

THE MAGAZINE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY / SUMMER 2024

TULANIAN



Together
at
10





PILE ON THE WINS

Tulane left fielder Jackson Linn drilled a 433-foot solo blast to left center to give the Green Wave its second consecutive American Athletic Conference Tournament championship with an 11-10 win over Wichita State at BayCare Ballpark.

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE/CONOR KVATEK

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TOGETHER AT TEN

In his first 10 years as Tulane president, Michael A. Fitts has brought about one of the greatest periods of growth — in every dimension of university life — in Tulane's history. He enters his second decade squarely focused on a future that promises more unprecedented progress for both Tulane and New Orleans.



26 TULANE TRADITIONS: CELEBRATING THE GREEN WAVE SPIRIT

Tulane's beloved traditions contribute to the vibrancy of campus life and foster a sense of community, identity and belonging that extends far beyond graduation.



34 MEET TULANE'S NEW NURSING DEAN

Brenda Douglas has dedicated her life to health care. Her next focus is building Tulane's new nursing program from the ground up.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sally Asher
Alicia Serrano Bilich
Barri Bronston
Paula Burch-Celentano
Ann Case
Jason Cohen
Jason Corriher
Rusty Costanza
Patrick J. Davis
Cheryl Gerber
Becca Hildner
Sabree Hill
Tyler Kaufman
Margaret Looney
Mary-Elizabeth Lough
Molly McCrory
Theo Mitchell
Stacey Plaisance
Vincent Postle
Kim Rainey
Tracie Morris Schaefer
Mary Sparacello
Mike Strecker
Leslie Tate
J.R. Thomason
Nathan Tucker
Parker Waters
Jennifer Zdon

**VICE PRESIDENT OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CHIEF
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**
Ian Morrison

**PRESIDENT OF
TULANE UNIVERSITY**
Michael A. Fitts

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Front cover: Michael A. Fitts.
Photo by Jason Cohen



TULANE
UNIVERSITY



First Look



Pictured on page 3:
A monk from the Drepung Gomang Monastery creates a sand mandala, an ornate drawing made of sand. The Asian Studies Program at the School of Liberal Arts partnered with the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library and the School of Medicine Physician/Scientist Program for the on-campus event. Left: At the dedication ceremony for the new Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering, guests enjoyed The Virtuosa String Quartet in lab coats playing Thomas Dolby's "She Blinded Me With Science." Below left: A team of five Tulane engineering physics students competed in a NASA contest, presenting their design for a plutonium-powered rover to hunt for water on the moon. Below right: Performers dance at the opening celebration of the 2024 conference for NAFSA: Association of International Educators at Mardi Gras World. Tulane was a signature sponsor of the event.



PHOTOS BY TYLER KAUFMAN, CHERYL GERBER AND TRACIE MORRIS SCHAEFER

Tulane is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, a select group of leading research universities in the U.S. and Canada. In fiscal year 2023, Tulane set another research funding record, topping \$209 million, including \$182 million in federal support. These numbers tell the story:



Total amount of Sponsored Projects Administration awards received



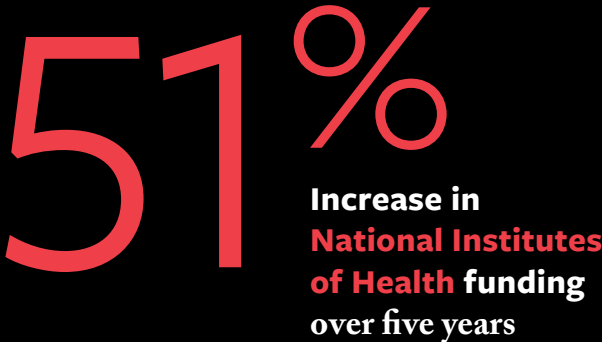
Total amount of Corporate and Foundation Relations awards received

353

Principal Investigators who received at least one award

16

Tulane schools, departments or centers that received funding



Up First

MAYA KING'S TOMB REVEALS RARE TREASURES

BY STACEY PLAISANCE

An ancient Maya tomb dating back 1,700 years has been discovered by a Tulane archaeologist at the site of Chochkitam in Guatemala. The tomb holds extraordinary funeral offerings, including a mosaic jade mask, rare mollusk shells and writings carved in human femur bones. One depicts the profile of a man who is believed to be a previously unknown king holding a jade mask like the one found in the tomb. Hieroglyphs on the artifact are thought to identify the king's father and grandfather, linking the ruler to the Maya states of Tikal and Teotihuacan.

"A discovery like this is a bit like winning the lottery in terms of information," said Francisco Estrada-Belli, the lead archaeologist who discovered the tomb in 2022 and has since been working to preserve, scan, photograph and interpret the finds. "It opens a window into an obscure time we have very little texts about."

The height of the Maya classic period spans 250-900 AD, and little remains of that time due largely to looting of archaeological sites. Estrada-Belli and his team discovered the tomb only about 2 meters (6 feet) from where looters had stopped digging.

They were fortunate that the only damage to the tomb, besides natural decay, was the stone ceiling of the tomb collapsing in on itself.

"That was the first amazing thing about it," said Estrada-Belli, a research professor in the School of Liberal Arts. "It was very lucky."

The team first discovered the tunnels dug by looters using lidar technology, which shoots laser beams from an airplane through dense jungle foliage to map what's on the ground.

"It's like taking X-rays of the jungle floor," Estrada-Belli said. "It revolutionizes our field. Only now can we see where we're going instead of just bushwhacking through the jungle hoping to find something."



Above: The excavation site of an ancient Maya tomb discovered in Chochkitam, Guatemala. The tomb and relics inside date back 1,700 years. (Photo by Francisco Estrada-Belli/Tulane University)

The tomb held more than 16 shells of spondylus, a rare spiny oyster that in ancient times was used by royalty as jewelry and currency as well as in religious and sacrificial offerings.

The relics, estimated to be from 350 CE, provide a connection to Tikal and the central Mexican site of Teotihuacan, which influenced Maya rulers at the time. They also reveal important information about religious devotion and royal succession.

The discovery comes 100 years after Fran Blom, an early director of Tulane's famed Middle American Research Institute (MARI), first explored the site. The Chochkitam ruins were first investigated in 1924, but



“A discovery like this is a bit like winning the lottery in terms of information.”

FRANCISCO ESTRADA-BELLI, research professor
in the School of Liberal Arts

no formal excavation — only looting — had taken place until Estrada-Belli's team began work in 2019. They discovered the tomb during fieldwork in 2022.

“All of indigenous America has a deep and complex history,” said Marcello A. Canuto, MARI director and Tulane archaeologist specializing in the Maya archaeology. “For this reason, Tulane recognized early on that it was important and worthy of serious and focused academic interest. Discoveries like this one and others, including those made by other Tulane faculty and students also conducting fieldwork, represent Tulane's commitment to the study of ancient indigenous American peoples and their accomplishments.”

Estrada-Belli said the next stage in his work at the site will be to conduct DNA testing on the bones and maybe uncover additional key contents buried within the abandoned pyramid. 🏛️

Left: A mosaic jade mask was discovered inside the ancient Maya tomb. (Photo by Francisco Estrada-Belli/Tulane University). Below, left: Alexandre Tokovinine with the Holmul Archaeological Project created a drawing of images that were carved into an incised femur bone found in the tomb, right. (Courtesy Tulane University)



2024 TEACHING AWARDS

BY ALICIA SERRANO BILICH

Tulane honored dedicated faculty members with university-wide teaching awards during the Unified Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 18, 2024.



RICARDO CORTEZ

Pendergraft William Larkin Duren Professor in the Department of Mathematics in the School of Science and Engineering

Tulane President's Award for Excellence in Professional and Graduate Teaching

Cortez has focused on increasing the representation of women and racial groups who have been historically under-represented in mathematics

departments. In a nominating letter, a colleague wrote, "For more than two decades, I have watched Ricardo be a champion and advocate for graduate students ..." Another wrote, "I have witnessed Ricardo 'meeting the students where they are,' but then methodically 'reaching out a hand and lifting them up' to achieve levels of excellence."



ADELINE MASQUELIER

Professor in the Department of Anthropology in the School of Liberal Arts

Tulane President's Award for Excellence in Professional and Graduate Teaching

Masquelier works to create a classroom environment that encourages collaboration, experimentation and growth. When nominating Masquelier, a former graduate student of hers said, "Almost a decade

after earning my PhD under Adeline's guidance, I still carry with me her advice, and I try to model the mentorship lessons I learned from her with my own students." Another graduate student wrote, "Dr. Masquelier created a safe environment for our respective creative processes to unfold, thereby rooting me in my writing and intellectual practice."



KATHERINE THEALL

Cecile Usdin Professorship in Women's Health in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Oliver Fund Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

Theall has served as an unwavering mentor to countless postdoctoral fellows and junior and mid-level faculty. One faculty member wrote in their nomination, "She is a fearless

advocate for junior faculty and has truly built a supportive network for many of us across disciplines to collaborate and expand our research portfolios." Another said, "Dr. Theall's mentorship extends far beyond academic guidance — she fosters an environment of trust, respect and interdisciplinary collaboration, empowering her mentees to thrive both personally and professionally."



CARRIE WYLAND

Senior professor of practice in the Department of Psychology in the School of Science and Engineering

Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellowship for Undergraduate Education

Wyland aims to foster resilience among her students and believes in the importance of seeing students holistically while supporting their growth. A former student

and teaching assistant wrote in Wyland's nomination, "By using a variety of learning modalities ... she ensured that students would be able to learn the material in the way that best suited them." Another said, "Witnessing her immersed in lively discussions while strolling alongside a student is a clear demonstration of her authentic dedication to both her community and workplace." 📖



Tulane researchers have discovered a new approach to treating lasting Lyme disease symptoms such as pain, memory loss and fatigue. Adobe Stock.

NEW TREATMENT FOR LYME DISEASE

BY LESLIE TATE

Tulane researchers have identified a promising new approach to treating persistent neurological symptoms associated with Lyme disease, offering hope to patients who suffer from long-term effects of the bacterial infection, even after antibiotic treatment. Their results were published in *Frontiers in Immunology*.

Lyme disease, caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and transmitted through tick bites, can lead to a range of symptoms, including those affecting the central and peripheral nervous systems. While antibiotics can effectively clear the infection in most cases, a subset of patients continues to experience symptoms such as memory loss, fatigue and pain — a condition often referred to as post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome.


Principal investigator Geetha Parthasarathy, an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, has discovered that fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) inhibitors, a type of drug previously studied in the context of cancer, can significantly reduce inflammation and cell death in brain and nerve tissue samples infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This discovery suggests that targeting FGFR pathways may offer an exciting new therapeutic approach to addressing persistent neuroinflammation in

patients with post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome.

“Our findings open the door to new research approaches that can help us support patients suffering from the lasting effects of Lyme disease,” Parthasarathy said. “By focusing on the underlying inflammation that contributes to these symptoms, we hope to develop treatments that can improve the quality of life for those affected by this debilitating condition.”

