

TULANIAN

PUBLIC HEALTH
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE

MEDICINE

LIBERAL
ARTS

LAW

BUSINESS

ARCHITECTURE

SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING

PROFESSIONAL
ADVANCEMENT

SOCIAL
WORK

NEWCOMB-
TULANE
COLLEGE







SENDING FORTH CAPS IN THE SKY

Jubilant graduates toss their mortarboards up in the air as they celebrate the conferral of degrees on the Class of 2022. The first Unified Commencement ceremony held outdoors on Benson Field in Yulman Stadium was on May 21, 2022.

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TULANIAN

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MAIN FEATURE

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

At the Unified Commencement held in Yulman Stadium — in a ceremony filled with music and laughter — degrees are conferred on members of the Class of 2022, who are lauded for their endurance and creativity. The keynote speaker was actor, producer, writer and doctor Ken Jeong (right), and the Class of 2022 speaker was Russell J. Ledet, who earned MD and MBA degrees.



20 PASSIONATE AND DRIVEN

As six members of the class of '22, who received bachelor's degrees in May, embark on the next phase of their lives, they reflect on how they persevered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



26 SOUL BOWL '70

James Brown, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, and other luminaries performed a historic show in Tulane Stadium in 1970 — all for a good cause, raising funds for scholarships for Black students.



32 PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Five Tulane doctors recall the first days of COVID-19 and lament public misinformation. They advise people to keep their guard up and be compassionate as we move forward.

Make Way

MORE CONTENT AT
tulanian.tulane.edu

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Burch-Celentano

Back Cover: Plum Street Snoballs stand.



Yeah, You Write

From the Editor

“Connected by shared experience” is the theme for this *Tulanian* — and something Tulanians know well. Tulane students, whatever their field of study, have long formed bonds of connectedness by shared experiences in the classroom, living and learning together, weathering storms or, during the past couple of years, navigating the pandemic. Commencement ceremonies are communal events in which graduates, families and friends, and professors gather together to applaud academic achievement. This spring, Tulane held two special, in-person ceremonies, which we celebrate in this issue. We also talk to six members of the Class of 2022 in “Passionate and Driven” about their educational journey through Tulane during trying times — and their hopes for the future. In “Soul Bowl ’70,” we look back at an amazing extravaganza held in Tulane Stadium more than 50 years ago. And, in “Pandemic Perspectives,” five Tulane doctors reflect on their experiences on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

To the Editor

[Email letters to tulanemag@tulane.edu]

Making the World a Better Place

I was proud to note in the latest edition [winter 2022] of your fine magazine that Tulane was ranked as the fourth best college in the nation for Service Learning. Undoubtedly requiring all students to complete a semester of volunteer efforts in and around New Orleans has a lot to do with our lofty position. Sadly, I know of few other major universities that make community service a necessity for graduation. Of all the accolades our school gathers every year, by far using one’s talents to help others is most important. Those who possess the grey matter to compete at Tulane can usually, with effort, become successful in their chosen field. The greater success, however, is to make yourself into a person who cares and takes the time to make the world a better place because you were here. This alum is proud that his school is doing its dead level best to ensure its students always have such an attitude.

Larry LaBarrere, A&S ’69
Ferriday, Louisiana

Achievement Without Labels

The Faculty in the Inclusion ... [“Equity, Diversity & Inclusion,” winter 2022, *Tulanian*] are extremely talented and Tulane

is blessed to have them. ... These amazing people are not on Faculty because of Race, Diversity or anything else. They are on Faculty because of their talent.

Richard B. Levy, parent
New Orleans

Post-Ida Recovery Work

Thank you for your work to put out a fine magazine. However, I must strongly fault the [magazine] for failing to include the tremendous efforts of several hundred students and their faculty who went to the Native American community of Point-au-Chien every weekend for two months after Hurricane Ida. ... As an alumnus, I am extremely proud of these dedicated young people and the professors that devoted their time, energy, money and weekends to this. After Katrina, Tulane made a conscious decision to carve out an identity that included public service. This effort exemplifies this important aspect of Tulane’s brand.

Thomas M. Bayer, G ’93, ’01
New Orleans

Remembrances

Excellent Magazine! Love to read it and remember the old school years in beautiful New Orleans of the 1950s.

Pedro A. Gelabert, A&S ’56
Alexandria, Virginia

In Brief

ON CAMPUS

INNOVATION INSTITUTE

Kimberly M. Gramm joins the new Innovation Institute as the inaugural David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer. Gramm comes from Texas Tech University with experience in commercializing research from university intellectual property.

tulane.it/innovation-institute

ON CAMPUS

NEWCOMB ART MUSEUM

Maurita N. Poole is the new executive director of the Newcomb Art Museum. The former director and curator at Clark Atlanta University Art Museum, Poole's curatorial projects have focused on African and African Diaspora art.

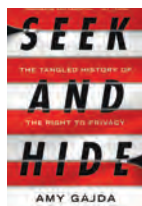
tulane.it/newcomb-museum-director

LAW

PRIVACY ISSUES

Law Professor Amy Gajda's new book, *Seek and Hide: The Tangled History of the Right to Privacy* (Viking, 2022), was named one of spring's most anticipated nonfiction books by *The New York Times*. "Gajda traces the history of the right to privacy and its (understandably fraught) relationship in the United States with the First Amendment. She examines the tension that has persisted over the years in the tug of war between 'the right to know' on one side and 'the right to be let alone' on the other."

tulane.it/privacy-issues



QUOTED

"We all want to feel safe, to be heard, to have people recognize our dignity. ... Whatever level of society you're in, **we are all suffering to some degree.**"

DR. JAMES ROBERT DOTY, a 1981 graduate of the School of Medicine, neurosurgeon, professor of neurosurgery, founder and director of the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University, delivered the inaugural James Doty Compassion Lecture, "Compassion, Ethics and Values," at Tulane on April 15.

tulane.it/james-robert-doty

ON CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Ian Morrison is the new vice president for university communications and marketing, overseeing *Tulanian* magazine, media relations, marketing, web communications, graphic design, photography, videography, social media and the digital newsletter Tulane Today. Morrison left the position of associate chancellor of strategic communications at Vanderbilt University to join Tulane.

SOCIAL WORK

COMPASSION FATIGUE

As part of a \$2.27 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the School of Social Work plans to address issues of alarming levels of burnout, low job satisfaction and compassion fatigue among healthcare workers that lead to poor behavioral health outcomes for themselves and contribute to increased health disparities for the communities they serve.

tulane.it/compassion-fatigue



FROM CAMPUS

NEW PODCASTS AVAILABLE

On Good Authority, Tulane's official podcast, continues with new episodes featuring School of Medicine's Michele Longo on Long COVID, School of Liberal Arts' Matt Sakakeeny on New Orleans brass bands, Jewish studies professor Ilana Horwitz on religious upbringing and education; writer Maurice Carlos Ruffin on diversity in literature, and more.

tulane.it/on-good-authority

MEDICINE

MILITARY VETERANS

A challenge in treating military veterans is finding those who may be suffering from invisible wounds and getting them to seek treatment, said Dr. Greg Stewart. There is, however, a new, successful treatment concept to help veterans heal and lower their risk for suicide. Stewart is the W. Kennon McWilliams Professor in Sports Medicine and the medical director for the Tulane University Center for Brain Health, whose central mission is to provide care for military veterans regardless of discharge status.

tulane.it/military-veterans

ART

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Newcomb Art Museum has received a \$500,000, three-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish three interrelated initiatives to make the museum more inclusive and accessible. The funding comes from the philanthropic foundation's Art Museum Futures Fund, launched in 2020 as part of its emergency grantmaking in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on arts and cultural institutions around the nation.

tulane.it/andrew-mellon-grant-2022

ENGLISH

LAZAR'S NEW NOVEL

Professor of English Zachary Lazar has published a new book, *The Apartment on Calle Uruguay: A Novel* (Penguin Random House, 2022). It's the story of a complicated romance between an artist and a journalist.



tulane.it/lazar-new-novel

COMPUTER SCIENCE

TEACHING ALGORITHMS TO BE FAIR

Nick Mattei, assistant professor of computer science, is part of a National Science Foundation study to design more equitable algorithm recommender systems for all types of products and services.

tulane.it/teaching-algorithms



BOOK FESTIVAL A BIG SUCCESS

The inaugural in-person New Orleans Book Festival drew 135 authors and 6,000 attendees, who flocked to the Tulane uptown campus for three days in March, expressing their love of books and the people who write them.

The festival included Family Day and other activities, with book lovers of all ages gathering to hear their favorite writers in venues across campus, including the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, the Berger Family Lawn, the Marshall Family Commons at the A. B. Freeman School of Business and Dixon Hall.

At the opening sessions were John Grisham and Jenna Bush Hager as well as Eddie S. Glaude Jr. and Imani Perry. Other highlights were panel discussions by Michael Lewis and Malcolm Gladwell; Walter Isaacson, David Rubenstein, Jon Meacham and John Barry; and Sarah M. Broom with Bernice McFadden. President Michael Fitts appeared with Darren Walker, Ford Foundation president.

"The twice-delayed inaugural New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University was a resounding success on every level — from the number of attendees, to the quality of its programming, to the caliber of its authors and the promise it holds to become one of the nation's premier literary events," Fitts said. "With New Orleans and Tulane's rich literary history, our city and campus is a natural home for this Mardi Gras of the mind."

The New Orleans Book Festival is making plans for its second annual event: March 9–11, 2023.

tulane.it/book-festival-success-2022

COVID-19

RESEARCH

METABOLIC SYNDROME

Patients hospitalized with COVID-19 who had a combination of high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes or other conditions associated with metabolic syndrome were at much higher risk of acute respiratory distress syndrome and death, according to a study published in the medical journal *JAMA Network Open*. Dr. Joshua Denson, assistant professor of medicine, was the study's lead author.

tulane.it/metabolic-syndrome

VIRUSES IN WASTEWATER

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$1.24 million grant to a research team to come up with standards for measuring viruses and other pathogens in treated wastewater for water re-use projects. Samendra Sherchan, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and director of the Water Quality Lab at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, is part of the team.

tulane.it/viruses-in-wastewater

VIRAL DOSE AND DISEASE SEVERITY

Chad Roy, professor of microbiology and immunology and director of infectious disease aerobiology at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, and Dr. Gregory Bix, professor and vice chair of neurosurgery and neurology, director of COBALT (COVID-19 Biobank and Library at Tulane), and director of the clinical neuroscience research center, were among a team of scientists who co-authored a review of 115 peer-reviewed studies in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

They concluded that the viral dose, or amount of the infectious virus SARS-CoV-2 transmitted from one person to another, does not appear to affect COVID-19 disease severity.

tulane.it/viral-dose-disease-severity

LESSONS FOR TEACHERS

A study led by Stacy Overstreet, professor of psychology, shows that when the COVID-19 pandemic forced New Orleans public school teachers to switch from in-person instruction to a virtual or hybrid setting, the transition left many feeling anxious over their ability to impact student learning. The study also reveals that many teachers suffered from anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress. It recommends expansion of access to mental health care, improvement in sick leave and bereavement policies and offering hazard pay.

tulane.it/lessons-for-teachers

LINGERING IMPACTS ON BRAIN

Tracy Fischer, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, led a study published in *Nature Communications*, investigating how COVID-19 affects the central nervous system. The research team found severe brain inflammation and injury consistent with reduced blood flow or oxygen to the brain, including neuron damage and death. Microhemorrhages, or small bleeds in the brain, were also present. Surprisingly, these findings were seen in subjects that did not experience severe respiratory disease from the virus.

tulane.it/lingering-impacts

ZOONOTIC DISEASE

Hannah Frank, an assistant professor in ecology and evolutionary biology and bat expert, is sharing in a \$1.25 million award with scientists from other universities to study how to mitigate zoonotic threats. Zoonotic disease — diseases from non-humans that can infect humans — are an increasing problem and threat to human health and well-being. Bats are a particularly important group to understand because they can spread and shed infections including SARS-CoV-2, which do not cause disease in bats but are highly lethal to humans and other animals.

tulane.it/zoonotic-disease

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, behavioral health concerns continue to disrupt the lives of Americans, and addressing those concerns should be a priority, according to a study by the School of Social Work. Published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, research from Patrick Bordnick, dean of the school, and Tonya Hansel, a disaster mental health expert who oversees the school's doctorate program, says that despite vaccinations and lifted restrictions, mental health issues continue to be a crucial concern as the pandemic enters a recovery phase. The researchers found increased anxiety, depression and alcohol misuse and that the pandemic exacerbated prior problems.

tulane.it/covid-mental-health

Visit tulane.it/covid-19-research for more COVID-19 research news.

“What emerged in the research is that people have been debating whether the sport is too rough as far back as the game goes. The science is new, but the debate is not.”

JENNY MERCEIN, Tulane assistant professor of theatre. Mercein is co-creator, along with playwright KJ Sanchez, of *X's and O's*, a play that examines the lasting physical and neurological impacts from playing football. They presented a reading and panel discussion of *X's and O's* at the Jill H. and Avram A. Glazer Family Club at Yulman Stadium in February. Mercein was raised in a football family. Her father, Chuck Mercein, played six seasons in the NFL and won a championship with the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl II.

tulane.it/jenny-mercein

PUBLIC HEALTH

WINE IN MODERATION

Drinking a little wine with dinner may help lower risks of developing type 2 diabetes, according to researchers at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Preliminary results of a study by Dr. Hao Ma, a research fellow at the Tulane Obesity Research Center and the Tulane Personalized Health Institute, and others were presented at the American Heart Association's Epidemiology, Prevention, Lifestyle & Cardiometabolic Health Conference 2022 in Chicago.

tulane.it/wine-in-moderation

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

MORNING GLORIES

Thanks to a symbiotic fungus, many species of morning glories contain elements of powerful psychedelic drugs, according to a Tulane study published in the journal *Communications Biology*.

The seeds of the common tropical vine, whose namesake trumpet-like blooms only open in the morning, contain compounds that could be useful for treating mental and physical diseases as well as promoting well-being, said plant and fungal biologist Keith Clay, chairman of the Tulane Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

tulane.it/morning-glories



ARCHITECTURE

URBANBUILD

The School of Architecture's URBANbuild has partnered with Bethlehem Lutheran Church on a four-year project to build four Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible housing units in Central City. URBANbuild, a design/build program in which teams of students design and construct prototypical, affordable houses around New Orleans, is directed by Byron Mouton, Lacey Senior Professor of Practice. Mouton met Bethlehem's pastor, Ben Groth, who is also a PhD student in Tulane's history department, during URBANbuild's 2021 project, which happened to be next to Bethlehem's parking lot.

tulane.it/urban-build

LIBRARIES

'DR. DADDY-O' DJ

Live broadcasts, interviews and radio segments, which originally aired between 1949 and 1958, by Vernon "Dr. Daddy-O" Winslow for "Jivin' with Jax" on WWEZ-AM New Orleans are now available online via the Tulane University Digital Library. These recordings represent the emergence of Black radio in New Orleans, while featuring Winslow's work as the first African American radio disc jockey on New Orleans airwaves. They are included in the Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, a division of Tulane University Special Collections. The digitization project was funded in part by a grant from the GRAMMY Museum.

tulane.it/dr-daddy-o

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tulane.it/tulane-today

Up First

2022

COMMENCEMENT

The Unified Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2022 was held outside in Yulman Stadium on May 21. It was a glorious celebration, filled with music and joy.

1st

The Unified Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2022 was the **first Unified Commencement Ceremony** held in Yulman Stadium.

49

The 2022 graduates represent **49 U.S. states** and the District of Columbia, as well as the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico. The states with the most graduates are Louisiana, New York and California.

47

Members of the Class of 2022 are **citizens of 47 nations**. The countries with the most graduates are the United States, China, India, Spain and Panama.

22

More members of the Class of 2022 were **22 years old when they graduated** than any other age.

2,941

The number of **degree candidates** was **2,941**, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral, doctor of medicine, and juris doctor degrees.



