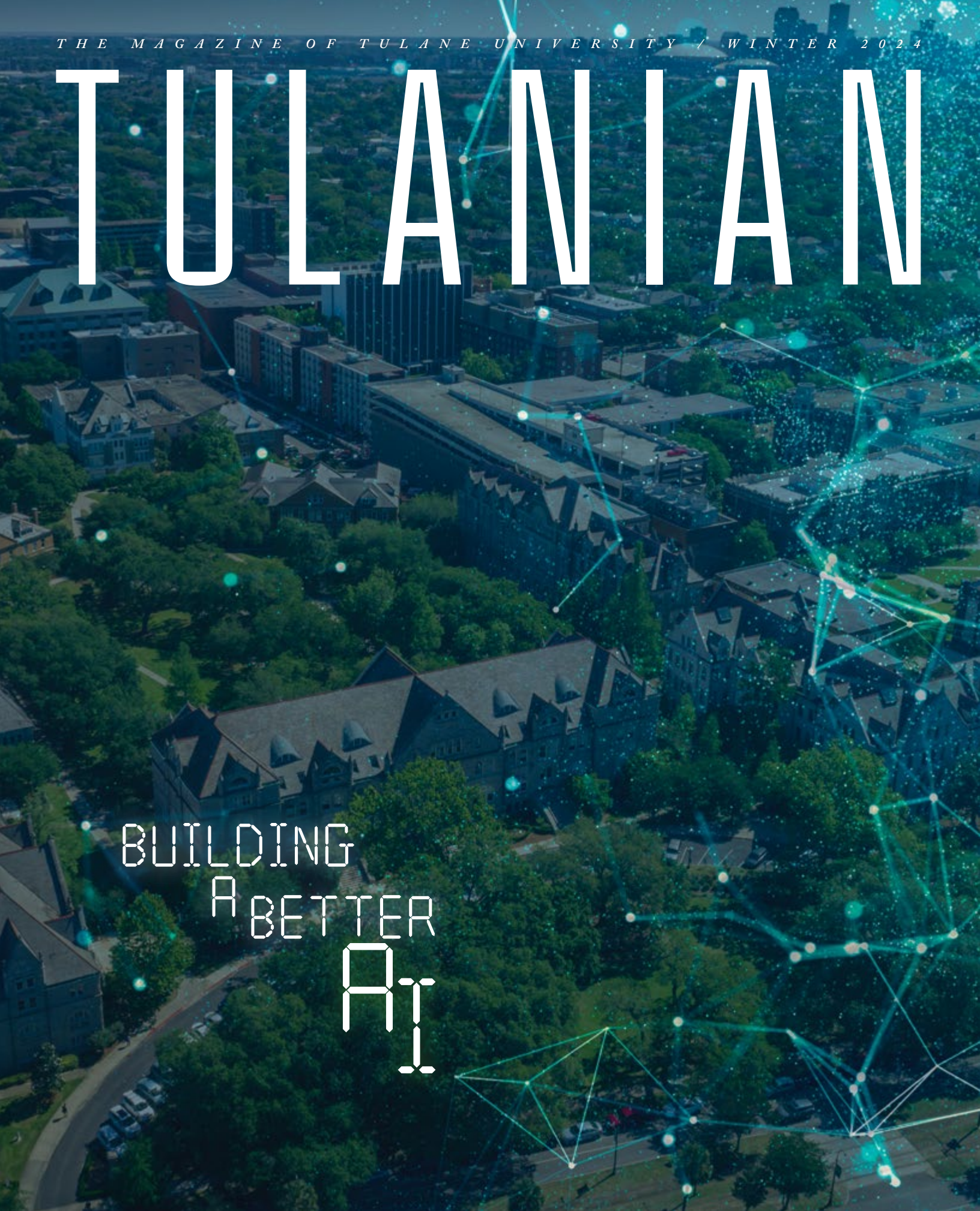
THE MAGAZINE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY / WINTER 2024

TULANIAN



BUILDING A BETTER AI



HOMECOMING TUNES

Donning pink marching hat plumes in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, along with their marvelous tunes and moves, Tulane University Marching Band members leave the sold-out crowd dazzled after a performance at Yulman Stadium during the Homecoming football game.

PHOTO BY TYLER KAUFMAN



TULANIAN

Contents

WINTER 2024 / VOL. 95 / NO. 1

DEPARTMENTS

4 **First Look**

UP FIRST

6 **New Director of Athletics**

7 **Genius grant, alcohol and blood pressure**

8 **Stephen Martin Scholars**

9 **HIV research, How Tweet It Is**

10 **New Orleans** The Dream Job

11 **Cro-Magnons**

12 **Bogalusa Heart Study anniversary**

WAVEMAKERS

38 **Audacious Giving, Wave Weekend**

TULANIANS

41 **Class Notes**

42 **John Barney Taylor and George B. McCullough**

44 **Farewell**

45 **Demeka Fields**

46 **Tribute: B. Michael Howard**

47 **Research Awards**

VIEWPOINT

48 **President's Letter**

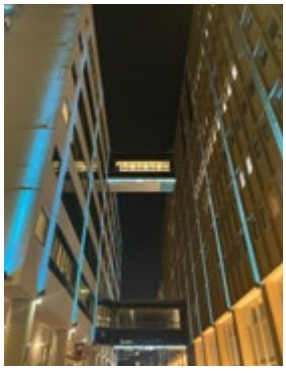
22

MAIN FEATURE

BUILDING A BETTER AI

Tulane faculty seek to unlock the secrets of more powerful and useful artificial intelligence applications and to work with community partners to ensure AI's fairness for those whom it impacts.





14

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP DOWNTOWN

Tulane's expanding downtown campus is the result of the vision of President Michael A. Fitts, who never doubted the potential of the area to become a major hub for research, innovation and medicine.



18

'ALWAYS' AUDACIOUS

The university's successful "Only the Audacious" campaign has raised more than $1.5 billion and continues as "Always the Audacious," with four key priorities to transform university life.



28

SHARED SUCCESS

Three new campus faculty leaders — Lindsay Cronk, Mollye Demosthenidy and Anita Raj — have bonded over their new roles and agree that now is an even more exciting time to be a Tulanian.



32

THE PRIMA PAPERS

An archive of one of jazz's "wildest" performers, the incomparable bandleader Louis Prima, finds a home at Tulane, with photographs, TV scripts and more available for public research.

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Front cover: An aerial shot of the uptown campus with luminous data structures in the foreground. Photo by Jackson Hill

Tulane University

PHOTO BY SABREE HILL

First Look









BY THE NUMBERS

This fall **two new residence halls,** Lake and River, opened on the uptown campus, bringing the number of residential communities on campus to 13. As Phase 1 of The Village, a concept that reimagines residential life through an innovative combination of living and learning opportunities, Lake and River are exciting new additions to campus.

13 Residential Communities

696 Lake and River added 696 **student beds** to campus housing.

Two new residence halls are planned for **Phase 2 of The Village;** when complete, The Village will have five new residence halls. **2**

14,000 The Small Family Collaboration Hub at Lake and River boasts **14,000 square feet** of recreational and entertainment space, including huddle rooms for small groups.

105 At 105, Josephine Louise House is the **oldest continuously occupied** residence hall on campus.

More than **4,000 students** currently live in on-campus residence halls. **4,221**

Pictured on page 3: Students enjoy the spaces around the new Lake and River residence halls. Opposite page, clockwise from top: The pool and natatorium at the Reily Student Recreation Center reopened with impressive new upgrades; Max is a friendly canine addition to the Tulane Police Department; Wave Weekend 2023 kicked off with a conversation between Walter Isaacson, the Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values and co-chair of the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University, and author Michael Lewis; electric shuttles are a new way to get around campus. Below: The final touches are completed on Steven and Jann Paul Hall.



SPACE LAW PROGRAM TAKES FLIGHT

The Space Law program at Tulane Law School officially launched this fall with two courses, Space Law: Jurisdiction and International Treaties, and Space Law: Property, Tort and the Environment. A "mini-course" was also offered last spring, attracting 60 students.

STEVEN AND JANN PAUL HALL

When the Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering officially opened in January as the new home of the School of Science and Engineering, it will bring 70,000 square feet in a five-story building with research laboratories, an animal research facility, a 200-plus seat auditorium, student gathering areas and more.

TULANE IS A 'HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS'

The Louisiana Board of Regents designated Tulane and other Louisiana universities as a "hunger-free" campus, indicating that Tulane has established elements of a program designed to combat food insecurity among students, including participating in at least one anti-hunger awareness event each academic year.

QUANTUM ENGINEERING CONSORTIUM

The School of Science and Engineering will receive $500,000 as part of a new consortium dedicated to educating quantum engineers. The funding will train a new generation of these engineers in advanced computing and communications technologies. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's RENEW Initiative, which awarded a total of $4.8 million in grants to the seven universities in the consortium.

Up First

NEW DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

BY ROGER DUNAWAY AND MIKE STRECKER



Tulane University President Michael A. Fitts announced in November the hiring of David Harris as the Green Wave's new Director of Athletics and the Ben Weiner Director of Athletics Chair. Harris, who was named an Athletics Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics in 2021, comes to Tulane after serving as Director of Athletics at the University of Northern Iowa. He will oversee an athletics program enjoying remarkable success both academically and across the 17 sports in which they compete. Tulane's athletics facilities are also undergoing major expansions and improvements while the Green Wave fan base is growing exponentially.

"Central to David's long and deep experience in collegiate athletics administration is his passion for the success of student-athletes, the value and integrity of competition and the importance of sports in uniting and inspiring students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff and fans," Fitts said. "At Tulane, David will oversee an incredibly talented and dedicated group of student-athletes, coaches, administrators and staff who have elevated our athletics program to a high point in its long and storied history. With this hire, the opportunities and potential are limitless."

With Harris' arrival in 2016, the University of Northern Iowa continued gaining national recognition for besting Power Five programs across all sports, winning 20 conference championships, having 17 "Coaches of the Year," 28 "Players of the Year" and earning 11 NCAA tournament bids. He also helped lead record-breaking fundraising efforts and facility development.

Harris holds NCAA leadership roles and serves on national committees related to general athletics oversight, academic enhancement, equity and diversity, student-athlete transfers and more. He is a member of the NCAA's Division I Council, the NCAA's Council Coordination Committee and Chair of the NCAA's Women's Basketball Oversight Committee.

Under Harris' leadership, student-athletes have consistently maintained GPAs and graduation rates that exceed the overall student body.

"My career began supporting the academic pursuits of student-athletes, and it has always been important to me to find a place that combines world-class academics with a pursuit of excellence in all of its athletic endeavors," Harris said. "President Fitts is committed to the well-being, academic achievement and lifelong success of Tulane's student-athletes and continuing to build an athletics program that matches the university's nationally renowned research and academics."

Harris, a Baton Rouge native, said returning home was also a big draw. "I was born and raised in south Louisiana, so I know firsthand that the city of New Orleans is an amazing community. It is the right place for my wife Felicia, who is a native of Natchez, Mississippi, and I to continue to raise our family."

Harris will serve as a member of the university's senior leadership team and will serve on the President's Cabinet. The announcement of Harris' hiring follows an extensive nationwide search led by Tulane Board Member Doug Hertz and a committee of board members, faculty, athletics staff, students and community members.

"During our athletic director search, David stood out for his exceptional vision for Tulane athletics and passionate desire to move our program forward to compete at the highest levels of intercollegiate athletics," said Patrick Norton, Tulane's senior vice president and chief operating officer. "David's extensive knowledge, experience and leadership will be invaluable to our athletics program and the development and success of our student-athletes."



COMPOSER AND PIANIST COURTNEY BRYAN RECEIVES 'GENIUS GRANT'

BY STACEY PLAISANCE

Courtney Bryan, associate professor and the Albert and Linda Mintz Professor of Music in the School of Liberal Arts, has been named a 2023 "genius grant" recipient by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Bryan, a New Orleans native, creates music in various genres, including jazz and experimental music as well as traditional gospel, spirituals and hymns. Her compositions bridge the sacred and the secular and explore human emotions through sound. She has also participated in and helped design programs that guide young people to improvise, compose and work with music technology.

Nominees are selected by an anonymous committee and winners are notified by phone. "Somewhere toward the end of the phone conversation it kind of hit me what was happening and that I was the recipient," Bryan said. "I work with great collaborators and colleagues, and it's easier sometimes to see in someone else what's special about them, so when they see it in you, it's really affirming."

School of Liberal Arts Dean Brian T. Edwards praised Bryan's creative vision and talent.

"Courtney Bryan is one of the most exciting composers in America today. From her profound meditations on breath and racial violence to the thrilling expressiveness of her triumphal work, the range of her innovation and the depth of her talent is stunning," Edwards said, noting that she remains a dedicated teacher and a generous colleague as well.

The award comes with an $800,000 condition-free stipend to pursue her creative interests.

"I'm thinking about things I want to do for my community as well as for myself," Bryan said. "New Orleans is so important to me … the culture, the history and the kind of talent we have here. New Orleans formed who I am and how I see the world, and if there's something creative I want to do, I want to base it in New Orleans."

ALCOHOL AND BLOOD PRESSURE

BY ANDREW J. YAWN

Limiting yourself to one alcoholic drink a day may not be enough to avoid detrimental impacts on your health, according to a study co-authored by Dr. Paul Whelton, Show Chwan Chair in Global Public Health at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

The study, published in *Hypertension*, confirmed for the first time that both low and high daily alcohol intake are continuously associated with increases in blood pressure levels, potentially increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

The findings were the result of a combined analysis of seven international research studies conducted between 1997 and 2021 in almost 20,000 adults in the U.S., Korea and Japan in whom the association between usual intake of alcohol and blood pressure could be observed for periods of four to 12 years. None of the participants had been previously diagnosed with high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases or alcoholism.

Those who consumed an average of 12 grams of alcohol per day — about equivalent to 1.5 ounces of liquor or one 11-ounce beer — saw systolic blood pressure rise 1.25 mmHg. Consuming 48 grams of alcohol per day — about equivalent to 6 ounces of liquor or four 11-ounce beers — saw a systolic blood pressure increase of 4.9 mmHg.

The findings may be most impactful on those who already have higher than desired blood pressure levels, said Whelton.

"We found participants with higher starting blood pressure readings had a stronger link between alcohol intake and blood pressure changes over time," Whelton said. "This suggests that people with a trend towards increased, though still not high, blood pressure may benefit the most from low to no alcohol consumption."

Finding a linear correlation between alcohol consumption and systolic blood pressure is important because systolic pressure — the force against the artery walls as the heart contracts — is a strong predictor of cardiovascular disease risk.

2023 STEPHEN MARTIN SCHOLARS

BY JASON CORRIHER

Student-athletes Sion James and Kaia Todd are the 2023 recipients of the Stephen Martin Scholars. The Stephen Martin Scholars honors Stephen Martin, who broke the color barrier in the Southeastern Conference when he played his first baseball contest for Tulane in 1965. Prospective candidates for the honor represent the highest level of character and leadership skills while being academically driven and civic-minded — all characteristics that teammates used to describe Stephen Martin. Tulane established the award in 2019.

James' and Todd's recognition is part of Tulane's long-term initiative to honor the lasting impact that individuals from diverse backgrounds have made at the university.

James, from Sugar Hill, Georgia, is a junior with the men's basketball team, and Todd, from Birmingham, Alabama, is a junior on the women's track and field team.

"I'm thankful to be recognized as a Stephen Martin Scholar and join the incredible list of former Tulane student-athletes to receive the honor," said James. "Stephen Martin symbolized what it means to be a student-athlete and to represent the greater community through sports, so I'm proud to continue his legacy."

James and Todd were recognized at a September football game in Yulman Stadium.

"I'm excited to be recognized as a Stephen Martin Scholar," Todd said. "Stephen Martin's legacy has created a space where I can excel in my sport and make a positive impact on my New Orleans community. It's a true honor to be a member of the Green Wave and be surrounded by individuals who share my passion of sports and activism."

Martin and his wife, Brigid Cheri Martin, had three children, Stephen Jr., Nicole and Dana.

Martin also served in the U.S. Army and retired as the chief financial officer for Tuskegee University in 2012. He died in 2013.

Student-athletes Kaia Todd (left) and Sion James (right) are the 2023 recipients of the Stephen Martin Scholars.







A Tulane study seeks to understand the protective functions of intestinal immune cells and their relationship with specific gut microbial species that become depleted during chronic HIV infection, even with antiretroviral therapy. Illustration by Shutterstock.

GUT MICROBIOME MAY HELP HIV OUTCOMES

BY LESLIE TATE

Tulane University researchers have been awarded a five-year, $3.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how changing the gut microbiome may ease chronic inflammation and associated gastrointestinal issues for people taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV.

Long-term ART is crucial for people living with HIV to maintain low viral levels and enjoy extended, healthy lives. However, it has been associated with chronic gut dysfunction and inflammation, contributing to the development of cardiovascular, metabolic, kidney and liver diseases. The precise mechanism by which ART contributes to gut dysfunction and related diseases is not yet fully understood.