Researchers treated nerve tissue with live or inactivated *Borrelia burgdorferi*, followed by an application of FGFR inhibitors. Study results revealed a significant reduction in both inflammatory markers and of cell death.

While further research is needed to translate these findings into clinical treatments, the study represents an important step forward in understanding and potentially managing the complex aftermath of Lyme disease.

This study was funded by the Bay Area Lyme Foundation and supported with resources from the Tulane National Primate Research Center base grant of the National Institutes of Health, P51 OD01104. 

Incredibly proud and excited to see my former teammate (freshman through our senior year together) embark as the new head coach for the Green Wave! Ashley Langford go get 'em!

Megan Valicevic Pepitone

Now that she has shared her great news, I am going to lift this talented, innovative, and thoughtful #SAPro. Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Cunningham on being named the next Vice President for Student Affairs at @Tulane. Keep making the magic.

Daniel M. Maxwell

Thank you to Newcomb-Tulane College for an exciting final research symposium at Tulane!

Iker Rafael Yturralde

What a fantastic ceremony and weekend! Michael Fitts knows how to do a send off and support his students. We loved every minute.

Congratulations to my daughter Samantha Marcus! Onward to law school

Kelly Stein-Marcus

MUSICAL ROBOTS

BY MOLLY MCCRORY

Tucked away in a classroom in Dixon Hall, a chorus of whirring motors and ringing xylophones accompanies the chatter of students as they work through the trial-and-error process inherent to robotics.

This is Algorithmic and Computer Music, a course led by Rick Snow, senior professor of practice of Music Science and Technology in the School of Liberal Arts. In this class, groups of students combine musical and engineering concepts to create musical robots.

“With every change in technology throughout human history, it has somehow been applied to music,” said Snow. He views the musical robots his students create as a natural next step in a tradition of wind-up music boxes and musical automata.

Snow has previously worked with engineering students to create musical robots for their capstone projects, but this is the first class on the subject available to non-engineering students.

“I can tailor the class to the interests of the students who want to take it,” said Snow.

Many students in this spring semester’s class are part of the music science and technology minor program, also led by Snow, and many have an art and music background. That led to a stronger focus on teaching engineering concepts and training on fabrication tools, but that did not prevent the students from diving headfirst into their projects.

The students started with smaller projects using specific elements, like motors and basic circuits, then began combining them into more complex devices. “We’ve covered a lot of different material in the course,” Snow said. “Everything from fabrication techniques, which required extensive use of the [Scot Ackerman] MakerSpace, to understanding the circuits that control the robots, to understanding the programming language that then controls the circuits.”

Each group added their own elements to make their robots unique. Grace

McIntyre-Willis, an MFA studio art graduate student, has been working with 3D-printed ceramics throughout her MFA program and chose to incorporate them into the robot she made with her partner Izzy Blair, a computer science and music undergraduate student. “I’ve been working with generative sound using weather instruments,” said McIntyre-Willis, “so taking this course has felt very integrated with my current artistic practice.”

Another pair modeled their robot after yin and yang and the concept of sacred geometries, with the tines of a xylophone carefully chosen and placed around a yin and yang circle. “We drew up some plans based on the mathematics and the ratios behind it, and we used that to calculate the radius and figure out where to place the tines in relation to the center point,” said Ellie Roche, a philosophy major with a coordinate major in digital media practices. “It kind of designed itself, which was cool.”

The robots got their time to shine during a concert for music technology students. The students composed music for their robots to play and filmed the result. Snow edited the videos together, giving

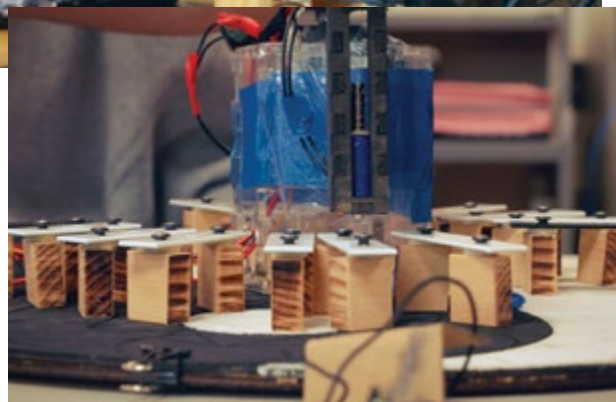
each robot a spotlight, then had them play together, a robotic orchestra filling Dixon Hall. “It’s cool to see everyone’s stuff working, and working together,” said Jed Cohen, who is in the music science and technology minor program.

The robots rarely, if ever, worked properly on the first attempt, but that is part of the point for Snow. “We all need that practice of being frustrated by something and knowing that the answer is out there. Then going and finding the answer and applying it, and maybe not getting it right the first time, or even the second time, or maybe even the third time,” he said, “but you learn from the experience of continually applying yourself to that project.”

The experience of finally getting it right after that frustration can be “very rewarding,” said Roche. “The most exciting part of the process is when the thing you’ve been working on for a really long time finally works.”



Above: Students in the Algorithmic and Computer Music course work to create a musical robot. Right: A musical robot modeled after the concept of yin and yang, with the tines of a xylophone placed around a circle.

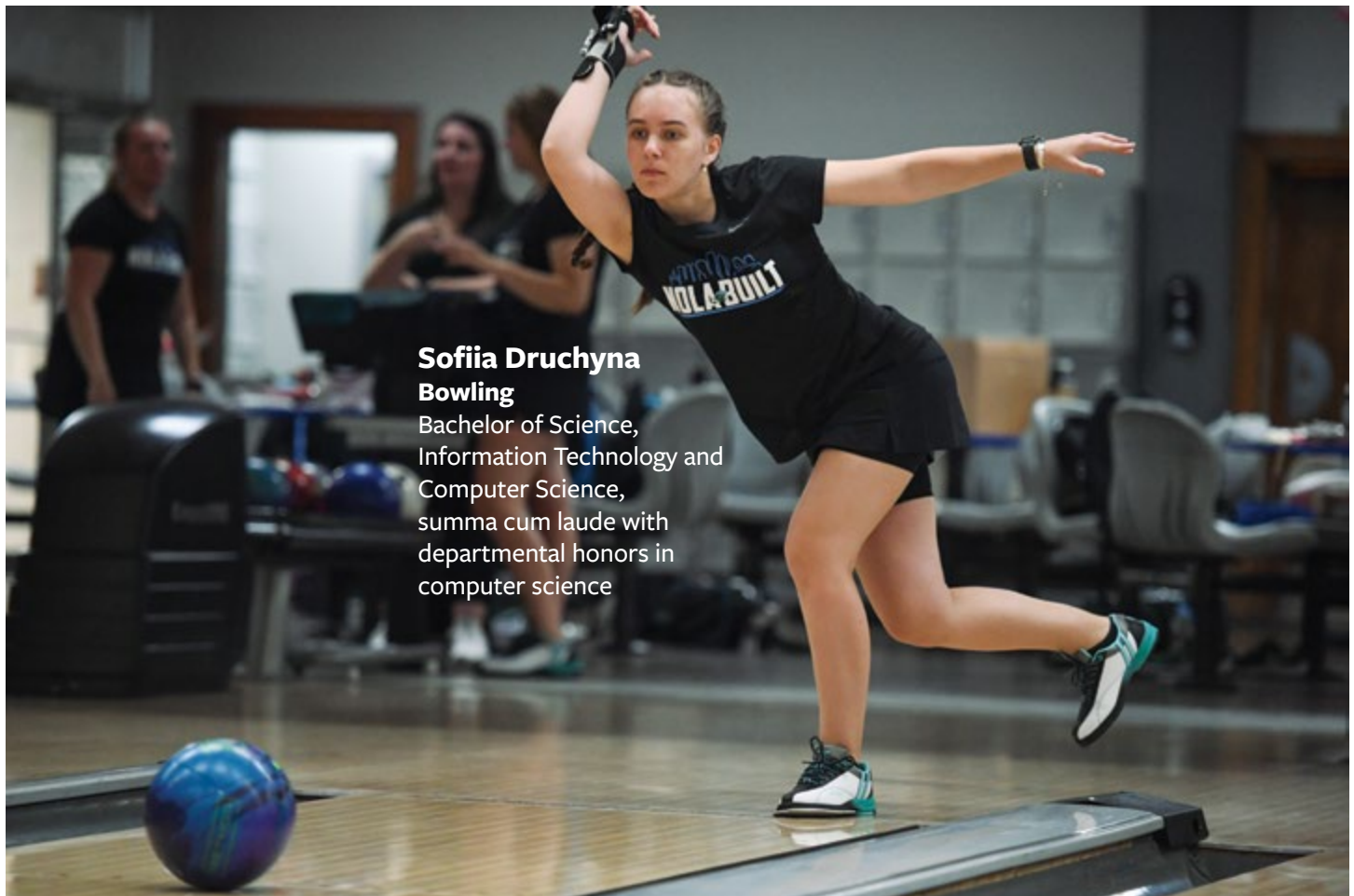


STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO GRADUATED WITH HONORS

Through the generous support of Tulane alumnus Don Peters and his wife, Lora, every year Tulane Athletics recognizes student-athletes who graduate with honors. Their names are displayed on a “Graduated with Honors” wall in the Don and Lora Peters Academic Center.

Don Peters graduated from Tulane in 1981 and has been a longtime supporter of the university.

These student-athletes graduated with honors in the Class of 2024:



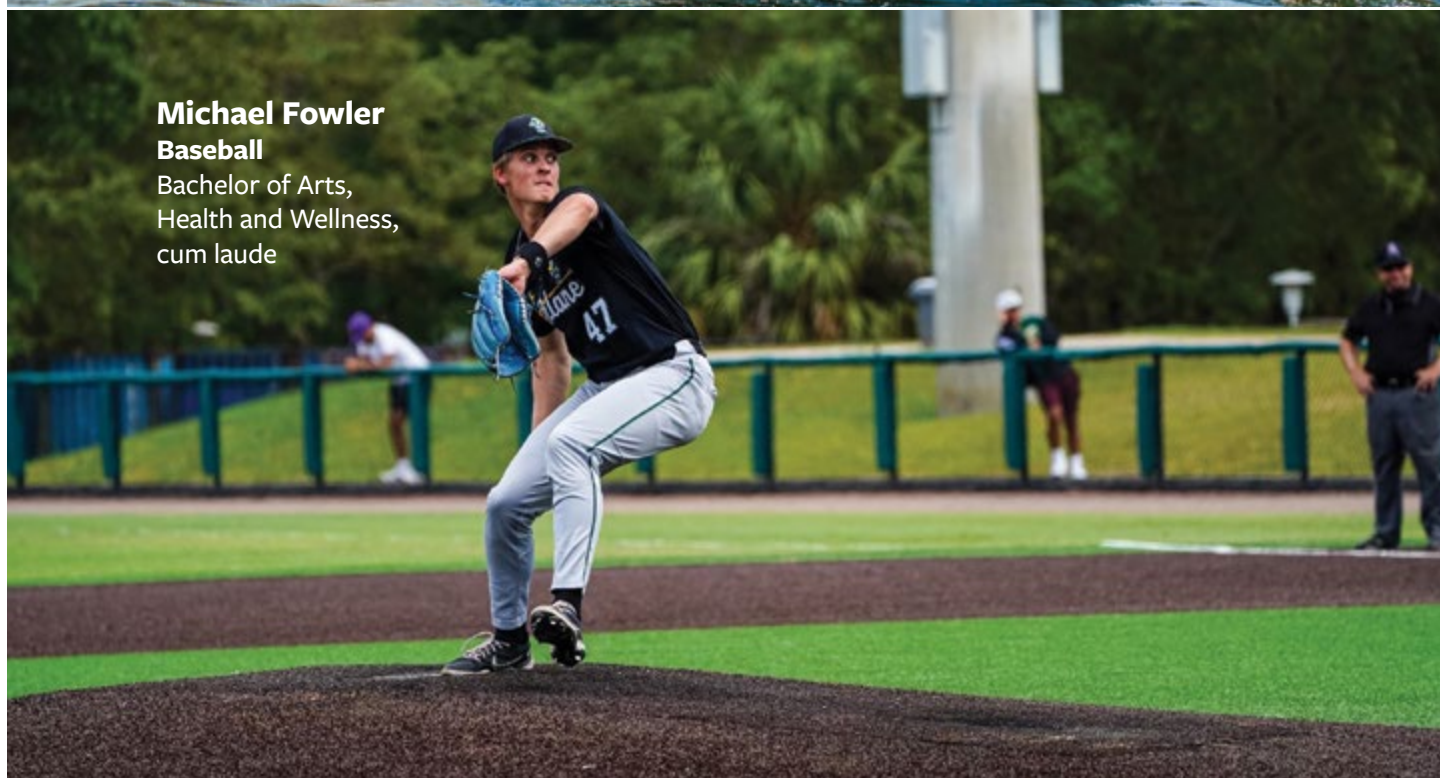
Sofiia Druchyna
Bowling

Bachelor of Science,
Information Technology and
Computer Science,
summa cum laude with
departmental honors in
computer science



Abigail Borggaard
Sailing

Bachelor of Science
in Management, Finance,
cum laude
(Pictured on the left)



Michael Fowler

Baseball

Bachelor of Arts,
Health and Wellness,
cum laude

TULANE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

BY BARRI BRONSTON



Tulane officials gathered at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge on March 20, 2024, for a day of festivities, meetings and proclamations, all designed to celebrate Tulane's contributions to the state and beyond.

It was Tulane Day at the Capitol, a chance for everyone from President Michael A. Fitts to the university's legislative scholars to meet with lawmakers and state officials, including Gov. Jeff Landry, Senate President Cameron Henry and House Speaker Phillip DeVillier, to discuss all the ways Tulane and the state can benefit from each other's support.

It was also a chance for the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate to commend Fitts and, in a resolution, "wish him and the university continued success in bettering life for all Louisianans by educating the leaders and discovering the cures of tomorrow."

Fitts is marking his 10th year as Tulane's president, and the resolution lauded him for helping "Tulane achieve an unprecedented level of success on every measure of academic excellence." The resolution cited Tulane's significant expansion of its downtown campus, initiatives to keep the best and brightest Louisiana students at home, and a 70 percent increase in research funding in the last six years.

"Tulane would not be the kind of university it is absent its unique location, and Louisiana is stronger and more economically vibrant because of Tulane," Fitts said. "Today is an opportunity for us to underscore how closely our university and our home state are linked and the profound difference we have made and will continue to make in the lives of Louisiana residents through research, health care, education and economic growth."

Fitts and other university leaders spent much of the day making the rounds of governmental and legislative offices. As meetings were taking place upstairs, the grand marble Memorial Hall, often referred to as a rotunda, served as the ideal space for Tulane to showcase its various accomplishments and programs.

"Today is an opportunity for us to underscore how closely our university and our home state are linked and the profound difference we will continue to make in the lives of Louisiana residents through research, health care, education and economic growth."

MICHAEL A. FITTS, President of Tulane

With a backdrop of green and blue balloon bouquets, representatives from Tulane admissions, medicine, nursing, biomedical engineering, facilities and a legislative scholars program distributed such swag as magnets, beads, water bottles, umbrellas and fans, all while giving passersby, both legislators and the general public, a glimpse into Tulane's plans and successes.

Among the representatives was Brenda Douglas, dean of the new nursing program at Tulane within the School of Medicine, which will begin classes this fall. "We're here to show how Tulane can partner with the state to advance this initiative," she said. "We need nurses in this state."

Shawn Abbott, vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission, emphasized the importance of Tulane having a presence in Baton Rouge, especially with the launch of the nursing program, which is partnering with the Tulane School of Professional Advancement.

"It's not every year that we launch such a program that will have such a powerful impact on the citizens of Louisiana," Abbott said, "so it was great to get face time with so many leaders to explain how Tulane is going to positively impact health care in Louisiana."

Katherine Raymond, a professor of practice in biomedical engineering, and senior Alyssa Bockman were proud to share information about the department's mobility trainer project. Partnering with the nonprofit MakeGood, students have designed and produced dozens of trainers to help toddlers build strength and independence, and in the process, prepare for real wheelchairs.

"I love telling the story of how we educate students in biomedical engineering," Raymond said. "It's very much about hands-on work, being involved in the community and designing to make a societal impact."

Those passing by the Tulane tabling area also had a chance to view architectural renderings of Tulane's downtown redevelopment, learn about the Tulane School of Medicine's Bariatric Surgery Program and find out more about the Tulane Legislative Scholars Program. Under this program, which dates back to 1884, Tulane is required to give each state legislator the opportunity to nominate an eligible Louisiana student from their districts to receive a one-year, full-tuition Tulane scholarship paid for by the university. Legislators can renominate the scholarship recipient in subsequent years as they work toward their degree.

Several scholarship recipients were among the Tulane contingent and were thrilled to discuss what the scholarship has meant to them.

"It's meant everything," said Philippe Soileau, a sophomore from Eunice who was nominated by Rep. Phillip DeVillier. "It opened the door to Tulane. The fact that I can get this kind of quality education without having to worry is amazing."

Payton Doyal, a senior from Shreveport, said it has been an honor to be a Legislative Scholar, and he is especially grateful to his nominating senator, former Sen. Louie Bernard, whom he keeps in touch with regularly. "It has been such a unique experience, and I would not trade it for any other." 🏆

Opposite page: Tulane leaders stand in front of the Louisiana State Capitol. This page, from top right: A group of Tulane Legislative Scholars pose in their Tulane gear during the event; A representative shows off swag and other offerings from one of Tulane's programs; President Michael A. Fitts (center) stands with state Senate members and university leaders on the Senate floor following the reading of the proclamation recognizing Fitts' 10 years as president.







Together at 10

President Fitts leads Tulane into the future as he marks 10th year at helm.

BY MIKE STRECKER



“We appreciate his bold vision and trust in young faculty like me, and backing us all the way. That is hard to find elsewhere.”

TONY HU, Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation and director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics

Action has to be swift.

When a patient experiences the common co-infections of HIV and tuberculosis (TB), doctors need to know test results quickly so they can determine a treatment plan. Treating the HIV infection first could increase the TB’s bacterial load. But waiting to treat the HIV could have devastating results. Decisions have to be informed, calibrated and made ASAP.

Enter Tulane. A team led by researcher Tony Hu recently developed a new rapid test that can detect both HIV and TB simultaneously and far faster than conventional methods. The new test could save time and lives.

Such a breakthrough is the kind of global impact President Michael A. Fitts envisioned for Tulane when he arrived at the university a decade ago. In fact, Hu himself came to Tulane as part of the endowed presidential chair program Fitts established to recruit internationally recognized scholars who could further complement and bolster Tulane’s already-existing ranks of world-class scholars.

“We appreciate his bold vision and trust in young faculty like me, and backing us all the way,” said Hu, the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation and director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics. “That is hard to find elsewhere.”

A leading proponent of the power of an interdisciplinary approach to education and research, Fitts contends that bringing the best minds from a wide array of fields together can help solve some of the most intractable problems of modern society — from infectious disease to environmental issues, from health care inequities to the difficulties of aging, from political polarization to economic challenges.

“The great promise of higher education is the potential to use its scholarship, expertise and research to solve the most important challenges facing local and global communities — to literally improve and save lives,” Fitts said. “Universities have enormous social and economic impact in their community which, in Tulane’s case, stretches around the world.”

And Tulane has a unique academic advantage in pursuing such initiatives, Fitts argued. “Our special collaborative culture, our history as an outwardly facing university, and the close intellectual relationship between our schools and faculty supports innovation — both in research and student education. By breaking down silos in pursuing cutting-edge exploration and supporting a holistic student experience, we are a national academic leader in interdisciplinary education and discovery.”

With this mindset, Fitts has brought about one of the greatest periods of growth — in every dimension of university life — in Tulane’s history.

“Mike’s strategic vision and adeptness built a collaborative team, and with that came surging applications, extensive campus development and a burgeoning downtown



presence,” said Carol Lavin Bernick, who has just completed a four-year term as chair of the Board of Tulane.

David Mussafer, who became board chair after Bernick’s departure in July, could not agree more.

“Great leaders are rare. Mike Fitts is one of those rare truly transformational leaders. At its core, his presidency has redefined Tulane’s expectations for itself,” Mussafer said. “What I appreciate about Mike’s presidency — and find inspirational — is his insistence on excellence in everything Tulane. He pursues and expects nothing but the best for and from Tulane. He’s entering his second decade with a laser focus on creating a better future and I’m inspired and excited about where this incredible university is going under such groundbreaking leadership.”

Opposite page: President Fitts second-lines with students at 2023 Convocation. This page, above: Fitts at the Paul Hall dedication in 2024. Bottom right: Fitts takes a selfie with students on Move-In Day in fall 2016.





Clockwise from top: A dusk scene of students in front of The Malkin Sacks Commons in 2021. The new extension to Mussafer Hall in 2018. The new Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering. Residence halls River and Lake.

PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA, PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO, J.R. THOMASON AND JASON COHEN



Building on pillars

The consummate strategic planner, Fitts early on established four pillars on which he has founded Tulane's future. One of the most visible of these pillars is his goal of building a physical environment that inspires excellence in research, scholarship and service — a university that has at its heart the student experience.

Thus, one simple way to chart Tulane's success under Fitts is to take a walk. Warning: if it's your first visit to campus in a while, prepare to be surprised.

Begin your trek just off St. Charles Avenue and you will see Fitts-led change that is as immediate as it is impactful. There's Mussafer Hall, which was built as a central source for services dedicated to the holistic success of students in their academics, careers and lives.

Just across the quad from Mussafer, the gleaming corridors of the Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering are bustling with students and brimming with discovery. Opened earlier this year, Paul Hall is an interdisciplinary research marvel and one of the most significant academic expansions in Tulane's history. It is connected, by walkway and spirit, to neighboring Flower Hall, another modern building that forms the core of a burgeoning science district in the heart of the uptown campus.