‘TREE CAMPUS’ RECOGNITION

BY LANCE SUMLER

For the 12th year in a row, the Arbor Day Foundation has singled out Tulane’s commitment to maintaining its extensive canopy of majestic oaks and other trees by naming it an official Tree Campus USA among higher education institutions. The organization, which has planted more than 350 million trees across the globe, inspires people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees to promote a greener and healthier future for the earth.

Tulane’s historic oaks and expansive greenery are an essential part of the uptown campus, which has more than 400 trees throughout. Live oaks, crape myrtles and bald cypress trees are a few of the species that have been a part of the university since Tulane’s uptown campus was founded in 1884. All are regularly monitored, surveyed and cared for by several partners within the Tulane community including the University Planning Office, Capital Projects and Facilities Services.

“I just can’t imagine the campus without these 100-year-old live oak trees, and some of them are most likely older than that,” said Bill Mizell, Tulane landscape architect. “I think that’s one of the first things that people notice when they come to campus so it’s an honor to be recognized by the Arbor Foundation for the work that we’ve done to make sure that the trees on our campus are properly cared for and thriving.”

To be named a Tree Campus Higher Education Institution, Tulane must meet five core standards annually, including the establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects.

The Newcomb Oaks lining the Newcomb Quad were planted from acorns taken from the original Newcomb campus more than 100 years ago. The metasequoia tree in front of the School of Architecture can be traced back to seeds collected in China. 🌳

The exterior wall of the Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex curves to accommodate nearby live oak trees.

DATA LITERACY

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS

The Data Hub, Tulane’s new Center for Data Literacy, is an educational endeavor that the university has created as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

“One of the requirements for reaccreditation is that we create a Quality Enhancement Plan, a new endeavor that dramatically improves the educational experience of a sizable percentage of our students,” said Robin Forman, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

When Forman asked faculty and staff from across the campus their thoughts on several possible themes for the QEP, data literacy emerged as the top contender.

“Several folks explicitly talked about COVID-19,” said Forman. “Every day we were seeing statistics on the spread of infection and the demographics of hospitalizations, which made it increasingly clear that you need to be able to think with and about data in order to make informed decisions about your own health and safety and that of your community.

“The same could be said about many crucial questions of public policy,” Forman added, “so this QEP is, in part, about fulfilling our role to educate engaged, informed citizens.”

Data-intensive discovery has become a fundamental method of inquiry across academic disciplines and drives decision-making across industries. “The 21st century is in many ways the century of data science,” said Forman. “Data literacy is now essential for a broad array of professional opportunities.” 📊

“There’s not an industry I can think of that hasn’t been affected by the growth of data, and which isn’t using data in new and interesting ways.”

ROBIN FORMAN, provost

SERVICE ON THE SIDELINE

BY ROGER DUNAWAY

Tulane University and the New Orleans community lost an institution of a man with the passing of Gayle Letulle in January 2022. He was 74.

Gayle epitomized Tulane’s motto: *Non sibi, sed suis*, or “not for one’s self, but for one’s own.” As an undergraduate in the mid-1960s, he answered an advertisement in the student newspaper, the *Tulane Hurlabaloo*, looking for student workers in the Green Wave’s sports information office under the late, great Bill Curl.

“I offered to work for nothing,” Letulle said in a 2002 interview. “(Curl) couldn’t refuse that offer, I guess.”

From that day until his passing, Gayle began a love affair and unmatched tenure of service to his alma mater as a statistician and the unofficial and sometimes official, historian of Tulane football for over five decades. He was an extremely dedicated and proud Tulane alum who witnessed

some of the greatest moments of Tulane athletics and New Orleans sporting events from his sideline seat. He never played a down, half, quarter or inning for Tulane, but he recorded every one of them for over half a century.

A New Orleans native, Gayle graduated from Francis T. Nicholls High School and then earned two degrees from Tulane, a bachelor of arts in 1969 and a law degree in 1972.

A tax attorney by trade, Gayle not only worked for Tulane football, baseball and men’s and women’s basketball games in an official capacity, but he also served his community. He worked with the Saints since their founding in 1967 (missing only four games), the NBA’s New Orleans Jazz/Hornets/Pelicans, the Allstate Sugar Bowl, the New Orleans Bowl, every men’s and women’s NCAA Final Four played in the city, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Prep Classic and all 10 of the Super Bowls hosted in New Orleans.

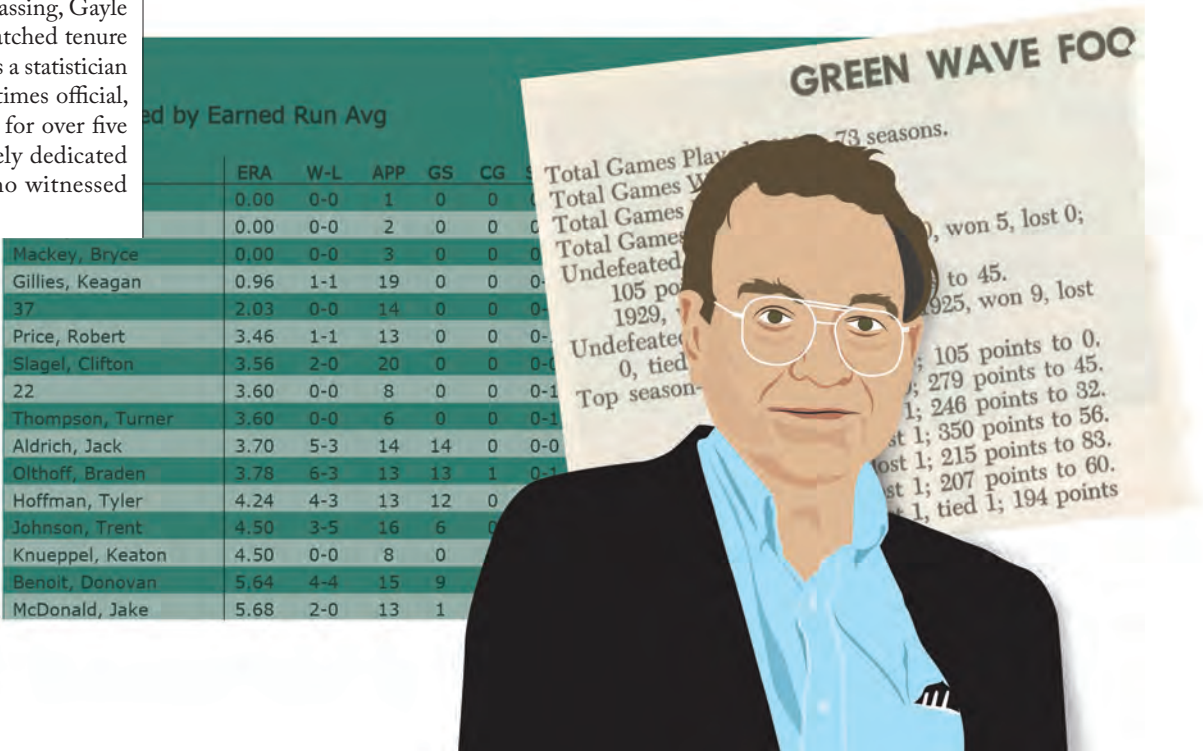
While never in the limelight, for over five decades, Gayle Letulle (A&S ’69, L ’72) served essential roles on the sidelines — as a statistician and historian — for Tulane athletics and New Orleans professional sports teams.

In 2010, Gayle’s legacy was cemented at Tulane when he received the Billy Slatten Award, an honor presented annually to someone who has given extraordinary service, commitment and support to Tulane University and its student-athletes, and was inducted into the Tulane Athletics Hall of Fame.

Gayle cared about two things: his family and his community. When he wasn’t talking about one, he was chatting about the other. He was a kind man who lacked ego. Gayle just wanted to do his job.

Gayle came to Tulane for an education. He ended up giving a lifetime’s worth of service back to his alma mater and enjoyed every minute.

Most sports fans may not have heard of Gayle or have known of his significant contributions to the New Orleans sports landscape, which he probably didn’t mind, but he will be greatly missed by those who worked behind the scenes and did know him. ♥





EXCELLENCE OF NAVAL ROTC

BY ROGER DUNAWAY

The Department of Defense singled out Tulane University's Navy ROTC Unit from the 496 colleges and universities that host ROTC units for the prestigious Department of Defense ROTC and Educational Institution Partnership Excellence Award.

In a letter to Tulane President Michael Fitts, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said, "Your outstanding support is crucial to the education and training of the finest military leaders in the world."

Fitts said, "Tulane has a rich and proud history of supporting our Reserve Officers Training Corps, dating back to 1938, with the formation of the Tulane NROTC. This recognition is a wonderful honor for a special group of students, their commander and support staff, who exemplify the university's call to service and elevate our mission of educating the leaders of tomorrow."

The Tulane NROTC is one of the oldest active NROTC Units in the nation and has commissioned over 2,150 Navy and Marine Corps Officers. Of those officers, 23 have died on active duty, serving in almost every conflict since World War II.

Among notable alumni are Gen. David Berger (E '81), who became the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps in 2019 and leads the nation's expeditionary branch; Col. Douglas Hurley (E '88), a career Marine Corps officer who became a NASA astronaut and served on a pair of space shuttle missions and was one of the first astronauts for U.S. commercial spaceflights, commanding the SpaceX Crew Dragon in May 2021; and Capt. Jennifer Wilderman (E '94), a naval aviator who supported Operation Desert Fox, NATO operations in Kosovo and Operation Iraqi Freedom. 🇺🇸

Tulane's Navy ROTC Unit gathers in the lobby of the Navy ROTC building on Freret Street on the uptown campus for a group photo in December 2021.

On Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, people comment on the Class of 2020 Unified Diploma ceremony, held on April 22, 2022, in Yulman Stadium.

👏🔥 what a great way to celebrate and honor the #2020 grads we loved it. **Thank you thank you thank you**

@henrykctc

So cool that you made this happen for them!

Robin Meunier-Millspaugh

Better late than never! I'm so glad you're doing this!

Roll Wave!

Crystal Joy Allison

It was a beautiful ceremony! Thank you so much to all that made it happen. 💙💚

#proudmom

@Stephani_marie

In the virtual graduation ceremony of 2020, Tulane president Mike Fitts promised the graduates — "We'll make it up to you" — and they did, this weekend with a make-up graduation ceremony for over 1200 graduates. **Thanks, Tulane and President Fitts for this gift!**

Margaret Kubiszyn

THANK YOU @TUFitts @Tulane for understanding how much this means to us.

Class of 2020 STRONG!

#RollWave #tulane

#GRADUATIONDAY

Kerry Andersen

GRECIAN URN BLUES

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

The author finds that story poets, especially country songwriters, best Romantic poets any day.

Quick quiz: Which of the two verses below interests you the most?

"Who are these coming to the sacrifice?
To what green altar, O mysterious priest,
Lead'st thou that heifer lowing at the skies,
And all her silken flanks with garlands drest?"

or

"A bunch of the boys were whooping it up at the Malamute saloon;
The kid that handles the music-box was hitting a jag-time tune;
Back of the bar, in a solo game, sat Dangerous Dan McGrew,
And watching his luck was his light-o'-love, the lady that's
known as Lou."



If you're like me, you selected No. 2, which are the opening lines of a story poem titled "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" by British-Canadian poet Robert W. Service, known as "the Bard of the Yukon."

The first choice are lines from Romantic poet John Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn." An urn is a term most commonly associated with a vessel for holding the ashes of a loved one. Keats was a British poet whose contemporaries were George Gordon Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley. All of them lived in the 1700s and 1800s, a far cry from the world in 2022.

So, if you're still awake, you may be asking: Exactly what is this all about? Good question. As I've grown older, I spend considerable time trying to hit the rewind button that takes me back to my days at Tulane in the 1960s. I do this because I don't want to forget the memories I still cherish today. I absolutely loved my experience at Tulane, the good and the others.

I was an English major and in a weak moment I registered for a class in Romantic poetry. Why I did that I can't answer. I probably needed the credits. Maybe I needed a course where I could take a nap. I can't speak for today's students who may enjoy a Romantic poetry course but I can honestly say I was genuinely bored. To me the poems were dreary, melancholy and deadly.

I sorta wanted to like poetry so I went to the TU bookstore and bought a paperback entitled *Story Poems*. And in it I discovered Robert Service's "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and another, "The Cremation of Sam McGee." (Ironical title compared to "Ode on a Grecian Urn.") Maybe because I read literature more than poetry growing up, but I really enjoyed stories. And that's what Service wrote: Story poems.

Through the years I grew to love music: rock, pop, oldies, Motown, blues, country, New Orleans sounds. And the lyrics fascinated me. In fact, I think that the songwriters, especially country songwriters, are the last great poets.

George Strait, often referred to as the "King of Country," wrote, "All my exes live in Texas/And Texas is a place I'd clearly love to be/But all my exes live in Texas/And that's why I hang my hat in Tennessee."

One singer with strong ties to New Orleans (since his career began here as a busker in the French Quarter) is Jimmy Buffett. His timeless hit, "Margaritaville," is one of my all-time favorites. "Wastin' away again in Margaritaville/Searchin' for my lost shaker of salt/Some people say there's a woman to blame/But I know it's my own damn fault."

And my fault for taking that poetry class. 🐾



People hold posters during a rally in defense of freedom of speech and journalism in central Moscow on June 16, 2019.

WHY DEMOCRACY IS BEST

The value of democracy lies in freedom of expression and leaders who persuade with the power of the pen rather than the sword.

BY MARTIN K. DIMITROV

Democracy around the world is in decline. In 2022, according to Freedom House, a non-profit organization founded in 1941 to defend democracy and freedom worldwide, only one in five individuals globally lived in a country that can be described as “free.” This is an alarming trend, especially when contrasted with the widespread optimism during the 1980s and 1990s about the universal triumph of democratic values. The democratic recession raises important questions about the best form of government. The most consequential of these questions is also the most basic — namely, is democracy still the best form of government? The answer is a resounding “yes,” though not for the typical reasons.

As the Cold War was coming to a close in 1989, an influential argument was made

by political scientist Francis Fukuyama about the “end of history.” Fukuyama saw signs of the coming together of two trends. One was the crisis of nonmarket systems for organizing economic activity, such as the central planning practiced in the Soviet Union and in its Eastern European satellites. The other was the movement towards democratization, which had begun with the toppling of dictatorships in Spain and Portugal in the mid-1970s and would soon engulf other countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The 1990s were the heyday of democracy promotion around the world. Markets triumphed and more countries were becoming democratic. It seemed that history had indeed ended.

But the 21st century brought in the painful realization that democracy and the market need not go hand in hand. Two

The biggest threat to autocrats like Russia’s Vladimir Putin and populists like Hungary’s Viktor Orbán lies in a vigorous press that can present alternative information challenging their attempts at manipulating the public.

powerful states reemerged on the global scene — China and Russia — which offered examples of successful market economies that resolutely opposed democratization. What is more, the two countries have worked assiduously to export their model of development to autocrats around the world who want prosperity without the risks to stability in office that are presented by multiparty political competition. Today, the global liberal political order is under assault from both autocrats and populists. History appears to be ending again, this time with democracies rather than autocracies being threatened with extinction.

Why is democracy the best form of government? The argument should not rest on economics. Markets appear to work equally well (or equally poorly) in both democracies and autocracies. The true value of democracy lies elsewhere — namely, in the freedom of expression, which allows for ideas to be aired and debated, and for leaders to persuade with the power of the pen rather than the power of the sword. The biggest threat to autocrats like Russia’s Vladimir Putin and populists like Hungary’s Viktor Orbán lies in a vigorous press that can present alternative information challenging their attempts at manipulating the public. Media freedom is nonexistent in autocracies and is under considerable threat even in democracies. To safeguard democratic values, we need to preserve the free press. 🗞️

Martin K. Dimitrov is a Tulane professor of political science.

MY TULANE KEATS ON MACHU PICCHU

BY ROY HOFFMAN, A&S '75

Years after first encountering Romantic poet John Keats in a literature class, the writer begins to understand the line, “A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases.”

Since the semester I took a Tulane class in Romantic poetry at age 19, I’ve puzzled over John Keats’ line “A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases.” On a clear morning in Peru, before the pandemic, as my wife and I hiked up Machu Picchu — the ancient Incan site opening before us — I wondered again, as I recited the line from “Endymion,” about the enigmatic notion that loveliness, instead of fading, deepens with time.