To address this, Namita Rout, an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, will investigate the interactions between the gut microbiome and specific protective immune cells. These immune cells play a role in enhancing intestinal barrier function and reducing inflammation in a nonhuman primate model of HIV infection.

Previously, Rout's lab demonstrated that a decline in specific intestinal immune cells, gamma delta T cells, contributes to gut barrier disruption and the loss of specific gut microbial species in the nonhuman primate model of chronic HIV infection treated with ART. To counteract those effects, Rout's team will replenish the depleted gut microbiome with fecal microbial transplants enriched with specific microbes, employing a new approach with combined immunotherapy.

"This study will improve our understanding of the interaction between gut immune cells and the microbiome and their role in the persistent disruption of gut barrier functions," said Rout. "The gut primarily houses the immune system, and our optimization of it could benefit not only health outcomes for those living with HIV and on long-term ART, but for many suffering from inflammatory conditions."

A campus with uncountable great study spots! I miss being among the live oaks!

Zachary St. Martin

We're so thrilled to establish this endowed professorship in Tulane University School of Liberal Arts. At a moment when many pundits claim a crisis in literary studies, **what Herb and Judy Weil's generosity is helping us do to develop the global humanities** (stay tuned!) **is truly remarkable and inspiring.**

Brian Edwards, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, on the Herb Weil, PhD Professorship in the Humanities

I am "off the charts" proud of Tulane Football. Go Green Wave!

Bill Morgan

Excited to see impactful alumni wanting to stay and give back to impact future Tulane ballplayers and the entire community as this is a great sign of a program caring about its past, present and future altogether — great job @Tulane @GreenWaveBSB

@jimmyonatephd

THE 'DREAM JOB'

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

From behind the front desk of the Tulane pool hall/bowling alley/ping-pong facility, I looked out at a vast jungle of green felt. Over to the right was the eight-lane bowling alley and behind the pool tables was a screened-off area for ping-pong.

There were so many good players in this pool hall that you could close your eyes and imagine players like Minnesota Fats, Willie Mosconi, Luther Lassiter, Jimmy "Pretty Boy Floyd" Mataya and Steve Mizerak. Credit the old-time newspaper sportswriters and other pool players for pinning those monikers on them and further publicizing their reputations.

Billy Wells played almost all of those greats and occasionally beat them. Wells was a lifelong New Orleanian who came to Tulane and studied geology. He graduated in 1966 and took a job as a geologist for Texaco. He served his country in the armed forces in Germany. He won the All Army Pool championship while enlisted. He learned how to play the guitar and was good at it, entertaining his friends and family.

He was never comfortable as a geologist so he resigned, enrolled in Tulane Medical School — now the School of Medicine — in 1977 and was trained in radiology at Charity Hospital. He became a highly respected radiologist, and one of his sons, Adam, followed in his footsteps.

Across from the pool hall was the Tulane barbershop. This was not your normal barbershop. There was always music going on the radio. The lead barbers were Tom Davis and Bris Jones. Jones also played the clarinet; along with banjo player John Chaffe, they were the leaders of The Last Straws, a very popular traditional jazz band that recorded multiple albums. Other members were Bobby McIntyre, Bob Ice, Walter Chamberlain, Moose Zanco and Nick Gagliardi. They did regular gigs at Bruno's Tavern on Maple Street and were seemingly always present at parties.

Down the hallway was Der Rathskeller, where delicious German food was served, as were some magical adult elixirs.

It was very convenient to walk into the barbershop, ask how long of a wait it might be, and then go shoot some pool across the way. The manager of the pool hall was Carroll Comeaux Sr. As assistant manager of the pool hall, he was my boss. The pool hall was my student job — a dream job, I might add — as I turned into a decent pool player, but far from the likes of Billy Wells.

Wells' contemporaries, who were all friends, included John "Spike" Wilds, Ray Wollney, Don Stone, Regal Bisso, Steve Bloom, Al Werlein, the mysterious "Fred the Beard," who would never reveal his real name, and many more. Other pool hall regulars included Quint Davis. Yes, that Quint Davis, the producer of the New Orleans Jazz Fest. Davis played a game called snooker, in which the pockets are smaller and the scoring is different. The game is highly popular in Great Britain.

If Wells ever played snooker, it was for a lark. His game was billiards, pool. He was so good that in 1964 and 1965 he won the National Collegiate Pool Championship, becoming, at the time, the only Tulane athlete in any sport to win two NCAA national championships. And in his first try as a sophomore in 1963, he finished second. Wells was very modest and never bragged about his accomplishments.

While Wells was at Tulane, his best pal, Don Stone, was at LSU, where he won the campus championship. Tulane tried to promote a Wells-Stone match, but they didn't want to play each other, so they flipped a coin, Stone won, and there was never a match.

Wells, who died in 2016, was married to his wife of 46 years, Fontaine Wells. They had five children and many grandchildren. I am proud to say that I was honored to be a great friend of his. He was my fraternity brother at Beta Theta Pi fraternity on Zimple Street, where we also had a pool table.







Clockwise from above left: Scenes from Tulane's past student life: pool tables in the 1970s, an on-campus barbershop in 1959 and the bowling alley in 1967.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, TULANE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



CRO-MAGNONS 'LIKE YOU AND ME'

BY MOLLY MCCRORY

Trenton Holliday, professor of anthropology in the School of Liberal Arts at Tulane University, thinks human evolution is cool and hopes you think so, too.

In his new book, *Cro-Magnon: The Story of the Last Ice Age People of Europe* (Columbia University Press), Holliday explores where we as Homo sapiens came from and how we became the modern humans who exist today.

"They're people like you and me," Holliday said about the titular prehistoric humans. Cro-Magnons, sometimes called "European early modern humans," were members of our species, Homo sapiens, who lived in Europe at the end of the last ice age. "They had language, they created art. Some of them lived in the same place all year long, which we often think of only happening with agriculture."

Holliday also describes what researchers know about the lives of the Cro-Magnons, like their diets, how they may have reacted to a warming planet at the end of the ice age and the art they created. "Their art is really unsurpassed," said Holliday. "It's every bit as good as what you see in the Renaissance."

Anthropology professor Trenton Holliday surrounded by replica Cro-Magnon skulls, says these early humans used language and art, similar to modern humans.

The book touches on some more well-known prehistoric hominins, like the Neandertals. Cro-Magnons and Neandertals most likely interacted with each other, although Homo sapiens came out on top. That doesn't necessarily mean that Neandertals were stupid, Holliday said. "I'm a defender of Neandertal cognition."

Neandertals tend to get a lot of attention, though, and Holliday wanted to focus on the early Homo sapiens he has studied for most of his career. "They appeal to me," he said. "They were people with real human foibles and real human stories."

LANDMARK STUDY ACHIEVES NEW IMPORTANCE

BY ANDREW J. YAWN

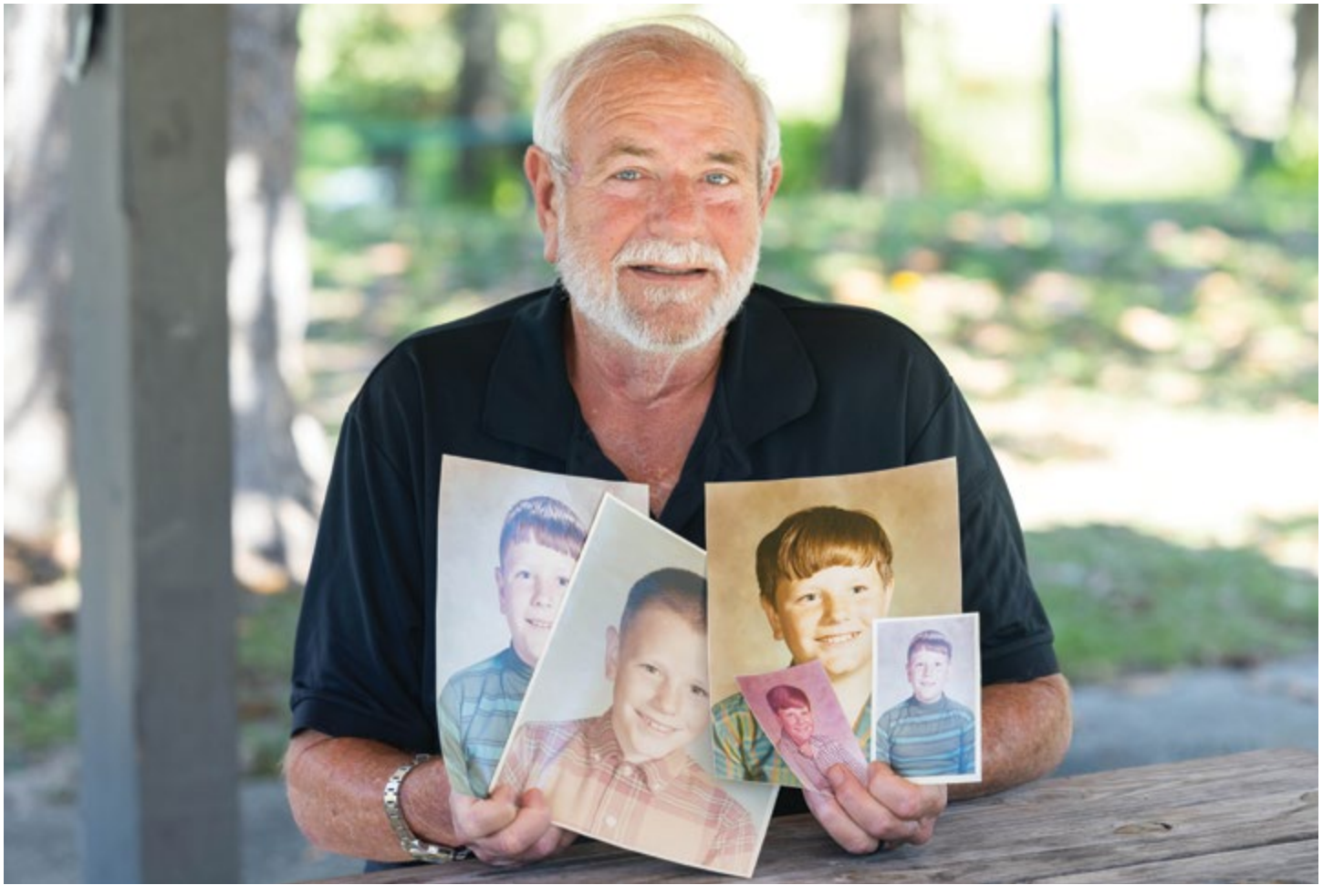
This rural Louisiana town once linked heart disease to childhood. Fifty years later, it's taking aim at dementia.

Fifty years ago, in the fall of 1973, a landmark study began in the rural Louisiana town of Bogalusa, located near the Louisiana-Mississippi border and the Pearl River, that would change how the world sees heart disease.

The Bogalusa Heart Study, which tracked the health of the town's children into adulthood, found for the first time that heart disease begins in childhood.

The community-wide study pioneered a new approach to pediatrics by proving that high blood pressure and high cholesterol in children don't fade with age, with no intervention, and could result in hypertension and heart disease later in life. One of the longest-running biracial health studies in the world, it was also one of the first to identify race-based health disparities between Black and White participants.

"This study had a global impact on health care and left a tremendous public health legacy," said Dr. Lydia Bazzano, principal investigator of the Bogalusa Heart Study and director of the Center for Lifespan Epidemiology Research at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. "There's never going to be a clinical trial that





Opposite: Joe Culpepper has been a part of the Bogalusa Heart Study since it began in 1973, when he was 11 years old. This page, left: The study was the first to show that heart disease begins in childhood and was among the first to identify race-based health disparities between Black and White participants. Below: Dr. Lydia Bazzano of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is the study's principal investigator.



proves that childhood intervention results in improvements 40-50 years later. This is the best evidence we have, and I don't know if there will ever be another study like this."

In the fall, Tulane celebrated 50 years of groundbreaking research by the Bogalusa Heart Study, while also looking ahead to what the study's next 50 years can achieve.

The Bogalusa Heart Study — in collaboration with researchers from LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center — received a $14.5 million grant from the National Institute on Aging in 2019 to investigate whether high blood sugar levels in early life can later lead to declines in brain health.

With a now middle-aged cohort of participants, Bazzano said she believes Bogalusa "can do the same thing for brain health in the next 50 years that we did for heart health in the last 50.

"It all starts with the heart," Bazzano said. "The brain is one of the first stops for blood that comes from the heart, so it made sense to look at how vascular aging impacts the brain."

Early results indicate that participants who perform worse on neuropsychological testing previously showed more heart disease risk factors. Brain scans of middle-aged participants also revealed white brain lesions on those who, as young adults, had slightly elevated blood sugar levels. These lesions, called white matter hyperintensities, indicate not enough oxygen and nutrients are reaching the smallest blood vessels in the brain and are associated with cognitive decline.

Researchers are also working to identify blood biomarkers of dementia in the hopes of one day being able to identify risk of dementia via a blood test.

"Just as childhood was not thought of as a time when heart disease would start, early middle age is not seen as a time when dementia might originate," Bazzano said. "This could have a revolutionary effect on the field."

The Bogalusa Heart Study has included more than 16,000 participants since it was started by pediatric cardiologist and Tulane University graduate Dr. Gerald Berenson (A&S '43, M '45). The data collected continues to be vital to research around nutrition, childhood obesity and genetic risk factors.

While the longevity of the Bogalusa Heart Study can be partly attributed to the dedication of its researchers, the study's historic streak may have ended long ago without its deep roots in the community.

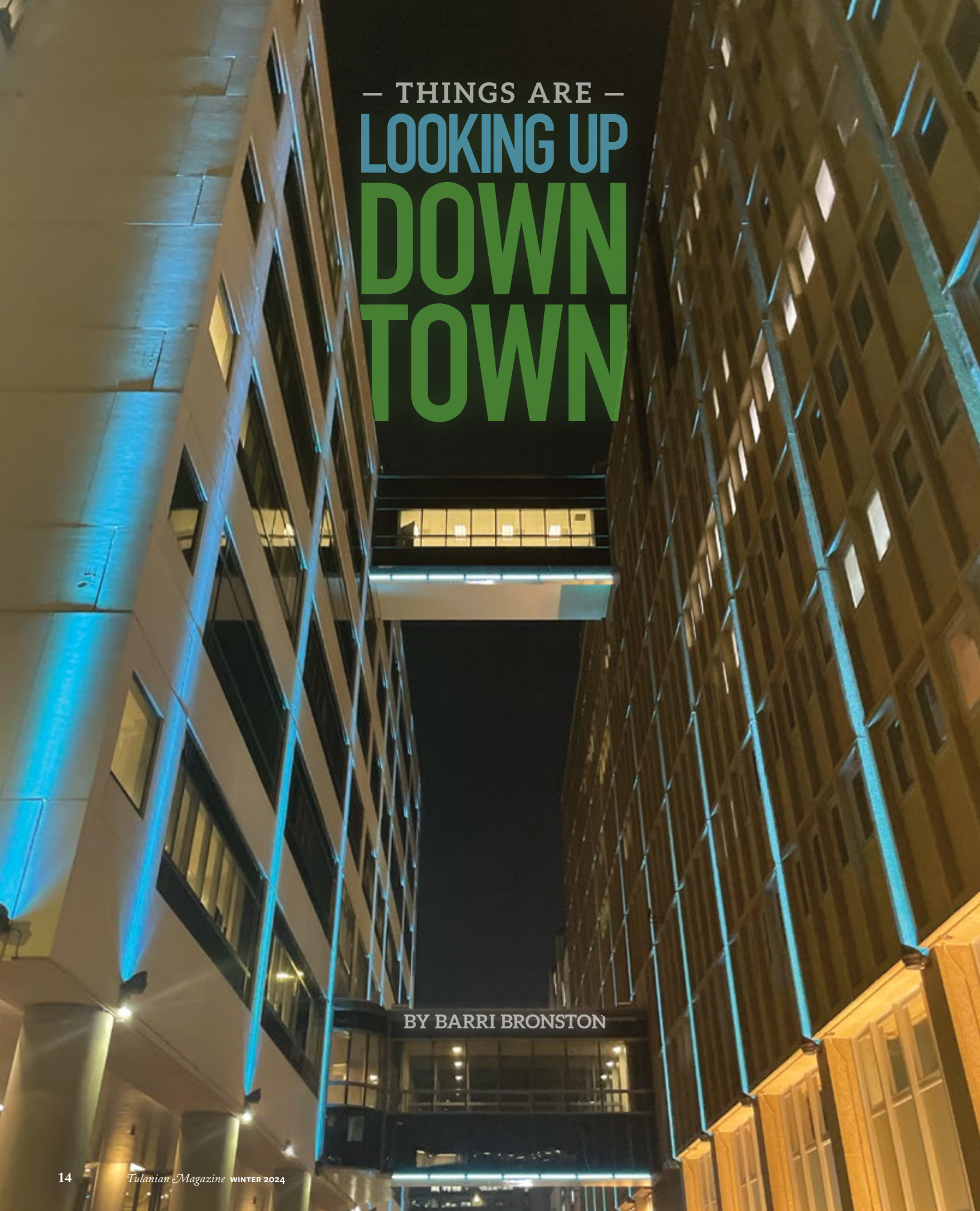
Joe Culpepper, a native and former police chief of Bogalusa, was 11 years old when he and 5,000 other children first began receiving health screenings in 1973. A long white trailer of lab equipment pulled up to his elementary school. Researchers organized students into groups with bracelets of colored yarn. Blood pressure was checked. Weight was measured. Blood was drawn.

