

THE MAGAZINE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY / SPRING 2023

# TULANIAN

Celebrating  
the Class of  
**2023**



## *HATS OFF **TU** OUR GRADS!*

After President Michael A. Fitts conferred degrees, the Class of 2023 celebrated with the ceremonial tossing of the caps while being serenaded in true New Orleans fashion by a second-line brass band and booming fireworks.





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## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

At the Tulane Unified Commencement Ceremony on May 20, the Class of 2023 gathered in Yulman Stadium to celebrate their academic achievements. In his Commencement address, President Michael A. Fitts heralded the class as champions at the annual event, which includes live music, inspiring speeches and a spectacular fireworks display.



### 16 CRAFTING A CAREER

Tulane offers a new take on the liberal arts degree. The School of Liberal Arts' Strategy, Leadership and Analytics Minor (SLAM) prepares graduates to be leaders who can manage the dynamics of rapidly changing marketplaces and adapt strategically and creatively for future careers.



### 22 BEST IN GLASS

Co-founded by Tulanians Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz, Glass Half Full is a New Orleans glass recycling enterprise on a mission to restore coastal land.



### 28 COMPASSIONATE DOCTOR, TIRELESS RESEARCHER

Dr. Paul Kieran Whelton leads the way in the prevention and treatment of high blood pressure, a global killer.

## Make Way

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

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Photo by Cheryl Gerber



# Yeah, You Write

## To the Editor

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

### Sounds of the city

I enjoyed an entire Sunday evening searching YouTube for all the songs listed in the delightful “Louisiana Music Party.” I am a fourth-generation New Orleanian who has, sadly, not lived there since 1984. Many memories of my childhood were recalled as I listened to the songs. I was familiar with most but had never heard “My Dawlin’ New Orleans.” What a treat! I have lost my “Yat” accent, but I still affectionately call my loved ones “mahiddledawlins.” I wanted to add another post-Katrina song that I think describes the quintessential New Orleanian and the spunky, persevering and tenacious spirit to always begin again. Check out the New Orleans-loving Jimmy Buffett’s “Breathe In, Breathe Out, Move On.”

**Peggy Hubsch Furrow, E ’79**

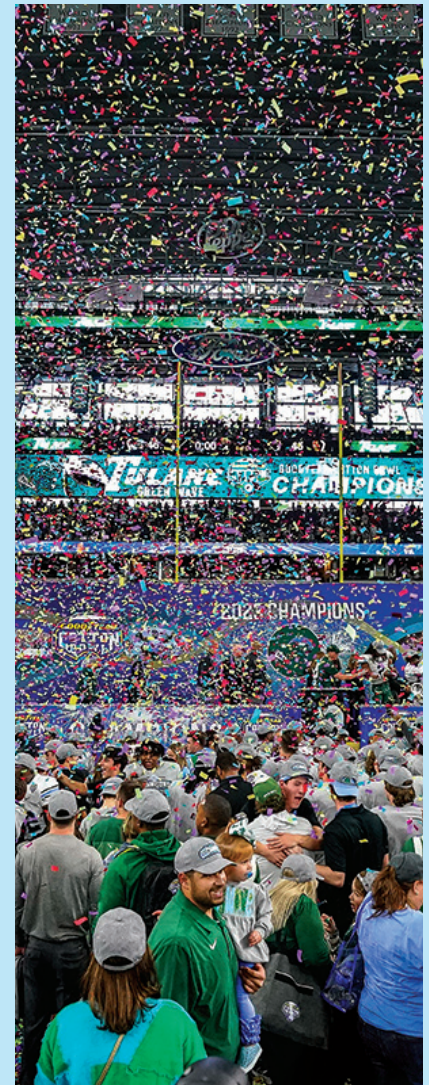
*Katy, Texas*

### Green Wave fans won, too

As a huge fan of college football and sports in general, there was no doubt the Tulane victory at the Cotton Bowl Classic was the BEST day of my sports life! The incredible win was great but seeing the utter joy and happiness on the faces of all of the Green Wave fans was truly magical. Everyone was smiling, some were crying tears of joy and the jubilation was intoxicating! I just wish my Dad (Joseph Dalton E ’57, B ’61) had been with us for the celebration. Thank you Green Wave Football for such a fantastic day!

**Carey Dalton Ebert, NC ’82**

*Colleyville, Texas*



### Triumphant season

As a 1963 graduate of Tulane (Chemical Engineering), my classmates and I endured several “less than satisfactory” football seasons, ending in our senior year’s record of 0 and 11!! I did, though, attend all three of the victories over LSU, which was of some satisfaction. A number of my Tulane grad friends were together in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, when the amazing Cotton Bowl victory happened. In fact, the LSU game was on in the den while we were celebrating — some of them joined us.

Congratulations, Greenies – it was a magical season! I look forward to the upcoming years of excitement!

**Garnett Bedenbaugh, E ’63**

*Hammond, Louisiana*

# In Brief

## ACADEMICS

### NEW MBA CURRICULUM

The A. B. Freeman School of Business will begin a new full-time MBA curriculum in fall 2023. The curriculum is built on three key pillars: data-driven decision making, cross-functional experiential learning, and broad-based preparation for the business world of the future. In addition to Finance and Business Analytics, the curriculum offers new concentrations in Sustainability and Strategy & Marketing.

[tulane.it/new-mba-curriculum](https://tulane.it/new-mba-curriculum)

## ACADEMICS

### NEWCOMB INSTITUTE

Anita Raj is the new executive director of the Newcomb Institute. Prior to joining Tulane, Raj was at the University of California–San Diego, where she was the inaugural Tata Chancellor Professor of Society and Health, founding director of the Center on Gender, Equity and Health, and holder of faculty appointments in the schools of Medicine and Social Sciences.

[tulane.it/newcomb-institute](https://tulane.it/newcomb-institute)

## ACADEMICS

### HISTORY PROJECT

Marcia Walker-McWilliams will lead the Tulane History Project and its effort to develop a detailed history of Tulane with respect to its racial history and founding, including the impacts from slavery and segregation. Walker-McWilliams previously served as executive director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium at the University of Chicago, taught American history and African American studies courses at several universities, and served as associate director in the Center for Civic Leadership at Rice University.

[tulane.it/history-project](https://tulane.it/history-project)

## QUOTED

“If ChatGPT eliminates rote work, freeing academic minds to pursue new possibilities and apply their time and energy to solve novel problems, **it could multiply academic potential** and lead to more breakthroughs more quickly. In fields such as biomedical research, the result could be lifesaving.”

**TULANE PRESIDENT MICHAEL A. FITTS** writes in an opinion piece in *USA Today* about ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot that answers questions, generates essays, poems, short passages and more.

[tulane.it/colleges-should-embrace-chatgpt](https://tulane.it/colleges-should-embrace-chatgpt)

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### PROVOST'S PROOF OF CONCEPT FUND

The Tulane Innovation Institute, in collaboration with Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman, has launched the Provost's Proof of Concept Fund to provide competitive grants of up to \$50,000 to help university faculty, graduate students or staff get promising ideas and technologies ready for the market.

[tulane.it/provost-proof-fund](https://tulane.it/provost-proof-fund)

## ACADEMICS

### FULBRIGHT TOP PRODUCER

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs named Tulane a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. Students, a recognition given to the U.S. colleges and universities that received the highest number of applicants selected in the program last year. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the government's flagship international educational exchange program.

[tulane.it/fulbright-top-producer](https://tulane.it/fulbright-top-producer)



FROM CAMPUS

### NEW PODCASTS AVAILABLE

*On Good Authority's* latest episodes feature Tulane alumnus Harry Gestetner, founder of FanFix, and Rob Lalka, executive director of the Albert Lepage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, discussing the **influencer economy**, along with Julia Fleckman, assistant professor at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, discussing **gun violence research**.

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



The second annual New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University took place in March, doubling its attendance and bringing authors, journalists and fans of the written word together on the uptown campus.

## BOOK FEST 2023 CELEBRATES WRITERS AND READERS

The second annual New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University, held March 9-11, attracted over 12,000 book lovers of all ages to the uptown campus. The three-day festival featured more than 130 national, regional and local authors, including 51 who were from Tulane, three National Book Award winners and 11 Pulitzer Prize-winning authors and journalists.

The festival included 75 thought-provoking panel discussions and conversations spanning topics including politics, history, journalism, current events, fiction writing, climate change, New Orleans music and culture, and much more. Family Day at the Fest, held in Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse, offered young readers music, games, crafts, and story time. Children also received free books to commemorate their special day at the fest.

[tulane.it/book-fest-2023-celebrates-writers-readers](https://tulane.it/book-fest-2023-celebrates-writers-readers)

### IN THE NEWS

#### BLACK CHURCHGOERS' HEALTH

Katherine Mills, associate professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, said in *U.S. News and World Report*, "If we meet people where they are, we may be able to have an impact on cardiovascular health in this population." Mills co-authored a preliminary study that indicates religious beliefs of Black churchgoers in New Orleans may influence health behaviors.

[tulane.it/black-churchgoers-health](https://tulane.it/black-churchgoers-health)

### QUOTED

**"The bottom line is, I don't see how the government can actually get away with banning all of TikTok from everyone."**

**ASHLEY NELSON**, A. B. Freeman School of Business professor, said in a *Yahoo Finance* article about the likelihood of a sweeping ban on TikTok by the U.S. Congress.

[tulane.it/ban-on-tiktok](https://tulane.it/ban-on-tiktok)

### IN THE NEWS

#### VENUS SPACE MISSION

In a *CNN Wonder* article about the NASA Magellan spacecraft's capture of imagery of Venus in the 1990s, Jennifer Whitten, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, said, "Now that we're very sure the planet experienced a volcanic eruption only 30 years ago, this is a small preview for the incredible discoveries VERITAS will make." Whitten is associate deputy principal investigator of VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy), a new mission that will head for Venus within a decade.

[tulane.it/venus-space-mission](https://tulane.it/venus-space-mission)

RESEARCH

**SYNTHETIC SKIN FOR MOSQUITO STUDY**

A research partnership between Tulane and Rice universities has developed gelatin-like patches of fake skin — called hydrogels — to assist in the study of how mosquitoes transmit deadly diseases and which repellents are most effective. The hydrogels eliminate the need for human and animal testing.

[tulane.it/synthetic-skin-mosquito-study](https://tulane.it/synthetic-skin-mosquito-study)

RESEARCH

**PNEUMONIA VACCINE**

School of Medicine researchers Elizabeth Norton and Dr. Jay Kolls have developed a nasal spray vaccine to thwart antibiotic-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, a leading cause of bacterial pneumonia. They were awarded a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases contract worth up to \$16 million to bring a nasal spray pneumonia vaccine to Phase 1 clinical trial.

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

COMMUNITY MINDED

**SCIENCE FAIR**

Hundreds of middle and high school students participated in the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair, held on the uptown campus in the spring. Promising students in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes were nominated to participate by their schools. Judges included faculty and students from the School of Science and Engineering.

[tulane.it/science-fair](https://tulane.it/science-fair)

COVID-19 RESEARCH

**BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS**

A study led by Yixue Shao, health policy and management researcher at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, examined data from nearly 45,000 female Medicaid beneficiaries in Louisiana and found that breast cancer screening rates decreased to nearly zero in April 2020, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates fully recovered by mid-2021.

[tulane.it/breast-cancer-screenings](https://tulane.it/breast-cancer-screenings)

MEDICINE

**TRAILBLAZERS**

The School of Medicine has honored six alumni as Tulane Trailblazers for their achievements in the medical field with a visual display along the walls of Hutchinson Auditorium on the downtown campus. The Trailblazers are Dr. Michael DeBakey, Dr. Anna Cherrie Epps, Dr. Alberto G. Garcia, Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Dr. Rachel Levine and Dr. Clyde Yancy.

[tulane.it/trailblazers-hutchinson](https://tulane.it/trailblazers-hutchinson)

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING PHYSICS

**AID TO UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS**

Denys Bondar and Matthew Escarra, faculty members in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at the School of Science and Engineering, sent solar cell samples, a solar power meter, thermal imaging camera and other electronics equipment to support colleagues at the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute in Ukraine after a Russian missile destroyed their research labs.

[tulane.it/aid-ukrainian-scientists](https://tulane.it/aid-ukrainian-scientists)

ATHLETICS

**FOOTBALL TEAM HONORED AT LA. CAPITOL**

The Green Wave football team and Head Coach Willie Fritz were invited to the Louisiana Capitol to be recognized by Gov. John Bel Edwards and the Louisiana House of Representatives, as a special honor after the team's historic Cotton Bowl win in January.

[tulane.it/football-team-la-capitol](https://tulane.it/football-team-la-capitol)

RESEARCH

**CHAGAS VACCINE**

Tulane researchers at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the Tulane National Primate Research Center have developed a Chagas vaccine that safely protects heart function in nonhuman primates. The development is a critical step toward human clinical trials. There is currently no available vaccine for Chagas.

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



HISTORY

**NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL**

Walter Isaacson, the Leonard Lauder Professor of American History and Values and co-chair of the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane, was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Joe Biden. The medal recognizes individuals and organizations whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of and engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy and other humanities subjects.

[tulane.it/national-humanities-medal](https://tulane.it/national-humanities-medal)

LIBERAL ARTS

**SHAKESPEARE AND RACE**

The School of Liberal Arts and the Folger Shakespeare Library co-sponsored a scholarly conference and workshop, "Rac(e)ing the Shakespearean Archive: Antebellum, Civil War and Reconstruction New Orleans," which examined the role of race and modern interpretations in William Shakespeare's work. Held in February, the conference featured *Othello* performances with actors of different ethnicities and genders.

[tulane.it/shakespeare-race](https://tulane.it/shakespeare-race)



QUOTED

“Look at any map or satellite image of New Orleans, and you will still readily see the imprint of this old, French surveying system from centuries ago.”

**RICHARD CAMPANELLA**, geographer and associate dean for research at the School of Architecture, said in a *Voice of America* interview, discussing the city’s French roots and influence. Campanella deeply examines the city in several books, including his latest, *Draining New Orleans: The 300-Year Quest to Dewater the Crescent City* and in *The West Bank of Greater New Orleans: A Historical Geography*.

[tulane.it/french-roots](https://tulane.it/french-roots)

RESEARCH

### DEMENTIA RISK LINKED TO COLDS

Getting sick often may impact how quickly the brain ages and increase the risk of dementia or other forms of cognitive decline, according to a study led by Elizabeth Engler-Chiurazzi, assistant professor of neurosurgery and behavioral neuroscientist at the School of Medicine. The study found that repeated, intermittent experiences with moderate inflammation, such as that caused by the flu or a common cold, caused impaired cognition.

[tulane.it/dementia-risk-colds](https://tulane.it/dementia-risk-colds)

ON CAMPUS

### CHAPTER IV RESTAURANT

Chef Edgar “Dook” Chase IV, grandson of New Orleans’ Creole cuisine legend Leah Chase, and his wife, Gretchen, opened Chapter IV, a restaurant in the new Thirteen15 building on Tulane’s downtown campus. The restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and Sunday brunch. The Thirteen15 building, located on Gravier Street, is the current site of the Tulane Innovation Institute and home to apartments designed for members of the Tulane community.

[tulane.it/chapter-iv-restaurant](https://tulane.it/chapter-iv-restaurant)

LIBRARIES

### LOUIS PRIMA COLLECTION

The Louis Prima collection has been processed by Tulane University Special Collections and is now accessible to researchers. The collection includes personal and business papers, correspondence, sheet music, photographs, publicity materials and audiovisual materials related to Louis Prima, the legendary New Orleans-born singer, songwriter, bandleader and trumpeter.