Around us were plenty of youth as well as travelers of my generation, all exclaiming, in English, Japanese, German, Spanish at the vistas below. Nancy grasped the hand of our guide, then I, as he hoisted us up a ledge for a better view. A native of Cuzco, Peru, whose first language was the Incan tongue Quechua, the guide was 26, only a year older than Keats when he died. His name was Jonathan.

As we went higher, marveling at the mountainside terraces where Incans had farmed corn, I felt uplifted. The sensation was physical, as we sea-level creatures of America’s Gulf Coast, adjusting to the thin, dry air, climbed with slow but sure footsteps, grateful that our aging bodies still did our bidding. It was emotional, too.

We reached the pinnacle and paused. Looking out at the “apus,” or sacred peaks, I thought of Jonathan’s stories, how Machu Picchu was the estate of Incan king Pachacutec in the 1400s, abandoned by the 1500s, its ruins discovered by archaeologist Hiram Bingham in 1911.

A deep visceral knowledge overtook me. As we stood atop stones smoothed by dwellers half a millennium ago, so others would stand here just as long from now. The architecture of granite, the travelers escaping, to quote Keats’s “Ode to a Nightingale,” “the weariness, the fever, and the fret” of the mundane round — it would recur tomorrow, the next day and next.

“It will never,” Keats said of a thing of beauty, “pass into nothingness.”



In 1972 and '73, my sophomore year at Tulane, I'd taken our planet's marvels for granted. After two semesters inspired by Professor Andy Antippas' Romantics class — Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge in the fall, Byron, Shelley, Keats in the spring — that summer I stuffed Keats next to *Europe on \$10 a Day* in my backpack, a notebook in my pocket, and took off for the grand tour like the Romantics had done. With a Eurail pass I saw the Parthenon in Athens, the Forum in Rome, the Eiffel Tower in Paris. They'd always be there for my taking, I believed, in my youthful sense of an unbounded future.

Decades later, when Nancy and I, on a trip to China in 2011, scaled the hillside at Mutianyu, 40 miles north of Beijing, to reach the Great Wall, I stepped with awe into the heavens. Here we were ambling part of 13,000-mile path built by Chinese dynasties more than a thousand years before bulldozers and cranes.

I felt exaltation in 2015 when, as the sun rose, we caught first sight of the Taj Mahal. In the presence of this marble dome in Agra, India, its inlaid gems and story of a grieving emperor building for his wife a spectacular mausoleum, I was humbled. No matter that thousands of others daily made this pilgrimage.

“The loveliness increases, I realized, because we grow in our capacity to see it, to seize and cherish it. Time gives urgency to that recognition.”

Our visit to Peru rivaled those of India and China, I told Jonathan, and he asked me if it's true that you can see the Great Wall from the moon.

I have never been to the moon, I answered. If so, maybe you can see Machu Picchu, too.

I had an image of us viewed from a lunar outpost, specks in a ripple of mountains tracing a pre-Columbian path, in cosmic time vanishing the nanosecond we're glimpsed.

In earthly time, robustly here, we started our descent. Soon we departed the 15th century through the 21st-century front gate.

We headed back to the village of Aguas Calientes, parted ways with Jonathan and repaired to our hotel. At the eco-lodge the bungalow's glass door slid open to a hot spring in our private garden, a tiny refuge surrounded by a stone wall. Beyond the wall the mountains hurtled upwards.

I climbed in, remembering Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn": "Thou, silent form, dost tease us out of thought." The thermal waters quieted me.

The loveliness increases, I realized, because we grow in our capacity to see it, to seize and cherish it. Time gives urgency to that recognition. In the exotica of distant lands, or close to home in a pandemic, we find beauty close at hand, and in the person beside us.

In the hot spring Nancy joined me, stepping into the balm, her blue eyes, as the Andean hours dwindled down, lovelier still. ♡

Roy Hoffman (A&S '75) is a novelist and journalist whose new book is The Promise of the Pelican, a literary crime novel. A resident of Fairhope, Alabama, Hoffman is also author of the novels Come Landfall, Chicken Dreaming Corn and Almost Family, and the nonfiction Alabama Afternoons and Back Home.



PERSISTENCE



PAYS OFF

At the Unified Commencement held in Yulman Stadium — in a ceremony filled with music and laughter — degrees are conferred on members of the Class of 2022, who are lauded for their endurance and creativity.

BY MARY ANN TRAVIS



The Class of 2022 celebrated its Unified Commencement ceremony in true Tulane and New Orleans style on Saturday, May 21 — with music and laughter mixed with serious recognition of the determination and grit that it took to get to this day.

In the academic procession, graduates marched onto Benson Field, where they sat in chairs while their friends and families watched from the Yulman Stadium stands. The sun peeked in and out from behind clouds.

Dr. Michael White and his Original Liberty Jazz Band provided the musical prologue and invocation, setting the tone for the festivities.

Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said, “Music is everywhere in New Orleans. Once you hear that New Orleans beat, once you move to its rhythm, you never get it out of your head.”

Like a practiced DJ, Fitts shared advice and presented samples of iconic musical beats from “Iko, Iko,” “Funky Drummer” and “We Will Rock You,” extolling the strength of the Class of 2022.

“There is so much that could have beaten you down: COVID, hurricanes, and a world in conflict and chaos. But you have not been diminished by your circumstances. You have persisted fearlessly with creativity and confidence. You have kept the beat.”

Ken Jeong, the keynote speaker, reiterated the importance of never giving up. “The key to success is persistence,” said Jeong, an actor, producer, writer — and doctor. Known for his roles in *The Hangover* movie franchise, the TV shows “Community” and “Dr. Ken” along with other performances, Jeong got his big break in comedy while performing in small clubs in New Orleans when doing medical research in gastroenterology at Tulane medical school.

“New Orleans magically opened a new life for me,” said Jeong, noting that the city undoubtedly also did that for members of the Class of 2022. “I discovered the wonder and joy that is this city.

“It’s because of New Orleans I was able to persist and become both a doctor and a comedian.”

But Jeong’s success was not a given. In New Orleans, he discovered his fully integrated sense of self — and he persisted. “Never give up,” Jeong told the graduates, even when experiencing failure and setbacks. “Never close the door on your life, always persist.”

Class of 2022 speaker Russell J. Ledet, who earned MD and MBA degrees, encouraged his fellow graduates to be proud of themselves at the moment of their graduation. “You earned this moment,” he said.

His time at Tulane taught Ledet that “family is everything, without debate.”

“There are people at this institution that will be connected to me for the rest of my life. They taught me how to appreciate hard work, *persistence*, belief in self, patience, and most importantly, moments. Moments matter.”

President Fitts concurred that the class of 2022 is being sent forth at a critical moment in history. “There has never been a class like yours,” he said. “You’re committed to community. You’re connected to each other in ways that outlast time and distance. You are smart problem-solvers at a time when people are seeking answers. You are leaders and barrier breakers, collaborators and beat makers. I can’t wait to see what you do next.”

At the ceremony, for the first time Tulane bestowed an honorary degree posthumously. It was presented to baseball legend Hank Aaron, whose widow, Billye Aaron, accepted on his behalf. Ken Jeong also was presented an honorary degree along with Gen. David Berger, a 1981 Tulane graduate, who has been commandant of the Marine Corps since 2019. Dr. Rosalind Picard, an inventor, engineer, scientist and pioneer in artificial intelligence was also given an honorary award but was unable to travel to Commencement due to illness. She will receive her honorary degree at a later date.



(Previous pages) Members of the Class of 2022 exuberantly celebrate at the Unified Commencement in Yulman Stadium. (This page, top) A graduate gets in the spirit with a New Orleans-style decorated umbrella. (Middle) Tulane President Michael A. Fitts congratulates honorary degree recipient Gen. David Berger, E ’81. (Bottom) Bachelor’s degree candidates clap and cheer during the joyous occasion.



CLASS OF 2020 RETURNS TO CAMPUS IN APRIL FOR POSTPONED CELEBRATION

BY FAITH DAWSON

Against the backdrop of a beautiful spring sunset over Yulman Stadium, almost 1,200 members of the Class of 2020 gathered for their in-person Unified Diploma ceremony, held on April 22, 2022.

President Michael Fitts presided over the ceremony, which featured Tulane's traditions of jazz, provided by Dr. Michael White and his Original Liberty Jazz Band featuring Yolanda Winsay, and gonfalons in procession.

"You've demonstrated resilience, flexibility, persistence, and — this is key — a good sense of humor," Fitts told the graduates. "You've faced a crisis. And you're not only still standing — you're moving forward. Each of you learned the most important lesson you can carry with you every day for the rest of your life: The knowledge that you can do hard things."

Fitts then turned the podium over to Col. Douglas G. Hurley, the keynote speaker. Hurley, a 1988 engineering graduate of Tulane and a former member of Tulane ROTC, is a NASA astronaut, space shuttle pilot and commander of the SpaceX Crew Dragon.

"The real difference you're going to make will be a function of those challenges you go through and what you do to work on them," Hurley said.

"Don't ever give up. It's not going to be easy, but just like today, it'll be worth it."



(Top) Fireworks light up the sky as members of the Class of 2020 return to the Tulane campus for an in-person Unified Diploma ceremony. (Middle row, left to right) Col. Douglas G. Hurley, E '88, delivers the keynote speech, telling the graduates to never give up, no matter the obstacles they might encounter. A decorated mortarboard says it all for the Class of 2020. (Bottom) Crawfest coincided with the Class of 2020 ceremony in April.

PASSIONATE AND DRIVEN



As six members of the class of '22, who received bachelor's degrees in May, embark on the next phase of their lives, they reflect on how they persevered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY ALICIA SERRANO BILICH

After Tulane sent students home and shifted all classes online in March 2020, Beau Goodreaux drove around the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain, sometimes as far as Bogalusa, for a change of scenery and a break from screen time.

When Goodreaux and other members of the Class of '22 began their academic journey at Tulane in fall 2018, their path appeared straightforward. But then SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, upended the world during the second semester of their sophomore year. At the time, Goodreaux had no idea how much his final years at Tulane would be transformed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I thought it would be like hurricane season," said Goodreaux, who is from Covington. A cell and molecular biology major who earned a Bachelor of Science from the School of Science and Engineering, Goodreaux assumed, "We'll get a couple weeks off from school. We'll be online until May. We'll back to normal in August, and everything will be fine."

Waiting for Things to Get Better

Katie Elder, who received a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in international relations and Russian from the School of Liberal Arts, is from South Carolina. She said that the week that students moved out of residence halls was surprisingly a bonding experience. "It ended up being one of my most fun weeks of college," she said.

"We were in denial about what was happening. We were packing up, and we didn't have classes. But then we all got home, and that's when it hit for me," she said.

The unknown was hard.

Caroline Richter, in the dual-degree Altman Scholar program, earned a Bachelor of Science in Management in finance from the A. B. Freeman School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts in political economy from the School of Liberal Arts. She said the first few months of the pandemic felt like a "pause" on regular life.



(Facing page) Happy to graduate! Beau Goodreaux looks out on Lake Pontchartrain. (This page) Caroline Richter, at an uptown sidewalk cafe, enjoys the time before she joins an asset management firm in California this summer.



"I had no routine and I had nowhere that I needed to be. It was a purgatory for a while," Richter said.

Kennedy Walker earned two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience from the School of Science and Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in dance from the School of Liberal Arts. Walker described the time away from campus as "waiting on pins and needles."

"When can I go back to normal? How long is this actually going to last?" she wondered.

Mikala Nellum, who is from Los Angeles, earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She found solace from the disruption and lack of in-person classes when she adopted a Chihuahua named Pop Tart and became a "proud dog mom."

"It's one of my greatest joys in life having him as a companion," said Nellum.

Brendan Chase earned two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in political economy from the School of Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. After classes went online, Chase was not gone from New Orleans for long. He was at home in Boston for barely 24 hours when New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, where he had been a volunteer, called to ask his help in transporting COVID-19 patients. He gladly agreed to return to the city, although his parents were not in favor.

"Ultimately, I was able to convince them," Chase said. His grandfather had been a firefighter and other members of his family are first responders, too.

"When I look back, when I tell my kids about this," said Chase, "what am I going to tell them I did? That I went back (to help) or just sat at home and took online classes?"

He returned to New Orleans in March 2020, where he slept in a sleeping bag on a futon at a friend's home and ate food donated to EMS while he volunteered during the night shift — all while taking his classes remotely.

"We were so unbelievably busy," he said.

The Return

In fall 2020, the Tulane campus reopened and returned to in-person classes but with strict COVID-19 testing, temporary classrooms to facilitate social distancing, quarantine protocols and mask requirements in place.

"It was fun coming back and felt so good and so right to be back in New Orleans," said Elder, "but it is a little weird to come back to a place that you've grown to love, but it's not quite the same."

Walker, who has been an Office of Undergraduate Admission tour guide for all four of her undergraduate years, was a Wave Leader and on the board of directors for New Student Orientation for fall 2020.

She, like many students, felt grateful to reunite with friends and campus life. Upon returning, she helped to create the Tulane University Roller Skating Club. However, the campus atmosphere had changed.

“Classes were layered differently, and you weren’t seeing people in between classes anymore. You saw random bursts of people around campus, but that walk down McAlister (Place) that you love when you see everybody in between classes, that did not exist,” she said.

Richter experienced a return to campus later than most of her peers. She was one of a lucky few granted permission to study abroad in summer 2020 as part of the Altman Scholar Program.

Richter took courses focused on post-conflict restoration, development and peace building through the School for International Training, and she interned for a month at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Rwanda. That fall, she planned to study in Copenhagen but was deported due to pandemic restrictions. She still took her courses virtually — all in a European time zone — from her home in Arlington, Virginia.

“My sleep schedule was wack,” said Richter, “because every day my class had a different time, and it was somewhere between 2 a.m. and 8 a.m.”

When Richter returned to the Tulane campus in spring 2021, “It felt a lot more normal than I was expecting it to.”

Chase made sure he was “in person as much as possible” when in-person classes were offered. He took a full-time load of coursework, and he changed his status with New Orleans EMS from volunteer to full-time advanced emergency medical technician.

In August 2021, when Hurricane Ida impacted the city, Chase was called on again to stay behind and help. He was sent to scout the streets to see where ambulances could pass. He worked nonstop for two weeks. The post-Ida evacuation when Tulane transitioned to online learning for a few weeks before the return to on-ground classes in late September “was probably one of the most difficult transitions in my college experience,” said Chase.

Importance of Self-Care

Throughout the pandemic’s ups and downs and adapting to different ways of living and learning, support — both seeking it out and providing it — was of vital importance to these members of the Class of ’22.

Elder is a Peer Success Leader, part of Newcomb-Tulane College’s Student Success Services. These leaders help other students navigate academic and social challenges and find opportunities to engage in campus life.

Elder is also president of Women in Politics. She said that she’s had people in her life and older students, whom she has looked up to, give her advice and guidance. They have “held my hand through tough seasons of life,” she said. “It’s nice to feel like you’re doing that for other students, especially first-year students.”

She is a fan of escapism. She watched Marvel movies with friends, read books and begun running. She ran her first half-marathon in February and celebrated with other Tulane seniors. She plans to run many races in the future.

Goodreaux is also a Peer Success Leader, and he’s a Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity member. The advice he has given students, and himself, is to not fall into the comparison trap.

(Facing page) Kennedy Walker, practicing in a McWilliams Hall dance studio, will study dance science in London in the fall. (This page) Katie Elder runs in Audubon Park before she moves to Washington, D.C., for a job in national security.





Mikala Nellum sits on the porch with her dog, Pop Tart. Nellum's long-range goal is to study veterinary public health.

"The big thing is reassuring people that this is a thing that we're all going through. Just because others might appear to be doing OK with the transitions and everything, that doesn't necessarily mean that's the case."

Understanding the importance of self-care, Goodreaux utilized Tulane Campus Health's Counseling and Psychological Services. He also joined friends on Zoom calls to play games like Pictionary. The new Animal Crossing video game, released during the early days of the pandemic, was an especially great distraction, Goodreaux said.