The checkups continued as years went on, but Culpepper had no idea that the findings of the study would have global implications.

"I still go to get tests done. One of my brothers is still actively participating. Friends in Baton Rouge occasionally come back to Bogalusa to participate, and my sister-in-law now manages the lab," Culpepper said. "We're all proud of the study, and the medical knowledge gained from studying folks like me our whole lives hopefully makes things better for the kids coming up."

At the Bogalusa Heart Study lab, two current employees are former participants in the study. Another, Phylis Cothern, has been a lab technician for 10 years, but before her, her mother began working for the study in 1972, when the pilot was underway. Now, Cothern's two daughters and her granddaughter are study participants.

"We depend on the community and the community depends on us. It's overwhelming the amount of good this study has done for the community, but I'm just honored to be a part of the legacy," Cothern said.



— THINGS ARE —

LOOKING UP DOWN TOWN

BY BARRI BRONSTON

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform New Orleans into a center of biotech innovation that will reap huge economic benefits for our region while creating the latest advances in medicines, diagnosis and outcomes for individuals throughout the world."

— PRESIDENT MICHAEL A. FITTS

When Tulane University President Michael A. Fitts was considering locations for the ending of his annual State of the University video, he wanted to speak from the rooftop of Tulane School of Medicine's Lasalle Garage, a vantage point that captured Charity Hospital, on Tulane Avenue, in the background.

Though abandoned since 2005 when flooding from Hurricane Katrina left it a shambled, uninhabitable mess, Fitts couldn't think of a more appropriate site to share his vision of the future — a vibrant downtown campus that will offer an unprecedented opportunity for Tulane to continue to grow its national standing as a research and innovation powerhouse while attracting and nurturing biotech business and discovery in New Orleans and the surrounding region.

The Charity building is the catalyst for the historic transformation of Tulane's downtown campus, which among other things, will build on Tulane's life-changing and lifesaving biomedical and academic research mission; use innovation to create a more resilient, reimagined and economically diversified New Orleans and create a community that attracts researchers and scholars as new residents along with the city's annual flock of tourists.

"Cities across the nation have been transformed by the presence of a major national research university in their communities," Fitts said. "With a planned $600 million dollar investment downtown and the addition of 2,300 direct jobs for members of the New Orleans community, this is the destiny of Tulane and the city we call home."



With the opening of the Tulane University Innovation Institute and Chapter IV in the Thirteen15 Building, along with the addition of a TUPD station and Tulane Fitness Center to Deming Pavilion, the momentum downtown has just begun. Pressure washing and new uplighting are brightening the building facades, while colorful planters, landscaping and benches will add life to the streetscape. As plans move forward with redeveloping the Charity Hospital building, the future is looking up for downtown New Orleans.

Tulane sealed the deal to become the core tenant of Charity in November 2021. Under the agreement, Tulane and developers will transform Charity into a mixed-use complex with apartments, retail and educational and clinical space, all anchored by Tulane's academic and research presence. Through a long-term lease, Tulane will initially occupy 400,000 square feet, close to half of the building's available space. Among its occupants will be the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the School of Medicine and the Tulane University Innovation Institute. Demolition and abatement are expected to begin in 2024, with Tulane occupying its portion of the space in 2027.

Fitts always saw the potential of the downtown campus to become a major hub for research, innovation and medicine. It was one of his goals when he became Tulane's 15th president in 2014, and watching it happen before his eyes has been both gratifying and inspiring.

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform New Orleans into a center of biotech innovation that will reap huge economic benefits for our region while creating the latest advances in medicines, diagnosis and outcomes for individuals throughout the world," Fitts said. "This is a major part of what makes me so excited for the future of Tulane."

Fitts has been traveling the city and state, touting the redevelopment to groups like the Downtown Development District and government leaders. In his presentations, he shares the example of Pittsburgh, which has seen its downtown health sciences district explode due to major investments by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. While the move into Charity is several years in the future, the transformation of the downtown campus is well underway. In 2021, Tulane took over the old Warwick Hotel on Gravier Street, converting it into an apartment building for students, staff, faculty, postdocs, residents, researchers and other Tulane affiliates. The Thirteen15 building is also home to the Innovation Institute and Chapter IV, a restaurant run by Chef Edgar "Dook" Chase, grandson of cooking legend Leah Chase. Nearby, on the ground floor of the Deming Pavilion, Tulane invested in a new police station and an 11,000-square-foot Tulane Fitness Center (TU Fit).

This fall, the area underwent a major landscaping and streetscaping effort, thanks to a multi-million dollar fund established by longtime donor and Board of Tulane Chair Carol Lavin Bernick. The gift is designed to enliven and unify the downtown campus with trees, plants, benches, lighting and other improvements. The project includes, pending City Council approval, converting South Liberty Street into a pedestrian-only walkway.

"We're working to create an environment that people not only want to work in but to live in and play in," said Kimberly Gramm, the David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer. "Creating a thriving downtown is something other cities with a rise



of innovation districts have accomplished." Gramm is director of the Tulane University Innovation Institute, which serves as a combined technology and startup accelerator for university faculty, researchers, staff and students as well as community members. She said Tulane's focus on supporting innovation has positive implications for the local economy and demonstrates a commitment to the region's growth while creating opportunity.

"Overall, it's been very exciting and continues to be," Gramm said. "People are encouraged by our presence and the big bold vision that President Fitts has set out for us to accomplish. I think that it's very special when leadership agrees that innovation is an important and significant area to champion within a university."

Gramm and her team will eventually move to Charity — one of the many Tulane projects on the horizon in the heart of downtown. Tulane owns or leases 23 properties in the city's core, totaling 4.2 million square feet. Several are in line for major renovations, including Hutchinson Memorial Building, the School of Medicine's academic headquarters. Plans call for a complete redo of the building's seventh floor, including research lab space, support labs, offices and conference spaces. The project will provide room for 20 new research principal investigators and other research personnel.

Tulane Medical Center will also undergo a major renovation, once hospital services are shifted to East Jefferson General Hospital and University Medical Center through a new partnership with LCMC Health. The building will be converted into clinical, research and educational space, house a new nursing program expected to produce more than 200 nurses annually and house retail outlets and, potentially, start up companies.

As Tulane's chief operating officer, a position which oversees finance, facilities management, capital planning and real estate, Patrick Norton is involved in the downtown transformation on a day-to-day basis. In fact, his office on the eighth floor of 1555 Poydras Street has a view of Charity, a daily reminder of his own vision of the future.

"All you have to do is close your eyes and imagine a Charity that will be power-washed and gleaming, with cranes in the sky and workers turning the building into the centerpiece of Tulane's downtown campus. Not only is this great for Tulane but it's great for the city. It's great for the region."

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STORY BY KEITH BRANNON

"...the Tulane community has embraced the vision for the university's limitless future."

— CATHY AND HUNTER PIERSON, CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

When Tulane University first launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history — *Only the Audacious, the campaign for an ever bolder Tulane* — the goal was to redefine what is possible for Tulane's future.

Almost six years later, the campaign has raised more than $1.5 billion, which has helped improve almost every aspect of the university. Now, the momentum shows no sign of slowing as President Michael A. Fitts announced that the campaign will continue as *Always the Audacious*.

The new iteration of the campaign will focus on four key priorities: empowering the university's world-class research enterprise, continuing to transform the holistic undergraduate student experience, sustaining excellence in Tulane's ascendant athletics program, and fueling a major expansion of the university's campus in downtown New Orleans.

"Tulanians are rewriting the narrative of what our university can achieve and what our student experience can be," Fitts said. "Thanks to the unwavering commitment and support from alumni, parents and friends across the globe, we will continue this extraordinary trajectory of ambition, momentum and expansion together."

The campaign will support 21st-century advances in climate, river and coastal sciences, emerging infectious diseases, brain health, healthy aging, health equity and much more while expanding and increasing lab spaces and infrastructure for clinical trials and translational research.

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CONTRIBUTIONS BY
ALICIA SERRANO BILICH, FAITH DAWSON, MOLLY MCCRORY

"Tulanians have come together like never before, unlocking achievements and initiatives undreamed of when *Only the Audacious* started," said Cathy and Hunter Pierson, campaign co-chairs and Board of Tulane emeritus administrators. "We are entering a new era, and we are able to do so because the Tulane community has embraced the vision for the university's limitless future."

As *Always the Audacious* launches, Tulane is one of the most selective universities in the country with its incoming classes continually breaking records for academic quality and diversity. In addition, its faculty are receiving national recognition and honors at an astonishing rate and attracting more research funding than ever — an increase of 70 percent in the last six years. The university is also in the midst of a transformative, once-in-a-generation physical expansion on both its uptown and downtown campuses.

"Tulane's current growth is historic, fueled by the audacious spirit of our community and our commitment to making a global impact. Let's continue this extraordinary momentum and create a future where anything is possible," said Richard Yulman, co-chair of *Only the Audacious*.

Tulane's physical growth that will continue under *Always the Audacious* is truly historic and includes such major completed projects as Mussafer Hall, The Malkin Sacks Commons, The Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex, a new TUPD station on Broadway Street, the Small Family Collaboration Hub and more.

Current components of this effort include: River and Lake Residence Halls, which opened this semester as the first installment of The Village, a complex of five new residence halls; Steven and Jann Paul Hall, the new home for the School of Science and Engineering; and expansion and modernization of Richardson Memorial Hall, home of the Tulane School of Architecture.

Powered by *Always the Audacious*, Tulane will also dramatically expand its downtown campus, with approximately $600 million being invested in new construction and enhancements, including a revitalization of the Charity Hospital building and repurposing of the Tulane Medical Center building.

The downtown campus will become a thriving center of cutting-edge research and innovation featuring a new nursing program, the Tulane Innovation Institute, clinical research programs, educational space for students as well as graduate programs in public health, social work, professional advancement and medicine, and new research space.

Innovation Institute



Tulane's strong academic standing is known nationwide, but now the university can help students, faculty and other Tulanians turn our tradition of academic excellence into viable businesses that solve global problems. In 2022, Tulane established the Tulane University Innovation Institute (TUII), which seeks to act as a combined technology and startup accelerator that will unite entrepreneurs and investors. With a lead gift from the Priddy Family Foundation, TUII's the Robert L. Priddy Innovation Lab — named for alumnus Robert Priddy, who graduated from Tulane in 1969 — will drive its commercialization efforts and elevate promising technologies. Additional support for TUII came from David Mussafer (B '85) and his wife, Marion; David Barksdale (TC '00) and his wife, Stephanie; Carol Lavin Bernick (NC '74), chair of the Board of Tulane; Walter Isaacson, the Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values at Tulane, and his wife, Cathy; and Jeffrey Silverman (A&S '89), and his wife, Amy.







Research: Tony Hu

Tulane's world-class faculty is at the forefront of leading innovative research and projects that address society's most pressing issues. Among the faculty is Tony Hu, director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics, and professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biomedical Engineering, and Microbiology. Made possible by Celia Weatherhead (NC '65), who leads the Weatherhead Foundation and is an emeritus member of the Board of Tulane, Hu has been invested as the inaugural Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation at the School of Medicine. Through the Weatherhead professorship, Hu will continue to lead pioneering research, which has already produced novel scientific discoveries such as tuberculosis testing using nanotechnology and AI, a COVID-19 blood test, and most recently, a test that can detect both HIV and tuberculosis at the same time. Authoring more than 65 studies, Hu has been awarded the Innovation Award at the 2021 Tulane Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Awards, and was the recipient of the Galaxy Award at this year's awards for his groundbreaking work.

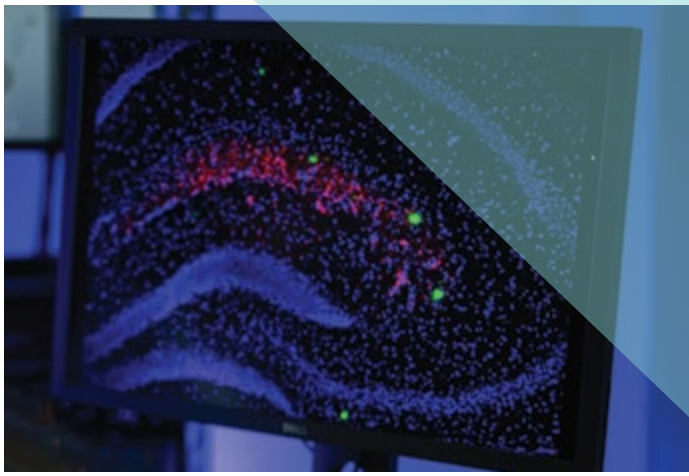


Scholarship Impact

Always the Audacious supports several student scholarships, expanding the opportunities for students from all backgrounds and fields of study. Rowan Bienes, a first-generation college student in the Class of 2024 at Tulane Law School, said throughout her higher education journey, she has leaned heavily on the goodwill of those who offered scholarships. "Without the Thomas J. Andre Memorial Scholarship, the financial barrier to attending law school would have been insurmountable," she said. Bienes, who plans to focus on civil or human rights law, participated in an internship with an organization that rewrites criminal justice policies in an effort to decrease discrimination and improve criminal justice system outcomes. She plans to advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves. "Without this scholarship, I wouldn't have the opportunity to do that work," she said.

Maya David, part of the Class of 2025 at the School of Medicine, is also a first-generation student and recipient of a Next Wave scholarship. "Being a first-generation college student has had a huge impact on my life, and it is the driving force behind my motivation to succeed," she said. David, raised by a single mother who lives with a chronic illness, learned the importance of women's health firsthand. "It ignited my passion for pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology to provide quality care to women on their journey toward better health," David said. She had a job throughout high school and undergrad to help her mother pay bills as well as support herself. With the scholarship support, medical school is less of a financial burden. "English was not my first language, I could never afford tutors … In turn, I worked twice as hard, which led to my biggest accomplishment yet: getting into medical school. Seeing all my hard work pay off and pursuing the career of my dreams has been life-changing."





Brain Institute

Tulane could already claim more than 30 years of successful neuroscience research when a generous lead gift from Bill (E '81, E '83) and Marta Marko helped establish the Tulane Brain Institute in 2016. The Markos recognized the university's critical need for an interdisciplinary center that would bring together faculty members to address the study of human memory, cognition and neurodegeneration. Today, the Tulane Brain Institute combines expertise across several Tulane schools and units to treat and prevent conditions and diseases of the brain. Encouraged by the Brain Institute's early successes, the Markos continued their support by contributing to the institute's Spark Innovation Research Fund, which resulted in research awards that, in turn, led to millions of dollars of National Institutes of Health funding for Tulane.



Athletics: Sailing

Tulane's athletic excellence is not slowing down, and thanks to a lead gift from longtime Tulane supporters Board of Tulane member Libby (NC '84) and Robert Alexander, Tulane's sailing program has grown in its success on several fronts. With the generosity of the Alexanders, the university's sailing club was elevated to intercollegiate varsity status during the 2018-19 academic year. Their investments, in partnership with Community Sailing New Orleans (CSNO), aided in the construction of the Community Sailing Center, the home of Tulane's varsity sailing program. Since then, the Green Wave notably won the 2022 ICSA Open Dinghy National Championship, expanding Tulane's rich sailing history as the university earned a national championship in 1974 and has had several alumni compete as Olympic athletes. The Alexanders furthered their support this summer through a gift to help build a new multipurpose headquarters, which will be named the Libby and Robert Alexander Community Sailing Center. The center will continue to serve as the home for Tulane sailing and expand the operations of CSNO, which strives to make sailing accessible to the local community.





BUILDING A BETTER AI

Tulane faculty seek to unlock the secrets of more powerful and useful artificial intelligence applications and to work with community partners to ensure AI's fairness.


BY BARRI
BRONSTON


CARYN
BELL
PATRICK
BUTTON
ALESSANDRA
BAZZANO
ARON
CULOTTA
NICHOLAS
MATTEI
ANDREA
BOYLES

From the uptown campus of Tulane University to the health sciences campus downtown, researchers in such fields as sociology, economics, computer science and public health are trying to better understand, improve and apply artificial intelligence.

They recognize all the good there is to AI, all the ways it can solve complex problems, improve health care and revolutionize industries. But they also worry about the many ways that AI algorithms, or the data they are based on, can be biased, especially in areas such as hiring and criminal justice, where the cost of making the wrong decision can be devastating.

That distrust is one of the reasons why scientists across the country — including those at Tulane University — are prioritizing research that leads to the design of AI systems that are fair, transparent and accountable.

