jerry A. Brown (L '59)

William V. Renaudin Jr. (A&S '59)

Rita Cook Anderson (G '60)

Frank M. Davis (M '60)

Merle Scott Edmondson (NC '60)

Vernon R. Hancock (G '60)

Fred L. Lampe (B '60)

Max Nathan Jr. (L '60)

Jeanne Hanley Rabig (NC '60)

Philip J. Rasch II (E '60)

Edward J. Winter Jr. (A&S '60)

Arthur G. Aneckstein (M '61)

Schales L. Atkinson (G '61, M '61)

Edmund H. Christy Jr. (A&S '61, G '63)

Valentine A. Earhart Jr. (A&S '61)

Stuart A. Frank (A&S '61, M '65)

Mary Ann Cameron Petska (SW '61)

Thomas E. Ryder (A&S '61)

Norman L. Tinker (G '61)

Jean E. Van Slate (L '61)

Robert R. Wehrmann (B '61)

James R. Aiello Sr. (A&S '62)

Elizabeth Moss Argus (NC '62)

Ward C. Bourdeaux (M '62)

Henry R. Chambers (E '62)

Justin R. Curry Jr. (G '62)

Imogene Smith Kennedy (NC '62)

Donald L. Kortz (B '62)

James A. Pittman (M '62)

Justin C. Dierks (PHTM '63)

Jacques E. Donaldson (E '63)

William R. Garner (G '63)

Edwin C. Gleason Jr. (A '63)

Lorna Jaffe (NC '63)

Lloyd D. Young (L '63)

Edward E. Ledford (SW '64)

Elizabeth Azar Billeaud (NC '65)

Burton R. Evans Sr. (PHTM '65)

John R. Klas (G '65)

Henry F. O'Connor Jr. (B '65, L '67)

Sandra Streiffer Schwarcz (NC '65)

Radolfo R. Barrera (UC '66)

Raymond L. Canton Jr. (UC '66)

James M. Duncan (M '66)

Elizabeth Herold Redhead (NC '66)

Elmer L. Smith Jr. (A&S '66)

Richard L. Berry (G '67)

Ronald R. Coco (UC '67)

Prateen V. Desai (E '67)

Wendell H. Ott (SW '67)

Jack I. Selber (A&S '67)

Nelda Prescott Sibley (SW '67)

Charles C. Wicks (A&S '67)

Christine Robinson Baguley (NC '68, M '72)

Nancy Goheen (NC '68)

William J. Hudson (A '68, B '73)

Jay D. Kravitz (A&S '68, M '72)

Carter D. Morse (A&S '68)

John R. Prince Jr. (B '68)

James A. Van Hook Jr. (L '68)

William S. Walter (UC '68)

Robert N. Andry (L '69)

William B. Dawson Jr. (A&S '69)

Sylvia Frey (G '69)

Donald J. LaBauve (A&S '69)

William F. Milcarek Sr. (A&S '69)

Michael O. Stone (G '69)

Dana E. Whitcomb (A&S '69)

Harold E. Harrison (PHTM '70)

Regina Tragus (NC '70, SW '72)

Raymond P. Gordon (A&S '71)

Judith Ward-Steinman Karst-Campbell (G '71)

Glenn E. Lambert Jr. (M '71)

David A. Nieman (SW '71)

Richard P. Wilke (UC '71)

Wayne J. Wilson (B '71)

Addison C. Carey Jr. (G '72)

Ann Kaplan Dupuy (NC '72)

Sister Nina Fritsch (PHTM '72)

Kennedy J. Gilly Jr. (A&S '72, L '75)

Gail Feinberg Goldman (NC '72)

William N. Krucks (A&S '72)

Fred L. Phillips (B '72)





## TRIBUTE

# SYLVIA FREY

If the mark of an educated mind is the ability to entertain a thought without accepting it, Sylvia Frey turned inquisitiveness into a fine art. Had I been asked for three words to describe Sylvia, I would have said curious,

scholarly and stubborn. Thank goodness I was asked to write more — although all who knew Sylvia would agree that she was certainly stubborn — Sylvia was so much more.