Nellum, a member of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at Tulane, said leaning on her faith has been essential. "It's been great having a Christian community surrounding me," she said. "Those are lifelong friends and real supporters that you can genuinely tell anything to."

In navigating the uncertainty, Walker, a Baton Rouge native, found solace in extended quality time with family.

"It was nice to be able to reconnect in ways that I don't think I had since high school. I loved that."

She also had themed video calls with friends like "movie review night." The early days of the pandemic allowed for creative ways to build relationships.

"There's no better way to bond with somebody than over a mutual missing of Tulane," Walker said.

Shape of the Future

With vaccines becoming available in spring '21 and more opportunities for in-person interactions, by the time these students reached their senior year in fall '21, they'd almost adjusted to the unpredictability of the coronavirus. Through it all, they remained determined, learning much about themselves along the way.

The pandemic taught Nellum, who "very much loves to be extroverted," to slow down and decompress. "I'm learning to value that time where I'm checking in with myself," she said.

Like Chase, Nellum is an emergency medical technician. For several years, she volunteered with Tulane Emergency Medical Services, where she was on the front lines responding to medical emergencies, including transporting COVID-19-positive students to quarantine sites.

She is now employed by the Audubon Institute/Audubon Zoo, where she brings together her two passions: medicine and animals. She plans eventually to pursue a master's degree in veterinary public health.

In the near future, Chase will continue his role at New Orleans EMS. "I like helping people. That's honestly why being an EMT, in my opinion, is the best job in the world," he said. In June, he will appear on A&E's "Nightwatch" — a show that follows first responders.

Later, he plans to go to law school, where he'll specialize in healthcare law and policy.

Goodreaux has been accepted to medical school at Louisiana State University—New Orleans, where he'll study either immunology, dermatology or infectious diseases. Whatever specialty he pursues, Goodreaux said that he wants human interaction with patients rather than "distant" medicine.

Spurred by her internship with the finance ministry in Rwanda, which led her to take a deeper dive in the finance world, Richter is moving, after graduation, to Newport Beach, California, to take a job with Pimco, an asset management firm.

Richter said that she has a renewed appreciation for her friendships. "I know I can count on my friends to be there for me and I look forward even more to the time we get to spend together. They help me keep up hope."



(This page, top) Brendan Chase is an emergency medical technician with plans to eventually go to law school to study health policy. (Below) Beau Goodreaux is on his way to medical school.

Make Way
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Elder has a job lined up in national security in Washington, D.C., where her knowledge of the Russian language should come in handy. She said that living through the pandemic taught her to decrease the pressure she put on herself.

"I have my days where I feel productive, and I want to get a lot done. I capitalize on that," said Elder. "Then I have days where I'm struggling more or just moving slower. I've learned to be a bit more OK with that."

Walker, a member of the Newcomb Dance Company, has been involved with Moving to Heal (M2H), an initiative providing dance-movement therapy and support to survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. M2H has partnered with Eden House, a New Orleans shelter, where survivors strive to mend the mind-body connection.

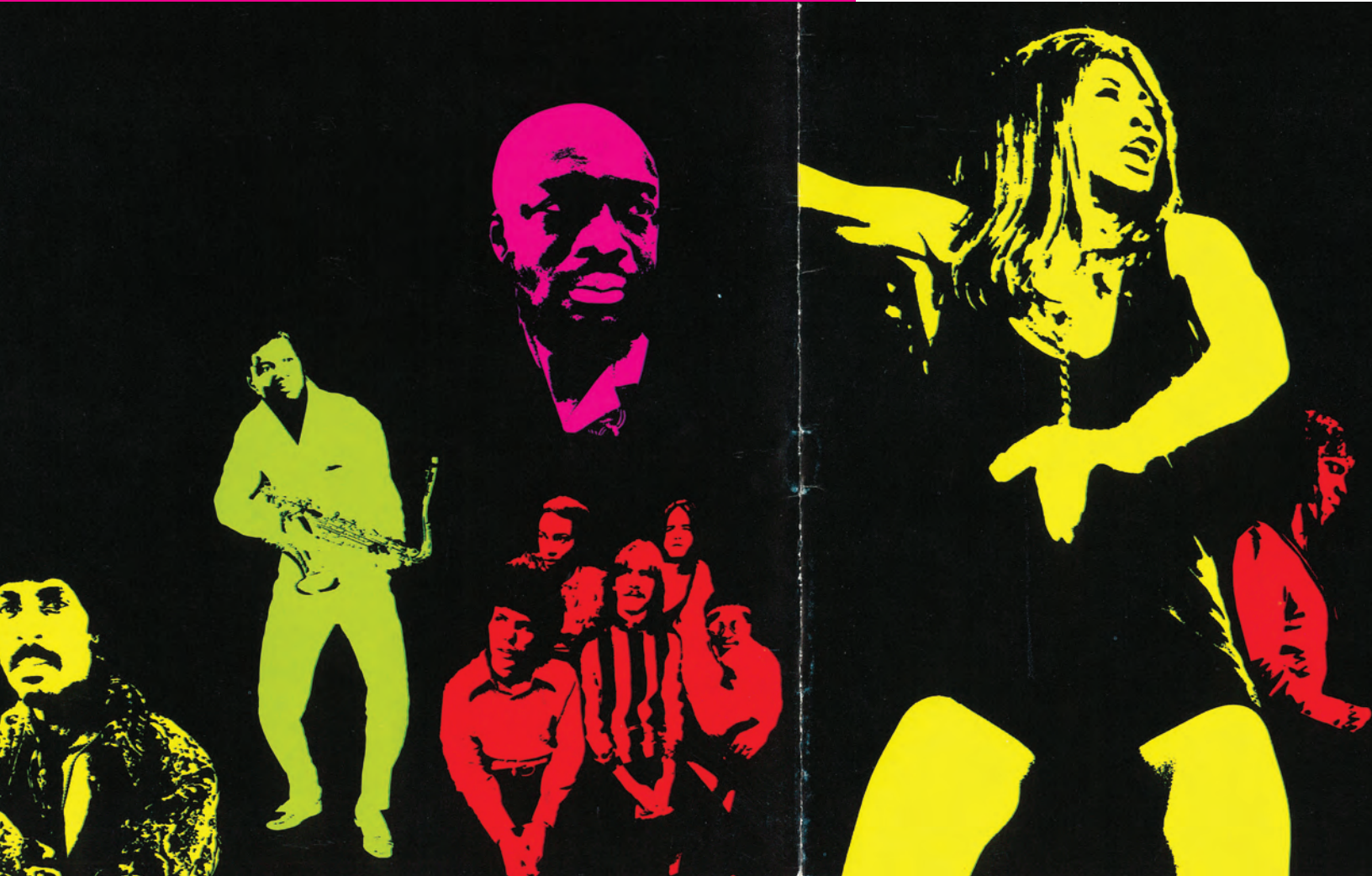
M2H has helped shape Walker's future. She's been accepted to the master's program in dance science at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, where she'll move next fall.

The pandemic taught Walker — as it did all these students — that there aren't "set paths," but with the right attitude, a productive, useful path can be forged.

"You can literally do anything that you want to," said Walker, "as long as you're passionate about something. If you have the drive to try, then it's possible." 🏆



SOUL BOWL 70



James Brown, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, and other luminaries performed a historic show in Tulane Stadium in 1970 — all for a good cause, raising funds for scholarships for Black students.

BY THEO MITCHELL



Imagine this. Your favorite artists. An incredible lineup jam-packed in one night. All happening right in front of your eyes and on the 50-yard line of your college campus stadium.

This was the exact case one fall evening in Uptown New Orleans over 50 years ago. On Oct. 24, 1970, Tulane University played host to a show that could easily go down in history as one of the most star-studded collectives ever assembled.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Soul Bowl '70.

The reality of thinking back more than 50 years ago, in the United States, can bring many to see some stark similarities between then and now. With the 1960s turning into the 1970s, the hope of the new decade was to leave any form of turbulence behind.

Tulane Football even dubbed 1970 as the “Year of the Green” for its expected team success on the gridiron.* However, no sports victory could fully distract communities from significant matters impacting all Americans. From social tensions and rising movements for change to controversies in leadership and international affairs, all institutions met these forces head on, and Tulane was no exception.

As the university was navigating these challenges, an obstacle that also stood tall for Tulane was the expiration of a Rockefeller grant in 1970. Scholarship funds of \$500,000, provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, played a vital role in Tulane financially supporting and admitting students of color starting in 1964.

The increased admission of students of color along with their achievement in the classroom helped Tulane to not only become more of an academic powerhouse but also a more culturally enriched environment. Despite the success of this effort, the grant was not intended to be a long-term solution.

Funds from the grant would be fully utilized by the time students graduated in 1973, and Black Tulane students were highly concerned that more solutions for new revenue streams were not being solidified.

* In 1970, Tulane Football ended their campaign with an 8-4 record and defeated Colorado in the Liberty Bowl with a score of 17-3. The “Year of the Green” was a success as the team finished their season ranked 17th in the final AP poll.



Performers (this page) Isaac Hayes and (facing page) Tina Turner and the Ikettes electrify the audience at Soul Bowl '70 in Tulane Stadium on Oct. 24, 1970. The show was organized by the Committee on Expanding Educational Opportunity to raise scholarships for Black students.

Although then-Tulane President Herbert E. Longenecker promised the community that plans were in progress for more funding, various Tulanians did not wait and jumped into action.

Thus, the Committee on Expanding Educational Opportunity (CEEEO) was formed in 1969, led by David R. Deener, provost and dean of the Graduate School. An initial campaign was established that raised over \$15,000.

The campaign ensured that students were covered for the 1970–71 academic year and that the university would continue to admit students of color at the same rate as previous years. But the campaign also made it clear that larger sums of money through bigger mediums were needed to maintain momentum. Fortunately, through the imagination of students on the CEEEO, a much bigger medium was conceived: Soul Bowl '70.

The CEEEO understood from the start that Soul Bowl '70 would not be the ultimate, end-all solution. However, the committee believed that the concert could bring two elements to the forefront: the establishment of greater financial support and a bridge between a predominately White institution and a Black city, especially its youth. The CEEEO shot for the stars in how they envisioned the show with its goal of raising \$250,000 in scholarship funds.

The emphasis on soul, instead of rock, was a key factor for the CEEEO as they wanted to drive home how this style of music, its influential fanfare and a genuine cause could bring an audience of 50,000-plus to Tulane Stadium. The plan was to deliver a full house grooving for six hours to a who's who of chart-topping artists, genre-bending talent and future Rock & Roll Hall of Fame legends. The lineup featured Jr. Walker and the All Stars, Rare Earth, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), the Ike & Tina Turner Revue, Isaac Hayes and James Brown.

The lineup raised eyebrows and piqued interest from music lovers both near and far. The biggest hurdle in delivering the show was its production costs. The CEEEO and Tulane University officials agreed that an underwriting of \$150,000 was needed to protect stakeholders from any financial losses. Tulane stepped in and committed to provide \$50,000 of underwriting if the CEEEO could locate the remaining \$100,000.

Finding \$100,000 was a daunting task for the CEEEO, and it led to the postponement of the show twice. But the CEEEO and its students prevailed, securing funding and the Oct. 24 event date by partnering with various White and Black businesses, public officials and New Orleans civic leaders. The CEEEO also relied on members of the Tulane community — fellow students, faculty, staff, and alumni — to ensure that funding was solidified and that the show would go on.

Excitement was undoubtedly in the air for showtime, but the day also brought setbacks — both expected and unexpected. The start of the show was delayed,

leaving concertgoers baking under the sun. In addition, rumors spread that Soul Bowl would turn into a race riot, which scared away some potential attendees from Tulane Stadium.

But keeping in tune with the nature of soul music, the crowd stayed cool until the show opened an hour late with Jr. Walker and the All-Stars, followed by PG&E and Rare Earth. Although Rare Earth was experiencing great success on the charts in 1970 with their version of "Get Ready," the band, along with PG&E, received a lukewarm reception from the predominantly Black audience in the stadium.

Concert reviews from the Oct. 30, 1970, edition of *The Tulane Hullabaloo* and the publication *Down Beat* claimed that both acts — groups consisting of Black and White members — were not well received by the audience and were only included in Soul Bowl '70 to leverage their pop chart success into more White supporters and faces in the crowd.

Nevertheless, attention and admiration from the crowd skyrocketed with the introduction of the man once called "Black Moses." Accompanied by a 21-piece band, consisting of members from the New Orleans Symphony, Isaac Hayes took the stage to pure adulation.

The crowd became unglued and rushed the stage. The organizers had hoped guests would stay in their bleacher seats throughout the show and urged the audience to return to their original seats and stop blocking the speakers.

The police and security initially tried to keep fans away. But the fans were too enamored with Hayes and his offerings to leave the field. Both the police and security relented and eased up restrictions. Once Hayes finished his set with a shortened version of "I Stand Accused," the show elevated to another level of positive momentum with the arrival of the Ike & Tina Turner Revue.

"What You See Is What You Get" was the first number of the set. The stage presence of the Revue brought a frenzy to New Orleans and delighted the crowd. Backed by Ike on guitar and the signature dancing trio, the Ikettes, Tina owned the stage with a prowess that kept the audience following every move and groove.



Tina Turner and the Ikettes at Tulane Univ. Sugar Bowl Stadium

4/12/26

Michael P. Smith, 1970

“Inside the car, it sounded like a shell attack in a war movie. ... The boss never said a word, never displayed a hint of fear or concern.”

ALAN LEEDS, tour manager for James Brown



James Brown, known as the Godfather of Soul and Soul Brother No. 1, was the ultimate showman, satisfying the crowd with nonstop dancing and musicianship.

Ripping through classics like “What Do You Like?,” “Honky Tonk Woman” and the timeless “Proud Mary,” the crowd watched a master at work in Tina. The Turner collective had Tulane Stadium in the palm of its hand and didn’t ease up its grip as it approached the closing number, “I Want To Take You Higher.” The Sly & the Family Stone remake kept the crowd on its feet — and anxiously awaiting the closing act, James Brown.

A major concern stood at the core of the show’s last delay: With fans clamoring for Brown, how to safely transport Soul Brother No. 1 from the dressing room to the stage?

The wait was worth the visual that added to the legend of both Soul Bowl ’70 and the “Godfather of Soul.” After back-and-forth deliberation between Brown’s team and security, the plan was set: Utilize a car, circled by police members, to take Brown, his tour manager Alan Leeds, his promoter Bob Patton, his dancer Ann Norman, and his bodyguard and newly assigned driver James Pearson to the stage among a sea of dedicated supporters. In his book, *There Was a Time: James Brown, the Chitlin’ Circuit, and Me*, Leeds detailed the moment as a frighteningly rewarding experience.

Leeds wrote, “Inside the car, it sounded like a shell attack in a war movie. Pearson pointlessly shouted directions to Patton, Ann nervously clung to my arm, and James was cold silent. ... The boss never said a word, never displayed a hint of fear or concern.”

All worries ceased once Brown and his entourage joined his band, The J.B.’s, on stage and proceeded to give the audience all the signature elements of the “Hardest Working Man in Show Business.”

The call-and-response with famed band director and on-stage hype man Bobby Byrd. The dramatic drop to the knees to convey command of the crowd. Shouts of “I want to get up and do my thang!” from the ultimate showman. Nonstop dancing while leading his own 21-piece band and balancing the machismo of “Sex Machine” with the romance of “Try Me” and never missing a beat.

The vibrancy and passion Brown displayed in his more than hourlong performance gave no inkling that he was fresh off a show in Tallahassee, Florida, the previous night. New Orleans DJ legend, Soul Bowl ’70 talent agent, and show emcee Larry McKinley was quoted in a New York City newspaper article about the concert, “Nobody else could have closed this show but James Brown. ... It’s unbelievable how these kids love him.”

After his final number, the showman thrust his clenched fist in the air — a fitting symbol of solidarity — as the audience shouted their approval in a chorus of “Right on, right on” before Brown and his entourage jumped back in the car to depart the venue.