[tulane.it/louis-prima-collection](https://tulane.it/louis-prima-collection)

RESEARCH

### ORAL HEALTH AND HIV

Researchers at the Tulane National Primate Research Center will examine how chronic oral infections affect the severity of HIV infection and the efficacy of antiretroviral therapies used to treat HIV. A \$1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health will fund this research, which will be led by Prasun Datta, associate professor of microbiology and immunology.

[tulane.it/oral-health-hiv](https://tulane.it/oral-health-hiv)

LIBERAL ARTS

### HUMANITIES CONSORTIUM

Tulane has joined the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Research University Consortium, which comprises a select group of ACLS associate members that are prominent institutions who play a leadership role in sustaining and enhancing the national infrastructure of humanities and interpretive social sciences research.

[tulane.it/humanities-consortium](https://tulane.it/humanities-consortium)

ATHLETICS

### BASKETBALL SUCCESS

Tulane Women’s Basketball Head Coach Lisa Stockton became the all-time winningest women’s college basketball coach in the state of Louisiana with 577 wins after leading the Green Wave to a 65-54 victory at Cincinnati in February. In March, men’s basketball head coach Ron Hunter garnered his 500th career win with Tulane’s 83-82 victory over Temple, the Green Wave’s regular season finale.

[tulane.it/basketball-success-stockton](https://tulane.it/basketball-success-stockton)

[tulane.it/hunter-500-win](https://tulane.it/hunter-500-win)

ACADEMICS

### GLOBAL VISITING SCHOLARS

Mariam Taqaddusi, who fled Afghanistan, and Islam Ahmed, who fled Egypt, are part of the Tulane Global Visiting Scholars Program, which was established to broaden and deepen global perspectives at Tulane while supporting scholars who face significant risk to their lives and well-being. Taqaddusi is affiliated with the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and the Newcomb Institute. Ahmed is affiliated with the Department of Political Science and the Middle East and North African Studies Program.

[tulane.it/global-visiting-scholars](https://tulane.it/global-visiting-scholars)

LIBERAL ARTS

### DISTINGUISHED ETHNOBIOLOGIST

William Balée, chair of the Department of Anthropology at the School of Liberal Arts, has been awarded the Distinguished Ethnobiologist Award by the Society of Ethnobiology, the society’s highest recognition of lifetime achievement. Balée was recognized for demonstrating “the ideal of sustained scholarly excellence and leadership, with humble dedication to supporting ethnobiology students both at his institution and in the society.”

[tulane.it/distinguished-ethnobiologist](https://tulane.it/distinguished-ethnobiologist)

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[tulane.it/tulane-today](https://tulane.it/tulane-today)

# Up First

# 1

The first **Tulane Research, Innovation and Creativity Summit**, held in March 2023, brought together scholars from across all disciplines to showcase the excellence and diversity of research and creative work at the university.

## SUMMIT

# 365

More than **365 poster displays** were installed to highlight the work.

# 30

There were **30 poster competition winners**. Most posters had three to 10 authors, including faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, other researchers and non-Tulane affiliates.

# 2

Poster sessions were presented for **2 days** at the summit, which was held at the Jung Hotel in downtown New Orleans.

# 20

Nearly **20 Tulane offices and units** were represented at the summit.

# 250

Nearly **250 attendees signed in** at the Jung Hotel venue, and 100 people attended Tulane Research, Innovation and Creativity Summit lectures at Tulane Law School and the A. B. Freeman School of Business.



## CARBON FOOTPRINTS

BY ANDREW J. YAWN

**A** new study published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* compared popular diets on both nutritional quality and environmental impact and found that the keto and paleo diets, as eaten by American adults, scored among the lowest on overall nutrition quality and were among the highest on carbon emissions.

The study, whose senior author is Diego Rose, professor and nutrition program director at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, compiled diet quality scores using data from more than 16,000 adult diets collected by the CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Rose said that this is the first study to measure the carbon footprints of each diet and compare them to other common diets.

"We suspected the negative climate impacts because they're meat-centric, but no one had really compared all these diets," Rose said.

The keto diet, which prioritizes high amounts of fat and low amounts of carbs, was estimated to generate almost 3 kg of carbon dioxide for every 1,000 calories consumed. The paleo diet, which eschews grains and beans in favor of meats, nuts and vegetables, received the next lowest diet quality score and also had a high carbon footprint, at 2.6 kg of carbon dioxide per 1,000 calories.

A vegan diet was found to be the least impactful on climate, generating 0.7 kg of carbon dioxide per 1,000 calories consumed, less than a quarter of the impact of the keto diet. The pescatarian diet scored highest on nutritional quality of the diets analyzed.

The omnivore diet — the most common diet, represented by 86% of survey participants — sat squarely in the middle of the pack of both quality and sustainability. Based on the findings, if a third of those on omnivore diets began eating a vegetarian diet, on average for any given day, it would be equivalent to eliminating carbon emissions of 340 million passenger vehicle miles. 🌱

A new study has found that foods featured in the keto diet — which prioritizes high amounts of fat and low amounts of carbs — produce the most carbon emissions of six popular diets, while the vegan diet is associated with the lowest carbon footprint.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

BY ALICIA SERRANO BILICH

**T**he School of Social Work and Tulane Athletics have teamed up to support athletes' training and mental health through virtual reality-based mindfulness.

With this one-of-a-kind method, a virtual reality headset is used to help immerse athletes in a more relaxed state when preparing for — or even during — a game or competition. Some players of the Tulane Football team utilized the headset during their magical 2022 season — to help them when overheated, when experiencing muscle cramps and when rehabilitating from injuries.

"We use the virtual reality to help calm some of the hyperexcitability of the nervous system," said Dr. Gregory Stewart, team physician and the W. Kennon McWilliams Professor in Sports Medicine at Tulane.

The method adds a new approach to athletic training.

"For many years, we've often thought of training for this sport as weight training, doing practices," said School of Social Work Dean Patrick Bordnick. "Now, we're really getting in tune with the behavioral health of the athlete."

The guided virtual reality-based mindfulness is intended to be done about 8-10 minutes a day, Bordnick said. He added that the model has been expanded to the Tulane cross-country, baseball and sailing teams.

"We're there to help our athletes become the best people they can be," Bordnick said. 🌱

**"We use the virtual reality to help calm some of the hyperexcitability of the nervous system."**

**DR. GREGORY STEWART,**

Tulane team physician and the W. Kennon McWilliams Professor in Sports Medicine

# QUARTERBACK PRATT RETURNS

BY BARRI BRONSTON

**T**ulane quarterback Michael Pratt refused to let the last 4½ minutes of this year's Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic get to him. With the Green Wave trailing USC by 15 points in what was easily the biggest game of his career, he knew anything was possible.

In typical Pratt fashion, the junior from Boca Raton, Florida, calmly and confidently jogged onto the field.

"We knew we had to score quickly," Pratt said. "That's when I hit Duece (Watts) for that big play." One play later, running back Tyjae Spears dashed 4 yards into the end zone.

Then the seemingly impossible happened. A muffed kickoff meant USC would be starting at its own 2-yard line. "As soon as that happened, Joey Claybrook (left tackle) looked at me and said, 'We're going to get a safety, we're going to get the ball back and we're going to win this game.'"

"As soon as we got the safety, we all just looked at each other, and you could just see it in everybody's eyes. There was no doubt that we were going to score."

When the clock ticked down to 0:00, Tulane had indeed won the game, setting off a celebration like no other. Pratt savored the victory, using it as motivation for his upcoming senior season.

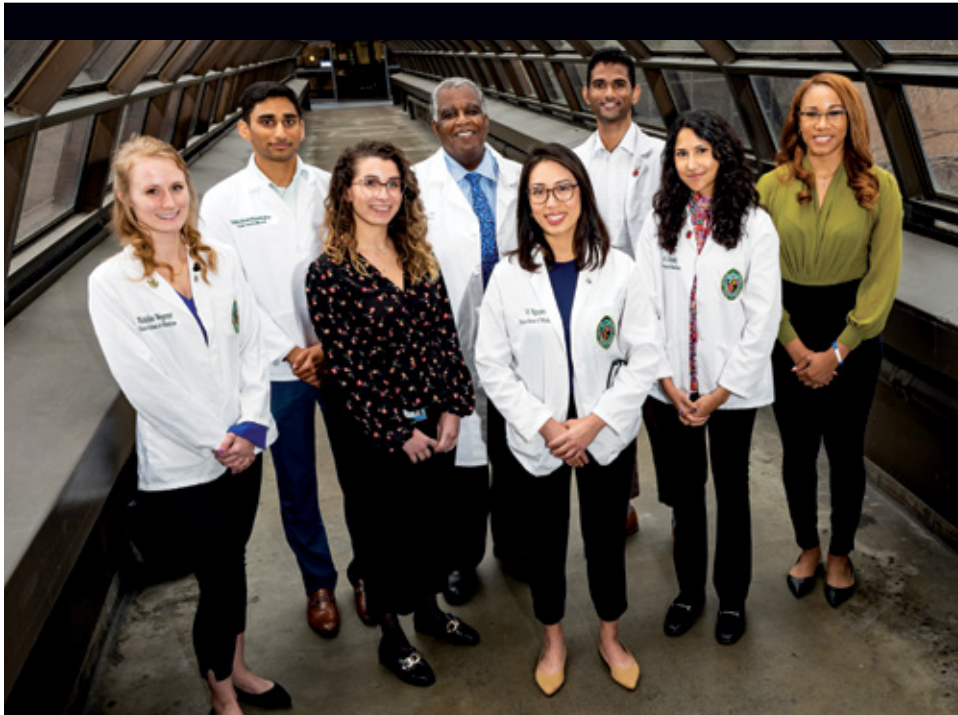
But would he play at Tulane or enter the transfer portal and perhaps play for a Power 5 school? The offers were there, offers that could go a long way toward his dream of playing in the NFL. But in the end, the decision was easy.

"This is my home," he said. "It's where my friends and family are. I love the coaching staff. I love New Orleans. I love the relationships I have here. And I know I wouldn't have that anywhere else."

He said his friend Jared Moorer, a cornerback who transferred to Tulane this year from Charleston Southern, may have put it best. "He said, 'Everyone on this team is a genuinely good person.' That's a reflection on Coach Fritz and the standards he has set for this team." 🏈

New Orleans is like home to Tulane quarterback Michael Pratt, who returns for another year of Green Wave football in the fall.





Dr. Keith Ferdinand and a group of Tulane students published their research on racial health disparities in a special edition of *American Heart Journal*. (Front row, from left) Farah Allouch, Vi Nguyen and Tina Reddy; (back row, from left) Madeline Wegener, Sai Nedunchezian, Ferdinand, Pavan Guduri and Amanda Hercules.

# HEALTH DISPARITIES

BY ANDREW J. YAWN

Three years after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed racial and ethnic health disparities nationwide, those disparities continue to exist in American communities of color.

Black Americans ages 18-49 are twice as likely to die from heart disease as White Americans, according to the CDC. Hypertension, the leading preventable risk factor for premature death worldwide, is more prevalent in Black Americans than any other group, and fewer Black Americans receive adequate blood pressure medication than White Americans.

At Tulane, a team of medical students has worked alongside Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, the Gerald S. Berenson Chair in Preventative Cardiology, to examine racial and ethnic health disparities and, in some cases, provide solutions.

The students' research ranges from examining the history of legislation around sugary drinks to a program that used text alerts to remind community members to take blood pressure medications.

A collection of the research was recently published in *Cardiac Disparities Special Edition* in *American Heart Journal Open*.

"Simply waiting for the intermittent physician office visit will not address the poor levels of hypertension control seen in racial and ethnic minority populations," Ferdinand said. "A just society will not allow these health inequities to persist, and we need to have everyone work together, not only physicians, but also advanced practice nurses, public health officials, medical students, community members, and patients working as integrated team-based approach."

Third-year medical student Tina Reddy said that her work in the field with Ferdinand only enhanced the "cultural humility" training she's received while studying at the medical school.

"Dr. Ferdinand mentors so many of us students and gives us the opportunity to see what's going on in our communities firsthand. We have to really understand the barriers patients face and the social factors that affect their day-to-day life." 🏠

People on social media react to President Michael A. Fitts' opinion on ChatGPT published in *USA Today*, the promise of the Tulane Innovation Institute, springtime on campus and the New Orleans Book Festival.

Thank you, President Fitts; outstanding messaging and leadership. Let's enjoy being part of the continuous and exciting technology trends as life will always **provide us constant change and opportunities for growth.**

Melissa Brown

**I love that there is an open effort for an Innovation Institute that involves the city and community.**

Ruby Schlesier

Springtime on campus. My favorite season at Tulane. The azaleas are insanely beautiful. When I think back to my time there, **there are ALWAYS azaleas.** 🌸

Ashley Tortorice

@tulaneu hosted a phenomenal gathering of minds, ideas, and conversations. And as much as I was there for all of that, I was there for the food. 🍕 #NOLABookfest2023

Larry Schloss

Visiting my alma mater @tulaneu for the @nolabookfest and thinking about how I can continue to innovate teaching and learning. **Always learning and trying to make the impossible possible.**

@bennygram

# GET ME TO THE COTTON BOWL ON TIME!

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

**E**ternal optimists and lifelong Tulane fans like Richard Roussel never gave up on Green Wave football — and they were rewarded with the epic Goodyear Classic Cotton Bowl win in January.

Richard is a lifelong Tulane fan and eternal optimist. For reasons that baffle me, he graduated from LSU.

Back when Tulane was playing at the Superdome, Richard would survey the crowd and say something like, “I think there’s 30,000 people here tonight.” Later the PA announcer would say, “Tonight’s paid attendance: 15,101.”

Obviously, he was mega-excited when Tulane accepted a Cotton Bowl bid. As the game got closer, I called him to see how he was doing and when he was leaving for Dallas.

“Can’t go,” the raspy, sad voice said. “We’ve both got COVID, and we have to test negative twice before we’re cleared.” A couple days later they tested again. Still positive. Gloom and doom reigned in their household.

At this point Murphy’s law was in full effect. That law states, “Anything that can go wrong will go wrong — and at the worst possible moment.” A corollary is: “Nothing is as easy as it looks.”

Then came their last shot at going. He called me: “We did it! We tested negative! Finally! We’re going!” I joined him in his happiness.

On Sunday morning he called a cab at 7 a.m. He called five times. No answer. They got notices from Southwest Airlines saying their flight had been delayed. Twelve hours later, their cab arrived at 7 p.m.

At the airport all flights were delayed several times. However, the airline’s seemingly quirky cancellations were not to blame. It was the fog!

The Roussels realized their flight to Houston would arrive too late to make the connection to Dallas. Discouraged, they cancelled and went home and unpacked two bags. Richard took a nap, which was no surprise, since he is a napholic.

Later, after calling Southwest Airlines, an agent found them two seats. Once his wife tried to book them, they were already gone. So they looked online and found a flight that arrived in Houston at 8:50 p.m. and arrived in Dallas at 10:35 p.m.

They re-packed their bags and prepared to go to Armstrong International. There they boarded their flight — and sat on the runway for 15 minutes. They waited for a plane to leave that was designated for the Roussel plane to depart to Dallas.