If you cross Freret Street on your walk, you will soon encounter River and Lake, the first of five on-campus residences that will comprise The Village, a hub of living and learning designed to make the Tulane student experience second to none.

Not far from The Village is The Malkin Sacks Commons. Opened in 2019, this three-story, 77,000-square-foot gathering space includes a *nonpareil* dining hall, multipurpose meeting spaces and a state-of-the-art home for Newcomb Institute. Its offerings and central location have enriched the social and intellectual life of the university and enhanced the Tulane sense of community.

Additions such as The Village and The Commons may be part of the reason Fitts is so wildly popular with students. He's pretty much a rock star, if the thunderous applause that greets his introductions at campus gatherings such as Convocation is any indication of his broad appeal.

Interest in attending Tulane among the nation's best and brightest has soared to levels never before seen, and the academic

quality, selectivity and diversity of incoming classes have set new records during his presidency. The enthusiasm for Tulane is not limited to undergraduates, either.

"It has been a joy to work with and learn from President Fitts," said Tamunoboma Dominion Fenny, who served as president of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. "He has made it a point to center student voices and concerns in his decision-making, and that is greatly appreciated. He recognizes that the educational experience at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels is of equal importance and works hard to ensure that all our perspectives are taken into account."

From new campus residences to a historic transformation that will turn downtown New Orleans into a thriving hub of Tulane-led innovation and invention, Fitts is building with a vision and creating with a purpose.

"Mike Fitts has taken Tulane, which had been transformed through the crucible of Hurricane Katrina into a service-focused institution, and made it also a nationally recognized research university centered on breakthroughs that change and save lives both here in the city and, really, worldwide," said Walter Isaacson, the bestselling biographer and Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values in Tulane's School of Liberal Arts.

Indeed, research prowess is a hallmark of Fitts' presidency. It is also a primary goal of *Always the Audacious*, the latest iteration of *Only the Audacious*, which has raised \$1.5 billion as Tulane's most successful capital campaign ever.

Tulane's fundraising success was also cited in the remarkable and continued improvement of the university's credit rating by Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The financial media has also commented on the university's strong financial posture in recent years. Bloomberg News lauded the university's financial resilience, especially in the face of challenges such as Hurricane Ida. Forbes touted Tulane's financial and academic strength and "approaching Ivy League" acceptance rate, declaring, "Among top-tier colleges, few have improved in financial strength as much as New Orleans' Tulane University." Another Forbes rating listed Tulane as Louisiana's No. 1 employer.

Through such audacious success, intentional investment and direct funding, support for Tulane research has risen by more than 70 percent over the last seven

years — an increase that stands out in higher education. This means more money for breakthroughs in infectious disease treatment, better funding for advances in chronic conditions such as diabetes, more support for research into leading causes of death, and greater opportunities to explore the brain and the mysteries of aging.

Downtown plans

Bold is the operative word when it comes to Fitts' quest to revitalize New Orleans' downtown and reinvent the city and region into a hub of discovery and bioscience entrepreneurship.

"The downtown campus project isn't just about bricks and mortar; it's about revitalizing the heart of New Orleans and driving economic growth for our city and state," said Patrick Norton, senior vice president and chief operating officer, and one of the leaders of Tulane's downtown expansion. "It's about creating new treatments, new cures and new jobs — through the virtuous cycle of research and the scaling of these inventions and discoveries through technology transfer and startups and spinouts. Mike's blueprint for the future of downtown is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Tulane, New Orleans and the state of Louisiana. The potential impact is immense."

Fitts' downtown plan includes a new partnership finalized last year with LCMC Health, in which Tulane Medical Center, Lakeview Regional Medical Center and Tulane Lakeside Hospital joined LCMC Health, a local health care network. This partnership brings wide-ranging benefits to the New Orleans region by expanding access to comprehensive and specialty care, advancing academic medicine, boosting innovation and medical training, and providing investment and other positive impacts to the community.

When completed, the downtown expansion will have placed a new nursing program, a historic increase in lab and research infrastructure, more health care offerings, and world-class schools of medicine, public health and social work within blocks of one another in the city's urban core. It is change on a scale the city and region have rarely seen — one that will create more than 2,000 jobs in New Orleans and across Louisiana.

The inspiration for this grand plan can, in one sense, be traced back to Fitts' days

as a Harvard undergraduate. Back then, one of his favorite professors was Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who would go on to become one of the country's most revered public servants, representing the state of New York in the U.S. Senate from 1977 to 2001.

Moynihan's dictum, "If you want to build a great city, create a great university and wait 200 years," is an oft-repeated phrase of Fitts' to which he adds, "Tulane is approaching its 200-year anniversary, and New Orleans recently celebrated its 300th, so our time has arrived."

Pittsburgh, Nashville, Raleigh and Austin are among the cities Fitts points to as examples of the power of urban universities to revive and renew moribund downtowns.

Steering with resolve

Leading an American university is a career for which Fitts — son of the chairman of the Department of Surgery at Penn Medical School and grandson of the dean of Penn's Wharton School — seems born for. It is also one he still embraces with joy and enthusiasm 10 years in. But coming, as it does, with a constant demand for high-stakes decision-making with zero margin for error, growing societal scrutiny, campus unrest and other challenges inherent to

"Mike's blueprint for the future of downtown is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Tulane, New Orleans and the state of Louisiana. The potential impact is immense."

PATRICK NORTON, Tulane senior vice president and chief operating officer

"But we are unique among such cities," Fitts said. "Our culture, music and cuisine — it's just a phenomenal combination that can't be matched by other locales. We are the perfect town for young startups."

Innovation stands at the core of Fitts' downtown plans, exemplified by the Tulane University Innovation Institute (TUII), which he established in 2022 as an accelerator for commercializing the genius of researchers and inventors at Tulane and in the New Orleans community at large. Led by Kimberly Gramm, the inaugural David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer, it also provides mentorship and de-risking expertise as well as administrative, budgetary, marketing and branding support for fledgling startups.

Gramm spends much of her seemingly inexhaustible energy working across disciplines to cultivate cutting-edge discovery and an entrepreneurial mindset — a campus culture that fosters new ventures and technologies. She credits Fitts with "nurturing an environment that inspires innovation and creativity, which translates into students and faculty taking risks to solve problems."

"Mike Fitts' support of TUII is a New Orleans game-changing decision," Gramm said. "It will 'level up' the regional economy to become an entrepreneurial powerhouse. Providing support for ideas will grow New Orleans into an innovation and entrepreneurship hot spot that will be transformative for the immediate future and for decades to come."





Clockwise from top: In 2024, the J. Bennett Johnston and Hutchinson Memorial buildings are illuminated with ceremonial green lighting to celebrate the continued plans for Tulane's transformation of the downtown campus. Fitts visits with members of the Tulane community at the downtown Tidewater building during one of his MikeDrop events in 2023. Scenes from the Innovation Institute's grand opening downtown in 2022.

running a complex, multifaceted enterprise, some may reasonably ask: “Why would anyone want that job?”

Fitts chuckled at the question.

“Well, the very things that make universities so challenging also make them so compelling and fascinating,” he said. “No other institution brings together a collection of individuals — students, scholars, scientists, staff and more — to live, work and discover in such an intensely relational manner. It is an arrangement that spurs innovation, advancement — intellectual and emotional growth — like no other.”

But?

“Well, all that difference, all that intellectual passion is also the perfect recipe, the fertile ground for growing debate and conflict. That’s all part of university life.”

He means that while addressing the problems of the world, those problems often present themselves at the very doorstep of the university. The racial reckoning that followed the murder of George Floyd, for example, or the protests over the ongoing conflict in the Middle East are set against the backdrop of a hyper-polarized 24/7 news and social media cycle. These and numerous other issues have riven the nation and impacted university life in ways not previously seen.

Fitts approaches such challenges with the trademarks of his leadership, attempting to bring together the best minds from various fields and increasing support for the community.



A Tulane for everyone

Creating a more welcoming and inclusive Tulane has been a top priority for Fitts from the beginning of his presidency. This includes establishing the Carolyn Barber-Pierre Center for Intercultural Life. Named for one of Tulane’s most committed and revered figures, the center brings together numerous university-wide efforts to foster a more inclusive environment for all. Fitts also orchestrated the hiring of the university’s first chief diversity officer, oversaw

significant increases in the enrollment of first-generation students, and continues a hands-on effort to build a Tulane community that attracts and supports students, faculty and staff from all backgrounds.

Although much work remains to be done, Tulane’s progress is beginning to get noticed as evidenced by it receiving the 2022 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The annual award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

With the goal of ensuring that cost is never a barrier to a Tulane education for any qualified student, Fitts announced Louisiana Promise in 2022. This program meets the full financial need of attending Tulane for students from Louisiana whose families make less than \$100,000 annually. Nearly 150 families have already taken advantage of the program. Earlier this year, Fitts also announced partnerships with two iconic New Orleans high schools, St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory School and St. Augustine High School. Through these partnerships, the university will award full four-year tuition scholarships every year to two students from each school.

Tulane also provides pre-college summer programming and courses to students from both schools and others through the Tulane



*“Tulane’s
momentum,
thanks to Mike,
is boundless.”*

CAROL LAVIN BERNICK, former
chair of the Board of Tulane

Pre-College initiative and the university’s Louisiana Center for College Access, which helps prepare aspiring first-generation students for the rigors of college beginning their freshman year of high school.

As part of both Tulane’s commitment to a diverse student body and its continued stance against racism, Fitts expanded efforts to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas and the ensuing war in Gaza.

“Our goal is to support all students, faculty and staff, especially those who have deep cultural and religious ties to Israel and Gaza. We must continue to come together as a Tulane family to support one another as we reaffirm our unequivocal stand against all forms of hate and bigotry,” Fitts said.

Boundless

In keeping with his pursuit of excellence across the board, Fitts has also worked to improve the “athletic wing” of the Tulane house. New state-of-the-art facilities, including academic and career services for student-athletes, are among numerous improvements.

In the decades before Fitts’ arrival, the Green Wave often did not attain the same acclaim in athletics as it did in academics. Much of that has changed now with Tulane’s ascendancy in football, baseball,



golf, sailing and other sports. Cheeky Tulane “Football School” T-shirts, for example, have become *de rigueur* on certain fall Saturdays.

“There is an old saying in the business world that ‘If you have more than three priorities, you have no priorities,’ suggesting that you have to make choices and focus in order to make progress. Mike’s success shows that’s not true, at least for great universities,” said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman. “He has been committed to making sure that Tulane advances in all aspects of its mission — from pathbreaking research across the academy, to superlative education for all students, to an academic medical center providing world-class clinical care, to supporting an entrepreneurial ecosystem that will energize both Tulane and New Orleans.”

Bernick said it all goes back to Fitts’ leadership, which has proven crucial in challenges

ranging from implementing a nation-leading protocol of testing, contact tracing and isolation that kept Tulane safely open and operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensuring the university’s recovery from Hurricane Ida.