At Tulane, that work is being done by a multidisciplinary team of social scientists, designers, technologists, students and community partners through the Tulane Center of Excellence in Community-Engaged Artificial Intelligence (CEAI).

Under the direction of Aron Culotta, an associate professor of computer science in the Tulane School of Science and Engineering, CEAI is one of five such Centers of Excellence created and funded by the Tulane Office of Research to mobilize experts from different fields of study across the university to focus on complex research challenges through an interdisciplinary lens.

> "There is a growing tech backlash concerned that AI may exacerbate existing disparities, widen the digital divide or otherwise result in a less just society."
>
> — ARON CULOTTA

BUILDING A BETTER AI

"There is a growing tech backlash concerned that AI may exacerbate existing disparities, widen the digital divide or otherwise result in a less just society," Culotta said. "These trends indicate that AI will succeed only with the trust and support of the communities it affects, especially those from historically underserved groups."

As such, Culotta has enlisted five Tulane professors to serve as assistant directors — Nicholas Mattei, an assistant professor of computer science and expert in AI ethics; Andrea Boyles, a sociologist and race and gender scholar; Patrick Button, a Tulane economist with expertise in discrimination, particularly in employment and mortgage access; Alessandra Bazzano, an associate professor in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine who conducts research in maternal and child health; and Caryn Bell, who studies racial disparities in public health.

In its first year, the center has made impressive strides. In its Aug. 1, 2023 progress report, it outlines a host of activities that Culotta and his assistant directors have undertaken, from partnerships with community nonprofits to research projects that address such issues as school rating websites, the social innovation potential of AI for public health and fairness in the microlending industry.

The center has launched a Distinguished Speaker Series, and in November, held a Gulf Coast Artificial Intelligence Social at the 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems in New Orleans. The goal of the event was to raise awareness about the work happening in the region as it relates to coastal, climate, logistics and materials challenges.

A sampling of projects include Bell's study on how academics, public health institutions and the media talk about race and racism with regard to racial health inequities and Button's studies of discrimination in mortgage loan applications and access to mental health care. Simone Skeen, a PhD student in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, led a study with Bazzano and Culotta on the use of machine learning to detect suicidal ideation from Reddit posts.

Mattei said that despite some of the benefits of AI, there is a pervasive mistrust of AI technology by the public, and for good reason. "Often these concerns grow out of a sense that these technologies are applied to people and communities without their input."

He used the example of recidivism software that was analyzed in 2016 by ProPublica. The software attempted to predict whether criminals would reoffend once they were released on bail.

"It was much more likely to predict that White defendants would not reoffend, so they were released more frequently and at lower bail prices," Mattei said. "The outcome was that more Black people were being held on high bail or not released on bail at all."

"If you can't afford it, you end up sitting in jail for 30, 60 or 90 days, and then the charges are dropped," Culotta said. "A lot can happen if you're not working or not paying your bills."

STRONGER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In April, the center held a workshop for academics and community partners to discuss emerging issues in AI and to identify risks on the horizon as AI's impact continues to grow. While many of the researchers had existing relationships with some of the groups, the workshop enabled them to strengthen those connections and make new ones.

"We now have several strong partnerships that will serve as the basis for research and proposals in year two," Culotta said. "Additionally, we plan to create a Community Advisory Board to provide more regular interaction with project partners."

Researchers teamed up with groups such as Court Watch NOLA, Eye on Surveillance and the city of New Orleans to study AI's impact on their work and society in general.

Boyles and Culotta are working with a nonprofit group called Eye on Surveillance to better understand the use of government surveillance tools such as facial recognition and whether the tools have an impact on crime.

Boyles said the software illustrates how AI can lead to the expansion of racialized surveillance, stigmatization and criminalization, often unbeknown by and to the detriment of Black people and other marginalized groups. "We need to further understand and counter everyday harms that may be exacerbated through computer technology," she said.

Culotta is also working with Court Watch NOLA, a nonprofit group that trains volunteers to monitor and report on the efficiency of the New Orleans criminal justice system. Together with computer science seniors as part of their Capstone Service Learning course, they built a transparency dashboard to better monitor effectiveness and equity in New Orleans Magistrate Court. Culotta and Boyles are using that work to seek National Science Foundation funding for developing additional community-driven tools to monitor the New Orleans criminal court system.

Button, executive director of Tulane's new Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science, is conducting research that seeks to use AI to detect discrimination, specifically as it relates to access to therapy appointments.

"I'm doing an audit field experiment, a sort of 'secret shopper' study, where therapists get appointment request emails from prospective therapy patients," Button said. "The requests are, on average, identical but from individuals with different names, which varies the perceived race, ethnicity and gender of the patient."

He is using an AI tool called natural language processing (NLP) to detect potential subtle discrimination in how therapists respond to appointment requests by email based on the patient's name.

"NLP can help determine, for example, if therapists send less helpful or polite emails to Black or Hispanic prospective patients," Button said.

Bazzano is investigating new methodologies for community-driven AI, borrowing from public health, which has a rich history of community-engaged research.

"Artificial intelligence is a technical and social innovation with great potential to positively impact public health, for example, enhancing disease prevention and detection, accelerating behavior change and enriching approaches to improving health," Bazzano said.

"However, there are also potential harms of applying AI in public health, which must be addressed to allow this innovation to have a net positive impact. We seek to interrogate and carefully consider these potential harms and to identify community-engaged solutions to fully realize the potential benefits of AI as a social innovation."

They include appropriate safeguards to protect patient data and privacy when using AI in health and consideration of the real and perceived risks of privacy violations. "The use of sensitive health data and access to it by unknown individuals or organizations is a major concern for AI and other sociotechnical innovations," Bazzano said.

> "Artificial intelligence is a technical and social innovation with great potential to positively impact public health, for example, enhancing disease prevention and detection, accelerating behavior change and enriching approaches to improving health."
>
> — ALESSANDRA BAZZANO

AI AS A LEARNING TOOL

Students play a significant role in the center's work, using it as an opportunity to complete their Senior Capstone Service Learning course, and in the process, gain valuable skills as they prepare to head to graduate school or the workforce.

Ila Keshishian, Marisa Long and Anna Schoeny, all of whom graduated between 2022 and 2023, are among the students who worked with Court Watch NOLA, restructuring the organization's data workflow and designing an interactive data dashboard to effectively host and communicate their findings and perform additional data analysis.

"We wanted Court Watch to be able to access their data in real time, so that they could understand trends rapidly and post graphics to their social media platforms," said Keshishian, who uses data science principles in her job as a chemical engineer for Merck's vaccine manufacturing site in Philadelphia.

"The goal of the project was to clean up the data, extract additional information for the docket and create a web application to act as an internal docket dashboard for the staff at Court Watch," said Schoeny, who spent the past summer as a Data Science Fellow with the Bureau of Justice Statistics Corrections Unit.

Long, a software engineer for Nationwide Insurance, said the group gave students the creative freedom to produce a quality and effective dashboard that included authentication, search input and output pages, and the ability to download raw data directly and explore data visualizations for future reports.

Under Mattei's guidance, computer science students are also working with the city of New Orleans to improve dashboards around such city data as road construction, 311 calls, nuisance reports and saltwater intrusion.

He said the center's goal is to position Tulane as a leader in community-driven AI by leveraging its existing strengths in community outreach, service learning and public health.

"Through our community programs, research and student projects in the first year, we laid the foundation for partnerships within the greater New Orleans community and beyond," Mattei said. "Our goal moving forward is to deepen these partnerships and continue to build out best practices, research projects and community engagement to make positive, community-driven impacts both locally and nationally."

> "Our goal moving forward is to deepen these partnerships and continue to build out best practices, research projects and community engagement to make positive, community-driven impacts both locally and nationally."
>
> — NICHOLAS MATTEI







Shared Success

Three new campus faculty leaders agree that now is an even more exciting time to be a Tulanian.

BY BARRI BRONSTON

Three of Tulane University's newest leaders are women, all with résumés that illustrate their accomplishments in the areas of gender equity, public health, library science and so much more.

They are thrilled to be starting their Tulane careers at the same time and excited about the opportunities to cross paths throughout their various disciplines.

"We are all three in positions that are designed to cut across disciplines and connect all the different elements of campus," said Anita Raj, executive director of Newcomb Institute. "We can start this work together with that mindset. This is one university, and my charge is to the commitment of the entire university and working across disciplines."

Raj was named executive director of Newcomb Institute on July 1, 2023, joining newcomers Lindsay Cronk, dean of Tulane Libraries, and Mollye Demosthenidy, dean of Newcomb-Tulane College. In the past six months, the trio have enjoyed getting to know each other and discussing all the possibilities for collaboration and innovation.

"I really believe there's never been a more exciting time to be a Tulanian," Demosthenidy said. "I know that, together, we'll accomplish great things for Tulane."

Cronk said that as a feminist and a graduate of a women's college, she is impressed by Tulane's commitment to gender equity. She pointed to research showing that, nationwide, women hold the least senior administrative positions and are the lowest paid among higher education administrators.

"Tulane is addressing those challenges and championing diverse talent," Cronk said. "I am excited to be a part of this team at Tulane — Anita and Mollye know they can count on me, and I know I can count on them for support and collaboration as we take on the challenges ahead. I am so excited to learn with them and to celebrate our shared successes."

Lindsay Cronk

Along with New York and Paris, New Orleans has always been one of Lindsay Cronk's favorite cities. She and her husband have visited at least a half-dozen times, and as a preteen, she was fascinated by the city as a setting for the books she read at a clip that made her a regular at her public library growing up. She remembers encountering New Orleans for the first time on the page through the work of author Anne Rice, in her bestselling book *Interview with the Vampire*.

So, when she was recruited for the position of dean of Tulane University Libraries, she was delighted beyond words. Especially when she learned the libraries are home to the author's archive.

"It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. New Orleans had always been a huge part of the geography of my imagination, and I was ready to make it my reality."

Opposite, from top left: Lindsay Cronk, dean of Tulane Libraries; Mollye Demosthenidy, dean of Newcomb-Tulane College. Bottom: Anita Raj, executive director of Newcomb Institute

At the time, Cronk was an assistant dean for scholarly resources and curation at the University of Rochester, where she oversaw seven departments and implemented several campuswide and community partnerships. While she'd been recruited by many institutions, none held the draw of Tulane.

"My interviews at Tulane felt like brainstorming sessions for workshopping fresh ideas about the future of academic libraries, how they could be different in the context of Tulane," she said. "I felt synchronicity with my future colleagues immediately."

Perhaps unsurprisingly at Tulane, her early initiatives are all collaborations, an example being prototyping a student consultant team to take a deep dive into the library's current services and spaces, and then offering feedback and recommendations. Other efforts include partnering with the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane to expand student involvement and build a pipeline from the Book Fest to the residence halls. She's expanding connections with the Howard-Tilton-based Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT) and the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science (CAIDS) to improve collective impact. She's also given her go-ahead for the facilities team to put solar panels on the roof, noting that libraries are themselves a renewable resource.

"There's a kaleidoscopic opportunity here to take the traditional elements of the library and bring them together with cutting-edge research and design — to deliver a new kind of library that honors and embraces both tradition and the avant-garde."

In announcing the appointment of Cronk as dean of libraries, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts and Provost Robin Forman described her as a "distinguished leader, innovator and visionary" and an "internationally recognized expert in scholarly communication strategies."

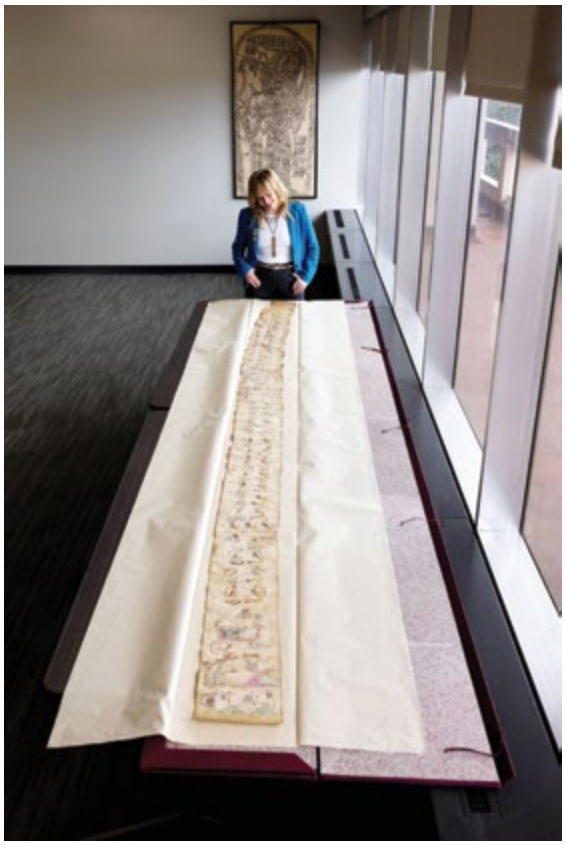
In her six years at Rochester, she led such departments as digital initiatives, scholarly communication, special collections and preservation. She focused on access-based initiatives that included affordable and open materials for students and faculty on campus.

When Cronk talks about libraries in general and the Tulane library system specifically, her eyes light up. She uses words like "magical," "joyful" and "inspirational" to describe her first few months on the job and her impressions of everything the library has to offer to both students and faculty.

"How can you look at the Codex Tulane without getting excited? The Hogan Archive is a treasure no other institution can touch. We have treasures here that will knock your socks off."

More than anything, Cronk wants to build a culture of curiosity at Tulane. She wants all patrons, and particularly students and faculty, to make their way to the library for

PHOTOS BY SABREE HILL AND JENNIFER ZDON



Lindsay Cronk

a sanctuary of quiet wonder, helpful experts and expansive collections. "We are the calm in the hullabaloo," she says with a smile. "The Tulane University Libraries are here for you."

> "We are all three in positions that are designed to cut across disciplines and connect all the different elements of campus ... This is one university, and my charge is to the commitment of the entire university and working across disciplines."
>
> ANITA RAJ

Mollye Demosthenidy

If there is such thing as a perfect fit for a job, the search committee looking for the next dean of Newcomb-Tulane College (NTC) could not have found a more ideal candidate than Mollye Demosthenidy, an associate dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (SPHTM).

Although the position attracted outstanding applicants from across the country, Demosthenidy, a Tulane faculty member since 2011, was exactly the kind of person, scholar and leader the search committee had in mind when it began its work.

What's more, she has served in various roles at NTC since 2015, including serving on the NTC Academic Integrity Committee, as faculty principal for the NTC College Scholars Program and as a residential faculty mentor in Butler Hall.

"When I saw that the previous dean was leaving, I thought, 'This would be a great fit.' It's all the things I love. I love the environment. I love working with students. They are bright. They are curious. They get inspired. And that allows them to engage more with the undergraduate program."

NTC is the foundation of the unique Tulane undergraduate experience, opening the door for students to collaborate across fields and disciplines and empowering their intellectual exploration and growth through innovative programs and opportunities.

"Students want an interdisciplinary education," said Demosthenidy, a native of Alexandria, Louisiana. "Their curiosity is boundless, and an interdisciplinary education lets them write their own story based on their interests. And there's significant academic value in taking classes that offer a broad spectrum of perspectives, even if you're laser-focused on a particular major.

"Having been at Tulane for so many years, I feel like I have a solid perspective, but it's one perspective, and it's just mine. I'll continue to observe, ask questions, go all over campus, learn more and gauge what our aspirations are for the undergraduate experience at Tulane."

Demosthenidy, a healthcare expert who holds a law degree and master's degree in health administration from Tulane, joined SPHTM as a faculty member in 2011. She taught after practicing law at two New Orleans firms. She has taught a variety of healthcare-related courses, including health law and regulation, health policy and leadership at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

She eventually rose to the position of associate dean for strategic initiatives at SPHTM but continued serving as a clinical professor in the school's Department of Health Policy and Management. Her impact on students led to numerous awards, including the Outstanding Undergraduate Public Health Teaching Award, which she won five times, and the Student Government Association Teaching Excellence Award, which she won twice.



Mollye Demosthenidy

In announcing her appointment as NTC dean, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman said Demosthenidy's passion for undergraduate education, along with her vision, collaborative spirit and administrative experience, made her the ideal person to take NTC to the next level.

"What was great for me is that the search committee represented the intersectionality of the university," Demosthenidy said. "I engaged with people I didn't know and had deep conversations about their thoughts on the Tulane experience.

"The college is in great shape, and we're positioned to take the next step in delivering a truly one-of-a-kind undergraduate experience, to make it the most innovative, interdisciplinary academic offering."

Anita Raj

Anita Raj had no intentions of leaving San Diego. She and her husband, Jay Silverman, had jobs they loved at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), both serving as distinguished scholars in the UCSD School of Medicine.

But then the search firm assisting Tulane University in finding the next executive director of Newcomb Institute sent her a description of the position, and that's when everything changed.

"We were going to retire in San Diego," Raj said. "But then I looked at the job and I didn't say anything. I forwarded the email to my husband, and he said, 'You have to apply.' Uprooting your life — a life you are happy with — is a big deal. And it would have to take a very special position to do that. This was that special position."