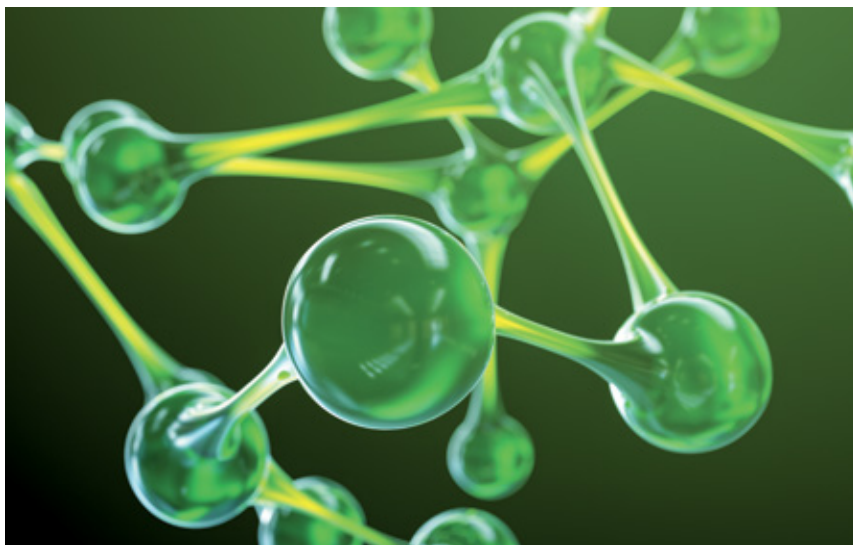
Finally they arrived in Dallas, home of the Cotton Bowl, the Dallas Cowboys and cheerleaders, which is known sarcastically as “Jerry’s World” for the flamboyant owner of the Cowboys, Jerry Jones. Unfortunately, it was so late there were no cabs, Ubers, Lyfts or limos. Not even a bicycle for two or a rickshaw.

There was another passenger from New Orleans, Rob Worley, a graduate of Tulane Law School. He hailed an SUV. “We had no clue whether he was licensed or not,” Richard recalled. “But he got us to the hotel and he got paid.”

The Roussels’ story in 24 grueling hours had gone from “the biggest disappointment of my life” to “the greatest game I’ve ever seen!”

A 46-45 win over Southern Cal will do that to you! 🍀





# GREENER POLYMERS

BY BARRI BRONSTON

In 1997, Tulane physics professor Wayne Reed developed a technology in his lab to make the production of polymers — which are used to create plastics and other widely used products — greener and more efficient.

Reed's technology, known as Automatic Continuous Online Monitoring of Polymerization (ACOMP), also aims to improve product quality and enable the manufacture of more sophisticated polymers, while reducing emissions and energy consumption and increasing the safety of workers and surrounding communities.

Within a year of conceiving his idea, Reed and his students constructed their first prototype for their new process and published their first peer-reviewed article, which immediately drew the attention of major industries.

"At that point, I envisioned the technology coming into widespread industrial use in about five years," Reed said. "But it actually took 25 years for it to go from proof-of-concept to adoption by a global high technology company."

Early in 2023, Yokogawa Electric bought the company that licensed and

commercialized Reed's innovation, Fluence Analytics, making it one of Tulane's most successful spinouts ever.

In lauding Fluence's success story, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said he envisions a future where the lab-to-market process is completed in much less time.

"This type of innovative, translational work embodies our vision for research at Tulane," Fitts said. "Fluence is a case study in tech development and deployment. Tulane recently launched the Innovation Institute to bring breakthroughs and research like this to market faster."

Kimberly Gramm, the David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer at the Tulane Innovation Institute, called the acquisition of Fluence Analytics by Yokogawa "a spectacular story about excellence and perseverance."

"This is a great example of what is possible," she said. "Their journey is precisely what the Innovation Institute is here to help other innovators and entrepreneurs accomplish ... We want to provide guidance, so more ideas and technologies are de-risked quickly to make a difference."

**"We want to help young innovators and entrepreneurs get oriented in the fraught waters of IP and startups."**


WAYNE REED,  
Tulane physics professor

It's a move that Reed embraces.

"We want to help young innovators and entrepreneurs get oriented in the fraught waters of IP and startups," he said. "It's not for the faint-hearted."

The co-founders of Fluence Analytics, which got its start as Advanced Polymer Monitoring Technologies, are all Tulane graduates, including Reed's son Alex Reed (SLA '09), Michael Drenski (G '05) and Bill Bottoms (G '69).

Fluence Analytics is among numerous companies that began at Tulane with assistance from the New Orleans Bioinnovation Center and the Tulane Office of Intellectual Property Management, which protects technologies created from research and assists with patent strategies and de-risking technologies for commercialization.

In addition to ACOMP, the Fluence Analytics portfolio includes an innovative lab instrument to dramatically accelerate and optimize the development of biotherapeutics, which use natural biological substances to fight disease. 

# IMPRESARIO of ‘AMERICAN

Nick Spitzer, professor of anthropology, celebrates 25 years as producer and host of the public radio program “American Routes.” Broadcasting from a studio on the Tulane uptown campus, Spitzer continues to be grateful to “meet and converse” with vernacular musical artists as he brings their stories to a million listeners weekly.

BY BARRI BRONSTON

**T**he numbers tell the story about Nick Spitzer, a Tulane University professor and folklorist who is celebrating 25 years as producer and host of the public radio program “American Routes.” Broadcast from the Tulane uptown campus, Spitzer’s show airs on over 380 stations and the “American Routes” website, through which he reaches nearly a million listeners each week. He has produced more than 650 programs featuring more than 1,200 interviews.

The highlights of his career are many, but a few stand out, like the interviews he conducted with Dolly Parton, Chuck Berry, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana and Ray Charles.

“I’ll never forget the two days I spent with Ray Charles at his Modern Record studios in L.A. for a show that also aired on ‘Nightline,’” Spitzer said. “He spoke memorably about learning blues playing piano in a rural juke joint, but also performing in church.

“As a nonsighted person, music played a particular role in his vision of life. Combining blues plus gospel led him to become known as the ‘Genius of Soul.’ Ray and I stayed in touch, and later spoke about his love of country music — almost a second career for him.”

Spitzer’s guests have also included New Orleans music icons such as Dr. John, Fats Domino, Irma Thomas and Allen Toussaint, as well as little known artists such as Ivy Billiot, a Houma spiritualist and wood carver; Duck Holmes, a blues guitarist who runs a café in Benton, Mississippi; Dennis Paul Williams, a French Creole traiteur, or healer; and Belen Escobedo, a Mexican American fiddler.

“As a folklorist who’s worked in the Gulf South and elsewhere since the mid-1970s, I treasure equally, and often more so, my conversations with those who are relatively unknown,” he said. “We can learn the less known personal cultural narrative of a famous person, and universal values of humanism of those known only to their communities or families.”

Later this year, Spitzer will be awarded with one of the nation’s highest honors — a 2023 National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts. He will receive the Bess Lomax Hawes Award, named in honor of the late folk musician, folklorist and scholar who Spitzer considered a mentor.

In making the announcement, NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson said Spitzer and the other eight award recipients “exemplify what it means to live an artful life. Their rich and diverse art forms connect us to the past, strengthen our communities today and give hope to future generations in ways that only the arts can.”





# ROUTES'

“I’ll never forget the two days I spent with Ray Charles at his Modern Record studios in L.A. for a show that also aired on ‘Nightline.’ He spoke memorably about learning blues playing piano in a rural juke joint, but also performing in church.”

— NICK SPITZER

“Nick Spitzer’s storytelling ability is unparalleled and stems from his capacity to build authentic relationships and connections with everyone he meets,” said Brian Edwards, dean of the Tulane School of Liberal Arts. “His genuine interest in both the guests of his program and his listeners over the past 25 years has made *American Routes* what it is today.”

Spitzer, a professor of anthropology in the Tulane School of Liberal Arts, specializes in American music and the cultures of the Gulf South, creolization and public culture theory and practice. Through stories, songs and interviews, he showcases a broad range of American music, including blues and jazz, gospel and soul, old-time country and rockabilly, Cajun and zydeco, Tejano and Latin, roots rock and pop, avant-garde and classical.

“I am very proud of the audience that we’ve built for artists, music, cultures and

the ideas that I care most about, and doing it from New Orleans and Tulane,” he said. “Meeting and conversing with so many great vernacular artists about their life histories, cultures, crafts and music has been a privilege.”

Spitzer began his radio career in the 1970s, serving as program director of WXPB-FM, the college radio station at the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in anthropology. Following a move to Austin to begin doctoral studies in anthropology at the University of Texas, his field studies took him to rural Afro-Creole French Louisiana, where he immersed himself in the local culture, language, traditions and music. Spitzer later launched the Louisiana Folklife Program, and he helped create the Baton Rouge Blues Festival and the Folklife Pavilion at the Louisiana World Exposition.

At the Smithsonian Institution, he curated programs for the Festival of American Folklife. He was also artistic director for seven seasons of *Folk Masters* at Carnegie Hall and Wolf Trap, and the *American Roots Independence Day* concerts on the National Mall throughout the 1990s — all heard nationally on public radio.

“It occurred to me that I could reach even more people at less cost with an eclectic but unified weekly music mix on public radio of studio recordings and interviews with thematic ideas.”

Since beginning *American Routes* in 1998, he has received numerous honors, including a Guggenheim, an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award, Louisiana Humanist of the Year, and Lifetime Awards from the University of Louisiana, the Louisiana Folklore Society and others.

“I’m inclined to hang on to producing and hosting *American Routes* as long as I can. I want to remind Americans what we share culturally and what distinguishes us in the best sense of diversity and inclusion.”



# Crafting a Ca

Tulane offers a new take on the liberal arts degree. The School of Liberal Arts offers a Strategy, Leadership and Analytics minor — the most popular one on campus, with about 500 students enrolled — to prepare graduates to be leaders who can manage the dynamics of rapidly changing marketplaces and adapt strategically and creatively for future careers.

BY FAITH DAWSON

# reer



**“A fantastic part of this program is that students are gradually introduced to courses that integrate career opportunities and practices.”**

**GRACE BROWSE**

Major: Studio Art

Interests: Art, leadership, business

**A** sign in Newcomb Hall poses the question, “Why Major in Philosophy?” A casual observer might assume that college students of today would bypass a Philosophy major in favor of one that screams viral, next-gen or disruptive.

But society still needs Philosophy majors. The world has engaged and employed philosophers in various capacities for thousands of years now. Philosophy students know how to make an argument and how to communicate as effectively as anyone. The philosopher’s job description of 2023 is, of course, radically evolved from one written in 323 B.C., or even 2013, for that matter. Different applications, different practices, different technology.

It was an appreciation for this type of evolution — across disciplines — that prompted Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts (SLA) to create a career-focused complement to its contemporary liberal arts education: the Strategy, Leadership and Analytics Minor, known more simply around campus as SLAM.

Administered by SLA but open to any undergraduate, SLAM is now the largest minor program campuswide, with more than 500 students, and it provides coursework that emphasizes practical skills like financial literacy, analytic decision making, and entrepreneurial leadership, all from a liberal arts approach.

“It’s helped make sense of the liberal arts undergraduate education,” said Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Brian T. Edwards, who reimaged the SLAM program. “There is an anxiety in America among some students and parents about what value a liberal arts education provides and how it can connect with jobs or careers. And this is our answer.”

**“If you pair SLAM with a liberal arts major, you’ll activate aptitudes and ways of thinking designed for the unpredictability of the future. That’s a way of updating the power of a liberal arts education.”**

**BRIAN T. EDWARDS**  
Dean of the School of Liberal Arts

Grace Browse, a Tulane senior from Massapequa, New York, cited her passions as “art, business and leadership.” A studio art major, Browse said that SLAM brings together all her goals.

“The SLAM program teaches and trains students to become leaders in various types of marketplaces and institutions,” said Browse. “While preparing us for post-college opportunities, SLAM courses educate students on how to be creative, impactful community members within their region and organization.”

## **New Approaches**

A collection of 50-plus courses that promote economic planning ability, leadership potential and other career-oriented skills and knowledge, SLAM not only introduces liberal arts students to these topics, but it also helps them consider new ways to approach their careers.

“A fantastic part of this program is that students are gradually introduced to courses that integrate career opportunities and practices. This permits students to learn the necessary concepts and get real practice in their chosen fields,” Browse said.

She said she enjoyed courses such as Financial Analysis and Budgets and Public Relations.

Browse also appreciated the class Ethics in Business “because I thoroughly learned and made presentations about the moral problems that occur in business management. We discussed how popular businesses have come crashing down due to unethical practices.”

SLAM grew from another program that the School of Liberal Arts created in 2015, which was called SLAMM (School of Liberal Arts Management Minor). When Edwards joined the school in 2018, he saw the value of that program, but envisioned a new format that would help students redefine the meaning of a liberal arts education, move beyond “management” and toward a dynamic approach to the careers of the future.

It was also around then that a report issued by Dell Technology and the Institute for the Future asserted that 85% of jobs that will exist in the year 2030 haven’t been invented yet. The magnitude of the prediction spawned some debate, but with the general point in mind, Edwards continued to consider the ways in which SLA could prepare liberal arts students for life after graduation, particularly given the uncertainty inherent in planning for their futures.

“I didn’t want to make a ‘business’ minor,” Edwards said. “We believe that there is a particular approach to thinking about the careers of the future that liberal arts could provide. ... The idea was to help train students to be leaders in the fields that they would work in, including ones that don’t exist yet.

“We’re saying, you can be a humanities major or a social sciences major or an arts major and develop the aptitudes and skills to have a great career, and if you pair SLAM with a liberal arts major, you’ll activate aptitudes and ways of thinking designed for the unpredictability of the future. That’s a way of updating the power of a liberal arts education.”

## **Power of Leadership**

SLAM students begin with a gateway course called Entrepreneurial Leadership and Problem Solving in a Dynamic Economy. They continue with required or recommended courses such as Microeconomics and Ethics in Business and Management; electives cover much wider ground, including in-demand offerings like sections of world languages geared to business, everyday skills such as Technical Writing, and thought-provoking areas of study like Wealth, Power and Inequality. Some of the courses can also be grouped into learning pathways like Project Management, Arts Administration, and Global Commerce and Trade.

In professor Mallory Monaco Caterine’s Classical Leadership Lab, which she designed for SLAM and also for the Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship minor (offered by the Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking), “students learn how to critically analyze historical, literary and documentary evidence from the ancient Mediterranean through a leadership framework, including questions about how one becomes a leader, the role emotional intelligence plays in leadership, and how to navigate transitions in power.”

The lab presents case studies, such as the relationship between young Telemachus and the goddess Athena, who guides him in Homer’s *Odyssey*.

“What makes someone receptive to being mentored? How does a mentor build trust with their mentee?” asked Monaco Caterine, a senior professor of practice and holder of the Greenberg Family Professorship in Social Entrepreneurship. “I want students to understand that the leadership issues we face today are not new and that looking for leadership in the narratives and artifacts of other cultures and times can provide us with inspiration to creatively meet 21st-century challenges.”

Similarly, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance Leslie Scott brought her arts administration experience to the Philanthropy and Social Change course, where students lead research on local nonprofits over a semester and eventually award grants to deserving organizations. This past December, the class donated \$10,000 to two nonprofit groups that use music and dance to educate and promote cultural awareness.

## Data Driven

Three years ago, during the 2019-20 academic year, Edwards charged a task force to determine how best to structure what would become the Strategy, Leadership and Analytics minor, what he called SLAM 2.0. The group reached out to employers, recent alumni and current students to consider the skills employers look for. How could Tulane present these skills in a useful way? Today's students need to know how to lead creatively and critically. They should be able to manage a budget. And they almost certainly would have to handle large amounts of data.

"We live in a digital economy, meaning data is one of our most valuable assets," said business owner and Professor of Practice Allyson Heumann (NC '96, B '97). Her course Introduction to Data Analytics helps students gain basic data literacy. "Data comes in many forms; the key to successful analytics is to codify quantitative and qualitative data to tell the end user a compelling story."

Noting that today's college students are among the first to grow up in a fully digital generation, she wants them to not only interact with technology but to understand it, as employers will be seeking workers who can provide outcomes based on data analytics problem-solving.

"Students learn how data analysis works in a practical setting throughout the semester. Assignments are primarily pitches for or against the use of technology," Heumann said of the course, which also teaches skills such as collaboration and persuasive thinking.

"Part of SLAM's success is its focus on practical data and management skills that have wide application," said Patrick Button, associate professor of economics and the inaugural executive director of The Data Hub, Tulane's new campus center for interdisciplinary data literacy and data science programming. Button has taught the popular SLAM course Labor Economics. "How SLAM is incorporating data skills and data-driven decision making into its courses is a clear model for what the Data Hub hopes to build on."