Soul Bowl '70 was a success. The CEEO had pulled off the unthinkable. But the labors of their reward came at a cost. Delays caused the show to end at 9 p.m., three hours later than originally intended. The show avoided becoming uncontrollable and raucous like other rock concerts of its time. However, a number of fans still endured a few cuts and scrapes due to frantic stage-rushers seeking a closer look at their favorite performers.

Numerous reports clashed over accurate attendance figures: Some claimed that up to 40,000 were at the stadium. The Nov. 6, 1970, *Tulane Hullabaloo* reported that only 26,000 were on hand and later declared, in the Dec. 17, 1970, edition, that revenue only amounted to \$130,000, which almost equaled the amount in underwriting to produce and deliver Soul Bowl '70.

In spite of Soul Bowl '70 not incurring any true financial loss, the attendance was not enough to generate great profit to refurbish scholarship funds as intended. Provost Deener responded that "funds for scholarships for disadvantaged students will be realized, however, through contributions to the Committee, particularly by some of those who had agreed to act as guarantors for the event."

Questions lingered on what more could have been accomplished to push Soul Bowl '70 to greater heights. Could rumors of a race riot been quelled much faster? Was a larger amount of support from more White students and locals needed? Why were only a limited number of tickets donated to charity? Should Soul Bowl '70 have included more jazz or other entertainers to walk the tightrope between rock and soul?

Sadly, Soul Bowl '70 was a one-time affair for music lovers, Tulane and the city

of New Orleans. The what-ifs are plentiful, but a few results are positively undeniable. The CEEO delivered a lineup of mega-stars, in pursuit of a worthwhile endeavor, and also opened the doors of the university to plenty of Black and Brown faces who maybe never thought Tulane could be their home for higher education.

Furthermore, presented in the same year as the inaugural Jazz Fest, Soul Bowl '70, one could argue, further cemented the groundwork that can be seen in other New Orleans festival staples like BUKU and Voodoo Fest. Leeds wrote in his book that Soul Bowl '70 "was the largest [single-day] Black musical event until Wattstax in Los Angeles a few years later."^{**}

To this day, very few images exist of Soul Bowl '70. The most consistent, documented commentary about the event resides in past issues of *The Tulane Hullabaloo* and Tulane's annual yearbook, the *Jambalaya*.

Video footage of the show on Oct. 24, 1970, has yet to be uncovered by historians. However, the hope exists that footage will one day be brought to light so that music aficionados can relish the talents of the performers and also celebrate each and every member of the CEEO.

With unsurmountable odds against them, the CEEO boldly took on responsibility from the university's administration and admission offices in the name of good will, true equity, inclusivity and an even greater Tulane for the future. Their risk, efforts and bravery truly embody the soul of Tulane's motto: not for one's self, but for one's own.

Now, that, we can dig it! 🍷

Theo Mitchell is senior media and communications specialist in Tulane's Office of Advancement Communications and Marketing.

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^{**} In 1969, a series of free concerts spanning over six weeks, known as the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, was held at Mount Morris Park (now known as Marcus Garvey Park) in Harlem, New York, and drew over 300,000 fans. The Harlem Cultural Festival was headlined by artists such as Stevie Wonder, Mahalia Jackson, Nina Simone, the 5th Dimension, the Staples Singers, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Sly and the Family Stone, and more. In 2021, a documentary was released on the concert — *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*. The documentary, produced by Tulane alumnus Robert J. Fyvolent (A&S '84), premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in March 2022. In 1972, the city of Los Angeles hosted a single-day event called Wattstax led by Stax Records recording artists including Luther Ingram, Kim Weston, The Bar-Kays, The Staples Singers, Johnnie Taylor and Isaac Hayes. Wattstax was created to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the 1965 Watts riots and was held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. When representatives of Stax Records met with managers of the Coliseum, the Memphis-born record label was met with much skepticism that it could fill the venue. On Aug. 20, 1972, 112,000 fans attended the show. It was the largest gathering of African Americans outside of a civil rights event to that date. Wattstax would not only live on as a recorded album but also a Golden Globe-nominated documentary film in 1974. In 2020, the Library of Congress tapped the concert documentary for preservation in the National Film Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."



pandemic perspectives

Five Tulane doctors recall the first days of COVID-19 and lament public misinformation. They advise people to keep their guard up and be compassionate as we move forward.

BY LESLIE CARDÉ

It was March 11, 2020, and the World Health Organization had just declared COVID-19 a world-wide pandemic. In the next two years, the virus would go on to infect half a billion people, killing more than 6 million, across the globe. But, when the WHO pronouncement came down initially, New Orleans was already in the thick of it, having seen its first case on March 9. The then-regional medical director for the Louisiana Department of Health, and currently the state health officer, Dr. Joe Kanter (M '10, PHTM '10), an emergency medicine physician, had already heard about the cluster of cases on the West Coast.

"We went from that very first case to 10 cases in the blink of an eye, and it progressed exponentially after that," remembered Kanter. "It became apparent just how serious this was already when we realized that first patient had not been involved in international travel, or any travel, for that matter. This was beyond the canary in the coal mine."

For Dr. Josh Denson (TC '06, SSE '08, M '11), who spends his workdays in the intensive care unit, the first case in Louisiana was one he won't ever forget. Denson is assistant professor of pulmonary diseases and associate director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program at the Tulane School of Medicine.

"I intubated that first patient at the VA, putting him on a ventilator," recalled Denson. "Although this patient hadn't traveled to or from New Orleans, he was in a very public sort of job where he came in contact with a lot of people on a daily basis. There was a sense of impending doom. We got three more COVID patients on that first day."

A month later, the virus was no longer just the conundrum that doctors were trying to get a handle on. It was already taking its toll on those we knew. For Tulane cardiologist and Professor of Medicine Dr. Keith Ferdinand, it hit close to home.

"It was Feb. 25, and I was walking with the jazz bands and marching clubs as part of Mardi Gras," said Ferdinand. "Just a few weeks after that first case appeared in New Orleans, my good friend [musician] Ellis Marsalis died of complications from this coronavirus, followed just a couple of weeks later by my dear friend Ronald Lewis, whose museum in the Ninth Ward told the colorful history of the Mardi Gras Indians. When you see a virus like this overtake large cities so quickly, coastal cities like Seattle and New York, it seems understandable, but why was New Orleans hit so intensely, so quickly? Of course, we had just celebrated Mardi Gras, and with 300,000 people in the city, packed tightly street by street, it was the opportunity of a lifetime for a very contagious virus."

Just two weeks into the virus, New Orleans had the distinction of being the city with the fastest-growing outbreak in the world. Between Mardi Gras, the numerous large conventions that had been in the city in February,

and the constant disembarking of cruise ship passengers into New Orleans, the predictions were dire. It was concluded that if the numbers continued to rise exponentially, by April 1, area hospitals would exceed capacity by 1,000 patients a day. To that end, the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center was built out for the intake of new cases.

Immigrant Children

While the city propelled itself into emergency mode, one physician at Tulane had already been dealing with constant crises. Dr. Kim Mukerjee, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics and director of immigrant and community health, had been faced with an overwhelming influx of Central American immigrant children. But, when COVID hit, a critical situation became alarming, adding fuel to an already devastating fire of marginalized health care.

"It has been exhausting," said Mukerjee. "With so many families already in need, having come from holding cells and detention centers while seeking asylum, being joined by their children amidst a pandemic was incredibly stressful. How can you ask people to socially distance when they live in extremely crowded households? Many of these people are essential workers, who went to work in the beginning of the pandemic, and were exposed to crowds, when no masks were available. Many were food insecure before the pandemic, and now we're asking them to buy disinfectant, when they cannot afford food. And, with the lockdown and subsequent business closures, they couldn't work, couldn't get food stamps because they weren't on Medicaid and weren't eligible for unemployment because of their immigration status. These children have no health insurance, yet are suffering from a variety of maladies, not the least of which are mental health issues."

The Long Haul

Throughout the next two years, and five separate surges, surviving the initial infection has only been half the battle for many people now suffering with what's come to be known as Long COVID, its victims known as Long-Haulers. Described as a continuation of symptoms or an onslaught of new symptoms after testing negative for the initial COVID-19 infection, it affects one in four people, with varying lengths of duration. For Dr. Michele Longo (NC '89, M '93, PHTM '93), assistant professor of neurology at Tulane medical school, who co-founded Tulane's Long COVID Clinic along with Dr. Gregory Bix, professor of neurology, in fall 2020, the questions still outweigh the answers, after studying these patients for over a year and a half.

"Over 200 symptoms have been described, but the most common among them are brain fog, shortness of breath, fatigue, exercise intolerance, blood pressure inconsistencies, chest pain, lung problems, joint pain, and loss of taste and



smell,” said Longo. “Why are some folks able to clear their symptoms when the infection is no longer there, while others cannot? Is there residual virus left in the body, or has the infection now produced an autoimmune scenario, in which the body turns on itself? Did some people get a higher viral load initially, making it harder to clear all of the symptoms? And, what if people who had preexisting conditions (where autoimmune antibodies are already present, as in rheumatoid arthritis), were inherently at an increased risk for Long COVID?”

“This is why we are part of the RECOVER initiative from NIH [National Institutes of Health], which is designed to study a large nationwide patient base in order to truly understand the lingering effects of COVID.”

Lessons Learned

The darkest days of this coronavirus outbreak may be behind us, but with tragedies on a grand scale, come lessons.

The doctors we spoke with have universally blamed much of the COVID-19 confusion over the last two years on inconsistent messaging from governmental agencies, which were learning as they collected data, and to the ills of social media, often politically motivated by those with agendas who saw an opening to criticize governmental agencies and healthcare workers.

“There’s been a general lack of respect for those of us who essentially laid our lives on the line fighting a pandemic, when in the beginning we were reusing our masks and wiping down our gowns with vinegar day after day, because there was not an adequate supply of personal protective equipment,” said Denson. “And the misinformation is still everywhere. Last week, I had a patient tell me I didn’t know what I was talking about because he read something else on Google.”

In March 2022, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called on Big Tech and the public to share research, data and personal experiences related to COVID-19 misinformation

in order to stop the spread of confusion in the digital information environment. But, the genie may already be out of that bottle.

“Pronouncements by politicians who don’t know science have also eroded the trust in public health experts, because the messages are mixed,” said Ferdinand. “In fact, the World Health Organization has called it an infodemic, in which a flood of information overwhelms us, much of it unreliable. It’s kept people from wearing masks, getting vaccines and from social distancing, which could have saved many lives.”

“Why are some folks able to clear their symptoms when the infection is no longer there, while others cannot? Is there residual virus left in the body, or has the infection now produced an autoimmune scenario, in which the body turns on itself?”

Dr. Michele Longo, assistant professor of neurology and co-founder of Tulane’s Long COVID Clinic

(Previous page, opening photo) Dr. Josh Denson strides across the bridge between Tulane medical school and hospital. Denson has been on the front lines of the pandemic from the very beginning. (This page, left to right) Dr. Keith Ferdinand has combated vaccine hesitancy in the African American community. Dr. Michele Longo treats patients with Long COVID as she researches the illness. (Facing page, left to right) Dr. Joe Kanter has led the Louisiana Department of Health’s response to COVID-19. Dr. Kim Mukerjee treats immigrant children who often have no health insurance.



“We wash away the terrible toll of this disease because it’s easier than assessing how we got here. We must do better at coming together as a community.”

Dr. Keith Ferdinand, cardiologist and professor of medicine

“It has certainly been a learning experience over the last two years,” said Denson. “We know that we need better leadership from the outset of a pandemic, and I feel we need to make decisions for our country at the federal level, as we’ve allowed too much individual freedom at the state level, which hasn’t been good for public health, generally. We’ve learned that this virus or another may always be with us, and the Omicron subvariant BA.2 is more transmissible than the original Omicron strain. So, it’s important that we keep our guard up with respect to protecting ourselves, down the road. Assess your own personal risks, and act in the best interest of yourself and those around you.”

“We have learned from this pandemic that we don’t have the appropriate safety nets for some of our people,” said Mukerjee. “Our Children’s Health Project has been on the front lines since well before the beginning of this pandemic. Now, we feel like we’re in crisis mode all the time, exacerbated by a recent hurricane and a pandemic. If we’ve learned anything, it’s that we need policy changes regarding public health.”

Ferdinand has known that the stress of the pandemic has only worsened the symptoms of his cardiology patients, who were already at a heightened risk for COVID-19 from the get-go. A tireless advocate combating vaccine hesitancy in the Black community, he’s hopeful that we’ve all learned something from a pandemic where the U.S. death toll is the highest in the world.

“You know, we’ve lost a million people in this country to COVID, but we hide dying,” lamented Ferdinand. “We wash away the terrible toll of this disease because it’s easier than assessing how we got here. We must do better at coming together as a community. There’s an African philosophy called Ubuntu, which translates, ‘I am, because we are.’ It’s the belief in a universal bond which connects all humanity. And, it’s particularly apropos in any public health crisis.”¹⁰

Prepared for the Next Virus

So, what have we learned after two years? According to State Health Officer Kanter, we’ve seen that when the federal government works in conjunction with pharmaceutical companies by assuming all financial risks, we can manufacture a successful vaccine in record-breaking time.

“Although we need better systems in place to predict future outbreaks, and more genomic surveillance with genetic sequencing, our monitoring of wastewater gives us a five-day heads-up, while targeting the specific geography of the virus,” said Kanter. “And, although the CDC stopped collecting data, here in Louisiana we still track breakthrough infections. In combination with our unparalleled preparedness, dating back to Katrina, I think we’re better prepared for the next variant, or even the next virus.”

“No one dreamed when this virus erupted that we’d be dealing with 25% of the infected patient population becoming Long-Haulers, but we’re learning more and more with each patient who enters our clinic,” said Longo. “We now have a patient profile as to who generally becomes a Long-Hauler. The majority are not vaccinated, are women, and are between 30 and 50 years of age. We also know that 96% of patients will recover from Long COVID, and with our growing bio database, we are constantly gaining new insights.”

Wavemakers



INNOVATION INSTITUTE TO ACCELERATE TECH STARTUPS

The Tulane Innovation Institute is launching operations this year, thanks to generous gifts from forward-thinking philanthropists.

The institute is a multimillion-dollar, long-term project that will act as a combined technology and startup accelerator for university faculty, researchers, staff, students and community members. It is expected to have a major impact on the regional economy.

The Priddy Family Foundation made the lead gift to launch the Robert L. Priddy Innovation Lab. Robert Priddy (UC '69), who had a career in aviation and private equity, and his wife, Kikie, run the foundation with their daughter and son-in-law, Shannon and Mike Acks, and their son, Christopher Priddy.

As the institute's primary engine, the Innovation Lab will drive commercialization efforts by providing proof-of-concept and early-stage startup gap funding for aspiring entrepreneurs and promising technologies. It expects to attract more than \$100 million in capital to the region.

Board of Tulane member David Mussafer (B '85) and his wife, Marion, gave a gift to establish the David and Marion Mussafer Innovation Funds to support a

spectrum of activities to energize and cultivate an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset on campus. The institute's managing executive will be known as the David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer. David Mussafer serves as chairman and managing partner of Advent International Corp.

"For Tulane to have the Priddys' and Mussafer's generous support represents a resounding endorsement of this ambitious project," President Michael A. Fitts said.

Other early and visionary supporters include David Barksdale (TC '00), an emeritus member of the Board of Tulane, and his wife, Stephanie, an instructor at the Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking; Carol Bernick (NC '74), chair of the Board of Tulane; Walter Isaacson, an emeritus member of the Board of Tulane and the Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values, and his

wife, Cathy; and Jeffrey Silverman (A&S '89), and his wife, Amy.

"Throughout my career I've loved watching small ventures grow into thriving enterprises," Robert Priddy said. "In the Innovation Institute, I see a promising idea with the power to capitalize on Tulane's existing strengths and grow into something huge for the city and the Gulf Coast."

"Given Tulane's world-class reputation across multiple disciplines, along with its willingness to break down academic silos in order to create innovative solutions to important problems, the foundation for this project's success is already well-established," David Mussafer said. "Factor in the city's rich culture, diversity and magnetic allure for creative individuals, and you have a powerful recipe for impactful entrepreneurship."