In their statement announcing Raj as Newcomb Institute's next executive director and the Nancy Reeves Dreux Endowed Chair at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts and Provost Robin Forman hailed Raj as an innovative leader, author, researcher, and voice for racial and gender inequalities, violence prevention and public health initiatives.

Her research, including epidemiologic and intervention studies, focuses on sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, women's empowerment and gender inequalities, including gender-based violence and child marriage. Raj has 300 peer-reviewed publications. Her work has been featured in major media outlets in the United States, the United Kingdom and India.

In her first six months at Tulane, she has already made a name for herself, releasing the results of a survey on violence in Louisiana. Titled the Louisiana Study on Violence Experiences Across the Lifespan (LaVEX), the study says that more than half of Louisiana residents experience physical violence in their lifetime, and about one in five are threatened or harmed with a gun. Louisiana is only the second state in the nation to acquire this level of violence data and the first in the Southeast. She conducted a similar study in California.

Raj said she was proud of the media response to the study, which also revealed that 42% of women experience violence at the hands of romantic or sexual partners.

"The level of response was far more than what I anticipated," she said. "I never imagined that I'd be presenting



Anita Raj

at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, and I never imagined that I'd be on so many radio shows and TV in such a short time. It shows you the reputation of Newcomb as well as the readiness of the state of Louisiana and the city to use data to address these issues. To me, that's very exciting."

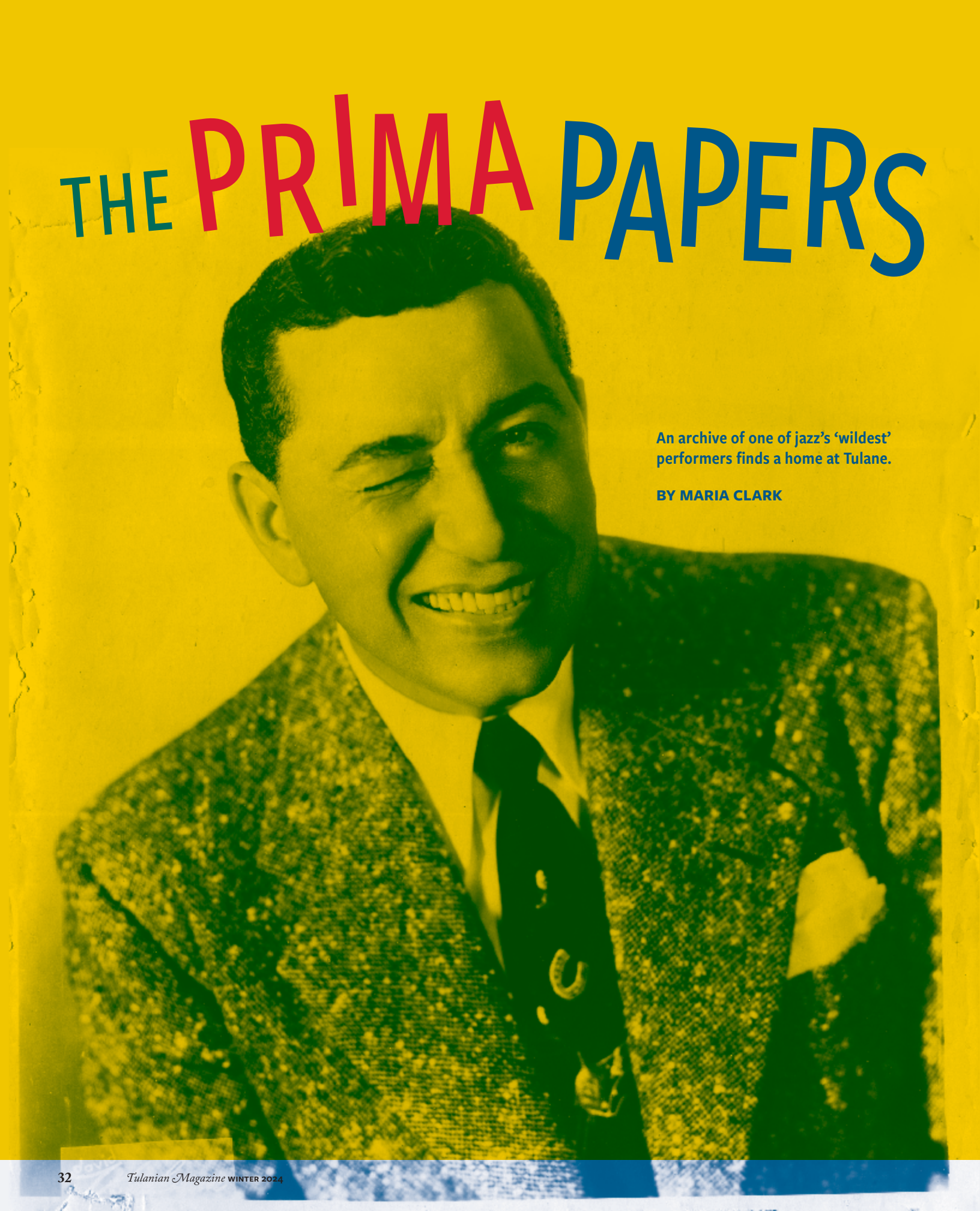
It is that kind of research that appealed to Raj when she was considering the job. She was well aware of Newcomb Institute's reputation, and the history of Newcomb College convinced her that this was where she wanted to continue her work. That the job was in one of her favorite cities clinched the deal.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Raj was a regular visitor to New Orleans as a child, mostly on school field trips. When it came time to apply to college as a 16-year-old, she chose Newcomb. "I was drawn to the idea of being in a place where differences were valued and enjoyed," she said. "But at that age, I was way too young to manage the freedom."

She later enrolled at and graduated from Mississippi College, then moved to Athens, Georgia, where she earned both her master's degree and PhD in psychology at the University of Georgia. It's also where she met her husband, who is now a professor and leading global health researcher at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

"I loved California," said Raj, who continues to hold a faculty appointment at UCSD. "But to me, being at Newcomb, in this place, at this time, just felt so right. I wanted to be part of that."

THE PRIMA PAPERS



An archive of one of jazz's 'wildest' performers finds a home at Tulane.

BY MARIA CLARK

Louis Prima on stage is often described as frenetic.

A perfect blend of wild man and dedicated musician, the energy of New Orleans pulsated through the late bandleader.

Nearly 50 years after his death, Prima's legacy lives on, and he remains beloved among fans who continue to celebrate his enduring music and energy.

This is in large part due to the efforts of his widow, Gia Maione Prima, who started a New Jersey-based foundation after his death to support the appreciation of American jazz and to preserve a vast wealth of materials related to his life and career. She stewarded the collection up until her death in 2013.

Known as the Louis Prima papers, the vast archive of materials was maintained by her foundation until it returned home to New Orleans in 2017. Donated to the Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, a unit of Tulane University Special Collections, the material was officially made public for research in March 2023.

And it's not just for music lovers.

The Louis Prima papers represent a full scope of archival materials, including business papers, photographs, TV scripts and other ephemera, said Melissa A. Weber, the Hogan Archive curator. The materials also include information about Italian-American history, New Orleans and Las Vegas architecture, animation, and the history of television, as well as information about Prima's family and his musical collaborators.

"There's a tendency to associate music-based archive repositories to music, but this is so much more. It truly reflects the multidisciplinary nature of archives," said Weber.

The opening of the Prima archive for public research is the culmination of a dream for Prima's widow, Gia Maione Prima, who wanted to find a permanent home for the archive, said friend and foundation trustee Anthony Sylvester.

Although Prima's five-decade career would take him away from his hometown to Las Vegas, Los Angeles and New York City, among other places, New Orleans was always in him.

Musical roots

Born in 1910, Prima grew up in Treme near North Claiborne Avenue. This was the same New Orleans that fostered jazz legends like Buddy Bolden and Louis Armstrong.

"You had those sounds on the streets that he was privy to: the sounds of parades, horse-drawn carriages — he would hear what was going on in town, including Mr. Armstrong," said Sylvester.

He grew up in a musical family, first learning to play the violin and later the cornet and trumpet. Prima would go on to play in high school bands at Jesuit and Warren Easton High School before pursuing a career as a professional performer.

"There's a tendency to associate music-based archive repositories to music, but this is so much more. It truly reflects the multidisciplinary nature of archives."

MELISSA A. WEBER

As a trumpeter and bandleader, Prima was heavily influenced by Louis Armstrong, whom he often cited as an inspiration. At the same time, he would draw from his own cultural heritage to influence his music.

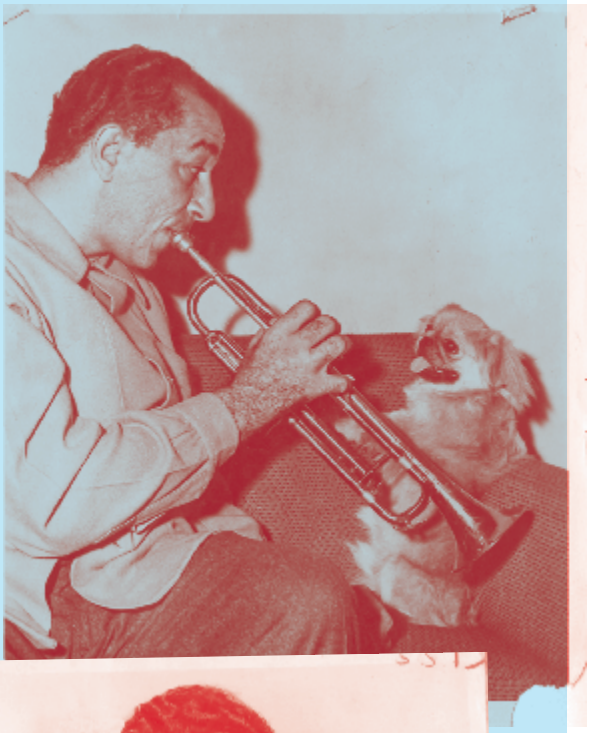
"Louis Prima integrates his love of and participation in the tradition of New Orleans jazz with both his upbringing and his sensibilities as an Italian-American in New Orleans, and bringing that together, he created a unique style," said Weber.

There was a rich blend of cultures that saw Sicilian families like the Primas living side by side with African American and Creole families in New Orleans. Prima was exposed to a mashup of cultures in his youth. In the early 20th century, Sicilians were marginalized in New Orleans and



Opposite page: A stylish and charming Louis Prima winks in a publicity photo for record company Music Corporation of America (MCA). This page: Prima sings into a microphone in a recording booth.

All images: Louis Prima collection, HJA-041, Tulane University Special Collections, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.







This page: A lucky — and furry — audience member gets an exclusive performance by Prima. Opposite page: Prima (center) performs with wife Gia Maione Prima (left) and Sam Butera (right), saxophonist and singer; A handwritten undated setlist appears in the background.

considered on the fringe of mainstream White Anglo-Saxon society, said David Kunian (SLA '13), the music curator at the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

This resulted in memorable musical collaborations. Sicilians made up a significant contingent in early jazz, even comprising almost half of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band.

That exposure to a variety of influences at a young age cemented who he became as a performer.

"Prima had this sense of being serious about the music, but he was also fun," said Kunian. "He was like lots of other folks you find today, they make sure the music is right. But there is a sense of joy and fun that is inherent to New Orleans."

In his hometown, he would perform at a variety of local venues including the Saenger Theatre. He would move on to New York in the mid-1930s where he made a name for himself on "Swing Street" (52nd Street), the heart of New York City's jazz clubs at the time.

A groundbreaking performer

Prima's music was groundbreaking in ways.

Prima would continue to celebrate his Italian-American heritage throughout the 1940s, with songs that spoke about Italian home life and culture. These could be considered controversial at a time when the United States was fighting Italy during World War II and anti-Italian sentiments were running high.

Nonetheless, Prima recorded several hits including "Angelina" and "Oh Marie" in which he crooned in Italian, "Una notte, una notte abbraciato" (One night, one night, embraced).

"Louis comes out and talks about Italian home life, putting it on the map so people could be proud of his immigrant heritage," said Kunian. "It shows part of his brilliance and his talent that he could pull it off, although certainly in mainstream culture it took a minute for mass appeal."

He eventually left New York to go to Los Angeles and began touring extensively throughout the United States and was one of the few White performers at the time contracted to perform in White and Black venues. Eventually, in the 1950s he began an extended residency at The Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas alongside his wife at the time, Keely Smith, and fellow New Orleanian Sam Butera. The band was prolific, performing nightly to sold-out audiences.

"His reviews as both a headliner and a bandleader were massively popular in Las Vegas especially," said Weber.

He would become the first New Orleanian to win a Grammy Award in the Recording Academy's first ceremony in 1959, for his and Smith's version of "That Old Black Magic."

His presence as a bandleader mesmerized fans with both the music and dance moves that rang back to the footwork he often saw growing up on the streets in New Orleans.

"When I see Louis dance — it is New Orleans all over again. The music seems to ricochet through his body," said Sylvester. "He dances like you're supposed to. There is a lack of self-consciousness and a wonderful rhythm you so often see with the dancers in a second-line."



CHIEF
AFTER YOU'VE GONE - Ab
ANGELINA - Bb
ANGELS SING - Bb
BECAUSE OF YOU - Bb
BASIN - F
BLACK AND BLUE - Am
BOSA - SERA - Eb
AIN'T MISBEHAVIN - E
CALA-LOMA - Eb
COOLIN - Ab
CHALALYNN - Db
CLOSEST TO THE BON
DOVER - Db
EVERYBODY KNOWS
EXACTLY LIKE YOU
DEPTH OF THE WI
CAN'T BELIEVE (Y
JUST IN LOVE -
JUST A GIGALO
JUST ONE OF THESE
JUDY - F
MARIE - C
IF YOU WERE THE
ROBIN HOOD - B
LAZY RIVER -
NITE AND DAY - A
OLD MAN MOS
SUNNY SIDE
SAINTS - Bb
MONTEREY - Bb
FOO MANCHU
THEM THERE EY
SORRENTO - Em/A
HONEYSUCKLE
THATS MY HOME
SEPTEMBER SONG
SO. OF THE BAR
SMILIN' - SLO
SHOULD I - Bb
I CANT GIVE YOU ANYTHING - Ab
BUT LOVE
(GUM)

TWIST AGAIN LAST SUMMER - Bb
CONTINENTAL TWIST - Bb
PERDIDO - Bb
SAM
BUTT BARLEY - F
ALL NITE LONG - F
CHIQUITA - Eb
FEVER - Gm
FRENCH POODLE - F
SALTOA
LOVER COME BACK - G

In fact, it is that sense of movement and freedom, that led Prima to voice the orangutan, King Louie, in the 1967 Walt Disney animated movie "The Jungle Book," singing "I Want To Be Like You" in the movie.

Prima and his band were flown to a sound stage in Los Angeles during the making of the movie and performed an impromptu second-line, that formed the blueprint for the second-line seen in "The Jungle Book," said Sylvester.

"It's a wonderful musical moment of 'I Want To Be Like You,'" he said.

Archive comes to Tulane

Prima's love for his hometown didn't just show up in his music and dancing.

"He always maintained his connection to New Orleans," said Kunian.

Prima would eventually return to Louisiana and continued performing and touring until 1975. He died three years later and was buried in Metairie Cemetery next to his parents. He was survived by six children and his wife, Gia.

When the collection was originally donated to Tulane in 2017, the Gia Maione Prima Foundation funded the Louis Prima Room at Tulane University, a classroom used for archival instruction. In addition to donating the collection to Tulane University Special Collections, the foundation is funding Louis and Gia Prima Music Fellowships (currently in development) and a Prima Memorial Lecture Series, which will debut in February. The series will discuss American popular music including its origins in American jazz.







The collection included a lot of material that Prima collected over the years and kept in a storage facility on the Northshore, and the remainder was kept by Gia in her home, Sylvester said.

The archive is a treasure trove of memorabilia that isn't just for fans of music. Among some of the items are correspondence with Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra, and photographs of Prima, Keely Smith and Elvis Presley. There are photographs and other memorabilia from his time working on "The Jungle Book," correspondence from record producers and promoters, and a vast record collection.

The materials are available for public research by appointment at Tulane University Special Collections.

Kunian curated an exhibit at the New Orleans Jazz Museum in 2019 called "The Wildest: Louis Prima Comes Home," which included many of the artifacts and memorabilia from the Hogan Archive, showing a chronological history of his life and work.

Going through the materials was like a treasure hunt for Kunian. "It was so exciting, you never knew what was going to come up."

Among the items, he was especially thrilled to find Prima's cabaret card from his time performing in New York City. The cabaret card was a license required for musicians to perform in nightclubs in New York from prohibition up until the 1960s. If a performer was arrested or caught with drugs, they could lose their license and their ability to work in New York. Thelonious Monk, Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker were among some of the jazz notables who lost their cabaret licenses.

Kunian had never seen one before he found Prima's.

"The archive is ripe for everyone. Louis Prima is someone you can do serious scholarship on," said Kunian.