**“Marketing allows me to reach certain audiences in different ways — not just by performing, but through strategic social media posts, graphic design ... to study how you reach people, stay connected.”**

### **LOURDES CASTILLO**

Double Major: Communication and Theatre

Interests: Performance, promotion and marketing



**“[The program] helped me get callbacks, and ... gave me credibility when I was applying to jobs that blended engineering and finance.”**

**ANDREW KESE**

Major: Chemical Engineering

Interests: Energy, engineering, finance

## **Creative Industries**

The reframing of business concepts can make a difference to some students.

“Business has a lingo, but it can be translated into a liberal arts language. What’s your ‘pitch deck’? That’s just storytelling — ‘Tell me a story about your business,’” said Vicki Mayer, professor of communication and associate dean for academic initiatives and curriculum.

Edwards said he had encountered students who felt that their job prospects would be dim if they followed their passions — studying linguistics, for example, as one student told him in his first weeks on the job — when he knew from countless conversations with employers that liberal arts training was considered valuable in

workplaces across a wide range of sectors. “The skills in critical thinking and creative problem solving, the high level of communication and writing skills taught in the liberal arts, come up frequently in my conversations with successful Tulane alumni among values that they got from their own education and that they look for when hiring students,” Edwards said. “How can we help amplify those key liberal arts values while supplementing them with the approach that SLAM foregrounds?”

Enrolled in the SLAM program, Lourdes Castillo, from Los Angeles, is a junior double majoring in Communication and Theatre.

Upon arriving at Tulane, Castillo considered several majors without committing to any. While studying at the A. B. Freeman School of Business, she enrolled in the SLAM course Principles of Marketing on the advice of her academic adviser. It was a pivotal move. Castillo said marketing was the right fit for her, but the wrong major. She switched to the School of Liberal Arts and kept up with SLAM, where she now follows the Promotions and Marketing learning pathway.

“Marketing allows me to reach certain audiences in different ways — not just by performing, but through strategic social media posts, graphic design and things like that,” said Castillo, who has completed two marketing internships with theaters. “That’s what initially had interested me — to study how you reach people, stay connected with people and get an audience.”

SLAM may appeal to students like Castillo who want to incorporate additional skills into a career in which, as a creative, they might work on a freelance basis or as an independent contractor.

“There’s a lot of interest in studying what New Orleans is known for: music, film. The creative industries are a large part of our local economy. And students want to come here and tap into that,” Mayer said. “They ask me, ‘How do I get involved with the scene here?’” — meaning, how do they find opportunities on a film set or as a songwriter, for example.

The School of Liberal Arts also offers a new certificate in Creative Industries, which “focuses on the entrepreneurial aspects of making a living as a creative professional.” The courses associated with this certificate are officially part of the SLAM curriculum and an outgrowth directed specifically to

## “Business has a lingo, but it can be translated into a liberal arts language. What’s your ‘pitch deck’? That’s just storytelling — ‘Tell me a story about your business.’”

### VICKI MAYER

Professor of Communication and Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives and Curriculum at the School of Liberal Arts

careers in the fine and performing arts.

Professor of Practice Bill Taylor teaches in the certificate program. Taylor also runs the Trombone Shorty Foundation, a non-profit whose mission is to educate the next generation of musically gifted students in New Orleans, and has worked as a talent buyer for the nightclub and music venue Tipitina’s. This summer he’ll offer Intro to Music Business, co-taught with singer-songwriter Anders Osborne.

“When I teach these classes, I want to make it as real as possible ... to demonstrate what it looks like to have a career in these industries, and how you connect with people that are already doing the work and what those jobs look like,” Taylor said.

### Options Open

But for every student who wants to chase down a dream or set career path, there’s another student who is undecided on postgraduate life. Or who simply wants to keep their options open. Having a SLAM education can introduce graduates to the technology and workplace trends that will keep them moving forward but can still be transferable across industries.

Andrew Kese, a senior majoring in Chemical Engineering in the School of Science and Engineering, hails from Berywn, Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia. After graduation, he ultimately wanted a job in energy — either in finance or engineering.

Kese enrolled in SLAM to help widen

the door of business and consulting. He took advantage of the breadth of courses — including Financial Accounting, Business Ethics and Personal Finance.

“The minor put direction to my core electives,” said Kese. “I was able to focus them all. And I felt that added value to my experience at Tulane.”

It also opened Kese up to a wider variety of positions, he said, without sacrificing his engineering background. The program “helped me get callbacks, and ... gave me credibility when I was applying to jobs that blended engineering and finance.”

He’s now been offered a position in an energy field, and he said the minor has paid off for him already.

Grace Browse, the studio art major, was even emboldened to develop her own business model, all thanks to SLAM.

“A new SLAM topic I was exposed to within the program was entrepreneurship and startup culture,” she said. “This has affected my aspirations greatly. Now, I am not afraid to take my creative business ideas to market.”

Co-founded by Tulanians Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz, Glass Half Full is a New Orleans glass recycling enterprise on a mission to restore coastal land.

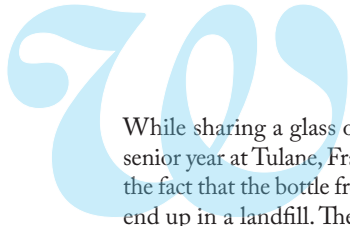






# best *in* glass

BY ALICIA SERRANO BILICH



While sharing a glass of wine in the spring 2020 semester of their senior year at Tulane, Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz lamented the fact that the bottle from which they were pouring would inevitably end up in a landfill. They decided something needed to be done.

Since there wasn't curbside glass recycling available to New Orleans residents, the two hatched a plan to recycle glass. While recycling glass to make other glass products is common in the United States and other countries, Trautmann and Steitz found a small machine that crushed glass into sand.

"That's when it clicked because we knew that here in New Orleans, we need sand for so many things — coastal restoration and disaster relief being the main ones," Trautmann said.

Recognizing they needed more resources to make the plan work long-term, the two started a GoFundMe page.

"And then a reporter at *The Times-Picayune* decided to do a story on it," Trautmann said.

Within one week after the story was published, they reached their \$10,000 fundraising goal.

"That was the fire that got us going — that community buy-in, literally; giving us money to make this happen and us wanting to do right on that promise," she said.

That promise turned into the launch of Glass Half Full, a glass recycling program that collects glass from residents and businesses and converts it into sand for coastal restoration and disaster relief. The glass is also repurposed for use in construction and the manufacturing of art, jewelry and other products.

Now, three years since its inception, the Glass Half Full team has gone from an uptown backyard operation using a small machine that crushed one bottle at a time to a Desire neighborhood 40,000-square-foot facility on Louisa Street with a pulverizing machine that has successfully recycled over 3.5 million pounds of glass.

Trautmann, from Carencro, Louisiana, is chief executive officer. She received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in chemical and biomolecular engineering from the School of Science and Engineering in 2020. Steitz, from New York City, is chief operating officer and chief financial officer. He is a political science/international development and international relations major — with a few more credits left to graduate from the School of Liberal Arts.

Trautmann's and Steitz's hometowns and upbringings have merged well in achieving the Glass Half Full mission.

"I think being from a small town in Louisiana, growing up around the environment, I had that passion and care for the environment without, for lack of better words, the governmental programs to support that," Trautmann said. "Whereas Max grew up in the 'Concrete City,' with not as much access to the environment, but with recycling governmental programs."

## Crushing It

Glass Half Full collects glass in several ways. Residents of any parish can drop off their glass for free, three days a week, at the Glass Half Full facility on Louisa Street. Collection bins are also available at locations in the Lower Ninth Ward, Algiers and Bywater neighborhoods. In partnership with the City of New Orleans, Glass Half Full's collection bins are available at the Elysian Fields Recycling Center where residents can drop off up to 50 pounds of glass.



Previous pages: Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz are the Tulanians behind the Glass Half Full enterprise. This page and opposite: Items in the "glass mountain" (right) are sorted by color and eventually ground into sand.

Residents in the Greater New Orleans area can also pay for monthly pickups.

Businesses and large-scale event organizers can sign up for commercial pickups. Glass Half Full has worked with events like the French Quarter Festival, Buku Fest and Satchmo Summerfest.

This spring, the Tulane Office of Sustainability partnered with Glass Half Full to bring eight Glass Half Full collection hubs to the uptown campus. This effort is projected to divert a quarter million pounds of glass annually from local landfills.

After collection, corks, plastic and metal caps are removed, and the glass is sorted into piles at the Louisa Street facility — the largest of the piles is dubbed the "glass mountain." The glass is front-loaded into a pulverizing machine. From the machine's receptacle, glass moves at a pre-fixed speed along a series of conveyor belts to be pulverized by hammer-mill crushers. The machine sifts the glass, separating the non-glass parts such as labels. The machine's output is recycled glass sand.

The sand is crushed coarse — in the range of 0.4 to 1.7 mm, like the size of sprinkles or glitter — or fine, like what you see on powdery beaches. Steitz said the coarse sand is what's used for coastal restoration since water doesn't wash coarse sand away as easily as finer sand.



“We didn’t expect so many people to care about recycling. Having people bring us their glass and be excited about this and pay for us to pick up their glass, that’s been super incredible.”

FRANZISKA TRAUTMANN

For coastal restoration projects, the sand is bagged in burlap sacks since burlap is biodegradable. Even the burlap has been repurposed, Steitz explained, with local coffee suppliers such as PJ’s Coffee and French Truck Coffee donating bags that once were filled with coffee beans. The bags of sand are transported by truck and then by boat to coastal restoration project sites.

## ReCoast

Being the chemical engineer that she is, Trautmann knew that recycled glass sand would need to be researched to make sure it’s safe for the environment before putting it to use.

Trautmann and Steitz collaborated with Katie Russell, senior professor of practice in Tulane’s Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and her service-learning class to examine the material characterization of the glass sand. Russell

brought in Julie Albert, associate professor in the department, to help.

Albert made the Glass Half Full team aware of funding available through the National Science Foundation’s Convergence Accelerator, whose Networked Blue Economy research track focuses on interconnecting the blue economy (the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth) and accelerating convergence across ocean sectors to produce innovative tools, techniques, methods and educational resources, as well as solutions that improve human engagement with oceans.

The Networked Blue Economy is defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as “a sustainable and equitable ocean and coastal economy that optimizes advances in science and technology to create value-added, data-driven economic opportunities and solutions to pressing societal needs.”

“This is a program that aims to accelerate research out of labs and into practice using a variety of convergent, use-inspired approaches,” Albert said.

“We said, ‘OK, what are the questions that we need to answer, from a research standpoint, to actually get the glass sand into practice for coastal restoration projects?’” Albert said.

Based on those questions, Albert enlisted a team of 10, including researchers from the Tulane departments of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and River-Coastal Science and Engineering as well as a collaborator from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Jackson State University.

“We pulled together a convergent team that could look at the project from different perspectives — material safety, ecological safety, geotechnical (land) and hydrological

(water) impacts on the environment, and community engagement — asking how well do we expect recycled glass sand to help us mitigate land loss?”

Albert submitted a proposal to the NSF, and in fall 2021, the team was awarded more than \$700,000 for a collaborative research project, which is now referred to as ReCoast. Albert serves as principal investigator, and ReCoast is one of 16 NSF-awarded Phase 1 efforts.

During this phase the team determined that recycled glass sand is safe on all fronts: It's not damaging to the coast, plants can grow in it, and it's not harmful to fish, oysters and crabs.

At the end of Phase 1, the team participated in an NSF Phase 2 proposal and pitch and was selected for a second round of funding for two additional years. Albert said the goals are to develop a plan that continues the existing research with expansion to beach environments, and to continue Glass Half Full's production for the long-term. The additional funding has allowed for the research team to grow.

“Now, our team has over 20 senior investigators, plus all their students and postdocs and research technicians,” said Albert.

## Community Engagement

The use of recycled glass for coastal restoration will remain the top priority “as long as it makes sense for everyone in the environment,” Trautmann said. As she and Steitz continue to collaborate with Tulane researchers on the ReCoast project and provide glass recycling services to thousands of New Orleans residents, they still manage to foster several impactful community relationships.

D. Jelagat Cheruiyot, professor of practice in Tulane's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, who taught both Trautmann and Steitz, said she remembers their engaging class discussions and critical thinking about climate solutions.


“They would have discussions about what are we doing? How can we reduce the greenhouse effect? How can we change the trajectory we're on in (regard to) climate change?” she said.

Cheruiyot serves as community engagement adviser to Glass Half Full. With Cheruiyot's help, Glass Half Full has partnered with the Pointe Au Chien Indian Tribe, located in southeast Louisiana along the coastal parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes.

After Hurricane Ida in August 2021, Glass Half Full's pulverizing machine wasn't available because the storm left the city without electricity for some weeks, but Trautmann and Steitz didn't stay idle. They coordinated trips for volunteers to assist the Pointe Au Chien Tribe with cleanup.

“The first weekend after Ida, we took 250 people,” Cheruiyot said. “Once Tulane reopened, the Center for Public Service continued the work with Glass Half Full until December.”

In April 2022, ReCoast's first project involved stabilization of an eroding slope adjacent to the Pointe Au Chien Indian Tribe's Community Center. Researchers worked alongside members of the tribe and volunteers recruited by Glass Half Full to add glass sand to the eroding slope and created a French drain/rain garden-style area at the base of the slope to prevent accumulation of stagnant water next to the center.



“I think always viewing things in that glass-half-full mindset — no matter how small the action is — “there's always something to celebrate.”

FRANZISKA TRAUTMANN



Opposite: Trautmann and Steitz at the Louisa Street recycling facility. This page, clockwise from bottom left: Sandbags containing crushed glass aid in coastal restoration projects; extras such as wine corks and plastic caps have been salvaged from glass bottles and jars and will be recycled later; a coarse grind of sand is better for use along the coast, as it doesn't wash away as easily as fine sand.

The team also partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana to repair a hurricane blowout zone with 10 tons of sand in Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

During the 2022 winter holidays, Glass Half Full collected Christmas trees, using recycled trees for two coastal restoration projects with Common Ground Relief and the Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development.

More recently, Trautmann and Steitz partnered with the Mardi Gras Indian Council to collect glass and aluminum on Super Sunday.

During Mardi Gras this year, Glass Half Full was also part of Recycle Dat, a collaboration between the City of New Orleans and several organizations to bring collection hubs to the St. Charles Avenue parade route for recycling glass, aluminum cans and beads.

"It is great to, one, be saving the coast, but also to make sure that many big events are green," Cheruiyot said.

The plethora of partnerships and efforts in which Glass Half Full is involved include Glassroots, an education outreach nonprofit to expand recycling access and empower fellow recyclers.

Because Glass Half Full is often approached about collaborations, Trautmann said that her

knee-jerk reaction is usually to say "yes," because "you never know what will come of it."

"Especially in the coastal restoration space, there are people that we've looked up to since starting this, and now we have been able to partner with. These are organizations that know what they're doing, and we can learn from."

## Leaders of Today

As Glass Half Full continues to grow, so does the attention and excitement. Glass Half Full has been featured on several national news shows including "NBC Nightly News With Lester Holt," "PBS NewsHour" and "The Kelly Clarkson Show." The team has also garnered thousands of followers on social media with many of their TikTok posts going viral.

"We didn't expect so many people to care about recycling," Trautmann said. "Having people bring us their glass and be excited about this and pay for us to pick up their glass, that's been super incredible."

Trautmann and Steitz are grateful for the support from the community and the many Tulane professors like Albert and Cheruiyot, who are just as grateful to help.

"Since I was a kid growing up in the Florida panhandle, I have struggled to figure out how I could do something truly meaningful to help protect the Gulf Coast environment," Albert said. "So,

partnering with Glass Half Full has been both incredibly inspiring and personally rewarding for me."