“Despite turbulent times, he’s steered with resolve. Tulane’s momentum, thanks to Mike, is boundless.”

Opposite page, top right: Fitts high-fives Green Wave fans at Yulman Stadium during Homecoming in 2022. Bottom left: Fitts sits with Board of Tulane member Kim Boyle at a Celebration in Scholarship in 2020 as scholarship recipient Alexa Authorlee speaks. This page: Fitts at the 2024 Unified Commencement Ceremony.



TULANE *traditions:* CELEBRATING *the green wave* SPIRIT

Tulane's beloved traditions contribute to the vibrancy of campus life and foster a sense of community, identity and belonging that extends far beyond graduation.

BY BARRI BRONSTON





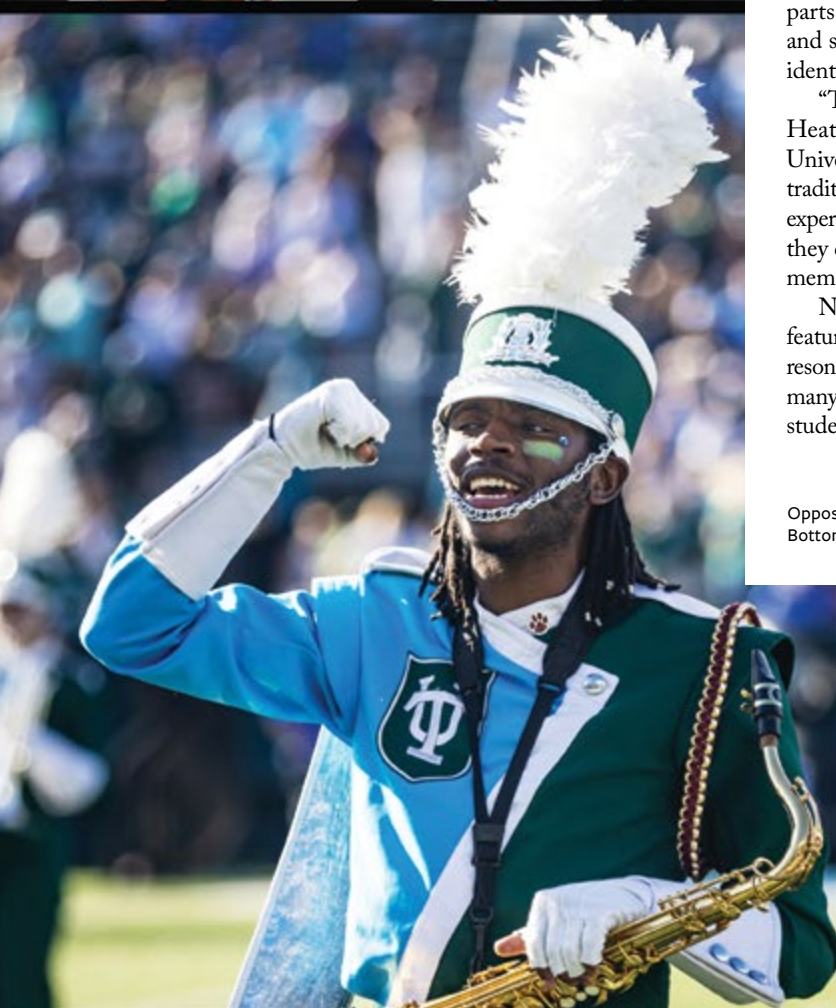
They can be as grand as Commencement or Homecoming, as memorable as Convocation, or as fun as tossing a pair of Mardi Gras beads onto one of the three 21-foot steel “trees” known as the Bead Three. They can even be as simple as mastering the art of the crawfish peel.

These are some of Tulane University’s beloved traditions, some dating back more than a century, others joining the lengthy list of rituals and celebrations more recently. They are significant parts of the Tulane experience, contributing to the vibrancy and spirit of campus life and fostering a sense of community, identity and belonging that extends far beyond graduation.

“Traditions celebrate our shared identity as Tulanians,” said Heather Seaman, director of the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, who has a front-row seat to many of Tulane’s traditions. “In many ways, they serve as the rituals of the Tulane experience. They mark milestones, they celebrate rites of passage, they connect generations of Tulanians and they create lasting memories.”

Narrowing down the list of Tulane traditions to the ones featured here is no easy feat. The focus here is on the rituals that resonate with the Tulane community most broadly, but there are many more — including some in the making — within schools, student groups and more that keep the Tulane bond strong.

Opposite page, top right: Daisy Chain tradition during Under the Oaks.
Bottom left: Procession at 1940s Commencement



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: SALLY ASHER, PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO, RUSTY COSTANZA, CHERYL GERBER, SABREE HILL, TYLER KAUFMAN, KIM RAINEY, NATHAN TUCKER, JENNIFER ZDON AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Hullabaloo Hello and Convocation: New beginnings

As Tulane gears up for the 2024-25 academic year, the First-Year Experience team at Newcomb-Tulane College has been putting the finishing touches on Hullabaloo Hello, a weeklong celebration that encompasses move-in, programming and signature events. Students are divided into krewes based on student interest and named for New Orleans streets. Each group rotates through various sessions, allowing students to learn about campus resources such as advising, recreation and health. The week also includes off-campus activities, games, food and entertainment.

Dating back to 1940, the President's Convocation for New Students is the culmination of Hullabaloo Hello, marking the beginning of the academic journey for many. During this event, President Michael A. Fitts and other university leaders offer inspiring messages to the incoming class. The ceremony, which features jazz music, the Tulane University Marching Band and a gonfalon procession, is followed by a block party on McAlister Way, where students enjoy crowd-pleasing New Orleans favorites like beignets, snoballs and popsicles.

One of the more recent traditions associated with Convocation is the distribution of plain, white second-line umbrellas, which students are encouraged to decorate with memorabilia over the next four years and bring to Commencement — for more second-lining.

"It's a time for undergraduate students to come together as a full class to be officially welcomed to the university by the president," said Cristina Lawson, director of Newcomb-Tulane College's First-Year Experience. "Convocation encourages students to reflect on Tulane values and respond to the president's call to be thoughtful, intentional and proactive with their Tulane journey."

More celebrations abound for the graduate and professional students kicking off their Tulane journey. For instance, for first-year students at Tulane's School of Medicine, the White Coat Ceremony marks the beginning of their medical careers. Students receive their white medical coats and stethoscopes, then recite the Tulane Physicians' Oath, honoring their commitment to the profession of medicine.





Homecoming: A century-old spectacle

Halfway through the fall semester, Tulanians celebrate Homecoming, a tradition that University Archivist Ann Case traces back to 1923.

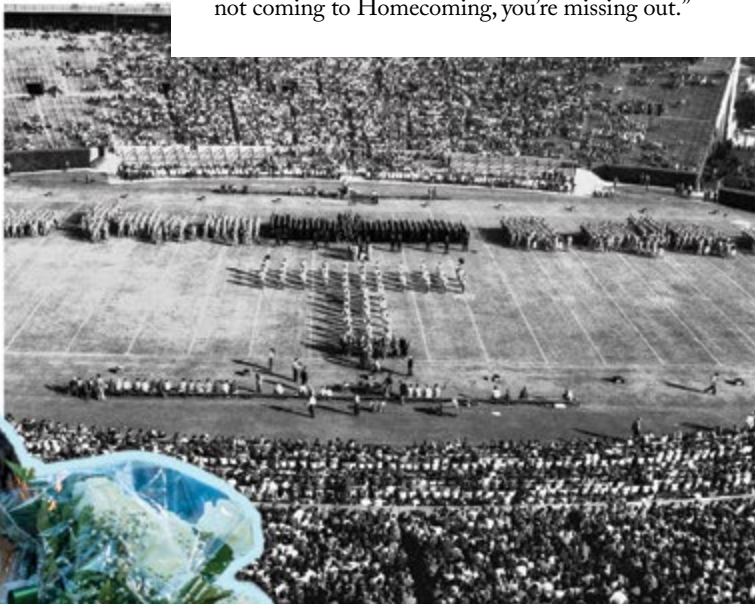
In a 1923 article in *The Tulane News Bulletin*, Charles E. Dunbar Jr., then president of the Tulane Alumni Association, called Homecoming “a day each year that will mold into an endless spiritual chain of the traditions, memories and noble ideals of our university.”

Today, Homecoming is part of a major celebration called Wave Weekend, which features such events as the Tipping Point benefit concert, reunions and more. Tailgating kicks off Saturday on the Berger Family Lawn ahead of the Green Wave football game in Yulman Stadium.

For students, Homecoming festivities begin the Monday before with the traditional lighting of McAlister Auditorium and the debut of the Homecoming Court. The student Homecoming committee plans numerous events to build excitement on campus, including concerts, comedy performances, merchandise giveaways and free food. Out-of-town alumni begin arriving that Thursday, often to revisit the city they once called home.

Michael Rubenstein has been attending Homecoming for as long as he can remember. A Board of Tulane member and past president of the Tulane Alumni Association, he said Homecoming is a “first-class event” that offers something for everyone.

“It’s such a nice time to be on campus,” said Rubenstein. “You get to connect with students, you get to go to your old haunts. There’s the tailgating experience and the game. I personally am a big fan of the Tipping Point concert (which raises money for scholarships). If you’re an alum and you’re not coming to Homecoming, you’re missing out.”



Opposite page, center right: Guest speaker at 1950s Convocation. This page, center left: Student handbook from 1912-1913 featuring classic Tulane cheers. Bottom right: Homecoming halftime activities in 1955



The Bead Tree: A Carnival challenge

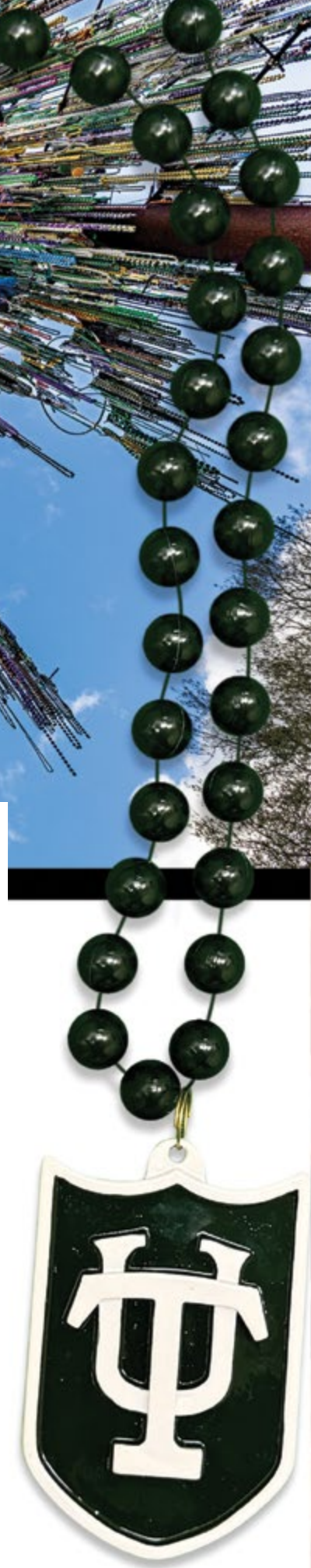
Also unique to Tulane is the tossing of Carnival throws onto the iconic Bead Tree on the Academic Quad near Gibson Hall. The cherished tradition began after Hurricane Katrina when students and visitors alike would test their skill at landing a strand of beads onto one of the oak tree's many branches.