The Tulane Innovation Institute launches in 2022 thanks to gifts from (left) Kikie and Robert Priddy and (right) Marion and David Mussafer.

SPACE LAW PROGRAM LAUNCHED



Tulane Law School will launch a new program in space law with a generous gift of \$1 million from Darleen Jacobs (L '81). The program will leverage Tulane's world-leading strength in maritime law to address related legal issues now emerging with the private exploration and exploitation of space.

The gift will create the Judge S. Sanford Levy and Judge Anna Veterans Levy Endowed Fund to be used exclusively to develop the space law program at Tulane. Jacobs made the gift in honor of her late husband, S. Sanford Levy, and his first wife, Judge Anna Veterans Levy, who graduated from Newcomb College in 1913 and the Graduate School in 1915. Both Levys made significant contributions to the law in Louisiana.

Space law is primarily governed by the domestic and international laws that determine the use and exploration of outer space and is anchored in legal frameworks drawn from maritime law and the law of the sea. Tulane's global leadership in these fields, as well as in international law and environmental law, position it uniquely to contribute to the study and development of space law.

"Space law is a well-established field that was originally concerned principally with military and scientific uses of outer space," said Professor Martin Davies, the director of the Tulane Center for Maritime Law. "The increasing use of space for commercial purposes raises new questions about the legal regulation of commercial activity in areas beyond the national sovereignty of any single country. Maritime law and the law of the sea have long experience with exactly those kinds of transnational questions, which is the value that Tulane, with its historic strengths in these fields, hopes to add to space law studies, thanks to this generous gift."

Jacobs is a New Orleans native and a founding partner of Jacobs, Sarra, Lovelace, Harris & Matthews.

"Space law in the next three years will be at the height of all corporate agendas," said Jacobs. "It is time to move forward to the next level of legal challenges, and Tulane Law School is in the best position to do that."



Darleen Jacobs has donated \$1 million to Tulane Law School to create the Judge S. Sanford Levy and Judge Anna Veterans Levy Endowed Fund to develop a space law program at Tulane.

PAUL TULANE SOCIETY HONORS BENEFACTORS

The Paul Tulane Society honors generous benefactors who have supported the university with gifts of \$1 million or more.

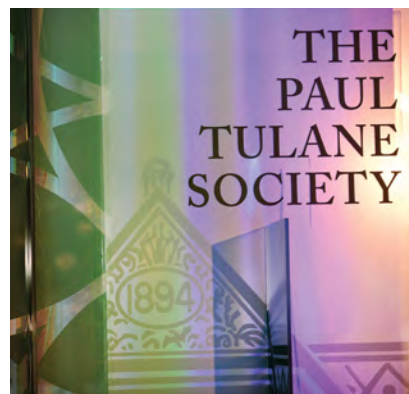
At the most recent Paul Tulane Society induction ceremony, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts celebrated the ways in which these thoughtful and forward-thinking individuals have transformed the university. This year's inductees include:

- Alumnus and former Tulane professor Robert P. Dean Jr. (A '68) and his husband, Robert A. Epstein, established charitable remainder trusts to support student scholarships at the School of Architecture.
- Veteran entrepreneur John Elstrott Jr. is a founder of the Levy-Rosenblum Institute for Entrepreneurship at the A. B. Freeman School of Business. He and his wife, Patty, established a legacy gift to continue their commitment.
- Markham (A&S '76) and Nancy Oswald are generous supporters of the A. B. Freeman School of Business and Tulane Athletics, as well as the authors of the Oswald Endowed Fellowship and Endowed Entrepreneurial Hospitality Fund.
- Elizabeth Dabezies Goodyear and

Charles W. Goodyear IV established the Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair at Tulane School of Medicine, which recognizes Oliver H. Dabezies Jr., MD (A&S '51, M '54), and his wife, Carroll (NC '58).

Some of this year's honorees left estate gifts to Tulane.

- A devoted psychiatrist in New Orleans, Leona Bersadsky, MD (NC '47, G '49, M '65), made a bequest to create the Dr. Leona Bersadsky Scholarship Endowed Fund to open the doors to a Tulane School of Medicine education for female residents of Louisiana.
- Robert James "Jim" Brennan Jr. (A&S '71) left an estate gift to support Tulane's highest priorities.
- John F. Honecker (A&S '68) included



Tulane's School of Liberal Arts in his estate plan.

- Devoted Green Wave fan Alan H. Rosenblum (B '61) made a generous estate bequest to the university, establishing a legacy for the next generation, and also left his beloved Green Wave memorabilia to the university.
- After a successful surgical career, K. Donald Ruppert, MD (M '57), established his legacy at Tulane with the Dr. Karl Ruppert Endowed Fund.



During the 24-hour Give Green, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends made more than 4,000 gifts.

GIVE GREEN

Tulanians turned out in greater numbers than ever before to raise over \$1.2 million on Tulane's fifth annual giving day, Give Green: A Day for the Audacious on March 22.

Gifts made on Give Green are directed to Tulane's annual fund, providing immediate resources to support first-class academic programs, groundbreaking research, transformative experiences and much more.

In cities across the United States, alumni clubs met that evening to celebrate Give Green. Contributions came from 13 countries.

Every year, Give Green breaks fundraising records. This year's total number of gifts represents nearly a 100% increase over the number of gifts given in the first-ever Give Green in 2018, and the amount of money raised has increased nearly 200 percent since the inaugural event. 🏆

Tulanians



CLUB OF SAN DIEGO CRAWFISH BOIL

Generating Tulane spirit from across the country, the San Diego Alumni Club held a crawfish boil on April 16 at the San Diego Yacht Club. The event was organized by Stephanie Antin, club president, and all attendees enjoyed camaraderie, live music by the Steve Grady Band, and of course, lots of crawfish!

PHOTOS BY OBI ZITEIFI



1960
1969

HENRY MICHAEL ROTHSCHILD (A&S '65), a music producer, was featured in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* story about his Atlanta-based record label, Landslide Records, and the recent release of the "Landslide Records, 40th Anniversary" album. Rothschild now lives in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

ALAN H. GOODMAN (A&S '67), an attorney at the New Orleans office of Breazele, Sachse and Wilson LLP, was named to the 2022 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers.

1970
1979

LINDA STEWART HENLEY (NC '70) published a new novel, *Waterbury Winter*, about a struggling middle-aged artist who must overcome obstacles to start anew in California. The author lives in Anacortes, Washington.

SHIRLEY SPARKS-GREIF (G '71) published a co-written book *The Art and Practice of Home Visiting, 2nd Ed*, a foundational text for future professionals and a guide for practitioners. She lives in Cupertino, California.

SUSAN COOKE'S (NC '72) blog "The Serene City" is now on Substack.com, a subscription newsletter platform. She also gardens and is often a part of the Life Friendly Garden Tour in Watertown, Massachusetts, where she lives.

MARLENE ESKIND MOSES (NC '72, SW '73) was selected for inclusion in the 2021 edition of Mid-South Super Lawyers. This is the 16th year Moses has been recognized as a family law expert with MTR Family Law PLLC. She lives and works in Nashville, Tennessee.

DAVID MCLAIN (M '74) was awarded the Master designation from the American College of Rheumatology, the highest honor the college bestows upon a member who has made outstanding contributions to the field. He continues as the symposium director of the Congress of Clinical Rheumatology, the second largest rheumatology meeting in the United States. McLain lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

WILLIAM PALFREY (A&S '76) published his second book, a sports autobiography titled *Two Great Southeastern Lions*. The book pays tribute to two accomplished athletes and includes a section

on Tulane tennis and Army ROTC. Palrey lives in Lynn Haven, Florida.

KATHY EPSTEIN SELIGMAN (NC '76) recently welcomed a grandson to the family. George Hugh Seligman was born in Dallas on Dec. 30, 2021, to her son **HUGH SELIGMAN (L '13)** and his wife, Claire.

ELLEN SEIDEMAN BYRON'S (NC '77) seventh Cajun Country Mystery, *Cajun Kiss of Death*, has been nominated for the Agatha and Left Coast Crime Awards. Her first book in the new Vintage Cookbook Mystery series, *Bayou Book Thief*, which is set in the New Orleans Garden District, will be released in June. Byron lives in Studio City, California.

PAUL FINGER (A&S '78, M '82), director of New York Eye Cancer Center and president and CEO at Liberty Vision, was inducted into the Retina Hall of Fame. He lives in New York City.



IMPRESSION CHRISTINA TEGBE

Beauty is big business, but Christina Tegbe (B '07) of Houston knew that natural ingredients often work as well as high-tech ones.

The founder of 54 Thrones African Beauty created a company that draws on African botanicals such as shea butter, lavender and argan oil.

Having grown up in Nigerian-American culture, Tegbe was already familiar with the products that women there used for skin care. On trips to Africa, she felt drawn to the women who were creating those types of products. But when she started out as a beauty entrepreneur in 2016, she nonetheless felt she had “no clue” how to go about it.

The process would reveal itself, though. When she visited Nigeria, armed with empty suitcases for the products, “People were so willing to help me,” she said. “If I asked, ‘Where can I find shea butter?,’ they were like, ‘Come with me!’ That is the communal aspect of African cultures in general.”

54 Thrones’ line, which is now carried by major retailers, includes body butter, body oil and cleansing bars. In 2020 the brand got a boost when Oprah Winfrey chose it for her annual list of “Favorite Things;” the next year Tegbe competed on the business competition show “Shark Tank,” attracting two investors.

Personal connections have contributed to the company’s authenticity.

“I’ve been to people’s houses, I’ve been invited to people’s weddings,” Tegbe said, noting that she deals almost exclusively with female farmers. “Every time I got to my destination, I was always greeted with love, and people [were] excited that I was interested in what they had been doing, what their families were doing for generations.”

Tegbe said that in the process of becoming an entrepreneur, she “knew that failing was okay.” But she was also optimistic enough to think that her idea might be immediately successful.

“And that’s not what happened,” she added.

In fact, she ended up launching three other businesses to support 54 Thrones — but she has few regrets.

“When I think about some of the things I did now, I could have done things a lot easier,” she said, “but the route that I took really added to the richness of my story.”

CAROLINE JONES (NC '78), former Texas mortgage oversight commissioner, has joined the residential mortgage law firm of Polunsky Beitel Green as special counsel. She lives in Austin, Texas.

JUDITH FERRY (E '79), director of hematology at Massachusetts General Hospital, has published a novel, *Parallel Lives*, a story of how the tragic death of Alexander Eastgard’s best friend, Patrick, haunts his life. Ferry lives in Boston.

ANNE SEGREST MCCULLOCH (NC '79, L '84) joined the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary. McCulloch lives in Arlington, Virginia.

BRIAN REES (M '79, PHTM '79) published a book, *How Reasonable Americans Could Support Trump: Helping Liberals Understand the MAGAverse, and Whatever Comes Next*. He lives in San Luis Obispo, California.

MORRIS SILBERMAN (A&S '79) was selected as the 2022 president of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal. He lives in Tarpon Springs, Florida.



DOC WHITE'S AVIATION ADVENTURES

The title of **JAMES A. WHITE'S (A&S '61, M '64)** book,

There I Wuz, refers to being in a routine situation when something unforeseen happens. White relates tales from his days as a Navy flight surgeon, describing the complexities of flight operations, the psychology of those involved and his adventures, both the highs and lows, in a long life of service. White is a practicing ear, nose and throat specialist in Alexandria, Louisiana.

1980
1989

LISA D.T. RICE (NC '83), immediate past president of the Newcomb Alumni Association, was elected to the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship as vice chair of the board of directors. She lives in Washington, D.C.

PETER BUTLER JR. (B '84, L '87), an attorney at the New Orleans office of Breazele, Sachse and Wilson LLP, was named to the 2022 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers.

JOHN GESSNER (L '84), a hospitality industry attorney, has joined the Dallas law firm of Carrington, Coleman, Sloan & Blumenthal LLP as a partner.

PETER RUSSIN (A&S '85) was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Southern District of Florida. He lives in Miami Beach, Florida.

1990
1999

MELISSA BARBANELL (NC '90) has joined the World Resources Institute as director of U.S.-international engagement, where she leads energy dialogues with nongovernmental U.S. participants and their counterparts in other countries to facilitate climate action. She also recently completed her Master of Public Management, magna cum laude, from Johns Hopkins University.

JACK ROSENZWEIG (E '90) was named head of operations at Bindle Systems, a public health corporation that uses cryptography, blockchain technologies and self-sovereign identity to protect private health information. Rosenzweig lives in Boyds, Maryland.

Rutgers University Press published *Col-lison Course: Economic Change, Criminal Justice Reform, and Work in America* by **KATHLEEN AUERHAHN (NC '91)**, associate professor of criminal justice at Temple University in Philadelphia. The book explores the convergence of the economy and the criminal justice system.

KATHRYN DUNCAN'S (G '91, '96) book *Jane Austen and the Buddha: Teachers of Enlightenment* was published by Toplight Books. The book explores how the Buddha and Jane Austen shared an understanding of human

nature and suffering. Duncan lives in Temple Terrace, Florida.

SEAN DOUBLET (A&S '93) opened Neutral Ground Brewing Co. in Fort Worth, Texas. The brewery was named a Top 5 Craft Beer Brewery of 2021 by *Fort Worth Weekly*. He lives in Arlington, Texas.

GALE MORRISON (NC '93) was promoted to the position of national sales and marketing manager for John Catt Educational Ltd. of North America. She lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

ADAM ALBARADO (B '96, G '06) was awarded both the Business Operator and Rookie of the Year awards for his performance in operating a Screenmobile franchise in Destin, Florida.

DENNIS LAMBERT (E '96, E '00) published a paper, "Building With Nature: A Nineteenth Century Concept." The paper discusses how to create living, working and recreational spaces that are in harmony with nature. He lives in Lettsworth, Louisiana.

2000
2009

MARA KARLIN (NC '01), former deputy assistant secretary of defense for the U.S. Defense Department and now associate professor and director of the Strategic Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University, published a book, *The Inheritance*, which examines the effects of decades of war on the U.S. military and the lessons that should be learned from recent history.

TRACIE ASHE (A '02) AND JULIE BABIN (A '06), partners in the New Orleans architecture firm Studio WTA, were the recipients of an American Institute of Architects of Louisiana Award of Merit at the 2021 Design Awards for their residential restoration project The Emerald Street Residence.

SERRA SEMI (NC '02), a creative director specializing in brand aesthetics, was awarded an O1 visa for extraordinary ability in the arts. Semi lives in New York City.

CHAD PENTLER (TC '04) published his first novel, *Orleans Parish*, which is about a secret society in New Orleans and the perils of Los Angeles intern culture. Pentler is a high school English teacher living in Boca Raton, Florida.



DELICIOUS NOLA

SUE STRACHAN (NC '86), a journalist who writes about New Orleans culture, history and current events, has authored *The Café Brûlot*, a book that examines the French-born, New Orleans-beloved coffee cocktail that is sweet, spicy and flaming hot. (The drink is actually set on fire before it's served!) In the book, Strachan explores the history of the drink and discusses its place in New Orleans' culinary traditions. *The Café Brûlot* was published in September by LSU Press. Strachan lives in New Orleans.

ANDREW SEIDENBERG (B '04), in addition to holding a full-time position at his commercial real estate brokerage firm, is now the director of pickleball at the Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Half of the fees collected from teaching go to an Arizona nonprofit. Seidenberg loves teaching all the Tulane alumni who roll through town.

CLYDE MATHISON (M '05) has been promoted to president and CEO of his multiphysician surgical practice, Farragut ENT/Allergy. He lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

ELLIOT PINSKY (TC '05, SW '07), president and CEO of Behavioral Health Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee, received the Mental Health America 2021 George Goodman Brudney and Ruth P. Brudney Social Work Award for significant contributions to improve the care and treatment of those living with mental health issues.

ELIZABETH THRELKELD (E '06) and her husband, James Yackle, celebrated the birth of their first baby, Gavin Michael Yackle, in September 2021. The family lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

JOHN GAGNON (L '07, SLA '07) accepted a position with the Food and Drug Administration, working on pharmaceutical policy. Prior to this he taught at

What are your cherished Tulane Commencement memories?