Cheruiyot said that she feels like a "proud mom. They started this as students. We constantly say, 'You're leaders of the future,' but they're leaders today."

Looking ahead, Trautmann said they plan to "scale up" everything they already have in the works. The team anticipates adding more coastal restoration projects while increasing their recycling capacity and expanding glass collections to the North Shore, Baton Rouge and Mississippi.

Climate change and coastal erosion can be overwhelming topics to think about, let alone address. So how do Trautmann and Steitz remain hopeful?

"I think always viewing things in that glass-half-full mindset," Trautmann said. No matter how small the action is, "there's always something to celebrate.

"Being able to get out and physically do work that's contributing to a better planet, a better environment, can fill anyone with hope." 🍷

# *compassionate* DOCTOR, *tireless* RESEARCHER

**T**he significance of high blood pressure as a health risk is beyond question. Why we know this scientific fact and its implications for the treatment and prevention of a highly preventable condition is largely because of the work of Dr. Paul Kieran Whelton.

Whelton is the Show Chwan Health System Endowed Chair in Global Public Health at Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He is also a legend in his field.

High blood pressure has been the focus of Whelton's work throughout his career, which began at medical school in Cork, Ireland.

Whelton has published more than 560 peer-reviewed manuscripts, which have been cited by others more than 120,000 times. He is ranked as one of the top 500 U.S. investigators in the field of medicine by Research.com.

And he's not stopping.

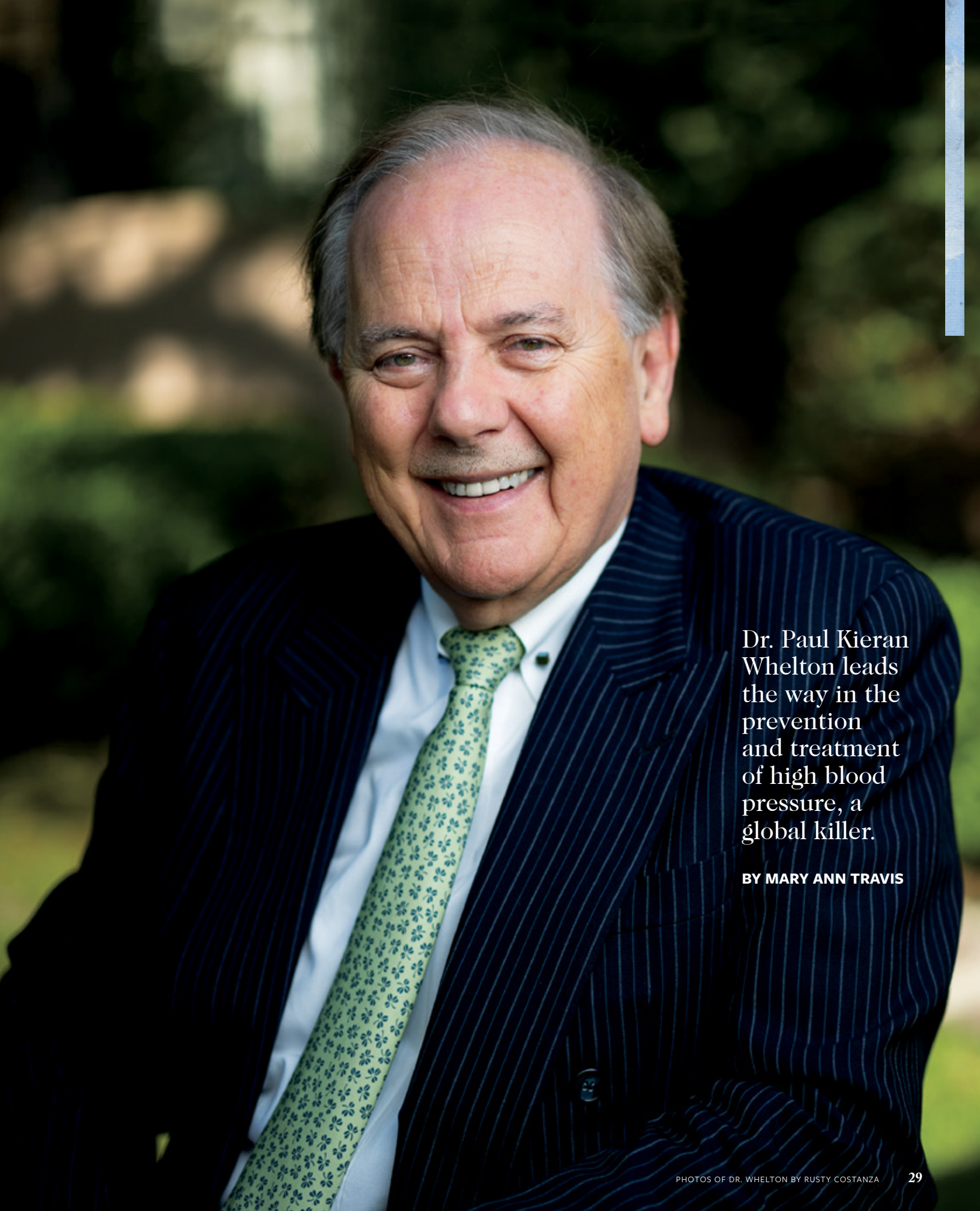
## **Prevention Is Always Better**

When Whelton began his medical career as a nephrologist, a kidney doctor, it was the early stages of dialysis, and transplants were very new.

"We were doing a lot of nutritional therapy to try to slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease," he said.

He moved to the United States for his internal medicine and nephrology training at Johns Hopkins. After more than a decade on the faculty at Johns Hopkins as an academic nephrologist, he became increasingly interested in population studies. He realized that clinical epidemiology could enhance the opportunities to prevent and control disease "because epidemiology focuses on tackling disease risk factors and aims at prevention and treatment upstream."

He saw limitations as a clinician treating only individual patients "because you are, for the most part, taking care of people with established disease. ... And, for the most part, it's very hard to reverse that process in patients with chronic diseases such as cardiovascular and kidney disease.



Dr. Paul Kieran Whelton leads the way in the prevention and treatment of high blood pressure, a global killer.

**BY MARY ANN TRAVIS**



“Prevention is always better than treatment. For example, if you treat somebody’s blood pressure down to a given level, it will reduce risk — and do it very well.... But the risk will never be the same as that in somebody who has the same level of blood pressure naturally. That got me interested in prevention, not only prevention of cardiovascular disease, but for me, as a nephrologist, prevention of kidney disease.”

Whelton subsequently earned a master’s degree in clinical epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a doctoral degree in prevention from the National University of Ireland.

He then returned to Johns Hopkins, where he was professor of epidemiology in the School of Hygiene and Public Health and professor of medicine in the School of Medicine. Among many leadership roles at Hopkins, he was the founding director of the Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology, and Clinical Research.

In 1997, Whelton began his 25-year relationship with Tulane. He is a former dean of the medical and public health schools, and he has served as senior vice president for the health sciences.

## Accolades

In recognition of Whelton’s lifetime of work, Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar presented him with the Science Foundation Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Science Medal for Academia at a ceremony at the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C., on March 16, 2023.

Remarking on the honor, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said, “As one of the world’s leading authorities on hypertension, Dr. Whelton has had a profound impact both at our university and globally. We are grateful for the insight his work has provided on this vital health condition and are proud of this tremendous honor bestowed on him by his native country.”

In a letter nominating Whelton for the St. Patrick’s Day award, Dr. Michael J. Klag, Second Century Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, wrote, “With respect to research, it is impossible to overstate Paul’s enormous impact on the practice of medicine,

Dr. Paul Whelton (right) at home in New Orleans, where a painting (above) hangs of his Cork, Ireland, childhood house on the hill. (Facing page) At the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar (far right) presents the Science Foundation Ireland award to Whelton on St. Patrick’s Day. Professor Philip Nolan, SFI director general, and Shelagh Whelton beam at the occasion.



especially as it relates to the prevention and management of high blood pressure (BP).

“As a nephrologist, Paul had a special interest in the application of epidemiological methods to the study of kidney disease, and was one of the first, if not the first, to do so.”

Among other awards that Whelton has received is the Tulane Hall of Fame Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award, presented in November 2022. A scientific symposium on the topics of hypertension, cardiovascular and chronic kidney disease was also presented by the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in November in honor of Whelton’s 75th birthday.



## Big Questions

Among the big questions that Whelton has addressed through many National Institutes of Health–funded clinical trials is, “if you treat high blood pressure, can you reduce the risk of complications?” The answer is yes.

“We got that answer pretty early on,” said Whelton.

A second question was, “can you identify the exposures that cause high blood pressure, and if you intervene on some of these, can you prevent the occurrence of high blood pressure?”

Whelton said, “We identified the major risk factors for high blood pressure. . . . They’re all the ones you know — overweight and obesity, certainly an important one; excessive sodium intake; insufficient potassium intake; unhealthy diets; lack of physical activity, all types; and alcohol consumption. Those are the six big risk factors that are responsible for most high blood pressure.”

For most people with high blood pressure, “it’s usually a lifestyle issue,” said Whelton.

Changing lifestyles is difficult. But it can be done. “We learned how to do it, and we learned how to do it effectively. . . . We know what to do.”

The recommendation was based on the Whelton-led Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial or SPRINT, which proved that more intensive treatment to attain a lower systolic/diastolic blood pressure target of less than 120/80 mm Hg was far more beneficial than the 140/90 mm Hg target that was being recommended prior to the trial.

## The Groundwork Is Laid

Although the SPRINT findings demonstrated that more intensive treatment provides impressive health benefits and the guidelines recommend lower blood pressure treatment targets than previously advised, clinicians in the United States have been slow to implement the new guideline recommendations.

“Logic tells you,” Whelton said, “compelling clinical trial findings and guideline recommendations will be applied in clinical practice, but that’s not the case.”

Whelton said increasing attention is being paid to implementation trials.

“Now the big push is for implementation of best practices,” he said. “That’s what the NIH is funding to a large extent, for all the right reasons. Colleagues at Tulane are leading several important implementation trials, including the application of more intensive blood pressure treatment goals in federally qualified health clinics in Louisiana and Mississippi.”

Whelton is currently serving a three-year term as president of the World Hypertension League (WHL), which is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization with close ties to the World Health Organization. The WHL plays a major role in supporting practice, education and research related to the prevention and management of high blood pressure in middle- and low-income countries such as China, India and the Philippines as well as sub-Saharan Africa. Whelton is also working with colleagues in Brazil who are conducting two large SPRINT-

like trials that are investigating the effect of intensive blood pressure reduction on cardiovascular disease, cognitive function and dementia.

At this stage of his career, Whelton said it’s still exciting and interesting to be doing “upstream” work, saving lives and improving health on a large population scale, on the ground, in communities and in collaboration with partners. He is also excited to be based at Tulane, where he is surrounded by many outstanding colleagues in the Department of Epidemiology and elsewhere in the university, which continues to be an excellent place to continue to try to solve these global health problems.

“Can we do better? Of course, we can do better,” said Whelton. “Should we be doing better? It’s criminal that we’re not doing better.”



Through other clinical studies, Whelton has investigated the relative efficacy of different drugs that lower blood pressure. Many drugs work, he said, and using a combination of drugs at low doses is generally effective. For most people, control of high blood pressure is more important than the specific agents that are used to treat the high blood pressure.

## New High Blood Pressure Definition

Whelton chaired the 2017 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Blood Pressure Guideline Writing Committee that redefined the diagnosis of hypertension and recommended a lower systolic/diastolic treatment target of less than 130/80 mm Hg.

# *we are the* Champions



Heralded as champions by President Michael A. Fitts during his address, the Class of 2023 gathered under the lights of Yulman Stadium to celebrate their academic achievements during the Unified Commencement Ceremony held on May 20.

**BY BARRI BRONSTON**



**D**onning a coach's cap and whistle, President Michael A. Fitts celebrated the Tulane Class of 2023 on May 20 at the Unified Commencement ceremony, likening their grit, spirit and drive to the Green Wave football team's magical season and Cotton Bowl victory.

"You represent how quickly things can change. When your classes first went virtual in a matter of days. When the deep wounds of racism and injustice were once again exacerbated on a global stage. When you went from sheltering from a storm to evacuating from a hurricane. When your team made one of the greatest turnarounds in college football history. No matter how quickly things changed, you adapted. You endured. You saw it through. And you overcame it together as a team. That's the stuff of champions."

Keeping with the football theme, Fitts assumed the role of "Coach Fitts," offering graduates a playbook with tips for winning the game of life and avoiding penalties — which he represented by throwing yellow flags from the podium. At one point, Fitts even received a shower of confetti, courtesy of Riptide.

"Things don't have to be perfectly arranged and aligned before you begin them," Fitts said. "It's okay to start and fail, then try again. You can change direction — you just can't quit. You've proven over and over again that you can adapt, and you can turn things around. But you cannot watch the clock wind down."

Following Fitts' speech, Tony and Grammy Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr., the keynote speaker, stressed the importance of "doing the work" and lauded graduates for their diligence and perseverance. "You read the books, you wrote the papers, you took the tests, you passed the finals, you finished what you started. That alone sets you apart from so many. Give yourselves a hand for showing up for yourselves. You have the evidence of what you are capable of."

Odom's address also included a love letter to New Orleans.

"You are a jewel in this nation," said Odom, who has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and spent two months in the city shooting the acclaimed film *One Night in Miami*. "The richness of your rhythms, your recipes, your southern speech, your customs and traditions — you're an original."

Odom is best known for his breakout role as the original Aaron Burr in the hit musical *Hamilton*. In *One Night in Miami*, which earned him nominations for an Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Golden Globe Award and Screen Actors Guild Award, he starred and performed the songs of legendary singer Sam Cooke. He also wrote and performed the film's Oscar-nominated original song.

The Class of 2023 student speakers, Da'Sean Spencer and Arianne D. Sacramento, challenged graduates to use what they learned at Tulane over the past four years to make their mark on the world, wherever the future may take them.

Spencer, a New Orleans native, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in political science, while Sacramento is leaving Tulane with a Tulane 34 Award and three degrees — a Doctor of Medicine (MD), a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of Public Health (MPH).

"We are leaving today with a diploma," said Sacramento. "But we are also leaving today with lifelong connections and memories to look back on, with a sense of pride in knowing that we have what it takes to be successful (and no one can tell us otherwise), and with the strength and kindness to make positive impacts in our community, in our careers, and in all aspects of our lives."

"My fellow graduates," said Spencer, "as we enter this new chapter, I implore you to start your sentences with 'What if,' and, if need be, end your sentences with 'Why not?' Push the boundaries of what is possible in the world, and at every step of the way, embrace that part of you that



(Above) "Coach Fitts" — President Michael A. Fitts — throws a "penalty flag" representing one of life's challenges during the Commencement ceremony. (Opposite page, clockwise from top left) Riptide makes a special Commencement appearance; student speakers Da'Sean Spencer and Arianne Sacramento, members of the Class of 2023, deliver inspirational addresses to their fellow students; Yolanda Windsay sings "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans" with Dr. Michael White's Original Liberty Jazz Band, a traditional element of Tulane Commencement; Tony and Grammy Award winner and *Hamilton* star Leslie Odom, Jr., served as keynote speaker and also received the President's Medal from President Fitts.

wants to curl into a ball or run. Learn to understand it. Learn to wield it. For it is your greatest strength and the key to a life of leadership, purpose, and success in the possibilities of tomorrow."

Commencement 2023 began as the sun set over Yulman Stadium with an academic procession of nearly 2,000 graduates representing nine schools. Graduates paraded onto Benson Field as family and friends cheered from the stands, many waving to them and capturing the scene with cell phones and video cameras.