For more information, contact Hogan Archive curator Melissa A. Weber at mweber3@tulane.edu or 504-247-1807. To learn more about Tulane University Special Collections, visit the TUSC website at library.tulane.edu/tusc, email specialcollections@tulane.edu, and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.







Opposite page, top right: Louis Prima poses for a publicity photo for the 1967 Walt Disney movie "The Jungle Book," in which he voices the orangutan, King Louie; From bottom left: Prima shows fans his music on a Wurlitzer jukebox; Prima delights a group of nuns. This page, above: Prima with his wife, Gia Maione Prima, and Frank Sinatra; Right: Prima (left) on stage during a performance with wife Gia Maione Prima (center) and Sammy Davis Jr. (right).

Wavemakers

WAVE WEEKEND BRINGS HIGH SPIRITS, TULANE PRIDE

Wave Weekend '23, which took place Thursday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Oct. 22, was full of celebration for Tulane students, families, alumni, faculty and staff, friends and fans. More than 10,000 people registered for "WAVE23" and its festivities, including reunions, concerts and WAVE23 tailgating for alumni/reunions and for Tulane families. The football game was thrilling, including a sold-out crowd of more than 30,000 people at Yulman Stadium, as the Green Wave fought to a 35-28 win over North Texas.

The festivities kicked off midweek with authors Walter Isaacson, the Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values at Tulane, and Michael Lewis, hosted by the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University. Conversation flowed freely as the authors spoke about their new books and growing up in New Orleans.

On Thursday, the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life became a circus for Tidal Wave, with clowns, a tie-dye station and balloon flowers. Windows painted by student groups and a photo op station in front of the Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex added to the festive atmosphere.

The uptown campus was a flurry of activity on Friday. Alumni met former classmates and attended reunions while students showed their families around.

On Friday evening, the seventh annual Tipping Point concert at The Fillmore featured headlining performers Warren Haynes of Gov't Mule, three-time Grammy Award winner Joe Bonamassa, singer-songwriter Allen Stone, and singer-songwriter and guitarist Celisse. The concert supports scholarships that will enable qualified students to attend Tulane.

Spirits were high at the tailgating events on Saturday as students and alumni alike prepared for the big game.

The football victory secured the Green Wave's bid for a post-season bowl game, a fitting achievement to be made in front of a crowd celebrating the success of Tulane.

Below: Student Paris Gingold (second from left) and parents Stephen (left) and Renee (right) pose for a picture with a performer on stilts during a circus-themed event; quarterback Michael Pratt scores a touchdown against North Texas. Opposite page, from the top: Riptide showcases the Green Wave spirit in a packed Yulman Stadium; seniors Funke Adeleye (left) and Kwesil Ezeh (right) are crowned Homecoming Royalty; Tulanians gather for a group photo while tailgating; the seventh annual Tipping Point concert was held at The Fillmore; the crowd cheers on the concert's performers.

PHOTOS BY SABREE HILL, MATTHEW HINTON AND PARKER WATERS






YULMAN
STADIUM
TULANE
00




Tulane Football Family





$10 MILLION GIFT FROM DON AND LORA PETERS TO UPGRADE ATHLETICS FACILITIES

Longtime Tulane supporters Don and Lora Peters have increased their commitment to Tulane Athletics to over $10 million, which will serve as a lead gift for "Investing in Excellence," a capital campaign to upgrade facilities and infrastructure across athletics programs.

The Peters' gift arrives as Tulane experiences unprecedented competitive success. Tulane Athletics leaders say a key to sustaining the momentum is to improve existing facilities and construct new ones to enhance the student-athlete experience.

"Don and Lora Peters have displayed, time and again, an extraordinary dedication to our student-athletes that goes well beyond wins on the field and focuses on enhancing their overall growth as students, athletes and individuals," Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said. "This tremendous gift adds another dimension to the remarkable legacy these devoted supporters are establishing for our players, coaches and staff."

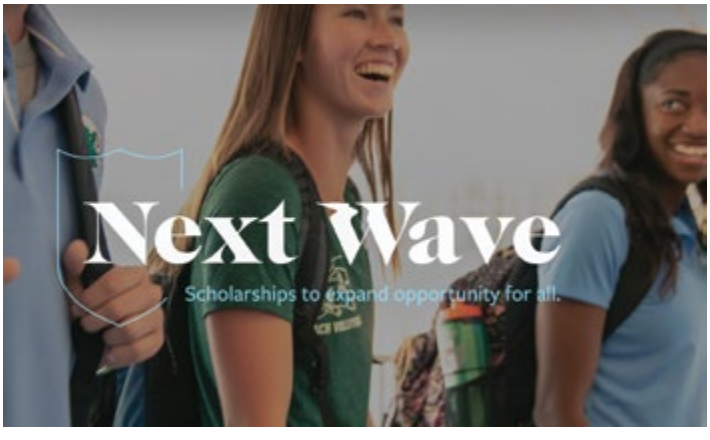
Part of the gift has already been used to upgrade the training facility in the Wilson Center, where student-athletes undergo pregame and practice preparation, illness and injury prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The plan is to build out additional space as a part of a dedicated sports performance center.

"The football team's Cotton Bowl victory and the success of teams and individuals throughout our athletics program has electrified and united the Tulane community," said Don Peters, a 1981 alumnus who serves on the Board of Tulane's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and, along with Lora, is a member of the Olive and Blue Society. "And our student-athletes are excelling not just in sports but in the classroom year after year … Now is the time to invest in even greater excellence. I encourage everyone to step up to the plate and give our Green Wave teams the resources they need to sustain our wave of success."



Above: The Green Wave football team celebrates their historic Cotton Bowl victory. Right: The gift of Don Peters (pictured) and his wife, Lora, will upgrade facilities across athletics programs.

TULANE RECEIVES $5 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT



An anonymous $5 million donation will expand undergraduate scholarship opportunities at Tulane by launching a new phase of the Next Wave Scholarship Challenge, the successful dollar-for-dollar matching program that began in 2021.

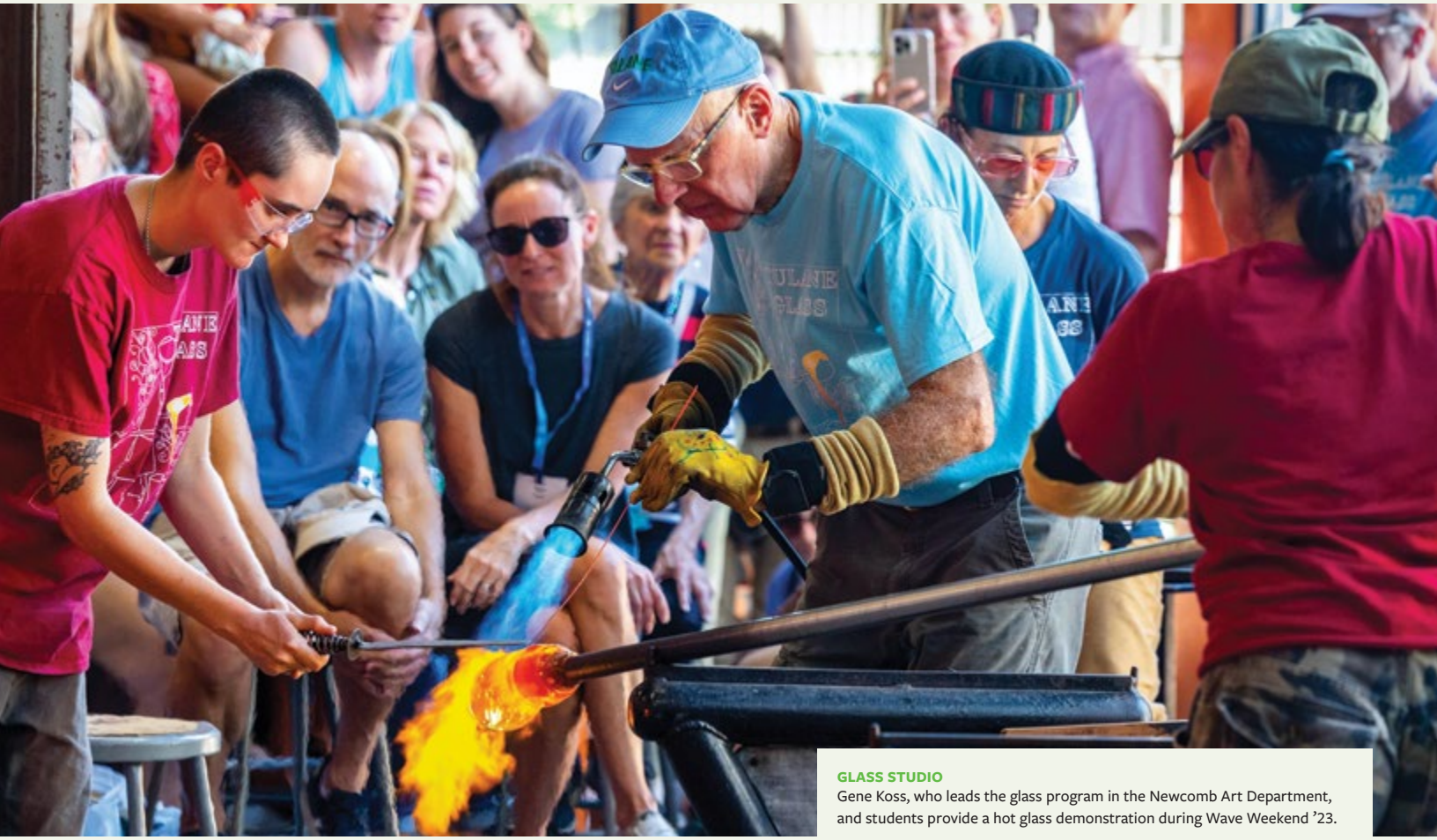
"This generous gift advances one of the university's most critical priorities — scholarships," Tulane President Michael A. Fitts said. "The Next Wave Scholarship program has helped students realize the dream of a Tulane education regardless of their economic means, inspiring more philanthropic support to help us recruit the best and brightest. This exceptional contribution will inspire a new wave of generosity that will benefit generations of Tulanians."

The second Next Wave Scholarship Challenge will double the value and impact for new donors of endowed undergraduate scholarships between $100,000 and $500,000 by providing a dollar-for-dollar match. Many existing endowed undergraduate scholarships and new scholarships created by returning donors will also be eligible for matches of up to $125,000.

"Our basic motivation for making this gift is our commitment to opportunity for all," said the donors, parents of a senior in Newcomb-Tulane College. "Opening the doors of higher education, particularly at a prestigious university like Tulane, is good not only for Tulane but also for American democracy. A Tulane education opens the door to a more fulfilling and purposeful life. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Tulane magic."

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

Tulanians



GLASS STUDIO
Gene Koss, who leads the glass program in the Newcomb Art Department, and students provide a hot glass demonstration during Wave Weekend '23.

PHOTO BY SABREE HILL

1950—1959

JOEL LAFAYETTE FLETCHER III (A&S '57) has written a memoir about growing up in Cajun country in Louisiana and his interaction with three distinct parts of his home state — the swampy South, the hills and woods of northern Louisiana, and New Orleans. The book is titled *With Hawks and Angels: Episodes from a Southern Life* (University Press of Mississippi).

SANDRA LLOYD (NC '58) has been inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. Lloyd is a painter known for her depictions of old Florida. Her paintings are done in watercolor, oil and acrylics, and her work is in many private and public collections. Lloyd is a member of the American Watercolor Society and the Florida Watercolor Society.

1960—1969

SALLIE H. WEISSINGER (NC '65) is the winner of The Gilda Prize for her first book, a memoir titled *YES, AGAIN: (Mis) Adventures of a Wishful Thinker.* She describes the book as a memoir about a life lived fully, the importance of deep personal connections and one woman's search for meaning. The Gilda Prize, given by Story Circle Network, is named in honor of the late comedian Gilda Radner.

DAVID BERCUSON (A&S '68), an attorney in Miami, has been named by *Billboard* magazine as one of the top 100 music lawyers in the United States, citing his work with various internationally known artists, record labels, managers, music publishers and music companies.

BRUCE SMITH (A&S '68) has retired after 52 years as a professor of Shakespeare, theater and sound studies at the University of Southern California, where he has also been the Dean's Professor of English and Theatre since 2003. He has also taught at Georgetown University, Smith College and Newcastle University in the U.K. Notable among his seven books is *The Acoustic World of Early Modern England* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), which helped establish historical sound studies as an academic field.

1970—1979

MARLENE ESKIND MOSES (A&S '72, SW '73) has been selected for Chambers High Net Worth 2023 in the category of Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth in Tennessee. Chambers High Net Worth ranks the leading lawyers



John Barney Taylor (left) and George B. McCullough (right).

IMPRESSION

JOHN BARNEY TAYLOR & GEORGE B. McCULLOUGH

George B. McCullough (B '48, B '52) and John Barney Taylor (B '48) first met in 1943, when they arrived at Tulane as members of the Navy V-12 officer training program. After months of training and being housed in what is now the Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse, they were both commissioned as ensigns for World War II.

During the war, Taylor worked as a paymaster on a naval base in Manila, Philippines, while McCullough was part of a secretive mission in the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA. Near the end of the war, McCullough was also sent to the Philippines.

"I was walking through the Officer's Club, and this young, commissioned officer walked up to me and said, 'Is your name Taylor?' and I said, 'Yeah,'" Taylor recalled. "He said, 'My name is George McCullough. Do you remember me?' and that's how our friendship started."

They both returned to Tulane and became roommates, and finished their undergraduate degrees in what was then called the College of Commerce and Business Administration, now the A. B. Freeman School of Business.

It was the start of a lifelong friendship. Fast forward some seven-plus decades, and they still keep in touch with each other and have traveled to veterans' and other events together.

"We were two wild kids," said Taylor of their time together as students.

"We lived about a block from a shopping center, and we spent a lot of time there playing with a pinball machine," said McCullough. "We didn't have much money, so we didn't go very far."

"We got a room in the cheapest place around," he added. They lived in an attic in a house on Palmer Avenue that cost them $8 per month.

"It was only tall enough that George could stand up in the middle," said Taylor of their shared room. "It was about the size of the closet."

As students who had lived through the Great Depression, they each only had one jacket to wear on dates.

"We were short on wardrobe," said McCullough, so they decided one night to trade jackets to switch it up a bit. "The problem was, I was much taller than John." They made a funny sight in their ill-fitting jackets, he recalled fondly.

Taylor was McCullough's best man at his wedding in 1951 to fellow Tulanian Colleen Beacham McCullough (B '48). Taylor remembered being nervous at his friend's wedding. "George gave me the wedding ring to hand over at the wedding, and when I handed it over in the palm of my hand, George said there was a pool of water in my hand!"

Their friendship remained even when they lived apart. "We stayed in contact no matter where we were," said Taylor. They are both now living near Houston, Texas, and are happy to see each other and recall their adventures whenever they can.

"We've been together for some 70 years now," said Taylor. "Not many people can say that."

PHOTO PROVIDED BY PATRICK MCCULLOUGH

and law firms for international private wealth. Rankings are assessed on such qualities as technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service and commercial astuteness.

MARY RICKARD (NC '74), is the author of *PHANTASMAGORIA: The Artistic World of Sohr*. The book is about Chalmette, Louisiana, artist Jim Sohr, who learned to paint in the late '60s while imprisoned at Louisiana State Penitentiary for selling marijuana to an undercover agent. Rickard also wrote a story for *French Quarter Journal* about the 1964 police raid on Louisiana's only integrated coffee house, The Quorum.

1980 — 1989

BRUCE LANDY, MD (M '80), a Colorado-based urologist, has been granted a patent for a device for the non-invasive measurement of glucose.

ARTHUR BOWEN (L '81) received the Lawyer Citizen Award from the Pulaski County (Arkansas) Bar Association for his pro bono work. He was also named Mentor of the Year by the School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He lives in Little Rock with his wife, Rev. Melissa Ross Bowen.

BENJAMIN F. JOEL (A&S '80, B '81) was ranked 51st Best in State Wealth Advisor by *Forbes* magazine for 2023 in the state of Georgia. Joel is managing director, senior financial advisor and portfolio manager at RBC Wealth Management in Atlanta. He was named to the same *Forbes* list in 2019, 2021 and 2022.

PAUL FRIEDRICHS, MD (A&S '86) has completed four years as joint staff surgeon, culminating a 37-year career as a U.S. Air Force surgeon. He is now serving as special assistant to the president and senior director for Global Health Security and BioDefense on the National Security Council.

1990 — 1999

ANDREW HESS (B '90) has been named senior partner at Gartner Consulting, the consulting division of the world-renowned research firm.

MARGARET FENTON (NC '92, SW '93) has written a new mystery novel, *Little White Lies* (Aakenbaaken & Kent), which is the newest installment of her popular mystery series featuring the character Claire Conover, a child welfare social worker. Fenton spent nearly 10 years as a child and family therapist for her county's child welfare department before focusing on writing.