Cokie Roberts was Newcomb's commencement speaker, and she was wonderful. Though we did get a chuckle when she said ... her mother (THE Lindy Boggs) asked her to attend.

Tiffany Kieffer (NC '99)



My special commencement memory comes from 2013, when former President Scott Cowen (known affectionately to students as "Scotty C") taught the Dalai Lama how to dance in a second-line. What a year that was! We had the Dalai Lama, Dr. John (he got his honorary doctorate), and Topsy Chapman. We 2013s really lucked out.

Brady Plunger (SLA '13)



The song "Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?"

Ahmad Minkara (TC '00)

What are your cherished Tulane Commencement memories?



My commencement day was especially memorable because I was able to witness firsthand Rep. John Lewis being presented his honorary doctorate from Tulane. Rep. Lewis has done so much for students such as myself by trailblazing a path of leadership, advocacy and equality for the rest of us to follow.

Richard R. Williams Jr.
(PHTM '17, '19)



I cherish my parasol I got at commencement. That little lagniappe still makes occasional showings as I attend commencement as a faculty member, though outside of NOLA, it's not quite understood.

Chasity O'Malley (M '07)



Smelling my daisy and feeling connected to the history of Newcomb. Go class of '94!

Heather Tomlin (NC '94)



REMEMBRANCES OF ROYAL STREET

KAREN WHITE (B '86), *New York Times* bestselling author of over 20 books, recently published her newest novel, *The Shop on Royal Street*. The novel is a spin-off from her Tradd Street series of books, which were originally to be set in New Orleans but moved to Charleston when Hurricane Katrina hit. White lives with her husband and two children, dividing her time between the Florida coast and Atlanta.

Michigan State University and University of Hawaii at Manoa. Gagnon also recently married Sarah Goodson and now lives in Germantown, Maryland.

ALLEN DUSHI (B '09) launched a new product, Graza, a fresh and affordable olive oil in a squeeze bottle, in January. He lives in New York City.

LAURA FITZPATRICK (L '09), an attorney and shareholder at the law firm Simmons Hanley Conroy in New York City, was an integral part of initiating the federal trials addressing the opioid epidemic and securing the \$325 million in settlements to two Ohio counties.

MARC ROGERS (SLA '09) was promoted to partner at the law firm Davis+Gilbert, LLP, in New York City.

2010
2021

BEN FELDMAN (L '11) directed and co-executive produced an Amazon Studios documentary series titled *Bug Out*, which was released in March. The whodunit series documents the largest live insect heist in U.S. history. Feldman lives in Philadelphia.

LOUISE BOESEL GIANNAKIS (SLA '11) and her husband, George, celebrated the birth of their baby, Eleanora Wells Giannakis, on Nov. 18, 2021. The family

is doing well and settling into their new home in Boston.

LAUREN PYLE (SLA '11) accepted a counsel position at U.S. Foods in Rosemont, and lives in Hinsdale, Illinois.

ALEXA SCHWARTZ (SLA '13) married Victor Leyva in November 2021 in Mexico City. The couple had a New Orleans inspired second-line entrance to their reception. Schwartz and her husband live in Houston.

MICHAEL KAHN (A '13, SLA '13) recently earned an industry-based PhD in architecture from the University of Technology Sydney and spent three years working on teams to create Sydney, Australia's new Metro system and second airport. He was also appointed as a lecturer at the University of Sydney

School of Architecture, Design and Planning.

DAVID BODE (B '14) was awarded a grant from the Threadhead Cultural Foundation that will allow his 19-piece jazz ensemble to record an album of Bode's original compositions and arrangements. The album will be recorded at Marigny Studios in New Orleans and will be released in mid 2023 on his record label, 1718 Records.

EMILEE MARIE SOTO (L '15) has served as senior commercial counsel for Zoom Video Communications for the past three years. In 2021, the Zoom legal team was recognized as the U.S. Legal Department of the Year by American Lawyers Industry Awards and was featured in *Corporate Counsel* magazine. Soto lives in Denver.



TULANIANS IN PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Governor **PEDRO PIERLUISI (A&S '81)** and U.S. Small Business Administration Regional Communications Director **MATT COLEMAN (UC '04)** discovered their undergraduate connection while meeting to discuss federal support provided by the U.S. government to Puerto Rico that supports the island's small business ecosystem. In 2021 alone, the SBA guaranteed \$17.4 million in traditional lending to Puerto Rico's 43,000 small businesses, while injecting another \$5.14 billion through COVID-19 economic aid programs. The alumni agree that Howard-Tilton was — and remains — one of the best spots on campus.

PARTNERS IN PRINT: FRANCES SWIGART AND JIM STEG



PARTNERS IN PRINT

An exhibit featuring the artwork of **FRANCES SWIGART (NC '64)** and her late husband **JIM STEG**, former art professor at the Newcomb Art School, appeared at the Studio Waveland Art Gallery in Waveland, Mississippi, in February and March. The couple met when Swigart was a student at Tulane, and they married in 1992. The exhibit, "Partners in Print," showcases a selection of both artists' etchings and relief prints, spanning their entire careers. Swigart lives in New Orleans.

JOSHUA BARNETT (SCS '16), an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, has been appointed to the position of director of the Office of Public Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. He will be the primary media contact within the Department of the Interior for those seeking information about Indian Affairs' offices and programs.

KATHRYN HERNANDEZ (L '20) has accepted the position of human resources project leader at Clarity HR Solutions, the sister firm to Dowl- ing Law PLLC in Albany, New York. Hernandez lives in Scotia, New York.



IMPRESSION

JUDY COOPER

Many colors flash through the mind when thinking of New Orleans culture. The vibrant, exuberant colors of celebration — bold reds, majestic purples, striking metallics. Judy Cooper (NC '59, G '69) found the city's visual resplendence intriguing from the start, leading her to a long career in local photography that would eventually cumulate into her new book, *Dancing in the Streets* (The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2021).

A Birmingham, Alabama, native, Cooper chose Tulane for her undergraduate studies in literature. After graduation, she earned a master's degree at Columbia University in New York before returning to Tulane to pursue a PhD. Cooper then taught French at Loyola University until the early 1970s when photography captured her interest. She realized New Orleanians were particularly fascinating and colorful subjects, most of all, the members of social aid and pleasure clubs. In the late 1990s, she embarked on a decadeslong journey documenting the clubs' unique artistic expression.

"I started photographing the weekly parades, because I thought they were visually

colorful, full of movement, and joy and celebration. But after a few years of following them, I got to know people and talk to them. And I began to hear about the long and complex history of the tradition. And I thought, well, this deserves a book," Cooper said.

Cooper did not start concretely thinking about *Dancing in the Streets* until after Katrina. The thought of the clubs being a part of a past that had been threatened with extinction inspired her to create a published tribute to the culture. When the parades began again, she set about capturing the colorful spirit of the clubs with a new purpose.

"This is a culture that is so rich. It's a culture that's rooted in family and tradition and the interconnectedness of all the parties, sharing this fun thing that they all do together," Cooper said.

Cooper said that in recent years, more and more people are coming to New Orleans and experiencing the customs of the second-line community. She hopes that *Dancing in the Streets* will also serve as an introduction of the social aid and pleasure clubs to the rest of the world.

"I do hope that people from not just New Orleans, but from outside New Orleans, will get to see it and read it and see the richness of the culture — and the joy," Cooper said. 📷

Farewell

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

Robert M. Shepard Jr. (M '41)
 Louise Nelson Ewin (NC '42)
 Mary Wineman Davis (NC '43)
 Nita Kidd Harris (NC '43)
 Burton Katz (A&S '43, M '45)
 Gerald N. Weiss (A&S '43, M '45)
 Grant F. Begley (M '44)
 Herbert J. Bremermann Jr. (A&S '44, L '49)
 Weldon R. Jones (B '44)
 Mary Knight Kimzey (NC '44)
 Ray T. Parmley (M '44)
 John A. Craig Sr. (M '45)
 Catherine Chadwick Helm (NC '45)
 Charles N. Kahn Jr. (E '45)
 Philip A. Masquette (B '45)
 Nina Many Page (NC '45)
 Jeanne Marcoux Bolen (NC '46, M '49)
 Richard H. King (B '46)
 Nancy Farwell Leman (NC '46)
 William F. Lenfestey Sr. (A&S '46)
 Alyce Marechal O'Brien (NC '46)
 Robert V. Barnett (A&S '47, M '50)
 William L. Carter (B '47)
 Elaine Querens Helm (A&S '47)
 Richard K. Ingolia Sr. (A&S '47, L '50)
 Roy R. Ohtani (M '47)
 Frank Orland (A&S '47, G '48, M '52)
 Keith J. Wheelahan Jr. (E '47)
 Robert R. Boese Sr. (A&S '48, M '51)
 Eola Levy McConnell (NC '48)
 Stanley M. Pulitzer (B '48)
 Stewart R. Barnett Jr. (B '49)
 Yvette Wolfe Demarest (NC '49)
 Milton Eichler (M '49)
 Rivers R. King (A&S '49, L '51)
 William L. Poe Jr. (A&S '49)
 Marie Louise Levy Steuer (NC '49)
 Maridell Connors Benner (SW '50)
 Joyce Ludwig Ellis Spruiell (NC '50)
 Francis E. LeJeune Jr. (A&S '50, M '53)
 Richard L. Lucas (A&S '50)

Ruth Ritchey Olivera (G '50)
 Joseph I. Scanlan (B '50)
 Lawrence W. Schwarz Jr. (B '50)
 Frank R. Ervin (M '51)
 John N. Grissett Jr. (A&S '51)
 George Jacobson (M '51)
 Betty Lott Lauffenburger (NC '51)
 Philip A. Mouledous Jr. (A&S '51)
 Henry C. Mullins Jr. (M '51)
 Floyd L. Normand (A&S '51)
 Robert H. Reily (B '51)
 Elizabeth Barkdull Schneidau (NC '51, G '59)
 Gertrude Miangolarra Scott (NC '51)
 Frank R. Seavey (A '51)
 Beverley Brown Smith (NC '51)
 Donald C. Smith (A&S '51)
 Adrien Aitkens Stewart (NC '51)
 Renee Anderson Allen (NC '52)
 Eugene R. Celano (A&S '52, M '55)
 James A. Humphreys Jr. (B '52)
 William Y. McDaniel Sr. (M '52)
 Elizabeth Pharr Moran (NC '52)
 Patrick D. Rooney (B '52)
 Herbert S. Bell (M '53)
 Murray E. Belsky (A&S '53)
 Charles L. Buddecke (E '53)
 Lawrence A. Emboulas (B '53)
 Leonard E. Gessner Jr. (B '53)
 Judith Wenzel Hagstette (NC '53)
 Alfred E. Hiller (E '53)
 Lenore Johnson (NC '53)
 Freddie J. Touro (E '53)
 William G. Uelsmann (E '53)
 Earl P. Burke Jr. (A&S '54)
 Richard H. Clark Jr. (M '54)
 Donald L. Ferguson (L '54)
 Donald G. Friedl (A&S '54)
 Lester R. Kennedy Sr. (A&S '54)
 Charles W. Myers Sr. (UC '54)
 John C. Rosen (A&S '54, G '60)
 Barbara Jean Dixon Temple (SW '54)
 Charlotte Savitz Teplow (NC '54)
 John W. Wall (B '54)
 John A. Crowley Jr. (A&S '55)
 Martin L. Feldman (A&S '55, L '57)

Donald E. Hoffman Sr. (A&S '55)
 Nelson F. Jones Jr. (A&S '55)
 Herbert J. Schulingkamp Jr. (A '55)
 Sylvan J. Steinberg (B '55, L '57)
 James H. Venable (M '55)
 Daniel Boles (G '56)
 Harry G. Causey (M '56)
 Wilber F. Conley Jr. (E '56)
 Leland C. Edmonds II (M '56)
 Martha Marshall Foster (NC '56, M '60)
 Clifton L. Hester Jr. (M '56)
 Albert G. Jackson (E '56)
 William N. Jones (A&S '56, M '59)
 Victor A. Landry Jr. (E '56)
 Jerry P. Nusloch (B '56)
 Samuel P. Reed (M '56)
 Judith Bondurant Spencer (NC '56)
 Genevieve Wilson Boudreaux (NC '57)
 Joseph S. Cauvin (B '57)
 Bob H. Cranfill (B '57)
 Eugene J. Dabiezies (A&S '57, M '60)
 Patricia Schweickhardt Deynoodt (UC '57)
 Robert E. Garcia (E '57)
 Anne Einbinder Kantor (NC '57)
 William H. Langhorne Jr. (M '57)
 Diana Rodas Magana (SW '57)
 Gunther R. Michaelis Sr. (A&S '57, L '63)
 Clarence Adam Miller Jr. (L '57)
 Robert S. Poydasheff (L '57)
 James W. Ross (B '57)
 Thomas J. Schoen (B '57)
 William E. Alison (M '58)
 James B. Cobb (B '58)
 Thomas A. Graves (A&S '58, M '61)
 James A. Gray (M '58)
 Charles H. Hansen (A&S '58)
 Leonard J. Sullivan (B '58)
 Patrick J. Unkel (M '58)
 Harvey F. Wachsman (A&S '58)
 Ronald W. Alexander (M '59)
 Charles T. Bienvenu Jr. (L '59)
 Lloyd J. Boesch Jr. (E '59)
 John E. Buck Jr. (A&S '59)
 Leslie Wood Faucett (B '59)
 Carol Stanley Fenner (NC '59)

Joyce Dattel Kuh (NC '59)
 Margaret Roper McGinn (UC '59)
 Joseph D. Painter (B '59, L '62)
 Henri Parens (M '59)
 Leon H. Rittenberg Jr. (L '59)
 Antonio Rossi Jr. (E '59)
 William H. Sewell Jr. (E '59)
 Allen E. Begnaud (G '60)
 Donald A. Bloxom (B '60)
 Aubrey O. Bunn (B '60)
 Alton B. Cobb (PHTM '60)
 John D. DiVietro (A&S '60)
 Warren L. Founds Jr. (M '60)
 Basil H. Hoffman (B '60)
 David B. Julie (A&S '60)
 George E. Kreider (A&S '60)
 Joseph K. Newsom Sr. (M '60)
 Robert T. Salzman (M '60)
 William M. Stevenson (L '60)
 Domingo H. Tambuatco Jr. (UC '60)
 John R. Watson (E '60)
 Sandra Stein Weil (NC '60)
 Francis L. Young Jr. (B '60)
 Henry E. Blake (B '61)
 Gladys Rogers Brooks (NC '61, G '77)
 Micha Evans Ewell (NC '61)
 Vernon L. Goltry (M '61)
 Philip K. Hacker (M '61)
 Louise Lowry Lawrence (SW '61)
 Charles K. Mallory III (L '61)
 Virginia Vickers McIlheran (NC '61)
 Richard T. Regan (B '61, L '63)
 Mary Ellen Moody Watson (SW '61)
 John F. Andrews (L '62)
 Michael R. Eubanks (B '62, L '65)
 Mary W. French (SW '62)
 Judyth Field Gustafson (NC '62)
 Sarah Mantel (NC '62)
 Jerald J. Neumeyer (E '62)
 Kay Anderson Rizzo (NC '62, G '68)
 Bernard L. Rosenbach (A&S '62)
 Morton Slutsky (M '62)
 Catherine Gerstner Teijelo (NC '62)
 Guerdon A. Wallesverd (B '62, L '63)
 George H. Yama (M '62)