Tulane also bestowed honors on several special guests. Odom received the President's Medal and Dr. Rosalind Picard, an inventor, engineer, scientist and pioneer in artificial intelligence, received an honorary Doctor of Science. Quint Davis, producer of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, which has grown to become a national treasure over the past 50 years, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

An approaching lightning and thunderstorm forced the university to shorten the program and defer the formal conferral of teaching awards, which recognize faculty for extraordinary dedication in the classroom.

Faculty who were scheduled to be honored with teaching awards at the ceremony included D. Jelagat Cheruiyot of the School of Science and Engineering and Allison Emmerson of the School of Liberal Arts, recipients of the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellowships for Undergraduate Education, and Katherine Andrinopoulos of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and Kris Lane of the School of Liberal Arts, recipients of the President's Awards for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching.

The Unified Commencement was the culmination of four days of celebration that included individual school ceremonies, as well as hooding and awards ceremonies. 🍷



# Wavemakers

## INVESTITURES HONOR TOP-TIER PROFESSORS

**T**he achievements of Tulane faculty shone bright in early 2023 with back-to-back investiture ceremonies celebrating top-tier faculty as they formally assumed prestigious roles.

Michael R. Cohen, PhD, was formally invested in the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Chair in the American Jewish Experience. The same week, Tony Y. Hu, PhD, director of Tulane's Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics and professor in biochemistry and molecular biology, biomedical engineering, and microbiology, was invested in the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation at the School of Medicine.

Cohen, who also chairs the Department of Jewish Studies at the School of Liberal Arts, where he holds a Sizeler Family Professorship in Judaic Studies IV, said, "I am so humbled and honored to be leading the



From left: Dean Brian Edwards, Provost Robin Forman and Professor Michael Cohen process at 2 Audubon Place during Cohen's investiture as the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Chair in the American Jewish Experience. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)



Tony Hu, director of Tulane's Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics and professor in biochemistry and molecular biology, biomedical engineering, and microbiology, speaks at the podium during his investiture as the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation. (Photo by Rusty Costanza)

Grant Center and to be holding the Grant Chair."

The event also honored the establishment of the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience.

Hu reflected on joining the university mere months before a global health crisis. "I have found myself a part of an invaluable community, where the creativity, friendship and resilience of my fellow faculty and staff has been most unforgettable," Hu said.

Hu's presidential chair is made possible by alumna Celia Weatherhead, who graduated from Newcomb College in 1965, and the Weatherhead Foundation, an Ohio-based family organization.

President Michael A. Fitts was on hand for both events, celebrating Cohen and Hu for their remarkable achievements and lauding Stuart and Suzanne Grant and Celia Weatherhead for their commitment and vision. 🎓

# Business School Receives \$1M from Mark and Margo Fogelman

**L**ongtime Tulane University supporters Mark and Margo Fogelman are giving \$1 million to the A. B. Freeman School of Business to create a real estate certificate program for undergraduate business students interested in pursuing careers in the industry.

The Fogelmans' gift will launch the Fogelman Real Estate Program, which will award certificates to undergraduates who complete four real estate business courses. With an emphasis on finance, data analytics, and industry-specific training and software, the program will provide hands-on learning opportunities by partnering students with professionals, companies, and nonprofits for real-world projects and pro bono work.

The new certificate program will augment and collaborate with existing undergraduate and graduate real estate programs at the university that are offered through the Tulane School of Architecture including its Bachelor of Science in Real Estate, Real Estate Minor and Master of Sustainable Real Estate Development degree.

The Fogelmans are leaders in the real estate industry and generational supporters of Tulane University. Mark Fogelman is the current president of Fogelman Properties, a privately owned real estate investment company overseeing more than 30,000 apartment homes and previously helmed by his father, Tulane alumnus and longtime supporter Avron Fogelman. A 1992 graduate of the Freeman School, Mark has served on the Business School Council since 2017 and the President's Council since 2021. Mark and Margo are also members of the Family Leadership Council.

"Establishing the Fogelman Real Estate Program was the perfect opportunity to support our beloved university while also educating and training the next generation of real estate leaders in a profession that has been so dear to our family for the past 60 years," Mark Fogelman said. "Dean Paulo Goes' vision for the business school will continue to enhance the education of Tulane students, and we felt this was a great fit for us to help move his vision forward. Real estate is a profession best learned by doing, and this program will provide business undergraduates with invaluable exposure to leading experts and practitioners."

"Mark and Margo Fogelman's commitment and generosity will help position our business school as a leader in experiential learning for students seeking real estate careers," Tulane President Michael Fitts said. "Having the Fogelman name attached to this program not only

recognizes the impact that Mark and his family have had on the industry but also provides our students with a tangible example of what they can achieve through the power of a Tulane education. I'm grateful to Mark and Margo for making this important program possible."

The undergraduate business program at the Freeman School recently jumped seven spots to No. 34 in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, and Freeman Dean Paulo Goes is aiming for even more progress.

"Mark and Margo's extraordinary gift will have an immediate impact, providing us with the resources to launch a program that gives students applicable, real-world experience in this exciting, high-demand field," Goes said. "Developing new and innovative offerings in the business of real estate was a top priority of our recently completed five-year strategic plan. So, on behalf of all the students who will follow in Mark's career path, I thank the Fogelmans for their vision and generosity."

"Tulane University has been such a bright light for our family for three generations and continues to play an integral role today as our son Matthew just graduated last year and our daughter Alexa will be graduating in 2024," Margo Fogelman said. 🍷



Mark and Margo Fogelman are giving \$1 million to the A. B. Freeman School of Business to create a real estate certificate program for undergraduate business students. Mark Fogelman graduated from Freeman in 1992. (Photo courtesy of the Fogelmans)

## \$1.3M Will Support Stone Center's Ongoing Study of Latin America

**R**eaffirming its nearly century-long commitment to Latin American studies at Tulane, the Zemurray Foundation of New Orleans has donated \$1.3 million to the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies.

The \$1.3 million gift includes an \$800,000 endowment creating the Doris Z. Stone Indigenous Languages of Latin America Endowed Fund, which will assist students and faculty in studying, teaching and researching languages originating in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The gift also includes \$500,000 to establish the Elizabeth Hill Boone Program for Scholarly Research in the Art, Ethnohistory, and Culture of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Latin America Endowed Fund. Named in honor of Tulane professor emerita and art historian Elizabeth Hill Boone, the fund will advance programming in Boone's academic specialties and support visiting professors, a lecture series, scholarly collaborations and more.

"The Zemurray Foundation's vision and commitment to Latin American studies have made Tulane a leader in the study of this essential and fascinating part of the world for nearly 100 years," Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said. "I'm tremendously grateful to the Zemurray Foundation for its major role in ensuring the Stone Center's place as one of the world's leading academic hubs of Latin American studies."

"These two generous endowments support two pioneering areas of teaching," said Stone Center Executive Director Thomas Reese, who also holds the Thomas F. and Carol Reese Distinguished Chair in Latin American Studies. "They are a testament to the Zemurray Foundation's long commitment to Tulane." 🍷



The Zemurray Foundation has donated \$1.3 million to create two endowed funds for the study of Latin American Indigenous languages and art. The art-focused fund is named in honor of renowned art historian Elizabeth Hill Boone (above), professor emerita in the Newcomb Art Department. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

## GIVE GREEN 2023



**A** record number of Tulanians came together to break fundraising records on March 21, raising nearly \$1.4 million on Tulane University's sixth annual giving day.

Gifts on Give Green day support Tulane's annual fund, which provides flexible and immediate resources to support students, faculty, capital projects, research, athletics and everything that makes a Tulane education unique.

During the 24-hour *Give Green: A Day for the Audacious* event, Tulane alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends made 4,640 gifts and raised \$1,396,623. That was up 14 percent in gifts and 13 percent in dollars over 2022, and represented the highest amount ever raised during Give Green.

"The generosity of Tulanians on Give Green continues to make a huge difference at Tulane in so many ways," said Jenny

Nathan Simoneaux, executive director of Annual and Leadership Giving at Tulane. "Give Green supporters make an impact that is felt on campus all year long — that's what the day is really about."

The number of gifts this year is double the amount made in the inaugural Give Green event in 2018. Contributions came from all 50 states and 17 countries.

Tulane President Michael A. Fitts spoke with student leaders about why they choose to give back to Tulane.

"Philanthropy plays an essential role in making the university the exceptional institution it is today," said Fitts. "The students I spoke with on Give Green have really taken to heart that it is through the generosity of our committed donors that future generations of students can continue to enjoy the same life-changing opportunities that they enjoy." 🍷



# Tulanians



## FEST, FRIENDS, FUN

(Clockwise from above) At the annual Crawfest festival on Tulane's uptown campus held in April, students enjoyed hanging out with a big mudbug named Carl on Berger Family Lawn; more than 12,000 pounds of crawfish were boiled for the crowd; Tarriona "Tank" Ball leads New Orleans music group Tank and the Bangas on the stage at Crawfest, which always features live entertainment.

1960  
1969

**ALAN H. GOODMAN (A&S '67)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in New Orleans, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.

1970  
1979

**JOE HOAGLAND (A&S '70)** of Leavenworth, Kansas, was interviewed in January for the Kansas Oral History Project about his career in Kansas politics, professional baseball, and starting the American Black Hereford Association. The interview is available on YouTube at [ksoralhistory.org](http://ksoralhistory.org).

**RONALD L. BOOK (L '78)** is the recipient of the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for 2023 for the 11th Judicial Circuit. Each year, the Florida Supreme Court and The Florida Bar honor lawyers, groups, and judiciary members who have charitably given their time and expertise in support and on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged clients. Book has dedicated hundreds of thousands of hours of pro bono service and leadership to many groups over decades of practice. His firm, Ronald L. Book, PA, has offices in Hollywood and Tallahassee, Florida.

1980  
1989

**JAN GILBERT (G '82)** exhibited "Light in the Head," a multidisciplinary work incorporating images, texts, light and candles, as part of a show "On Portraiture, Five Artists," at the Gryder Gallery in New Orleans in March.

**TRISTRAM (T.R.) KIDDER (A&S '82)**, professor of anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, was elected as a member of the American Academy



## IMPRESSION

# MICHELLE GIBSON

Since leaving New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Michelle Gibson has taken the city's culture to the world through her own New Orleans second-line aesthetic, a unique blend of dance styles ranging from Afro-funk to jazz. She has presented choreographic workshops and lectures at multiple festivals such as Jazz Ascona in Switzerland and Jacob's Pillow in the Berkshires, and just completed her first year as a professor of practice in dance at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Following her post-Katrina mission to create and preserve spaces filled with the spirit of New Orleans, she still invests much of her energy in local organizations such as the Ashé Cultural Center, Cultural Ties Dance Festival, Dancing Grounds,

and her own dance lecture and workshop project, The New Orleans Original Buckshop.

"To share New Orleans from an artistic perspective, through dance and history and music, is what my focus has been," Gibson said. "I'm in the classroom and I'm outside of the classroom, so my teaching, artist practice, and scholarship are all linked together."

Born in Independence, Louisiana, and raised in New Orleans, Gibson began her dance training at Milton School of Dance and an elementary after-school program at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). She completed her conservatory training at NOCCA through high school and began undergraduate studies at Dillard University. Gibson eventually paused her studies but later decided to attend Tulane to complete her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance.

"Tulane's program gave me hope, even in the midst of everything that I was going through in my personal life," said Gibson. "They created a space for me, so that as an artist, a mother, a student, I could finish and receive my degree."

After completing her BFA at Tulane, Gibson traveled around the world for almost 20 years doing residency work at universities, later receiving her MFA in dance from Hollins University/American Dance Festival at Duke University. Now working as a full-time professor, she has more time to hone her practice and scholarship. She keeps her mantra of "crossing bridges and connecting cultures" at the heart of her work, drawing on the communal experience of what it means to be a New Orleans artist.

"I made sure that my practice was like a chain of links of who I am and what I was raised on, and so everything that I teach will always revolve around my roots, connected to the African diaspora, as a New Orleans homegrown artist and scholar," Gibson said.

In partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Gibson will bring New Orleans culture to Dallas communities for the third annual Brass and Jazz in the Park this October. Gibson curated this festival for all communities, regardless of economic background, to create conversations about the importance of remembering New Orleans jazz roots.

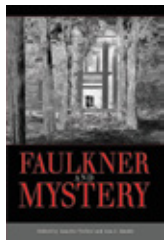
"I've continued what I brought with me as the evacuee in my teaching practice. I open spaces around the world, utilizing what it is that I wear on my skin, in my body and my soul," Gibson said. "And that is the rooted experience of growing up in a city that is the voice of Mother Africa on American soil. That is who I am." 🍷

of Arts & Sciences. Founded in 1780 by John Adams, John Hancock, and others, the academy honors exceptional scholars, leaders, artists and innovators.

**PETER J. BUTLER JR. (B '84, L '87)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in New Orleans, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.

**AMY WILDERSON (NC '85)** was awarded a grant from the Midway Contemporary Art's 2023 Visual Arts Fund via the Andy Warhol Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Wilderson's project will engage elders with jewelry making as a means of preserving culture, heritage and legacy. She lives in Minneapolis.

**THOMAS M. BENJAMIN (L '87)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in New Orleans, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.



**MYSTERIES AND WILLIAM FAULKNER**

**ANNETTE TREFZER (G '85, '92)**, professor of English at the University of Mississippi, recently published a co-edited book of essays, *Faulkner and Mystery* (University Press of Mississippi). The collection presents arguments about the role and function of mystery in William Faulkner's fiction. The scholars analyze Faulkner's use of the contemporary crime and detective genres; they also debate whether Faulkner's writing tries to solve mysteries or celebrates the elusiveness of truth and the perplexing and mystery nature of life. Trefzer lives in Water Valley, Mississippi.

**CHARLOTTE STEMMANS CLAVIER (NC '87)** was elected mayor of the city of Carencro, Louisiana. She is also president of Stemmans, a family business

specializing in the horse industry. She is on the board of directors of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association and vice president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

**LATRENDIA KNIGHTEN (NC '87)** was elected to serve on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics board of directors as incoming president-elect. Knighten lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is an elementary mathematics instructional specialist for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

**JON LEWIS (B '89)**, a partner at Lewis & Feldman, LLC, in Birmingham, Alabama, has been inducted into the Alabama chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, a professional association whose membership consists of alternative dispute resolution professionals in the field of civil and commercial conflict resolution. Lewis is a graduate of the Vanderbilt School of Law.



**JULIE GREENWALD (NC '91)** was honored as a Grammy Salute To Industry Icon and celebrated by The Recording Academy and Clive Davis at the Pre-Grammy Gala on Feb. 4. Greenwald is chairman and CEO of the Atlantic Music Group in New York. Greenwald visited the Tulane campus this spring to talk to Newcomb-Tulane College students about her illustrious career in the music business.

**RICHARD G. PASSLER (L '91)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in Baton Rouge, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.

**JENNIFER WILLIAMS (B '93)** was elected to become North Ward Councilwoman in Trenton, New Jersey, by one vote this past December and then sworn in on Jan. 1. Williams said, "My election win made me the first transgender New Jerseyan to be elected to a city council and the first LGBTQ person elected to Trenton City Council. My Tulane education helped me every step of the way."

**TIM GRIFFIN (L '94)** was sworn in as Arkansas' 57th attorney general in January. Griffin previously served as

lieutenant governor from 2015–23 and as a member of Congress from the Arkansas 2nd Congressional District from 2011–15. He is serving in his 27th year as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

**ISABEL GONZÁLEZ WHITAKER (NC '94)** was a speaker on the theme "We Rise" at TEDxAtlanta at the Rialto Center for the Arts on May 19. TEDxAtlanta is a Georgia-registered nonprofit founded on the belief in the power of ideas to build stronger communities. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading." González Whitaker, a journalist and civic engagement evangelist, is the chief operating officer at All in Together, a nonprofit dedicated to equipping voting-age American women with action-oriented, nonpartisan civic education to realize their full potential as leaders shaping our nation.