AMANDA FRYE (NC '94) has been named vice president of physician and provider relations for HCA Healthcare after more than 20 years as division vice president. Frye will provide oversight for strategic growth, initiatives and priorities.

MATTHEW MELLADY (L '94) has been appointed deputy director of the Public Safety Education and Training Center at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The center is responsible for providing training to Maryland's public safety professionals.

MARIA C. GAZTAMBIDE, (B '95, SLA '01, '15) has been named executive director of the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico in San Juan. The MAPR is Puerto Rico's national museum and is recognized as one of America's Cultural Treasures, an initiative spearheaded by the Ford Foundation. It is also a Smithsonian Affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

CHIA-CHEE CHIU (NC '96) is the new head of middle school at Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Chiu previously served as head of middle school at St. John's School in Houston.

BEN KLEINMAN (E '96) has been promoted to counsel at the international firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. Kleinman is a registered patent attorney with expertise in software, computer architecture, consumer electronic devices, trade secret disputes and more. He lives in Novato, California, with his 10-year-old daughter.

MORGAN WOOD (NC '96) has been appointed judge in the Santa Fe County Magistrate Court by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. Wood, who has 18 years of criminal law experience in New Mexico, has served as a prosecutor in the Children's Court in the First Judicial District in Santa Fe.

LANE GREENE (TC '97) published a new style guide for *The Economist* called *Writing With Style*. He is the magazine's Spain correspondent and language columnist. He has written a regular column for *The New Republic* website as well as *The New York Times, Slate* and several other publications.

OSCAR BERNAL (PHTM '98) has been elected to the international board of Doctors Without Borders, which provides medical humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict, diseases and disasters in more than 70 countries.

LISA USDAN, MD (NC '99) is president of the Memphis Medical Society. She is a practicing endocrinologist in Memphis, Tennessee.

2000 — 2009

KATE MURPHY BRUNNER (NC '00) has been promoted to Youth & Family Services Principal Consultant at the Colorado State Library, where she designs and manages initiatives and research projects for youth and families. Brunner also provides resources, training and technical support to youth services librarians across the state.

GARY CHISHOLM (B '00) has been named the vice president of sales and business development for Curve Health, a Series A health tech startup that leverages an AI-driven virtual platform to lower hospital readmissions for seniors in skilled nursing facilities. He lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his family.

CARRIE JOHNSTON (NC '02) is the director of research and scholarly initiatives at Southern Methodist University Libraries. She previously served as digital humanities research designer at Wake Forest University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Bucknell University.

BOBBY FLANDERS (TC '03) successfully completed the Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows program. The professional development program is a four-week program that helps executives sharpen their leadership and management skills. Flanders is deputy chief of staff for the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MARANDA C. WARD (PHTM '03), assistant professor and director of equity, clinical research and leadership at The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences, was selected as one of 14 scholars as part of the national 2023-24 cohort for the Engaged Scholars Initiative. Scholars are nominated by institutional leaders and selected for their commitment to centering equity in their civic and community engagement work. She recently discussed the significance of Juneteenth on a segment of "Good Morning Washington" on ABC Channel 7.

MONIKA GERHART (SLA '04) launched Green Bayou Solutions, a company that helps deploy state and federal resources to people and projects dedicated to solving the greatest climate, energy and equity challenges. Most recently, Gerhart led the legislative and regulatory portfolio at the state and federal levels for the city of New Orleans, including all departments and agencies.

JULIE BABIN (A '06) announces the rebranding of architecture firm studioWTA as Practis. Led by Babin and **TRACIE ASH (A '02)**, the firm specializes in modern designs and has an extensive portfolio that includes residential, hospitality, commercial and institutional projects. Babin and Ash are licensed architects in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and New Jersey.

KIRA FLEITMAN RAMDAS (NC '06) graduated with honors from Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine and was selected as an emerging leader in feline medicine to attend the Veterinary Leadership Conference of the American Veterinary Medical Association. She is a certified Cat Friendly Veterinarian and, after several years on the board, was recently elected president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

E. M. LIDDICK (L '07) is the author of a new memoir, *All the Memories That Remain: War, Alzheimer's, and the Search for a Way Home*. Liddick is a veteran of the Marine Corps Reserves and the Army's elite 75th Ranger Regiment. He served as a judge advocate during the war in Afghanistan. He lives in Northern Virginia.

2010 — 2023

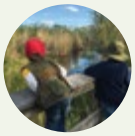
LEE P. GARY (PHTM '10) is a contributing author to the handbook *The Water Professional's Guide to Infectious Disease Outbreaks* by Professor Mark Sobsey of the University of North Carolina

What was your favorite club or organization at Tulane?



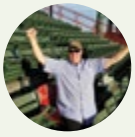
TEMS gave me real-life experience in service to others and served as the foundation of my current career as an emergency medicine/critical care physician. My fellow TEMS members from classes of 2004-2006 are ER physicians, pediatricians, infectious disease doctors, nurse practitioners, lawyers and entrepreneurs to name a few!

Katharine Modisett, MD (NC '06)



Being a Peer Health Advocate was an amazing experience! Would do it again a thousand times over.

Leixa T. Molina (NC '95, PHTM '96)

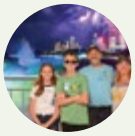


Swim team — 40-plus years later, I'm still active friends with several of my teammates.

Sean Moore (E '83)

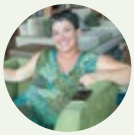
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What was your favorite club or organization at Tulane?



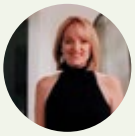
TUCP (TU Campus Programming). We were the heartbeat of the campus during my time there. 3-4 movies a week, TGI Fridays with bands like the Rads, Dash Rip Rock, Rockin' Dopsie, many members of the Neville family featured. Also the All-Nighter, senior sendoffs, comedy series in the Rat, homecoming dance and many national touring acts.

Todd Werner (B '91)



Soundwave, of course! We had so much fun traveling with the women's basketball team to the NCAA tournament!

Jenny Grollman (B '99)



CACTUS was my favorite organization at Tulane because we were able to give back to our community through service. We were able to reflect the meaning behind Tulane's motto, "Non sibi, sed suis," = "Not for oneself, but for one's own."

Millibeth Currie (NC '89)

at Chapel Hill. Gary contributed to Chapter 4, titled "Understanding Risk and Knowledge Gaps." The handbook was published by the Water Environment Federation.

CAITLIN SWINDELL (SLA '12) has joined the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami as the curator of collections and exhibitions.

SARAH GERSTEN (SLA '13) is executive director and general counsel for the Last Prisoner Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cannabis criminal justice reform. The group has helped secure the release of over 40 individuals incarcerated for cannabis offenses, dispersed over $2.5 million in grant funding to constituents, and helped pass impactful state legislation and federal reforms.

KRISTIAN ARMOUR-WILLIAMS (SOPA '17), a Brooklyn-based digital artist, celebrated the opening of his first solo art exhibition, "Rounding the Corner," at Conduit Gallery in New York City. His work explores the emotional states that he experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEVON FOGARTY (PHTM '18) is part of a team of maritime archaeologists being credited with the discovery of an underwater 19th-century quarantine hospital and cemetery from the Civil War era in Dry Tortugas National Park near Key West, Florida. At the time, Fogarty was a graduate student at the University of Miami. The team also included staff from Dry Tortugas National Park, the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center and the Southeast Archeological Center. Fogarty is currently pursuing her PhD from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

BRIAN MOUNCE (L '21) has been nominated to serve as the Tennessee Bar Association's House Delegate Representative for West Tennessee for the Young Lawyers Division.

Farewell

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

Norris L. Fant (E '42, E '76)
Calista Rault Schneidau (NC '44)
Julanne Rose Isaacson (NC '45, SW '65)
Erik F. Johnsen (B '48)
James J. Legeai (B '48)
Denise Reinecke (NC '48, G '60)
Henry E. Stern (E '48)
Joseph H. Maloney (E '49)
Clair Cook Schwartz (NC '49)
Charlene McCorkle Smith (NC '49)
Sue Scherer Conner (NC '50)
Robert M. Floyd Jr. (B '50)
Dolores Krasne Neustadt (NC '50)
Kathryn Wright Drake (SW '51)
Flora Talmage Landwehr (NC '51)
Milton J. Loeb (E '51)
Jane Doggett (NC '52)
Bettina Hilman-Mattson (G '52)
Thomas L. Hudson (A&S '52, M '54)
Burton G. Klein (A&S '52, L '54)
Thomas S. Meric (A '52)
Sara Hall Nelson (NC '52)
Anton J. Stifter (A&S '52, M '56)
Claiborne E. Talbot Jr. (A&S '52)
Peachy R. Gilmer Jr. (A&S '53, M '57)
Billy C. Moore I (B '53)
Burton C. Bowen (A&S '54)
Lloyd E. Chiasson Sr. (E '54)
Robert L. Redfearn Sr. (B '54, L '57)
Jo Ann Ferguson Sturgeon (UC '54)
Arnold B. Alper Sr. (A&S '55, M '59)
Ariel W. Ellis Jr. (G '55)
Jack E. Field (G '55, G '57)
Hulon P. Fillingane (B '55)
Frederic Ackerson (G '56)
Henry J. Bergeron Jr. (E '56)
Sybil Muths Favrot (NC '56)
Phyllis Brown Feibelman (NC '56)
Ronald J. Bertus (E '57)
Theresa Gardner Burnes (NC '57, G '66)
Charles S. Davis Jr. (A&S '57)
Virginia Lind Dekker (NC '57)
Calvin H. Grosscup Jr. (B '57)
William O. Hargrove (M '57)
Kenneth A. Howarth (B '57)
Judith Lewis Lemoine (NC '57)
Charles W. McDowell Jr. (A&S '57, M '60)
Charles S. McFarland (A&S '57)
Martha Armistead McHale (NC '57)
Vincent J. Molina Jr. (M '57)
Jacques H. Roman III (B '57)
Elizabeth Spencer Ruppert (NC '57)
Jay E. Tone III (B '57)
Myron F. Weiner (M '57)
Lynn Heaslip Moore (NC '58)
James C. Welter (M '58)
Robert C. Windstein (B '58)
Mary Allen (NC '59)
Milly Slater Barranger (G '59, G '64)
Peter J. Casano III (L '59)
Elizabeth Holloway (NC '59)
Byron H. Ruth (E '59)
Patrica Dickmann Sheehan (NC '59)
Arthur G. Yaeger Jr. (E '59)
William S. Chester (A '60)
James J. Collins Sr. (B '60)
Joseph P. Drago Sr. (A&S '60)
John M. Mamoulides (L '60)
Lewis B. Pollak Sr. (A&S '60)
Joseph R. Boyd Sr. (UC '61)
Phyllis Alexander Kaplan (NC '61)
Gary A. Lloyd (SW '61, G '65)
Samuel R. Slipman (A&S '61)
Emile R. Sternfels Jr. (L '61)
James B. Brayton (PHTM '62, M '66)
Robert M. Cornett Sr. (A&S '62)
Jack C. Hoover (M '62)
Dennis J. Malfer (A&S '62)
Sidney B. Simpson Jr. (G '62, G '63)
Jimmy N. Dimos (L '63)
Ronald T. Heiman (A&S '63)
William P. Miles IV (UC '63, UC '77)
Truls G. Bjerke Jr. (A&S '64)
Dessouky A. Dessouky (G '64)
Daniel C. Gamber (A&S '64)
Eng B. Ong (G '64)

George B. Peneguy Jr. (UC ’64)
Virginia Rufin (G ’64)
David B. Tidmore (A&S ’64)
Robert P. Genenz (A&S ’65)
Albert C. Gordon (G ’65)
Billy F. Kiker (G ’65)
Ann Queen (NC ’65)
Gerald N. Springer (A&S ’65)
Daniel L. Stevenson (B ’65, L ’67)
John W. Flude Jr. (E ’66)
Deborah Hitt Lane (NC ’66)
Joseph R. Ruffino (UC ’66)
Wilbur A. Toups Jr. (UC ’66)
Alvin L. Andrews (A&S ’67, L ’71)
John O. Gage (M ’67)
Michael M. Kliks (G ’67)
Clemence O’Kelley Palcso (NC ’67)
Alfred L. Price (L ’67)
Errol V. Roberts (SW ’67)
Marsha Atwood Woods (SW ’67)
Larry I. Frank (M ’68)
David M. Jarrott (A&S ’68, M ’72, G ’81)
William D. McClure Jr. (A&S ’68, B ’74)
Leonard J. Brink (SW ’69)
Philip T. Browne (M ’69)
Dianne Chambless (NC ’69)
Vibhakar R. Dave (G ’69)
Susan Tipery Deter (NC ’69)
Roger W. Green (A&S ’69)
C. M. Hawkins (PHTM ’69)
John C. Nicholson (A&S ’69, L ’72)
Anna-Katrin Sundstrom Roth (NC ’69)
John P. Sullivan Jr. (L ’69)
Jude J. Theibert (G ’69)
Olivia Hicks (SW ’70)
Philip W. Koine Sr. (UC ’70)
Carroll O. Loomis (PHTM ’70)
Linda Slote Quick (NC ’70)
Julia Callaway (NC ’71)
Mary Roberts Dahlberg (SW ’71)
Randolph M. Howes (G ’71, M ’71)
Charles F. Kelley Jr. (A&S ’71)
Juanita Weisbach Madole (NC ’71)
Patricia Woodard (G ’71)
John W. Grant (E ’72, E ’74)



IMPRESSION

DEMEKA FIELDS

Demeka Fields (L ’16) never dreamed that less than a decade post-law school, she would be counsel for sportswear company New Balance. But that’s precisely where she is.

Her responsibilities include “anything that involves signing sports or athletes and managing those deals,” she said.

Fields earned a business degree from Howard University before Tulane’s prominence in sports law brought her to New Orleans.

She was interested in the business side of sports, as well as its impact on the Black community. “Something that always stood out for me is that a lot of the athletes in the major sports are Black. But the people in the front office typically aren’t Black. So, it was really important to me to be in a decision-making position and have more representation on the business side.”

Armed with her law degree, she rose through the ranks at the Minnesota Vikings over four seasons when New Balance, a Boston-based footwear and apparel brand, contacted her.

“I didn’t know sneakers … I did not own sneakers other than workout shoes,” Fields said. But she saw how quickly the brand was growing. “I was like, ‘I think going here will allow me to grow with the brand.’”

As counsel, she works with sports marketing staff to sign an athlete or team. “We have to negotiate the legal terms,” she said. “And from a lawyer point of view, it is definitely one thing to say you’ve agreed on business terms versus actually seeing it on paper and signing on the dotted line. There’s a lot that goes into negotiating the deal.”

At New Balance, Fields is also chair of Black Soles, an employee-led community focused on amplifying Black voices, and helps run the company’s diversity internship with the University of Massachusetts – Boston. “If we bring in diverse talent, New Balance (should be) an environment where they can thrive.”

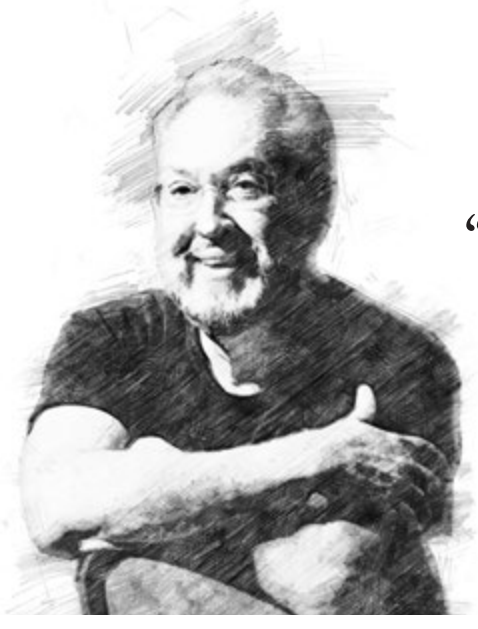
Among her many community-oriented efforts, Fields is a member of the Tulane Sports Law Advisory Board and the law school mentor program.

“When I started law school 10 years ago, there were very few people that were doing what I wanted to do and who looked like me. If students reach out … I do try to talk to all of them because it’s easier to think you can be it once you really see it.”

PHOTO BY TRAVIS ELLISON

Submit your news to tulanian.tulane.edu/contact and follow **@tulanealumni** on Facebook to join the conversation.