Walter T. Zander (A&S '62)	Harold E. Theard Jr. (UC '67)	Dario V. de Leon (PHTM '73)	Octavia Green Robinson (SW '82)
James V. Benedict (E '63, G '66)	John P. Tyson (G '67)	Eric R. Jones (A&S '73)	Carlos H. Barbosa (A '83)
Hilliard E. Chesteen Jr. (G '63)	John C. Unkauf (A&S '67, G '70)	William S. King (M '73, PHTM '73)	Monica Gates (PHTM '83)
Lattie F. Collins Jr. (G '63)	Donald Van Cunningham (UC '67)	John L. Lord Jr. (UC '73)	Mark M. Griggs (E '83)
Francis P. Elstrott (UC '63)	Frances Sontheimer Wolff (NC '67, SW '75)	William T. McMahan (B '73)	Robert M. Richey (M '83)
Joel K. Gustafson (L '63)	Carolyn Chachere (SW '68)	Rosario A. Giangrosso (E '74)	Beverly Campbell Barrilleaux (UC '89)
Robert C. Hassinger (E '63)	Hugo E. Gallo-Torres (G '68)	Charles B. Montgomery (A '74)	Calvin J. Mosbey (UC '84)
Anne Ford Heard (SW '63)	Helen Haskins (NC '68)	Marilyn Morgan Nunnelee (G '74)	Jill Smiley Needleman (B '84)
Earl C. Hutchins (M '63)	Carol Henderson-Thompson (NC '68)	John F. Ryan III (UC '74)	William A. Slatten Jr. (A&S '84, B '86)
James L. Norr (A&S '63)	Christine McCall Probes (G '68)	Robert A. Goldberg (SW '75)	Cheri Smith (A '84)
Howard H. Russell Jr. (M '63)	Miles L. Standish (G '68)	Garrett E. Snipes (M '75)	Anna Monteiro Brans (SW '85)
James D. Russell (A&S '63)	Alan B. Bookman (A&S '69, L '71)	Charles E. Stokes Jr. (G '75)	Nora Baker Calice (UC '85)
John C. Scharfenberg (M '63)	Charlotte Wallis Chamberlain (G '69)	Aura Suarez Arostegui (UC '76)	Steven G. Corle (B '86)
Jeffrey F. Trahan (A&S '63)	Thomas S. Clower Jr. (UC '69)	Sandra Rabin Cahn (NC '76, SW '77)	Jerry B. Read (L '86)
Courtney Parker Dunlap (NC '64)	Charla Fair (SW '69)	Mary Daniel (NC '76)	Roberta McKinney Roman (G '86)
Harriet Priest Elliott (SW '64)	Jose A. Gonzalez Sr. (E '69)	Calvin G. Durel Jr. (A&S '76, M '81)	Robert L. Theriot (L '86)
Manuel R. Garcia (B '64)	Gayle P. Letulle (A&S '69, L '72)	Ricardo A. Manganaro (M '76)	Lois Vignes Upton (UC '86, L '87)
Charles R. Irvin (B '64)	Frank M. Lubrano Sr. (UC '69)	Steven N. Rice (M '76)	Roderick M. Buie III (PHTM '88)
Malcolm O. Magaw (G '64)	Thomas S. Padgett (M '69)	Julie Saul (NC '76)	Angela Fulginiti Dingbaum (PHTM '88)
Samuel T. Stone (B '64)	Steven T. Ross (B '69)	Valerie Fleming Turgeon (G '76)	Arthur L. Hensley Jr. (A&S '88)
Lynn Roth Jordan (NC '65)	Herbert M. Webb III (A&S '69)	Miriam Graybill Cooper (SW '77, NC '78)	Jules G. Mollere III (G '88)
Roger O. Lambson (G '65)	Mohammad M. Ahmad (PHTM '70)	Susan Sicotte Jepson (NC '77, SW '81)	Susan Morgan (G '88)
Paul P. Mehler (B '65)	John L. Alexander (G '70)	Stanley McDermott III (L '77)	Michael D. Rouchell (A '89)
Carolyn Runyan (SW '65)	Nicholas J. Campo Jr. (A&S '70, M '74)	Ross O. Pottschmidt (A&S '77)	Stephanie Clifton Solima (NC '89, SW '91)
Robert O. Begtrup (M '66)	Elias E. Ezra (E '70)	Robert J. Redman (A&S '77, B '79)	Randall K. Lowe (A&S '90)
Dale C. Biggers (A&S '66, E '68)	Dawn O. Remington (G '70)	John W. Van Manen (A&S '77, M '81)	Michael L. Sims (UC '91)
Robert E. Burke (PHTM '66)	Louis J. Schenck Jr. (UC '70)	Thomas C. Buchanan (M '78)	Carol Brupbacher Burch (SW '92)
Scott J. Ford (G '66)	John M. Snodsmith (M '70)	James G. Force III (B '78)	Daniel E. Eldredge (L '92)
Mark D. Kalish (A&S '66)	Michael A. Teague (M '70)	Charles L. Freeland (A&S '78)	Ronald E. Engel Jr. (A&S '92)
Michael D. Katzeff (E '66)	Linda Beckett Bracey (SW '71)	Mary Jane Fenner Ingram (NC '78, L '81)	Terri Fajans-Wilcox (SW '92)
Edwin W. Lewis Sr. (A&S '66)	William A. Gillaspie III (SW '71)	Joan Nell (PHTM '78)	Hugh W. Long III (L '92)
Denis H. McDonald (A&S '66)	Steven W. Kimble (E '71)	Michael L. Ruthrauff (M '78)	Joseph R. Mitchell Jr. (PHTM '92)
Reginald J. McIntyre (A&S '66)	Stephen P. Lowery (G '71)	Oliver S. Winter (PHTM '78)	Karen Hart Smith (SW '92)
Charles J. Robilio (B '66)	Leo J. McKenna III (A&S '71)	Patricia Jensen (B '79)	Randy D. Weaver (SW '92)
William D. Treeby (L '66)	Michael J. Pentecost (A&S '71, M '75)	Peter K. Makulec (B '79)	Robert E. Winn (L '92)
Dorothy Bergquist Wells (NC '66, G '67)	Fay Aycock Riddle (NC '71)	Kathryn Skibisky Norton (G '79)	Alexandra Lamothe Bloss (NC '93, L '98, PHTM '09)
Thomas M. Brabham Jr. (B '67)	George E. Shillington (UC '71)	Walter I. Willard (A&S '79, L '93)	Judith Garic Ogle (PHTM '93)
Angela Basile Campos (NC '67)	Peter M. Smith (PHTM '71)	Barry I. Finkel (B '80)	Sylvia Williams Poindexter (UC '93)
John R. Cleveland (UC '67)	Ronald S. Tilley (A&S '71)	Isaac F. Dale III (M '81)	Norwood O. Camus (UC '94)
Jeffrey P. Feingold (A&S '67)	Michael W. Bryant (B '72)	Daniel J. Kindel IV (A&S '81)	Patricia Greenwood Harrison (G '94)
Thomas W. Klein (M '67)	Richard J. Collings (G '72,)	Stephen C. Meyer (A&S '81)	Timothy Y. Maines Sr. (M '94)
Paul M. O'Gara (A&S '67)	Carole Dane (SW '72)	James R. Pond (E '81)	David P. Arceneaux (UC '95)
William D. Postell Jr. (A&S '67)	Alexandre J. Etienne (UC '72)	Laurance C. Carmichael (A&S '82)	James M. Pace (TC '95)
Ronald T. Scott (A&S '67)	Robert E. Selig (A&S '72)	Valerie Yeadon Lynd (UC '82)	Edgar K. Parks III (L '95)
John L. Spalding (A&S '67)	William P. Clarke (M '73)	Catherine Collat Mendel (NC '82)	

Christi Lieteau (UC '96)
 Patricia Shannon (SW '97)
 Lance P. Fontaine (TC '99)
 Kenneth A. McAshan (UC '99)
 Anne Smith Freedman (SW '99)
 Ryan W. Tyler (E '99)
 Lloyd E. Dodd Jr. (PHTM '00)
 Brandon H. Murphy (TC '01)
 Lorin Readmond (NC '02)
 Robert A. Scott (TC '02)
 Eric S. Bullington (PHTM '03)
 Joseph P. Levitt (TC '05)
 Amanda Bayard (NC '04)
 Treaneice Brown Kenner (SW '05)
 Julia Potts Grehan (SCS '06)
 Arfan R. Chaban (B '07)
 Winniefred Armour Jones (PHTM '07)
 Edward P. Peacock IV (L '07)
 Valerie Zukin (L '07)
 Trevor D. Top (SLA '08)
 Daniel C. Cummings (PHTM '09)
 John C. Davis (M '13)
 April Farmer (SCS '13)
 Christopher K. Kershaw (B '13)
 Jessica Schroeder (SSE '13)
 Elise Ingber (B '15)
 José M. Ramos III (SSE '16)
 Hugh J. Robertson (PHTM '17)
 Stephen J. Kling (B '21)

KEY TO SCHOOLS

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

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



TRIBUTE

PETER A. ROSENBAUM

Peter A. Rosenbaum (A&S '74, G '76, '81), a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the State University of New York–Oswego, died in July 2021. He was 68.

Peter was a triple Tulanian, having received BS, MS and PhD degrees in biology from the university. His PhD research in human genetics was conducted under the supervision of Peter Volpe, former chair of the Tulane Department of Biology, and concerned the “Red Bones,” a triracial population in south Louisiana. In 2000, Peter was co-author on the sixth edition of Volpe’s popular textbook *Understanding Evolution*; in 2010, he brought out the seventh edition as sole author under the title *Volpe’s Understanding Evolution*.

Over Peter’s distinguished career, his interests spanned conservation biology, ecology, evolution and genetics, and he also had a lifelong passion for herpetology. As a graduate student, his office in Dinwiddie Hall was full of pet snakes, some poisonous. Shortly after his first child was born, he survived a nasty bite from a water moccasin. It was then that his wife convinced him that he should switch his focus to less dangerous herpetological species. Wanting to see his daughter grow to adulthood, he listened to his wife’s advice.

He became the world’s leading expert on the bog turtle *Clemmys muhlenbergii*, the smallest turtle found in the United States, and an endangered species. In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service honored him with a Conservation Hero Award for his persistent conservation efforts on behalf of the bog turtle and the preservation of its habitats in upstate New York.

Peter loved Tulane, New Orleans and his family, and is remembered by a wide group of friends and former students. He is survived by his wife, Robin, his daughters Samantha and Sophia, and two grandchildren. 🍷

—Joan Wennstrom Bennett, professor of biology at Tulane from 1971–2005, served on Peter Rosenbaum’s dissertation committee in 1981. Bennett is now Distinguished Professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Office for the Promotion of Women in Science at Rutgers University.

2022 ALUMNI AWARDS



Dermot McGlinchey Lifetime Achievement Award

Catherine "Cathy" Deming Pierson (G '78, SW '89)

Catherine "Cathy" Deming Pierson is the former chair of the Board of Tulane — the first woman in Tulane's history to head its governing and policymaking body — and is presently an emeritus member. Along with her husband, Hunter, she has co-chaired two comprehensive fundraising campaigns at Tulane, including the current *Only the Audacious* campaign. Pierson has spent much of her career volunteering for New Orleans education. Her commitment has touched countless aspects of Tulane through her service and philanthropy.



Scott Cowen Service Award

Deidre D. Hayes (SW '90)

Deidre D. Hayes pulls from 30 years of clinical social work experience to empower her community. As a professor of practice at the School of Social Work, Hayes helps students understand the complex role of a social worker, while also contributing to the growth and support of the School of Social Work and its connection to New Orleans. She is program manager of the Poverty and Social Justice Program and runs the monthly Elk Place Health Spot.

International Award for Exceptional Achievement

Hanan al-Ahmadi (PHTM '89)

Hanan al-Ahmadi has been a member of the Shura Council (Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia) since 2013 and has served as assistant speaker since October 2020, the first woman to hold the position. She is a professor of health services administration and is a visiting fellow at the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre of the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. She authored *Patient Safety and Quality of Health Care* in 2016.



Tulane Medicine Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award

James R. Andrews, MD (R '72)

Dr. James R. Andrews, internationally recognized for his scientific and clinical research, is a founding partner and medical director for The Andrews Institute in Gulf Breeze, Florida, and a member of the Tulane Medical School Board of Governors. Andrews has mentored hundreds of sports medicine fellows; he advises intercollegiate sports programs and several professional sports teams and associations. Andrews is a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.



Lisa Jackson Professional Achievement Award

Joseph M. Kanter, MD (M '10, PHTM '10)

Dr. Joseph Kanter is the state health officer and medical director of the Louisiana Department of Health, and a clinical assistant professor in Tulane's Department of Medicine at the School of Medicine. Kanter has been a very visible leader in addressing the pandemic in Louisiana, from mitigation measures to vaccine deployment. He previously served as director of health for the city of New Orleans. A former Fulbright Fellow, Kanter remains active with his alma mater.



Bobby Boudreau Spirit Award

Michael D. Rubenstein (B '90, L '93)

Michael Rubenstein, a managing partner and member of the board of directors of the Houston branch of Liskow and Lewis law firm, first demonstrated the Roll Wave spirit as an undergraduate, when he served as a trainer for Tulane's football program. Known for his sartorial spirit, Rubenstein also supports Tulane with both his time and his philanthropy. He is a current member of the Law Dean's Advisory Board and the National Campaign Council for the Houston area.

Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Alumni Award

Neil M. Meltzer (PHTM '81)

Neil Meltzer is president and CEO of LifeBridge Health, which he has led through a period of strategic growth into an integrated healthcare delivery system. Meltzer's public health background equips him to bring a community-focused approach to every healthcare decision. He serves on the boards of the Greater Baltimore Committee, Notre Dame of Maryland University and the Maryland Hospital Association, among others, and was one of 15 national workforce healthcare champions appointed by President Barack Obama.



Distinguished Alumnus Award

Wayne J. Lee (A&S '71, L '74)

Wayne Lee is a legal trailblazer. A member of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann and the first African American president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Lee is an inductee of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the National Bar Association Hall of Fame, and the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame, as well as an emeritus member of the Board of Tulane. He is also an advocate for students of color in the legal community throughout Louisiana.



A BETTER TOMORROW

BY MIKE FITTS, President

A national research university such as Tulane brings individuals from the widest range of backgrounds, geographies and viewpoints together for an intensive, yearslong living and learning experience. Such breadth of knowledge and perspectives helps drive collaboration, innovation and the pursuit of excellence as we work to create a better tomorrow.

And a better tomorrow is something all of us have been hoping for, especially over the last two years. COVID-19 presented an existential challenge to universities while also highlighting our *raison d'être*. It made university-based research and health care more relevant than ever while simultaneously leading some to question the wisdom of the residential university model.

College students were sometimes cast as particularly virulent vectors of this disease and many commentators opined that universities should halt in-person instruction.

At Tulane, we knew our research, healthcare and educational mission had an important role to play in confronting this global threat. We had to stay open but do so with the health of our students, faculty, staff and neighbors as our top priority. The resulting testing, contact tracing and quarantine/isolation program we implemented, along with strict safety protocols,



Giselle Salvant, a nurse at Tulane Medical Center, receives the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine distribution began at the medical center on Dec. 16, 2020.


made Tulane one of the nation's leaders in adapting to the challenges of COVID-19.

The importance of maintaining on-ground operations became apparent immediately. Our healthcare professionals cared for the sickest COVID-19 patients, our researchers pursued the fastest tests and most effective treatments and vaccines, and our social work and other mental health professionals provided emotional care and support for the most vulnerable. Every school and facet of the university marshaled its expertise, knowledge and skill against a common foe.

But we didn't do it by ourselves or only for ourselves. In partnership with the city of New Orleans, we provided testing to

city and state first responders. We made inoculations available to community members and other neighboring universities in the early days of the vaccine rollout.

Knowing the devastating effect COVID-19 was having on local businesses — especially in such a service-oriented, public-facing economy like our city's, School of Medicine students and faculty established the Business Resilience and Community Education (BRACE) program, which advised restaurants and other local enterprises on how to reopen during the pandemic, while also protecting public health. I joined university leaders and faculty in serving on the mayor's COVID-19 advisory panel and conferred with other universities on the next steps forward.

We cannot tell what the months ahead will bring in terms of COVID-19. But we do know that we are better prepared to meet the next challenge thanks to the knowledge we have gained by our shared experiences, the insights and the skills we have acquired through our collective efforts, and the spirit of innovation and determination that defines Tulane. 



We had to stay open but do so with the health of our students, faculty, staff and neighbors as our top priority.

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OCTOBER 21-23 | 2022

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ENDING IN
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*Homecoming Game
against the Memphis Tigers*



vs.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Tailgating on Berger Family Lawn before game

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TIPPING POINT**

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