Sadly, the tree had to be removed in 2019 after damage from lightning and termites. Knowing how meaningful the tree was to students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni, Tulane turned to the Tulane School of Architecture for advice on memorializing and perpetuating the tradition without an actual tree.

Senior Professor of Practice Irene Keil and local designer David Gregor designed and fabricated an installation of three 21-foot steel "trees," known as the Bead Tree. The installation also includes a series of clear rods from which light emanates at night. A team from Tulane Facilities installed the first of the "trees" just prior to Carnival of 2020, then followed up with the placement of the two others.

Keil described the work as challenging but said it was all worth it when the first beads started appearing on the structure. Since she became involved with the project, Keil said she's heard countless stories from students and alumni of how much the bead tree has meant to them.

"People will stop me on campus and tell me how they used to throw beads on the old tree. I've heard stories of couples getting engaged under the tree, or of how they met under the tree. It's wonderful to hear that it has played a meaningful role in people's lives."





Crawfest: A crawfish and music extravaganza

Another uniquely Tulane tradition is Crawfest, one of the country's largest student-run campus festivals. Like the Bead Tree, Crawfest sprung up after Hurricane Katrina in 2007, the brainchild of a group of students who wanted to create a spring tradition to match the scale of Homecoming. It started out small but has grown into an all-day affair with two stages and 10 bands, dozens of local vendors and more than 20,000 pounds of crawfish.

More than 30 students make up the management team, with positions ranging from executive director and director of marketing to sustainability manager and sponsorship manager. Students also oversee vendors, merchandise, social media, outreach and tickets.

Sinéad O'Connor, a rising senior from Westchester, New York, has been involved in Crawfest since she stepped on campus three years ago. Last year, she served as director of site operations, overseeing vendors, volunteers, logistics and even the composting of crawfish shells. She is now running the show as executive director of next year's festival.

"I love the Crawfest community and feeling as though I am part of putting together something that is so favorably anticipated and enjoyed by the entire Tulane community," said O'Connor.

O'Connor said Crawfest has been the highlight of her Tulane experience, in large part because the Crawfest team "cares so deeply about making it an event that students look forward to each year. We try to keep Crawfest traditions constant while also introducing new and exciting themes and concepts each year. The beauty of Crawfest is that it has something for every Tulanian."



Commencement: The grand finale

Tulane's oldest tradition is Commencement. Although Tulane's first graduating class was in 1836, Case said her research indicates that the first joint Commencement ceremony didn't take place until March 22, 1852. That event only included what was then known as the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana and the Law Department. There were no graduates of the Collegiate Department — all of Tulane's other academic disciplines — until 1857. In 1908, Tulane had its first Commencement Week with the first Unified Commencement Ceremony, glee club concerts, performances by the Mandolin and Guitar Club, and a senior play.

Today, Tulane's Unified Commencement is a New Orleans-themed affair, complete with second-lining, live jazz and Mardi Gras beads. Graduates enter the ceremony venue waving sparkly green and blue parasols, usually the same ones they were given as first-year students and encouraged to decorate over their four years at Tulane. Keynote speakers have come from the world of entertainment, business and politics, and have included the likes of Apple CEO Tim Cook, actress Helen Mirren and former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Honorary degree recipients have included Irma Thomas, Steve Gleason, U.S. Rep. John Lewis and Branford Marsalis.

Many of Tulane's individual schools as well as Newcomb Institute have their own graduation traditions. Under the Oaks is hosted by Newcomb Institute to honor student and faculty award recipients. The ceremony opens with the procession of the Daisy Chain, which consists of over 1,000 daisies gathered by the members of the junior class.

Other traditions include the Order of the Coif inductions, hosted by Tulane Law School to honor its highest-ranking students, and a second-line parade for doctorate and master's graduates of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Because so many public health students hail from countries outside the United States, a collection of international flags is traditionally placed at the rear of the stage.

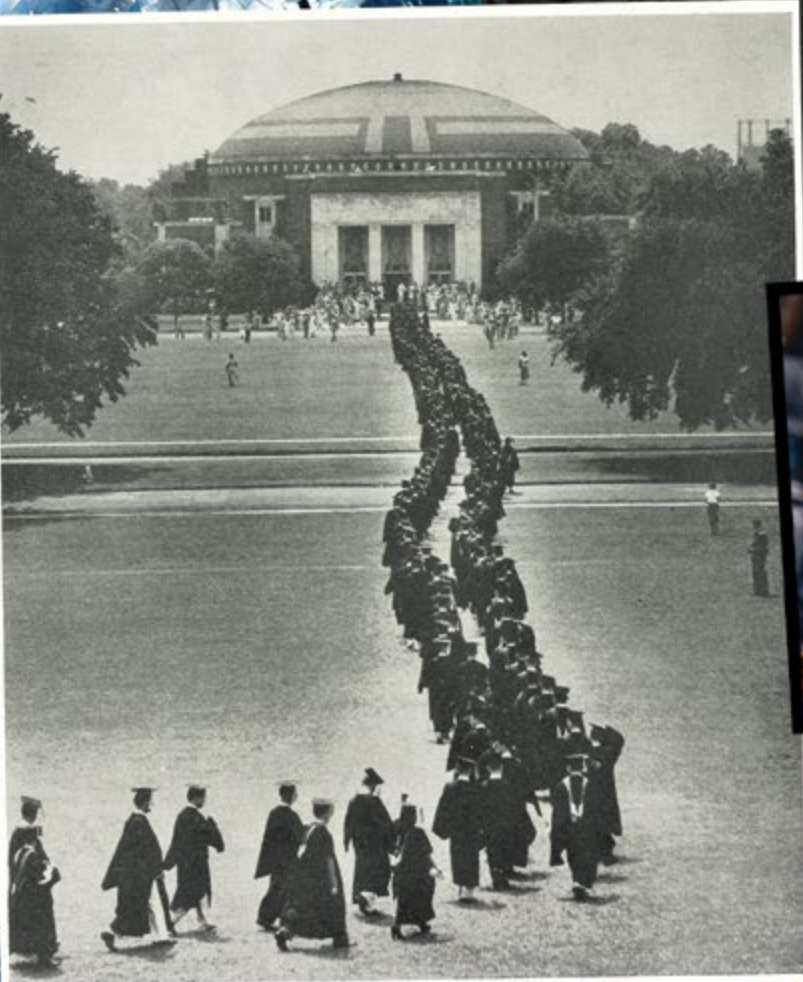
If there's one thing that almost all graduates enjoy, it's donning their cap and gown and having their pictures taken on the Tulane sign outside Gibson Hall.

For recent Tulane graduate Payton Doyal, the Unified Commencement tops all other Tulane traditions. He said this year's ceremony was especially meaningful because he and some of his classmates were unable to experience a typical high school graduation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That he was honored with the role of gonfalon bearer made the ceremony even more special.


"Being able to participate in Commencement, both walking across the stage at my school-specific ceremony and being a gonfalon bearer, was the perfect representation of these past four years of hard work," said Doyal, who will be attending Tulane Law School in the fall.

"For many, this tradition marks the end of their time at Tulane. It is one of the most significant moments for a Tulane student and holds a very special place in our hearts."





Opposite page, bottom right: Daisy Chain tradition continued.
This page, center left: Procession at 1949 Commencement



Brenda Douglas has dedicated her life to health care. Her next focus is building a nursing program from the ground up.

BY BARRI BRONSTON

Meet Tulane's New Nursing Dean

After Brenda Douglas retired as assistant dean of undergraduate programs at Northeastern University's Bouvé College of Health Sciences in Boston, she was envisioning spending most of her time with her four children and six grandchildren in New England. About a month later, she received an intriguing call from Tulane University.

The call was from a consultant exploring potential candidates for dean of Tulane University's new nursing program, a collaboration between the School of Medicine and the School of Professional Advancement (SoPA).

"This was a brand-new program," said Douglas, who holds a PhD in nursing. "I immediately saw the value and the distinctiveness of a program like that, and I was excited for the opportunity."

As dean, she would develop the program, hire faculty and staff, and oversee the application process for the program's first class in the fall of 2024. She also liked Tulane's emphasis on community.

When she received the official job offer, she and her husband agreed this was the right move. And just like that, she was in New Orleans beginning the challenging yet rewarding task of developing the nursing program.

Nearly 18 months later, Douglas couldn't be happier with her decision to move south. "It's been a really fun venture," she said. "Everyone across the university embraced me from the minute I got here."

She also heard from fellow nursing deans. "They view us as partners rather than competition," she said. "There is a genuine desire in Louisiana and New Orleans to put more nurses in the workforce."

Nurses in demand

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the market demand for nurses will grow 9% through 2030, with approximately 194,500 openings each year, on average, over the next decade. In Louisiana, the state Board of Regents estimates there will be a shortfall of approximately 6,000 registered nurses — 40% of the current workforce — by 2030. The demand is partially due to the expanded roles of nurses in primary care, home health services and other nontraditional settings, Douglas said.

Tulane's accelerated, four-semester program combines a rigorous curriculum with hands-on learning. Students will practice technical skills and test their critical thinking and

"There is a genuine desire in Louisiana and New Orleans to put more nurses in the workforce."

BRENDA DOUGLAS, dean of nursing

clinical judgment with real-time feedback. Students will complete hundreds of hours of education in clinical settings at Tulane's local hospital and health care partners. They will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

For now, the program is housed at the School of Medicine's Murphy Building but will eventually move to its permanent location at the one-time Tulane Medical Center building, now under renovation. In announcing the program in December 2023, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts called it a central part of the more-than-\$600 million investment that Tulane is making to reimagine downtown New Orleans as a national hub for medical education and discovery.

Dr. Lee Hamm, dean of the Tulane School of Medicine, said Douglas' experience, personality and organizational skills made her the perfect fit for the job. He said it's one thing to take over an established program, another thing to create one.

"We needed an expert in nursing education and her credentials certainly demonstrated that," he said. "But she's really proven to be adept at all the organizational skills it takes in terms of developing a new program. Despite the challenges, she dove right in with great optimism and an engaging personality."

Opposite: Brenda Douglas, dean of Tulane's new nursing program



“I want students to come here and feel so connected to New Orleans and Louisiana that they want to stay here.”

BRENDA DOUGLAS

Dedicated from the start

Douglas can trace her interest in nursing to her toddler years when she would dress up as a nurse for Halloween. In elementary school, she had some health issues, necessitating regular visits to the doctor’s office. “I always enjoyed talking to the nurses and was interested in what they were doing,” she said.