Professor of history emerita at Tulane and founding director of the Deep South Regional Humanities Center, Sylvia Frey died on June 23, 2021, at her niece's home in Lafayette, Louisiana, following a cruel battle with viral encephalitis.

An historian and gifted teacher, Sylvia was a lifelong learner. When she heard that Nola4Women needed a social media presence she asked why. Days later, having researched “social media” thoroughly, she joined Facebook — which she hated for many reasons, primarily because she thought that including the year she was born was a required field.

Sylvia's study of early American history and her thirst for racial justice took her in many directions. Her interest in women in pre-industrial America developed into the study of the evolving role of women, making her contributions to Nola4Women — if not to social media — invaluable. Her research on slavery led to a long involvement with UNESCO where she organized international conferences on slave routes. Sylvia rarely talked about herself — not that she was the only woman on the history faculty when she arrived at Tulane

nor the numerous honors and fellowships she received. A notable exception was being named an honorary fellow by Newnham College at the University of Cambridge, an association she treasured.

With friends from all walks of life and colleagues who spanned the globe, Sylvia never forgot her southwest Louisiana roots. What she learned from the nuns at Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau never left her. Before receiving degrees from both LSU and Tulane, Sylvia taught high school in her native Eunice. It was there that she developed not only her teaching skills but her talent for supporting students — qualities she honed during her career; she was recognized by Mortar Board for outstanding teaching and for campus leadership by Omicron Delta Kappa.

Although a deeply private person, Sylvia's beguiling nature meant she had a wide and ever-expanding circle of friends — including every dog and cat whose path she crossed. I miss her guidance and wise counsel — and, maybe most of all, that infectious smile and those hearty shrieks of laughter. 🐾

—Kathy Epstein Seligman (NC'76) is the president of Nola4Women, the nonprofit she co-founded with Sylvia, Florence André and Martha Sullivan.

William E. Thoms II (L '72, G '77)  
Julian T. Caraballo (B '73)  
Rogelio L. Carrera (A&S '73)  
Lawrence A. Arcell (A&S '74, L '80)  
George A. Carruth (G '74)  
Paula Robin Donn (G '74)  
Dianne La Basse (NC '74, B '76)  
Warren N. White Jr. (E '74, G '85)  
William J. Graham Jr. (M '75)  
Lisa Lipton (NC '75)  
Louis J. Provenza (A&S '75, M '79)  
David O. Reehlmann (SW '75)  
Kenneth R. Trapp (G '75)  
Elizabeth Asher Welch (NC '75)  
Laura Knight Atkins (E '76)  
Michael K. Springmann (A&S '76)  
Thomas D. Watts (SW '76)  
Patricia Dunn Crosby (NC '77, G '81)  
Abner M. Landry III (A&S '77)

Herbert R. Tyree Jr. (A&S '77)  
Therese Ouimet (G '78)  
Rodney G. Higgins Jr. (M '79)  
Angelyn Forester Lane (G '79)  
Jerry D. Lee Sr. (A&S '79)  
Gregory J. Manion (A&S '79)  
William A. Young (M '79)  
Joseph P. Baxter (UC '80)  
Tin T. Cao (A&S '80)  
Katherine Karageorges-Sharp (NC '80)  
Mauricio J. Villa (A '81)  
Marsha Helveston (NC '82)  
Walter F. Marcus III (L '82)  
Harriette Burns Matthiessen (NC '82)  
Patrick T. Fennell (A&S '83)  
Elizabeth Kinsley (NC '83, M '87)  
Oscar Perez III (G '83)  
Cary Robinson (A&S '83)  
Federico Martinez Jr. (B '84)