Charles A. Hunt (B '72)
Marianne Lipscombe Marshall (NC '72)
Geoffrey S. Moakley (B '72)
Harriette Clay Porter (M '72)
William G. Schmegel Jr. (A&S '72)
Mark E. Seiler (A&S '72)
Robert P. Withrow Sr. (PHTM '72)
Alan D. Bell (B '73)
Roger J. Evans (G '73)
David K. McDuffie (B '73)
Warren P. Miguez Jr. (L '73)
George T. Mustakas II (L '73)
Olive Wright Pruski (G '73)
Donald W. Thompson (B '73)
Monica Stewart Bishara (G '74)
Margaret Booker (NC '74)
Alfred E. Lemmon (G '74, G '81)
Janice Reinders McArdle (NC '74)
Phillip H. Rye (PHTM '74)
Roland J. Witte (G '74)
Richard L. Enfield (UC '75)
Marion A. LaNasa Jr. (A&S '75)
Henry A. Smith (SW '75)
Roy B. Smith Jr. (UC '75)
Larry E. Turner (SW '75)
Bruce J. Thomas II (A&S '76, M '80)
Helen Zurad Wetzel (NC '76)
Rudolf B. Becker III (L '77)
Donna Cohen (G '77)
Rhea Horil Fontenot (E '77, E '80)
John J. Gamache (UC '77)
Doug G. Mayberry (E '77)
Frank J. Slugaski (A&S '77)
Carole Close Vollmer (G '77)
David E. Wortman (G '77)
Rosalean Palmer Conway (G '78)
Mary Beth Von Oehsen Jenkins (NC '78)
John G. Lampe (PHTM '78)
Raoul J. Chamel (UC '79)
George F. Davis (A&S '79, E '83)
Walter Lemann III (M '79)
Carolyn Odell (NC '79)
Morey Raiskin (A&S '79, L '82)
John L. Schackai III (A '80)
Grace Squires-Capion (PHTM '80)
Kirby O. Kloter (PHTM '81)
John G. Roheim (A&S '81, M '85)
Trudy Breznik (G '82, M '87)
Joycelin Smith Couvillon (UC '82)
Donald C. Howard (E '82)
Dorothy Singer Jacobs (L '82)
Brian M. Kinney (M '82)
William S. Schmid (A&S '82)
John E. Carroll (A&S '83)
Henry S. Gardner Jr. (PHTM '83)
David A. Skevington (G '83)
Michael G. Bodron Sr. (B '84)
John J. Owens Jr. (B '84)
Virgil M. Wheeler III (L '84)
Danny L. Gilbert (L '85)



TRIBUTE

B. MICHAEL HOWARD

"Now, honey, I want you to sing that again, and this time I'd better feel 'blessed with the sound of music.'"

I began once more, thoroughly chastised. I was 19 and in my first musical theater class with B. Michael Howard; I was the only English major in a room full of voice and musical theater BFAs. I chose a song I thought was "safe." I quickly learned that in Mr. Howard's class, there was no such thing as a safe song.

B. Michael Howard, beloved music faculty member, the former Albert and Linda Mintz Professor of Music, associate professor emeritus and longtime artistic director for Summer Lyric Theatre, died on Aug. 12, 2023, in New Orleans. He was 79.

Howard was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music. He began his teaching career at R. H. Watkins High School in Laurel, Mississippi, and in 1975, he was named Mississippi Educator of the Year. He became an assistant professor of music at Tulane in 1978, was promoted to associate professor in 1986 and taught until 2018.

Howard's impact was felt nowhere more than Summer Lyric Theatre at Tulane University. In 1968, SLT's inaugural season, he played Buffalo Bill in "Annie Get Your Gun." He was part of many Summer Lyric shows as an actor, director and vocal music director, and in 1997 as artistic director. Howard was known to be a perfectionist, requiring precision from actors, musicians, costumes, props, designers and crew. His efforts garnered him the 2004 Big Easy Lifetime Achievement Award and the Mayor's Arts Award. He directed his final show for Summer Lyric — "Les Misérables" — in 2014 and retired as artistic director at the end of that season.

Howard pushed professional performers and students alike into a deeper understanding of a rich and layered American art form. He put particular care into examining lyrics, paring a character's thoughts and feelings down to a single phrase or word in an effort to lay bare meaning and motivation. I do not know if he felt "blessed" at that performance my sophomore year, or at the recital I gave five years later as an MFA in Musical Theatre, but I know he believed music and the myriad ways we experience it to be a blessing. It is that belief he taught his students for over 50 years, and for that lesson I will always be grateful.

—Arynne Fannin (NC '06, G '08) is the communications coordinator for the Newcomb Department of Music. She studied with Michael Howard for five years and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre.

Research, Scholarship & Artistic Achievement Awards

Every year, the Tulane University Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Awards are given to honor the university's outstanding scholars and to recognize exceptional research achievement and impact on advancing knowledge, innovation, or creativity in science, engineering, health, arts, humanities, education and other academic fields of study. The recipients' names are followed by their schools.

Hall of Fame – Lifetime achievement award
JOHN PERDEW, Science and Engineering, **ROBERT GARRY,** professor, Medicine, and **LISA FAUCI,** Pendergraft NOLA Lee Haynes Professor, Science and Engineering

Spirit of Tulane – Outstanding work that embodies "Non sibi, sed suis"
LAILA HLASS, Law, **DENYS BONDAR,** James MacLaren Early Career Professor of Physics, Science and Engineering, **MARGARITA JOVER,** Architecture, and **CHARLES FIGLEY,** Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health, Social Work

Innovation – Development of novel ideas and insights through interdisciplinary scholarship to address clinical, public health, or societal challenges
ROBERT BLAIR, Tulane National Primate Research Center, Medicine, **KIRSTEN DORANS,** Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and **CLAIRE SENOT,** Albert Lechter Early Career Professorship in Business Administration, Business

Entrepreneurship – Record of sustained entrepreneurship and new venture creation
WAYNE REED, Murchison-Mallory Professor, Science and Engineering

IP Innovator – New patentable intellectual property that is expected to lead to a licensable technology or commercialization
DAWN WESSON, Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Galaxy – Recognizes a scholar who has a five-year history of funding and of enhancing Tulane's research mission
JILL DANIEL, Gary P. Dohanich Professor in Brain Science, Science and Engineering, and **TONY HU,** Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation, Medicine

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Excellence in research that addresses societal inequalities and promotes social change
PATRICK BUTTON, Liberal Arts, and **MANUEL OCASIO,** Medicine

Funding – Largest combined dollar amount of funding for direct costs
(STEM) **DR. LYDIA BAZZANO,** Lynda B. and Leighton Steward Professor in Nutrition Research, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and (Non-STEM) **KELLY MCCLURE,** Professional Advancement

Convergence – Successful collaboration to surpass traditional academic disciplines
HONG-WEN DENG, Aron Family Endowed Chair, Medicine, and **MICHAEL BURKE,** Earl P. and Ethel B. Koerner Chair of Strategy and Entrepreneurship; Charles Atwood Professorship; Lawrence Martin Chair, Business

Student/Trainee Research Mentoring Award – Recognizes an exceptional research mentor
JAMES HUCK, Liberal Arts, and **SARU MATAMBANADZO,** Moise S. Steeg Jr. Associate Professor of Law, Law

Rising Star – Demonstrates exceptional growth and impact within five years of appointment to Tulane, in one or more research areas
NICHOLAS MATTEI, Science and Engineering, and **DR. CHANGWEI LI,** Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Citation – Highest number of citations for a peer-reviewed article
DR. JOE IWANAGA, Medicine

Publications – Exceptional contributions to academic literature
(Journal Article) **TRACY FISCHER,** Medicine and Tulane National Primate Research Center, and (Book) **YURI HERRERA-GUTIÉRREZ,** Liberal Arts

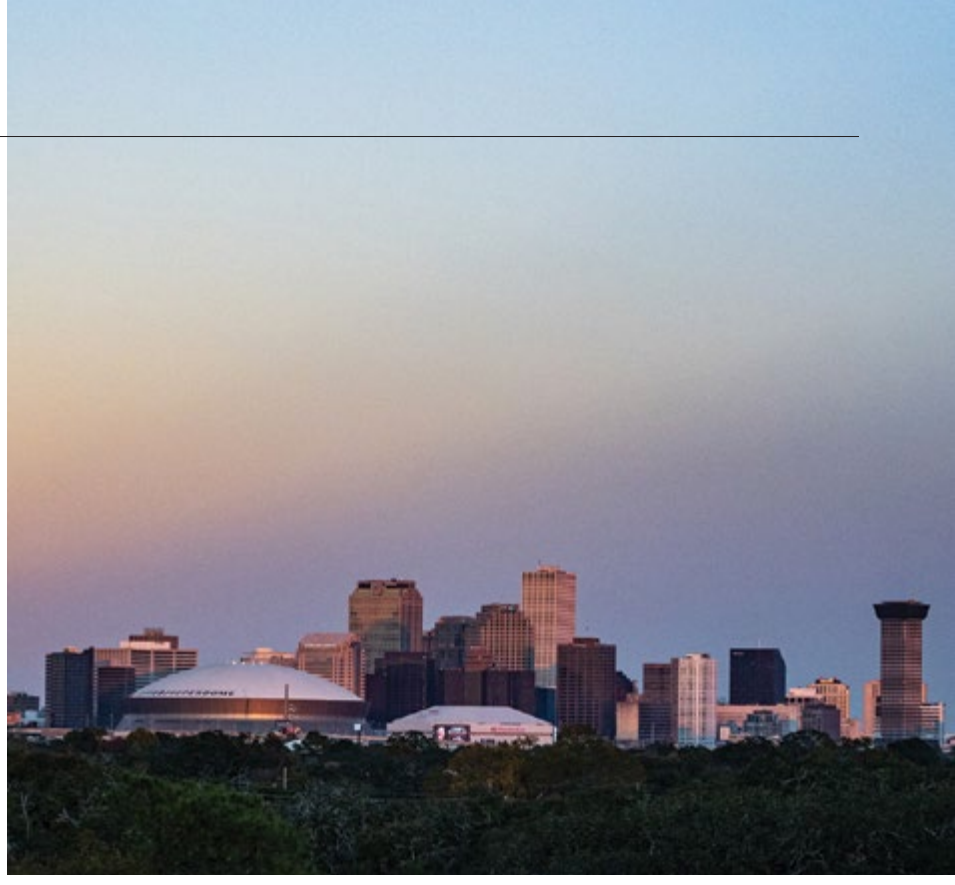
Eric D. Helman (E '86)
Ellen Kruger Chapman (NC '87)
Clark H. Lambdin (B '88)
Patricia Flannery Pearce (PHTM '89)
Nancy Selzer (L '89)
Ronna Steele (L '89, L '90)
Joel L. Pearce (L '91)
Steven F. Rueb (B '91)
Paulette Buckner Early (SW '92, PHTM '96)
Lois Weil Brupbacher (G '93)
Robert L. Wollfarth Jr. (TC '94)
Robert J. Benesch (E '95)
Louis Stern (PHTM '95)
James A. Williams (UC '95)
Catherine Theresa Hastings Jones (NC '96)
Michael L. Thiele II (A '98)
John J. Kaleba (L '99)
Eric N. McKay (L '01)
James E. Harvey IV (SSE '08, PHTM '10)
Keith W. Watson (L '09)
Trent M. Yarborough (SSE '17)
Joseph V. Fraioli (B '19)
Leah Rosin-Pritchard (SW '20)
Tulio R. Murillo Jr. (SoPA '23)

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.)

TULANE'S IDENTITY

BY MICHAEL A. FITTS, President



With sunrise hues overhead, the skyline of downtown New Orleans can be seen from the uptown campus. Tulane's revitalization of downtown will expand the university's footprint in research and innovation while strengthening the local economy. (Photo by Rusty Costanza)

This academic year marks my tenth as president of Tulane University. In the span of Tulane's nearly 200-year history, a decade seems like the blink of an eye — but what a decade it's been. It is truly an honor to lead this institution at a time when our distinctive academic and research strengths, coupled with our unique history and culture, are making an impact like never before as we lay the groundwork for a transformative future.

Many of us vividly remember a time when Tulane's future seemed less than certain. I was dean of the law school at the University of Pennsylvania in August 2005, when Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent levee failures devastated the city of New Orleans and forced Tulane to close for the fall semester. Penn Law hosted many Tulane law students tuition-free during the semester that Tulane was closed so they could continue their studies. In the months and years that followed, I watched as Tulane made a remarkable recovery, never imagining that I might find myself leading that same remarkable institution.

Over the past ten years, I've come to understand a key factor that positioned Tulane to succeed and thrive after facing an unprecedented existential threat. Hurricane Katrina did not change Tulane's identity — it reinforced and affirmed it. The university was originally founded as a medical school in 1834 in response to a yellow fever epidemic that was ravaging the local community. We were an outward-facing institution from the very start, founded to solve problems for the public good. In the aftermath of Katrina and the levee failures, Tulane's administration leaned into our DNA and re-energized our commitment to the city, implementing a public service graduation requirement and dissolving boundaries between disciplines to foster the kind of academic innovations that change the world.

When faced with another major threat — the COVID-19 pandemic — our institutional experience and knowledge allowed us to approach this new crisis with confidence. While a majority of national universities remained remote for the fall 2020 semester, we leveraged the in-house expertise of our research enterprise to reopen in person, jump-starting the local economy. By developing one of the most robust surveillance testing programs in the United States, we dramatically bolstered the city's public health efforts and continued our research on infectious diseases, which ultimately proved critical to the global effort to combat the pandemic.

As we embark on a holistic and revolutionary revitalization of downtown New Orleans, anchored by the redevelopment of the iconic Charity Hospital building, we are fulfilling the promise of Tulane's founding. By expanding our research and clinical footprint and partnering with LCMC Health, we are creating a hub of innovation and bioscience discovery that will strengthen and diversify the local economy while improving access and quality of health care for the local community. This is a monumental moment for New Orleans and for the institution I am honored to lead.



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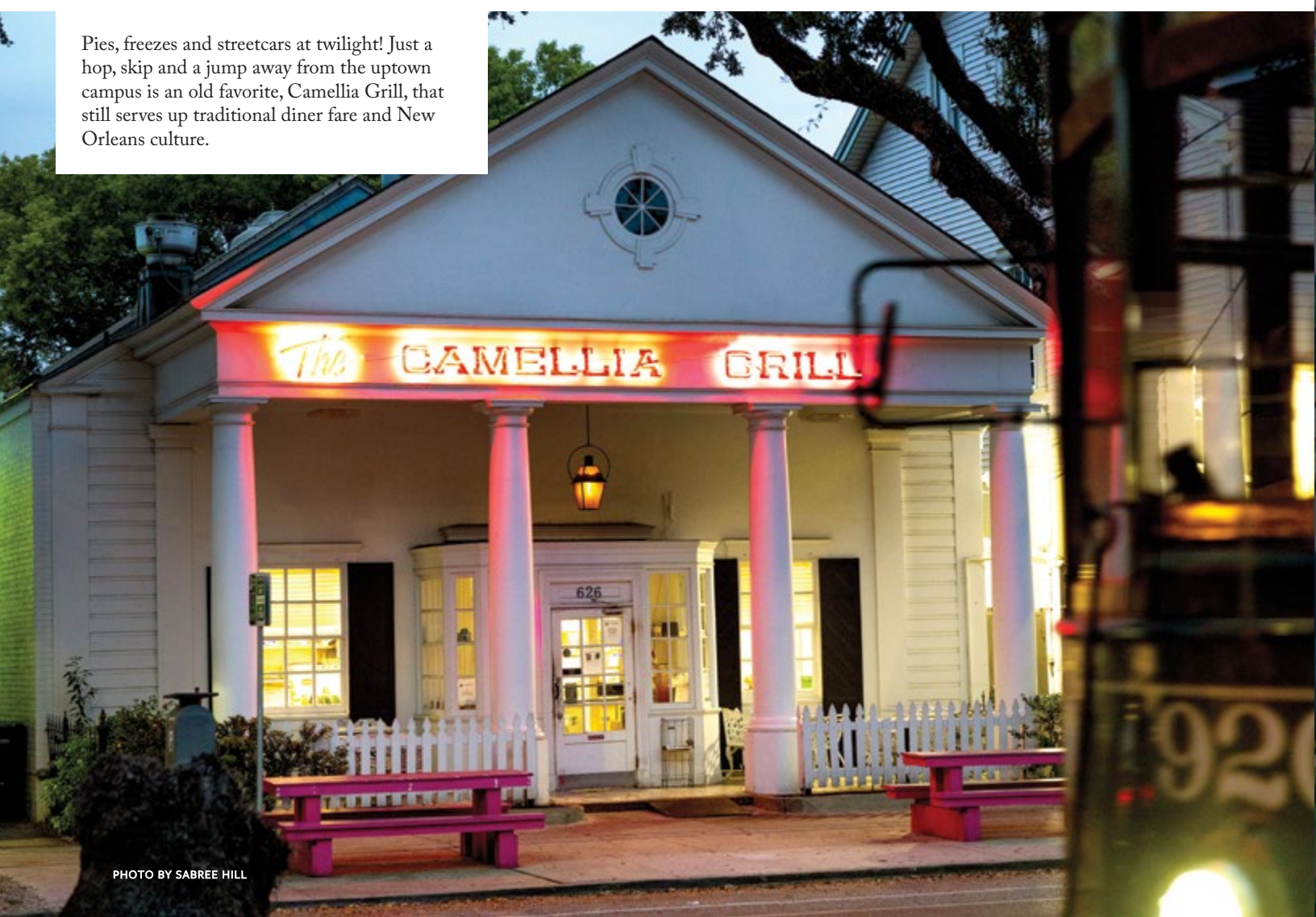


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