That interest soon became a passion. She received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Eastern Mennonite University, followed by a Master of Science in nursing with a focus on education, administration and informatics. In 2012, she earned a PhD in nursing from Northeastern University.

After working as a registered nurse for several years, she transitioned to leadership roles in long-term and rehabilitative care, serving as staff development director, assistant nursing services director and nursing services director across three health care centers. Prior to Tulane, Douglas was an associate clinical professor at Northeastern University for more than 20 years, filling multiple roles, including assistant dean for undergraduate programs.

Douglas said the opportunity to develop a nursing program from the ground up was something she couldn’t refuse. In the nearly 18 months since she arrived at Tulane, she and her team have built a “high quality, excellent program that will produce amazing nurses.”

“We know we need nurses here in Louisiana. We need nurses nationally, but one of the things we’re trying to do is purposefully focus on community engagement,” she said. “I want students to come here and feel so connected to New Orleans and Louisiana that they want to stay here.”

Douglas’ focus on engagement shines through as the program takes shape, said SoPA Interim Dean Ilianna Kwaske.

“Dr. Douglas’ collaborative spirit and leadership have been instrumental in the launch of our new nursing program,” Kwaske said. “By working closely with multiple stakeholders, she has shown dedication to excellence and innovation while fostering partnerships that enhance educational opportunities and health care outcomes.”

There are three start dates per year beginning in August. Prospective students can learn more about the program and/or apply at the Tulane Nursing website. [🔗](#)



Above: A medical worker trains on a manikin at the Tulane Center for Advanced Medical Simulation and Team Training, one of the places where nurses in the program will receive hands-on training. Right: Tulane archival photography depicts nurses in training. Tulane offered coursework in nursing across the 1940s to 1960s.

Wavemakers



\$2.91 MILLION FOR NEW CENTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBANISM

Tulane has received \$2.91 million from an anonymous donor to propel the School of Architecture's multidisciplinary efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in the built environment.

The gift is the cornerstone of the Center on Climate Change and Urbanism, a new research unit that will complement the school's emerging cohort of climate-change-focused faculty and research and existing programs in community-based collaborative design. The new center will address challenges of climate change to the natural environment and seek to understand the social and environmental opportunities of a decarbonized and sustainable built environment.


"A crisis as difficult as climate change demands a multidisciplinary effort to reduce, and respond to, the effects of extreme weather, floods, coastal erosion, and rising seas and

temperatures," said Robin Forman, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. "Our donors recognize the significance and the urgency of this challenge, and their generous gift is an expression of confidence, which we all share, in the ability of our School of Architecture."

The gift will support five years of expanded research, through grants, as well as new faculty and fellowship positions, and the creation of design studios for testing new models for climate adaptation and mitigation. It will also fund increased interdisciplinary collaborations with environmental science, engineering, law, public policy, economics and public health within Tulane and across peer institutions.

"Thanks to this gift, the School of Architecture's new Center on Climate Change and Urbanism will provide our students with hands-on learning opportunities that prepare

them not only to excel as architects and design professionals but also to grapple with a crisis that will increasingly dominate the 21st century," said School of Architecture Dean Iñaki Alday, the Richard Koch Chair in Architecture and co-director of the Yamuna River Project in New Delhi.

New Orleans and the Gulf Coast will continue to be a major focus of the school's climate-related activities. Programmatic activities will also focus on Latin America and the Caribbean where the school has already completed or is planning significant work. To this end, the School of Architecture plans to collaborate closely with Tulane's Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies and the Center for Inter-American Policy and Research. 

Above: Tulane architecture students provided support to the Ecuador-based nonprofit Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales. The work was part of the school's Saul A. Mintz Global Research Studios.

\$12.5 MILLION GIFT IN SUPPORT OF DATA SCIENCE

Longtime Tulane supporters Libby and Robert Alexander donated more than \$12 million to advance a university-wide data science initiative that is transforming teaching and research across all disciplines at Tulane and positioning the university as a leader in data pedagogy.

Tulane's Data Hub has been renamed the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science. Connolly is the family name of Libby Alexander, a Tulane graduate and member of the Board of Tulane. With data pervading almost every aspect of modern life, the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science enables Tulane students across all disciplines to understand how data shapes our environment, to think critically about data-based arguments and to use data in their studies and careers.

The Alexanders' gift elevates the institute as the university's centralized resource for fostering data literacy and data science through education, research and service to the community. As Tulane continues to grow as a powerhouse of research and scholarship, this institute will fuel an even more ambitious future of meaningful exploration and discovery.

"Whatever their majors, Tulane students must know how to navigate data, and integrating data science across the curricula will cultivate their data literacy. We are thrilled to play a role in Tulane's data-centered evolution," the Alexanders said.

Libby Alexander, a member of the club sailing team at Tulane, graduated with a bachelor's degree from the university in 1984. She and her husband, Robert, helped build Connolly, Inc. into a global leader in payment integrity solutions. Libby led Connolly's health care division and ultimately served as CEO of the parent company.

She credits a programming course she took at Tulane for showing her the capabilities of data combined with computing technology. Robert, who majored in computer science at Boston University, ran his own computer company before joining Connolly, Inc. as its chief information officer.

"If anyone understands the importance of data management and analytics to the present and to the future, it's Libby and Robert Alexander," President Michael A. Fitts said. "Through their expertise and generosity, they have been instrumental in furthering and developing Tulane's strategy for implementing data literacy and data science at every level of the university." 📖



\$5 MILLION FOR SCHWARTZ FAMILY CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL BUSINESS LEARNING

Tulane's A. B. Freeman School of Business has received a \$5 million gift from Todd and Gina Schwartz to expand opportunities for students to "learn by doing." The gift will fund programs and a renovation to create the Schwartz Family Center for Experiential Business Learning.

These experiential learning methods will facilitate new partnerships with local, regional, national and global corporations with whom students will work to perform market analysis, determine the feasibility of launching new products, pursue investment strategies and more.

The center, which will be located on the ground floor of the Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex, will host classes and interactive events that will feature the latest technology and enable undergraduate and graduate students to work on collaborative projects.

"Experiential learning is crucial to business education," President Michael A. Fitts said. "Todd and Gina Schwartz's generosity will build on the Freeman School's many initiatives in this proven approach and establish Tulane as a premier destination for acquiring hands-on, real-world business knowledge and competencies."

Todd Schwartz, who graduated from Tulane with a bachelor's degree in finance, is the founder, CEO and executive chairman of the NYSE-listed OppFi and a managing principal at Schwartz Capital Group. He is also a partner at Strand Equity Partners.

Reflecting on his own educational journey, Schwartz said, "Experiential learning was highly influential in my professional development. The Schwartz Family Center is designed to provide students with transferable skills such as creativity, innovation, team collaboration, problem solving and critical thinking through various real-world experiences. I look forward to the center making these opportunities available to Tulane students." 📖





GENE AND MARY KOSS PROFESSORSHIP IN GLASS

Tulane Professor Gene Koss, an accomplished artist who founded the Newcomb Art Department's renowned glass program in the 1970s, has left the university a parting gift upon his retirement: a donation to establish an endowed professorship in glass.

The gift from the prominent glass sculptor and his wife, Mary, who is a Tulane alumna and retired certified public accountant, will create the Gene and Mary Koss Professorship in Glass Endowed Fund. It will support a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts, with the preferred holder teaching glass as a sculpture medium incorporating hot glass casting — a technique synonymous with Gene Koss' celebrated body of work.

Koss arrived at Tulane in 1976 to teach ceramics and later founded the university's glass program with the help of alumna and former Pace Foods owner Margaret Pace Willson and her husband, Robert. Today the Newcomb Art Department boasts the state-of-the-art Pace-Willson Glass Studio — the second-largest university glass studio in the nation.

"In the late 1970s, Margaret Pace and Robert Willson made a donation that allowed me to build a small glass studio at Tulane, and they subsequently helped fund the program's expansion," said Gene Koss, who retired in May 2024 as the Maxine and Ford Graham Chair in Fine Art after 48 years at Tulane. "I have always been so grateful for

their generosity, and Mary and I want to pass it forward to support the glass program into the future."

Mary Koss, who earned a bachelor's degree in management in 1979 from what is now the A. B. Freeman School of Business, said, "Tulane's outstanding professors provided me with an excellent education that contributed to my successful career. With this gift, we want to support Tulane professors as they continue to make an impact on the lives of students."

Gene Koss' works have been exhibited internationally and are held in many important public and private collections, such as the Corning Museum of Glass in New York. He has received numerous awards, including from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Arnoldsche Art Publishers of Germany released a 2019 retrospective monograph of his work. 📖



Above: Gene Koss, who retired in May, founded the Newcomb Art Department's glass program, housed in the Pace-Willson Glass Studio. A gift from Koss and his wife, Mary, will create the Gene and Mary Koss Professorship in Glass Endowed Fund. Facing page, left: A gift from Libby Alexander and her husband, Robert, has transformed Tulane's Data Hub into the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science. Right: The creation of the Schwartz Family Center for Experiential Business Learning is thanks to a gift from Todd and Gina Schwartz.

Tulanians



REUNITED

Members of the Newcomb College Class of 1974 returned to the uptown campus during Commencement week for Newcomb Institute's Under the Oaks ceremony to celebrate their 50-year reunion.

PHOTO BY CHERYL GERBER

1960
1969

JEFFREY AHLIN (A&S '65) authored two books, "Traitors in the Gestapo" and "Traitors in Treblinka," both published by Dorrance Publishing Co. "Traitors in Treblinka" shares the accounts of witnesses, survivors and those who experienced the atrocities of Nazis. "Traitors in the Gestapo" tells the story of two Jewish boys, Jenz and Ezekiel, who conceal their identities while growing up in Nazi-occupied Germany, to become involved in secret work to change the course of the war.

1970
1979

JOSEPH L. "LARRY" SHEA JR. (A&S '74), an attorney with Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea (Shreveport), was named to the "2024 Best Lawyers in America" list for Shreveport across numerous categories, including energy law, environmental litigation, labor and employment litigation, mass tort litigation/class actions: defendants, oil and gas law, real estate law and more. Shea was also named to the "2024 Louisiana Super Lawyers" list.

C. WM. BRADLEY JR. (L '76), an attorney with Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea (New Orleans), was named "Lawyer of the Year" for medical malpractice

law - defendants in New Orleans. He was also recognized among the "2024 Best Lawyers in America" for numerous categories, including commercial litigation, mass tort litigation/class actions: defendants, medical malpractice law: defendants, personal injury litigation: defendants and more. Bradley Jr. was named to the "2024 Louisiana Super Lawyers" list and was included in the "2023 New Orleans Magazine Top Lawyers in New Orleans" list in medical malpractice law.

RICHARD GOLDBLATT (A&S '76) is working as a wargame scenario designer at NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in Norfolk, Virginia. ACT preserves the peace, security and territorial integrity of NATO Alliance member states by leading the strategic warfare development

of military structures, forces, capabilities and doctrines.