**JOSH DANZIG (TC '95)** majored in American Studies and founded *Where Y'at Magazine*, which is now New Orleans' largest monthly. *Where Y'at Magazine* celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Danzig lives in New Orleans, just yards from the Tulane campus.

**ROB SANDERS (TC '95)** was recognized as Outstanding Kentucky Prosecutor by the Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association at their annual conference in Lexington on Feb. 7. Sanders has served as Commonwealth's attorney for the 16th Judicial Circuit (Kenton County) since 2007. He is finishing his third six-year term in office and plans to run for reelection in 2024. Sanders served as president of the Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association in 2015-2016 and continues to serve as the organization's co-legislative chairman. Sanders and his wife, Delana, live in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, with their daughter.

**DENNIS G. LAMBERT (E '96, '00)** has been appointed to the Water Resources Commission by La. Gov. John Bel Edwards. Lambert is a benefit-cost analyst for flood mitigation for Innovative Emergency Management. He is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); chair of the Waterways Committee and member of the Ports & Harbors Committee for the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute; diplomate in port engineering and diplomate in navigation engineering for the Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port &

**What's one spot on campus you miss the most since graduating?**



The basement stacks in the Old Law School Building – the smell of musty law books.  
**Deborah Sabalot (NC '74)**



What I really miss is the old Rat (Rathskeller) ... The dank, low ceiling, mid-1970s Rat. The local music before famous Rat. The meetup place before a midnight McAlister movie Rat.  
**Marcus Urioste (A&S '78)**



The old Southern Garden Library at the basement of the library.  
**Katharine Rudnyk (NC '90)**

**What's one spot on campus you miss the most since graduating?**



Pocket Park behind the UC, where PJ's used to be.  
**David Mizrachi (L '91)**



The swings on the front porch of Cudd Hall! I still go back every visit.  
**Katie Lentz (PHTM '16)**



The James Lounge in the (Lavin-Bernick Center) had the best people watching on campus.  
**Mark Knowles Jr. (B '21)**

Navigation Engineers; and a diplomat in water resources engineering for the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. He recently assumed the position of chair for the Hans Albert Einstein Award issued by ASCE. Lambert lives in Lettsworth, Louisiana.

**SCOTT N. HENSGEN (L '97)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in Baton Rouge, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Super Lawyer in Business Litigation.

**J. ERIC MILES (L '98)** was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers during the college's spring meeting in Key Biscayne, Florida. Founded in 1950, the college is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Miles is a member of the law firm North Pursell & Ramos, PLC, in Nashville, Tennessee.

**WILEY NICKEL (TC '98)** was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina's 13th Congressional District in November 2022. Nickel served as a member of the North Carolina Senate from the 16th district from 2019 to 2023.

**MEGAN BRONSON (NC '99)** served as lieutenant for the Grail float in the Krewe of King Arthur parade on "family Sunday" of Mardi Gras 2023. Along for the ride all the way from Boston were **ALYSON DEWAR (NC '99)** and her daughter, Lorelei, 13. Dewar returned to New Orleans during the last weekend in April and first weekend in May for her 17th year working at Jazz Fest.

**CRAIG PLATT (TC '99)** launched a Los Angeles film and television creative marketing agency called Major Major in October 2022. They have already worked on campaigns for *Elvis*, Ben Affleck's film *Air*, Amazon's series *The Power* and *Dune Part 2*.



**ANDREW KIRKPATRICK (TC '00)** has been named chair of the Department of Political Science at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

Brothers **PETER SHAPIRO (B '00)** and **STUART SHAPIRO (B '07)** appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank" on March 31 to

promote Unattended Solutions, d/b/a Bleni Blends, their Philadelphia-based frozen beverage kiosk company. They received investment offers that will help them accelerate expansion and innovation efforts. Bleni Blends, made with real fruits and vegetables, currently operates over 50 machines in North America.

**ASHLEY VIGIL-OTERO (NC '01)** is a licensed psychologist in Tampa, Florida. Her new book, *The Self-Confidence Workbook for Teens*, published by New Harbinger Publications, was released in March.

**ALEXI GIANNOULIAS (L '02)** became Illinois' 38th secretary of state on Jan. 9. Prior to serving as secretary of state, Secretary Giannoulis was elected in 2006 as Illinois state treasurer, becoming the youngest state treasurer in the nation at the age of 30. He became the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate in 2010, narrowly losing the general election race, so his resurgence as a statewide constitutional officer 16 years later is quite the political comeback.

**ODELYA LEVY ARNOLD (E '03)** is vice president of cloud software for Citrix Systems, an American multinational cloud computing and virtualization technology company, headquartered in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Arnold began her career in software technology after being recruited at a job fair at Tulane.

**MEREDITH COX SMITH (E '03)** has been named to the Community Impact Board for HeartGift and its Louisiana chapter, headquartered in New Orleans. Over the last two decades, the nonprofit has provided nearly 800 free lifesaving heart surgeries to young patients and babies living in countries where specialized pediatric cardiac care is either scarce or nonexistent. Smith is head of sustainability for ED&F Man, a global provider of soft commodities including sugar, coffee, molasses, animal feed and fish oil. ED&F Man has sponsored 26 children over the years to receive HeartGift surgeries.

**LEENA PRADHAN-NABZDYK (G '04)** is an assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and is CEO and co-founder of Canomiks, a startup technology company based in Rochester, Minnesota, that offers solutions to ingredient suppliers and consumer packaged goods companies in the functional food, beverage and dietary supplement industry.

Pradhan-Nabzdyk was named one of the most Notable Women Entrepreneurs of 2022 by *Twin Cities Business*.

**KRISTIN TARSİ (B '05)** is co-founder and partner at Studio AK, an interior design firm based in New York City. Since its launch in 2020, Studio AK has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *AD* and *Miami Magazine*. Tarsi earned her AAS in Interior Design from Parsons School of Design in 2011. She lives on the Upper West Side in Manhattan.



**HANNAH HUPPI (B '11)** has announced plans to row across the Pacific Ocean in pursuit of a world record. In June 2024, she will row in an unsupported rowboat with a team of four people from Monterey, California, to Kauai, Hawaii. The journey is expected to take 30-40 days. The team is raising funds for Laureus Sport for Good USA and using the row as a tool to promote the transformative power of sport. Huppi was a rower on the Tulane rowing team for 4 years. After graduation, she competed for Team USA as an elite coastal rower. She won a bronze medal at the Beach Sprint World Championships in 2021 and was selected as the US Rowing Female Coastal Athlete of the Year in 2021.

**RACHAEL JEANFREAU (L '11)**, an attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, in New Orleans, has been named to the 2023 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star in Employment and Labor.

**WINDSOR V. RICHMOND (SLA '12)** has become a partner at the law firm Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP, in New Orleans.

**KELLY BERTENTHAL (PHTM '14)** was a panelist at SXSW EDU in Austin, Texas, in March, discussing "Scaling Tech Innovation for the Autism Community." Bertenthal is head of strategic initiatives for Multiple, a nonprofit dedicated to catalyzing innovative solutions for the autism community. She lives in San Rafael, California.

**KATHERINE CONNER (PHTM '15)** received the Eric B. Taylor Leadership Award from the Louisiana Primary Care Association in December 2022. The award



## IMPRESSION

# JACKSON SMITH

**T**he resilience and community of New Orleans led Jackson Smith (SLA '07, L'18), a Marine Corps veteran who served in Afghanistan, to make the city his home.

He also sees these themes in the U.S. veterans who inspire him in his job as executive director of Bastion Community of Resilience.

"Members of the Bastion community are veterans," he said, "but they're New Orleanians first."

Bastion is designed for veterans by veterans based in New Orleans. Providing more than houses, the community offers veterans a place to heal, live, support and be supported after returning from service. Located at 1901 Mirabeau Ave., on 5.5 acres in the Gentilly neighborhood, Bastion is the first of its kind, according to Smith.

Residents sign leases with a non-affiliated property owner and can receive full or partial financial housing support through HUD vouchers and other sources.

"The leasing model gives residents the ability to stay at Bastion long-term if they so desire, thus providing the longevity needed to establish meaningful relationships across the community," said Smith. "Regardless of any resident's housing costs, every member of the community has access to the nonprofit's treatment programs, clinicians, resources and community events at no cost whatsoever."

The Bastion concept works because it removes barriers to treatment as it lessens the burden that many veterans feel when trying to heal on their own. It's not just about neighbors holding each other accountable for treatment regimens and therapy, it's about a community of wellness, families and veterans who understand each other as they live together and look out for one another. "That is a treatment in itself," said Smith.

Smith credits Bastion's success to his team and their commitment to and love for veterans. He said that every day he feels like he's won the lottery. Recalling his time practicing law in the private sector before he took the Bastion job in 2022, Smith said he had been "feeling the need to return to work in service of the community." He said, "Bastion gave that back to me. The reason I put in so many hours is because I get more from them."

Smith is not surprised that New Orleans is the place to make the Bastion community a reality. "No one understands community like New Orleans," he said.

Driving through residential areas impacted by Hurricane Ida in 2021, Smith said that he saw "at least one person on every block was cooking food on a grill to share." This reality of "neighbors helping neighbors" is something that he previously witnessed after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

That was another time in New Orleans when he was able to see, firsthand, the community and resilience of people taking care of each other during the worst of times. This reality is one reason why Smith believes that Bastion and New Orleans are a perfect fit. "Every New Orleanian should be proud that Bastion started here," he said. 🇺🇸

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is presented to an outstanding non-provider staff member of a Louisiana Federally Qualified Health Center who exemplifies passion and commitment to improving the care and quality of life for health center patients. In 2016, Conner started and led a robust rapid HIV-linkage program in New Orleans. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, she started the first community walk-up testing site and then led the charge on vaccination campaigns for community members and schools.



**HIS GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER'S TALE**

*The Sugar King Leon Godchaux: A New Orleans Legend, His Creole Slave, and His Jewish Roots* by **PETER M. WOLF (G '63)** has earned praise from Walter Isaacson and Richard Campanella. Wolf appeared at the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University in March.



**ARTIST'S STORY**

*Phantasmagoria: The Artistic World of Sohr* by **MARY RICKARD (NC '74)** is about Chalmette, Louisiana, artist Jim Sohr and his 50-year career. Sohr learned to paint in the late 1960s while an Angola prisoner, sentenced for selling marijuana to an undercover agent. Rickard also wrote a story for *French Quarter Journal* about the 1964 police raid when Sohr and others were arrested at an integrated coffeehouse.

**ELIZABETH GARCIA (B '15)** is a co-founder of KYLE CAVAN, a women-owned jewelry company in New York City, specializing in collegiate, Greek and custom collections, including a Tulane Collection.

**CAROLINE KROPKE (SLA '15)** has been promoted to senior account manager with expertise in media relations, corporate communications, cybersecurity and proptech — the application of

information technology and platform economics to the real estate industry — at Pace PR in New York City.

**ALANDER ROCHA (SLA '15)** started as a state government and healthcare reporter for the *Alabama Reflector* via States Newsroom, the nation's leading network of state-based nonprofit news outlets.

**SAM HURLEY (B '18)** is an adviser at SVN |Urban Properties, a New Orleans-based commercial brokerage, property management and development firm. He recently represented the landowners in the disposition of 27 acres along Ambassador Caffery Parkway in Lafayette, Louisiana. This closing represents the second large land transaction this year for Hurley & SVN | Urban Properties. He also represented the purchaser in the acquisition of 3800 Howard Ave. in New Orleans, the 9-acre site that was formerly home of *The Times-Picayune*.

**REBECCA EVANS (B '19, SLA '19)** has moved to Singapore with her job at FalconX, a digital asset prime broker. She's opening their local office after being with the firm in New York City for over a year. Evans will be leading Asia Institutional Sales and responsible for growing the business across the region. Prior to FalconX, Evans began her career on Wall Street in prime brokerage and then as a futures sales trader.

**KEY TO SCHOOLS**

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

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

**Farewell**

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

- Marjorie Leverich Moran (NC '39)
- Wilma Baker Malhiot (NC '43)
- Jean Hirsch Frank (NC '44)
- Florence Lanier Hall (NC '45)
- John H. Thomson Jr. (E '45)
- Irene Buchanan Norris (NC '46)
- Albert Fraenkel II (B '47)
- Joseph W. Heintz (A&S '47)
- Rosalie Woolfley Johness (NC '47)
- Frank J. Morgan Jr. (M '47)
- Ronald B. Durning (A&S '48)
- Jane Biederman Emling (NC '48)
- Sally Foster (NC '48)
- Estelle Perrault (G '48)
- Edward B. Scherich (B '48)
- Ronald A. Bartlett (A&S '49)
- John H. Counce II (A&S '49, M '56)
- Virginia Colebeck Mond (NC '49)
- John G. Owen Jr. (A&S '49)
- Betty Turner Treen (NC '49)
- Bettina Muelling Barnes (NC '50)
- Mary Anne Hebert Creagan (B '50)
- Weston E. Folse (A&S '50, M '54)
- Elizabeth Singleton Gaiennie (G '50)
- Morris M. Schechter (M '50)
- William O. Smith (A&S '50)
- William L. Bonar (A&S '51)
- Jean Covington Bulloch (NC '51)
- James H. Gaddy (M '51)
- Eugene R. Katz (B '51)
- Lynn Dazet Lipsey (NC '51)
- Melba Weinberger McSwain (NC '51, G '77)
- Benjamin B. Okel (A&S '51, M '54)
- Jerome A. Rosenthal Sr. (UC '51)
- Ninette Perrilliat Webster (NC '51)
- Milton E. Brener (L '52, G '93)
- Albert L. Meric Jr. (B '52)
- Leonard R. Franseen (B '53)
- Thomas B. Lemann (L '53)
- Victor R. Goeller Jr. (M '54)
- John B. Levert Jr. (A&S '54)

**Send Us Your News**

Do you have exciting news — new job, new degree, an award, a book publication, birth of a child, marriage, or other significant or just fun life event — to share with your fellow Tulanians?

Submit your news:  
[tulanian.tulane.edu/contact](mailto:tulanian.tulane.edu/contact)  
 or email: [tulanemag@tulane.edu](mailto:tulanemag@tulane.edu)



## TRIBUTE

# EMILIE GRIFFIN

**E**milie Dietrich Griffin, author and Newcomb College alumna, passed away on October 15, 2022, in Gretna, Louisiana.

Emilie (NC '57) double majored in English and Latin at Newcomb. Among many extracurricular activities, she reviewed theater, wrote a column and served as managing editor for the student newspaper, *The Tulane Hullabaloo*.

Her Newcomb education would stay with her. Emilie wrote of her favorite Newcomb faculty member, Mildred Christian, as helping her grasp the idea of a life of the mind.

In a compilation of essays about Newcomb College that Beth Willinger and I published in 2012, Griffin's insight into what made such a life memorable sent me on a reading relay race of other such women. I asked, I recall, about Claire Tomalin, a

scholar of other great English writers that Emilie loved. I often go back to Tomalin to read lines in her biographies of Dickens and think what Emilie would have thought. Emilie had spoken to me about "the ladder of those who come before us, those upon whom we stand." She recalled that her mother, Helen Dietrich (NC '33), also had Christian as a teacher, and placed teachers and writers at the foundation of her learning to learn, speak and write.

After college, Emilie moved to New York to further her career in writing. She worked as an advertising copywriter, and later pursued a playwriting class taught by Edward Albee, who was then working on "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" It was in this class that she would meet her future husband.

Emilie also often spoke meaningfully of the privileges of striving. This, too, she learned, she said, with her mother and grandmother, and with Christian. Emilie remembered studying Milton with Christian and taking away the remark, "I never could admire a fugitive and cloistered virtue." To Emilie, this meant the sharing of doubts and failures, as well as revelatory epiphanies, happy breakthroughs, and exciting events, even those of just walking down a street. Milton's quotation also guided her in choosing work in advertising, or as she called it, "the marketplace," over academia. She chose it to match her family's needs with her own and to incorporate philosophical topics into commercial work as well as gatherings among writers and dinners with friends.