Mitchell S. Blume (B '86)  
Katherine Postle Hayes (B '87)  
Donovan L. Ferguson (B '88)  
William G. Zatarain (UC '88)  
Henry J. Cohn Jr. (UC '90)  
Scott T. Fowler (A&S '89)  
Jon D. Lehrer (A&S '89)  
Ottoniel B. Rojas (UC '89)  
Cheryl Teamer (L '89)  
Darryl K. Algere (UC '90)  
Karen Besserman (NC '90)  
Henry J. Cohn Jr. (UC '90)  
Michael A. Squires (PHTM '90)  
Carole DeLorenzo Vaccaro (G '90)  
Brenda Capo (UC '91, SW '96)  
Steven P. Hulett (E '91)  
Doreen Varela (L '91)  
Joseph H. Hart IV (L '92)  
Dana La Fonta (NC '92, UC '95)

Hubert L. Rush III (B '92)  
William R. Snider (G '92)  
James J. Grissaffi (B '93)  
Gerald K. Russell (A&S '93)  
Stephen R. Carr (E '95, E '01)  
James H. Daigle Jr. (L '95)  
Marcy Ouellette (PHTM '96)  
Sherman G. Franz (PHTM '97)  
Donald E. Manning (PHTM '99)  
Eric D. Wenger (UC '99)  
Suzanne Zeitouni (M '09)  
Janier McKinnies (SCS '10, SW '14)  
Dana Webb (SLA '10)  
Peter J. Moore (B '12)  
Zachary A. Schnitzer (SW '14)  
Phillip A. Egusquiza (SCS '16)  
Emma Khismatullina (SSE '19)  
Zipora Hall Macklin (SoPA '21)

# LIVING AND LEARNING

BY MIKE FITTS, President

When Hurricane Ida arrived 16 years to the day after Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, a narrative quickly emerged that it would be the Katrina of the 2020s. Fortunately, the improvements made to New Orleans' flood protection system more than a decade and a half ago changed this storyline.

Ida resulted in downed trees, damaged roofs, water intrusion in numerous campus buildings and an extended citywide loss of power. But New Orleans was spared the catastrophic flooding and widespread loss of life it experienced in 2005. Our levees received their greatest test since Katrina and passed with flying colors, allowing Tulane to rebound much more quickly than expected.

While there are still many construction workers on our campuses, their tasks have pivoted from hurricane repair to building the Tulane of the future — a university filled with the newest, state-of-the-art facilities designed to support, elevate and expand our teaching and research mission for the good of our city and world. Evidence of this is everywhere. The Village, our new undergraduate residential quad, continues to rise along McAlister Drive, making way for more students to live on campus and create more synergy, innovation and living/learning opportunities.



On the third floor of the Contemporary Arts Center on Camp Street in the Warehouse District in downtown New Orleans, architecture students Katie Schultz, Malian Pickard and Kelsie Donovan tune into an online class on Sept. 15, 2021. Following Hurricane Ida, Wi-Fi hotspots across the city were made available to students.

We are also building our future by creating a new home for our School of Science and Engineering, the Steven & Jann Paul Hall. And we have embarked on a major renovation and expansion of Richardson Memorial Hall, home of our School of Architecture. Meanwhile students, staff, faculty, postdocs, residents, researchers and other Tulane affiliates are moving into the newly built apartments of Thirteen15, the latest addition to our expanding footprint in the heart of the city's downtown commercial district. Plans are also progressing to redevelop the long-dormant Charity Hospital building,

filling it with labs, classroom and an innovation institute designed to bring Tulane discoveries to the market more quickly and efficiently than ever before.

While improved infrastructure protected New Orleans from the worst of Ida's damage, many in neighboring parishes were not as fortunate. Through fundraising, donations and hands-on volunteer work, Tulane students, faculty, staff and alumni continue to help residents in these hard-hit areas recover. In fact, this outreach was one sure sign that things were getting back to normal for Tulane as we returned to campus following Ida.

Sustained public service efforts coupled with Tulane's creation of the next generation of entrepreneurs and our path-breaking discovery and investments in the city — especially downtown — promise to move our beloved hometown forward in every way. The twin threats of a global pandemic and a major hurricane are not challenges faced by the average university — but the Tulane community is far from average. Rather than simply surviving such challenges, we are changing their narrative and writing our own ending. 🏡



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New discoveries: A lamppost amid Pirate Alley architecture is reflected in a puddle, offering a fresh perspective on a New Orleans' French Quarter scene.