Emilie will be remembered for her joyful side, as readers can see in her essay on Christian in the Newcomb history anthology. Her life was a testament to a dance of sorts like she had had in her 20s: with her children, her making of books, her fondness for doing as well as thinking, and such loves as her hometown itself. She gave each conversation deep attention, and always shared many different emotions and ideas. Those were gifts for which I remain grateful. ♡

—Susan Tucker (NC '72) is the co-editor of *Newcomb College 1886–2006: Higher Education for Women in New Orleans* (Louisiana State University Press, 2012) and *New Orleans Cuisine: Fourteen Signature Dishes and Their Histories* (University Press of Mississippi, 2009). She's also the author of *Telling Memories Among Southern Women: Domestic Workers in the Segregated South* (Louisiana State University Press, 1988) and co-author of *The Scrapbook in American Life* (Temple University Press, 2006), among other works on material and archival cultures. She is the former Curator of Books and Records for the Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library at Tulane.

Carmen Posada-Pepper (M '54, PHTM '72)	Charles R. Blackburn II (A&S '62, B '64)	Robert W. Fullerton Sr. (B '67)	John E. Baker (A&S '78, L '88)
Gayle G. Ward (B '54)	Peter C. Capdepon (B '62)	Louis A. Grossimon (UC '67, G '70)	Rosemary Parkel Hannie (B '78)
Hunter E. Babin (B '55)	Patrick M. Flanagan (M '62)	Carolyn Regis Harper (G '67)	Jon D. Picou (A&S '78, L '81)
William J. O'Shaughnessey Jr. (M '55)	Arsenio Giron (G '62)	Foye L. Lowe Jr. (L '67)	Glenn J. Richoux (E '78, '81)
Leon G. Barnett Jr. (E '56, '58)	Edward M. Gordon III (A&S '62, L '64)	Alva J. Morris (B '67)	Oliver R. Lambert Jr. (M '79)
James E. Carmody Jr. (A&S '56, G '65)	James B. Holder III (M '62)	William L. Runyon Jr. (L '67)	Malcolm L. Strehle Jr. (UC '79)
Joseph A. Ettinger (L '56)	Martha Hayes Hunter (NC '62)	Robert W. Wilkinson (M '67)	Cecelia Krefft (NC '80)
William A. Ferrante (A&S '56, M '59)	Robert T. Love Jr. (M '62)	Harry D. Kahn Jr. (A&S '68)	Margaret Massey Holman (E '81)
Dorothy McCabe Kueber (A '56)	Jesse M. Lyons Sr. (A '62)	Ronald B. Rea (G '68)	Marc S. Komisarow (L '81)
Joan Renken McKee (NC '56)	John A. Mead (A&S '62)	Shih-Chien Sun (G '68)	John B. Watts (A&S '81)
Carol Curet Suhren (NC '56)	Albert R. Rexinger (B '62)	Russell G. Warren (G '68)	Gloria Sigl Maisano (PHTM '82)
Donald L. Wood (A&S '56)	Warren F. Taylor Jr. (A&S '62)	Spencer R. Bailey (M '69)	Gayle Periou Scheuermann (L '84)
Sonia Winer Young (NC '56)	Frank M. Bordelon (E '63, '65)	Thomas C. Farrell Jr. (M '69)	Robert H. Tucker Jr. (B '84)
Arthur P. Dayries (E '57)	Keith M. Hammett Sr. (B '63)	Steven F. Letofsky (A&S '69)	James P. Brillhart (PHTM '85)
Robert B. Hargrove (L '57)	Thomas W. Holcombe Sr. (G '63)	Gary A. Monroe (A&S '69)	Peter de la Vasselais (A&S '85, B '88)
Walter J. Kirsch III (A&S '57)	Campbell C. Hutchinson III (L '63)	Samuel D. Moreau (SW '69)	Edward S. Shapack (L '85)
William P. Klotz Sr. (B '57)	Wesley W. Lake Jr. (M '63)	Gene Zylks Laborde-Griffin (G '70)	Lizbeth Turner (L '85)
Charles D. Viccellio (L '57)	Margaret Leonard (NC '63)	Malcolm E. Hess Sr. (SW '71)	Lang B. Ryder (UC '86)
Natalie Alexander Greenberg (NC '58)	Patrick M. Morgan (PHTM '63, '68)	Scott P. Spector (A&S '71, L '74)	Lawrence L. Boudreaux III (B '88)
Flora McIver Kelly (NC '58)	William R. Ary Sr. (L '64)	Marguerite Simpkins Call (G '72)	Marvin W. Clifford (SW '88)
Katherine Livingston (NC '58)	Mark A. Belsey (PHTM '64)	Allen R. Christensen (E '72)	Paul D. Wuthrich (B '88)
Margaret Oalmann Palmisano (PHTM '58, '60)	Lynne Haddock Harris (NC '64)	Herbert W. Henry (M '72)	Wendy Davis Sack (G '89)
Lev D. Willis Jr. (B '58)	Anne Gentry Johnson-Cody (G '64)	John M. Hobbs Jr. (G '72, M '72)	Michael A. Sutton (A&S '89)
Allan S. Goldman (A&S '59)	Richard I. Manas (A&S '64)	Gustave A. Manthey Jr. (L '72)	Alice Adams (B '90)
Jefferson M. Lee (A&S '59)	Dennis E. Murphy (A&S '64)	Helton G. Marshall (L '72)	Eric P. Johnson (UC '92)
Theodore H. Nees III (A&S '59)	Dale P. Skoog (M '64)	Mary Lawson Pendleton (G '72)	Elvin G. Stampley (A&S '92, UC '94)
Richard P. Scheff (L '59)	Laurence H. Turner Jr. (A&S '64)	Glenn P. Dismukes Jr. (A&S '73, L '76, G '88)	Timothy E. Mara (B '95)
René A. Curry Jr. (A&S '60, L '65)	Ann Fothergill Wiklund (NC '64)	Joseph A. Pelto Sr. (A&S '73)	Catherine Caesar (G '97)
David R. Ewing (M '60)	Robert A. Kyff Sr. (A&S '65)	Ann Ferguson Wimberley (M '73)	Stephen J. Fauchaux Sr. (PHTM '97)
Allan L. Katz (A&S '60)	Frank O. McGehee III (M '65)	James T. Harwell (UC '74)	Elizabeth Bohacheff Homar (B '97)
Charlene Podas Levy (NC '60)	Sandy Goldberg Schwartz (NC '65)	Ralph G. Miller Jr. (SW '74)	Yolanda Dillion (G '99)
Donald J. Palmisano (A&S '60, M '63)	Josephine Markham Taylor (G '65)	Kathleen Delery Baxter (NC '75, B '80)	Jill Bagalman (SW '00)
Elise Hamlett Peavy (NC '60, G '63)	James E. Willis Sr. (G '65)	Francis A. Doyle Jr. (UC '75)	Christopher P. Swinney (M '00)
John T. Wilson III (A&S '60, G '63, M '63)	Paulus Zee (G '65)	George R. Hoag (G '75)	William W. Waring Sr. (UC '01)
Samuel P. Winokur (A&S '60)	James F. Cantrell (UC '66)	Scott G. Kirby (M '75)	Candace Grace (PHTM '03)
Ralph J. Berni (G '61, G '66)	Donald W. Doyle Jr. (L '66)	Thomas A. Rollow Jr. (E '75)	Chantel Mayeaux Martin (UC '06)
Nelson P. Castellano (A&S '61)	Philip C. Ho (SW '66)	Alphonse J. Schmitt III (A&S '75)	Gavin E. Rush (UC '06)
Hal J. Drez (E '61)	James F. Holmes (L '66)	Robert B. Acomb III (A&S '76, L '79)	Brooke Shandloff Fernandez (SSE '07)
Thomas W. Gravois (A '61)	Thomas H. Jones (A&S '66, M '70)	Gerard E. Babst (B '76)	Brian W. Shinault (SCS '07, '10)
Elaine Hixon Johnson (NC '61)	Thomas M. Beck (M '67)	Dominick F. Bonura (G '76)	Emmett M. Morphis (SCS '09)
James A. McLean (G '61)	Harold J. Blytt (A&S '67)	Robert M. McLeod (A&S '76)	Casey C. Huckel (SLA '10)
Jeanne Cavaroc Ryan (NC '61, G '63)	Paul J. Brown (A&S '67)	Lillian Lesser Niditch (M '76)	Daniel J. Rees (SSE '19)
James H. Smith (G '61)	Lynn I. Caraway (B '67)	Suzanne Stamps Rheinstejn (NC '76)	Miranda Garbacz (SoPA '19)
Nathaniel R. Troy Sr. (A&S '61, L '64)	Holly Chetta (NC '67, G '70, PHTM '77)	Jon E. Tappan (G '76)	
	Brian R. Deacon (E '67)	Margaret Greene (NC '77, SW '79)	



# 2023 ALUMNI AWARDS



## **Bobby Boudreau Spirit Award**

### **James M. Becnel (A&S '79, SW '89)**

A former Green Wave football player and scholarship recipient, James M. Becnel is the program director for the Jefferson Parish Alliance of Concerned Citizens. Having served as an assistant professor of psychiatry at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center for many years, Becnel is also a former member of the Tulane Alumni Association Board of Directors, where he worked to connect alumni, particularly those who were student-athletes, with mentoring and networking opportunities.



## **Robert V. Tessaro Young Alumni Volunteer Award**

### **Chelsea B. Cipriano (SLA '10, PHTM '11)**

Chelsea B. Cipriano has held an array of impactful roles with the National Network of Public Health Institutes in New Orleans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the New York City Office of the Mayor. In addition to chairing her fifth reunion and serving on her 10th reunion committee, she co-chaired the Tulane Alumni Association's nationwide task force.



## **International Award for Exceptional Achievement**

### **Dr. David P. Gaus (M '92, PHTM '92)**

Dr. David P. Gaus started the non-governmental organization Andean Health and Development (AHD) to provide self-sustaining, comprehensive health care to the rural poor in Ecuador. The World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, and Ecuador's Ministry of Health recently recognized Gaus and AHD for having launched a model program of rural health care. Gaus also founded a family practice residency in Ecuador at Hospital Pedro Vicente Maldonado jointly with the Catholic University of Ecuador.



## **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Leadership Award**

### **Jazmia E. Henry (SLA '16)**

Jazmia E. Henry is a practitioner fellow with the digital civil society lab at the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, where she seeks to reduce racial and gender bias in textual analysis systems through the creation of an African American Vernacular English corpus. She also works as a senior applied AI engineer in the area of autonomous systems at Microsoft.



## **Distinguished Alumna Award**

### **Anne S. McCulloch (NC '79, L '84)**

Anne S. McCulloch is executive vice president, chief legal officer and corporate secretary for the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. Previously, she served as president and CEO of Housing Partnership Equity Trust. Earlier, McCulloch spent nearly 20 years with Fannie Mae, serving in strategic legal and business roles. She is a thought leader and frequent speaker in the housing industry who has led efforts to analyze market changes.



## **Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Professional Achievement Award**

### **Gabrielle Perry (PHTM '19)**

Gabrielle Perry is the founder and executive director of The Thurman Perry Foundation, a nonprofit that aims to provide direct-giving resources to formerly incarcerated women, with a special emphasis on Black women and women of color. Outside of her work as a philanthropic organizer for criminal justice reform, Perry is also a writer and a clinical epidemiologist/data analyst specializing in both chronic and infectious diseases.



## **Lisa P. Jackson Professional Achievement Award**

### **Tania C. Tetlow (NC '92)**

Tania C. Tetlow is the president of Fordham University and former president of Loyola University New Orleans. A former senior vice president and chief of staff as well as the Felder-Fayard Professor of Law at Tulane University, she served as Tulane's inaugural associate provost for international affairs. Her legal research helped to usher in new anti-discrimination policies at the U.S. Department of Justice.



## **Scott Cowen Service Award**

### **Cheryl A. Verlander (NC '70, SW '75)**

A psychiatric social worker, Cheryl A. Verlander holds licenses as a clinical social worker, professional counselor, and marriage and family therapist. As an active Tulane volunteer since 2007, she has been a dedicated member of the Houston National Campaign Council, the President's Council and the Social Work Dean's Advisory Council, served on her 45th and 50th reunion committees, and hosted an array of donor events. Along with her husband, Charles "Chuck" Bracht, she established the Verlander-Bracht Scholarship Endowed Fund to support students pursuing their MSW degrees at the Tulane School of Social Work.



## **Dermot McGlinchey Lifetime Achievement Award**

### **Celia S. Weatherhead (NC '65)**

Celia S. Weatherhead has served impactfully on the Board of Tulane (where she continues to hold an emeritus role), the President's Council and the Newcomb Dean's Advisory Council and as chair of her 50th reunion. Her philanthropic commitments to Tulane have been transformative and include such highlights as establishing two presidential chairs, multiple university professorships and a scholarship program for service-oriented undergraduates.

# COMPLEX PROBLEMS, COMPLEX ANSWERS

BY MICHAEL A. FITTS, President

As we well know in Louisiana, sea-level rise is one of the world's most critical climate concerns. It is an incredibly complex issue, involving the interplay between the earth, the oceans, the cryosphere, the human race and all other living species. No single scientific discipline can encompass the study of all of the factors at play: studying sea-level rise is inherently interdisciplinary.

Tulane is a leader in breaking down barriers between disciplines and creating collaborations. It's what helps us attract faculty like Sönke Dangendorf, who joined Tulane in 2021 as the David and Jane Flowerree Assistant Professor in the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering.

A truly interdisciplinary scholar, Sönke started out as a civil engineer, then became interested in climate change issues while designing coastal structures. When he found that civil engineering was limited in its ability to analyze and understand the issues at hand, he began to incorporate oceanography into his work. When he wondered how to effectively illustrate the complex processes of sea-level rise for the general public, he collaborated with his wife, Lengxi Dangendorf, a visual artist, on a series of illustrations for the Waters Rising exhibit at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia.




Wetland Watchers Park in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, overlooks a delicate area where land and water meet, and which is particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Tulane is a leader in analyzing global climate change and the challenges it brings.

Sönke's boundary-breaking work recently earned him a \$3.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense through which he will lead a team of engineers, oceanographers and geodesists from four universities. With their collective expertise, the team will provide sea-level information to determine the level of exposure faced by more than 2,000 military installations worldwide due to rising seas. The team's work can be applied to civilian communities, as well.

The research that Sönke and his peers are doing bridges directly to the work of

Tulane's ByWater Institute, which supports interdisciplinary collaboration within the university and engages with coastal and river basin communities — locally and globally — to help them thrive.

The ByWater Institute also studies interrelated problems like water access and public health disparities while developing new strategies for sustaining healthy ecosystems and adapting to a changing environment. Meanwhile, at the Law School, the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy is partnering with decision-makers and stakeholders to ensure proper stewardship of water resources for the present and future.

From the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering to the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South; from the Innovation Institute to the Center for Brain Health; and from the Albert LePage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to the ByWater Institute and beyond, Tulane continues to create and nurture the critical, fertile space between disciplines, where the answers to today's complex problems can be found. 



Tulane continues to create and nurture the critical, fertile space between disciplines, where the answers to today's complex problems can be found.

Make Way for a **HELLUVA HULLABALOO**

@ ONE,  
@ TWO,  
@ HELLUVA  
HULLABALOO  
@ HULLABALOO  
RAY RAY  
@ HULLABALOO  
RAY RAY

GREEN WAVE,  
GREEN WAVE,  
HATS OFF TO THEE,  
FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT,  
OUR VIC-TO-RY,  
@ SKIES

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