BRAD MOORE (SSE '76) received the Tulane School of Science and Engineering 2024 Outstanding Alumni Service Award for his work to develop several water wells in parts of Kenya to provide clean, accessible water to thousands of children, women and men in the country. Moore also assisted the School of Science and Engineering in gaining an Engineers Without Borders chapter and has served as a mentor to students and faculty.

1990
1999

MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN (B '90, L '93), a shareholder in the Houston office of



IMPRESSION

BUD BRIMBERG

When Bud Brimberg (L ’75), a Brooklyn native, was in his last year at Tulane Law School in 1975, he ventured over to the business school to sit in on a finance class. He never applied to the business school and therefore wasn’t eligible to take the course, but he stayed until the professor couldn’t figure out where to put his grade. He instead found a spot in a different, newer course that didn’t require any prerequisites — Entrepreneurship.

The professor tasked the students with creating a business plan. Brimberg, who was a photographer since childhood and once photo editor of *The Tulane Hullabaloo*, studied for law school at the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, taking study breaks by roaming through the library’s art books. Poster books from the late 19th and early 20th centuries were particular favorites. These influences

led him to the idea of creating a poster for the New Orleans Heritage and Jazz Festival as his class project.

He approached Quint Davis, the producer of Jazz Fest and fellow Tulanian, with the idea for a limited-edition poster. The poster became a sought-after collectible by its second year at the festival in 1976. The 1981 festival poster proposal caught Davis’ attention for another reason though — it featured a man wearing a button-up, palm-tree-patterned shirt.

With Brimberg having little luck finding a natural, short-sleeve, button-up shirt to wear in New Orleans’ heat, he proposed making one. That year, the HowAhYa Hawaiian-style shirt, the first item in what was to become BayouWear, was created and sold alongside the Jazz Fest poster. In addition to shirts, the company now offers skirts, shorts, camisoles, aprons and more in colorful, bold and uniquely New Orleans patterns, all designed by Brimberg in collaboration with textile artists.

“The inspiration comes from life in New Orleans: music, food, architecture, flora, etc., that define our unique culture,” Brimberg said.

In addition to those lessons from class at Tulane, Brimberg learned how to celebrate the city through his work.

“The local friends I made at Tulane let me see the ways New Orleans was unique, how that uniqueness had developed, and why it needed to be celebrated and sustained without dilution or cliché,” he said. “By studying law and business at Tulane and being immersed in the city’s rich culture, I appreciated how art and commerce could work together in that effort.”

The designs “reimagine their underlying subject and present them from a fresh perspective,” he said. Some examples include fleur-de-lis symbols in the shape of flowers cradling jazz instruments or a gator motif formed into a paisley pattern with gator teeth as the buttons — Brimberg’s favorite.

After decades in business, Jazz Fest-goers from near and far, and even performers like the iconic “Soul Queen of New Orleans” Irma Thomas, wear BayouWear items as a badge celebrating their origins each year.

“Having started a project ... seeing it become a living cultural icon that has an emotional connection with, now, hundreds of thousands of people around the world, is something I never could have imagined,” Brimberg said. “The gratitude I feel toward those who embrace BayouWear propels me and the people I work with to produce something worthy each year.” 🍌

Send in your news and notes and follow @tulanealumni on Facebook to join the conversation.

Liskow & Lewis and Board of Tulane member, was recently elected to the firm's board of directors. Rubenstein has also been appointed as the firm's deputy general counsel.

CARLOS HERNANDEZ (B '91) was promoted to Chief Operation Officer of Baptist Health's Doctors and West Kendall Baptist Hospitals.

LINDA JEFFERSON HOLMES (UC '92, '02) has written a book under the pseudonym Naomi Elie about the challenges of military caregiving. The book is titled "Beneath a Veteran's Honor: A Conspiracy of Injustice." Holmes is the founder and managing member of Naomi Elie Publications and Productions, LLC. She also previously held a 16-year tenure at Civil District Court for Orleans Parish. Holmes lives in Mississippi.

ANN TURI (NC '92) authored an article titled "Supported Studies Quid Pro Quo" that was accepted for publication by the International In-House Counsel Journal. Turi, senior legal counsel at GSK, is a licensed legal and compliance professional with experience in legal and regulatory risk in the health care arena.

MARY-ELLEN HARWOOD (SW '95) supported Iceland's social services and mental health needs through an in-depth study of their system of hospitals and clinics. Services are provided non-judgmentally, in both Icelandic and English, at all locations, but found they do have a need for more mental health professionals.

JOSE ALCAINE (B '98) was honored by the Society of Research Administration International (SRAI) with an Excellence Award and was named Distinguished Faculty at the society's annual meeting in October 2023 in Seattle. Alcaine received the awards for his significant contributions to and expertise in the field of research administration as well as excellence in teaching. At the annual meeting, Alcaine co-presented sessions covering topics on intercultural communication in research administration and development, award set-up and project implementation, and developing institutional strategies.

DR. ABBY SPENCER (NC '98) received the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM) Dema C. Daley Founders Award, which honors a member of the internal medicine community who is recognized nationally

as an educator, innovator and leader. Spencer is a professor and vice chair of education at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine and is the director of the Academy of Educators at the university.

LELAND G. HORTON (L '00), a partner with Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea (Shreveport), was named to the "2024 Best Lawyers in America" list for Shreveport in commercial litigation, energy law and environmental litigation. Horton was also named to the "2024 Louisiana Super Lawyers" list.

MICHELLE WALKER MORDOCK (L '00), an attorney with Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea (New Orleans), was named to the "2024 Best Lawyers in America" list for New Orleans in medical malpractice law: defendants.

DR. MEREDITH WARNER (M '00, M '04) has authored her first book, "Bone on Bone: An Orthopedic Surgeon's Guide to Avoiding Surgery and Healing Pain Naturally" (BenBella Books). In the book, Warner shares how the underlying principles that extend life, reduce heart disease, prevent diabetes and decrease incidences of dementia should be applied to the overall care for orthopedic problems.

MATTHEW CHARLES CARDINALE (TC '03) earned a Master of Law (LLM) in environmental and natural resources law from Lewis & Clark Law School, marking Cardinale's fourth graduate degree. Cardinale has previously earned a Master of Arts degree in sociology from the University of California, Irvine, a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Orleans, and a Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University.

PETER CIFICHIELLO (TC '03), a corporate lawyer, joined Bowditch & Dewey as a partner and will be based in the firm's Boston office.

KELLY CAHN (NC '05) has launched Kelly Cahn LLC: Art Advisory and Appraisals, offering comprehensive guidance to art collectors during the art-collecting journey, from meticulous research and strategic acquisitions to coordinated collection management, expert appraisals and sales.

2010
2019

AMANDA HADDAWAY (L '18), managing director of HR Answerbox, a boutique HR consulting firm in Frederick County, Maryland, acquired Trainers and Consultants Referral Network. The network primarily serves the metro DC market to help employers find top-notch HR consultants, trainers, coaches and speakers.

2020
2024

KIRSTEN BAZET (SLA '22) has been cast as a parade performer at Walt Disney World, an actor at Universal Orlando Resort and a seasonal stunt performer at Sea World's Howl-O-Scream.

SORRELL BROWN (B '22) founded Rellestate Renovations, a construction company based in New Orleans, following graduation. Brown has recently earned his National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies license, one of the most respected general contractor licenses in the United States. Brown is a former member of the Green Wave football team.



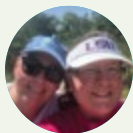
JESSICA CHARWIN (SLA '13) is co-founder of Cultura Coffee, a specialty startup coffee company that directly imports and sells single origin Colombian coffee. Charwin's startup received mentorship support from the Tulane University Innovation Institute.

Farewell

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

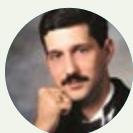
Earl L. Forstall Sr. (E '42)
Elmire LeBlanc Dizney (NC '43)
Janet Seidenbach Phillips (NC '43)
Carol Fraser Bartlett (NC '44)
Willie Gowland (B '45)
Betty James Lennep (NC '45)
Janice Bernardi Meyer (NC '45)
Margie Berry Robertson (NC '45)
Janet Estopinal Shaw (NC '45, SW '53)
Ilene Bennett Taubman (NC '45)
Lilian Hammond Waterhouse (NC '45)
Alfred L. Watson (A&S '45)
Margaret Grundmann Woods (B '45)
Salvatore C. Moschella (E '46, A '49)
Lionel B. Morrow (E '47)
Robert M. Reinhardt (A&S '47)
Emma Managan Wylie (SW '47)
William M. Cady III (B '48, L '51)
Alice Frelsen Farrar (NC '48)
Judith Brett Dodds (NC '49)
Christine Magruder Hackl (NC '49)
Andrew P. Haynal (PHTM '49)
Janice Fabacher Kerner (NC '49)
Patricia Haas Young (NC '49)
Thomas S. Allen (E '50)
Wilburn M. Atkinson (A&S '50)
Jeannine McGee Burge (NC '50)
Sallie Orndorff Davis (NC '50)
Dyer J. Farley Jr. (A&S '50)
John D. Fernandez Jr. (E '50)
Philip J. Foto (A&S '50, L '52)
Lin H. Gee (E '50)
Marvin Gerard (A&S '50)
James E. Holton (A&S '50)
Virginia Provost Inskeep (NC '50)
William S. Jameson (A&S '50)
Wilder K. Kuhn (A&S '50, L '52)
Julian M. Kurtz (A&S '50)
Kenneth A. Langguth (B '50)
David Preston (A&S '50)
Matthew P. Rettinger (A&S '50)

What's your favorite Tulane tradition?

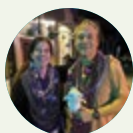


Growing up on Pine and Maple streets and with a Tulane and Tulane Law grad for a dad, we would love walking up and down Broadway for homecoming to see the frat house decorations!

Barbara Colomb Dias



Homecoming! Reunion weekend.
Lance Uhde (UC '84)



TUCP campus programming: concerts in McAlister Auditorium, sneak previews of movies before release dates, TUCP All Nighter, peer-support network and TGIFs on the quad.

Karen Jackson-Eason (NC '90)



I really enjoyed TUL Radio Marathon, back when the jocks were broadcasting from the upper level of the UC. Call in, donate to hear a song, a side or a full album, and get to see the Nevilles and Harry Connick Jr. live on the quad, along with a ton of other great bands and musicians.

Ronda Reap-Curiel
(NC '89, B '08)



IMPRESSION

ALEXA AUTHORLEE

As a Tulane undergraduate student, Alexa Authorlee (B '22) was known for her commitment to student leadership and finding ways to build community. As a distinguished alumna, she extended her passion for community engagement as a panelist at this year's Black Alumni Weekend at Tulane, held February 22 to 24, 2024.

Authorlee said she was enthusiastic about the event, which celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of the university's Black alumni and students.

"No matter your age or where you are in life, this is a unique opportunity to better understand yourself and those around you — to delve deeper into opportunities for networking and for inspiration."

She spoke on a panel for past and present student leaders. Being a student leader was an important part of Authorlee's life at Tulane. A finance major and legal studies in business minor, Authorlee founded the Alliance of Black Business Students after recognizing the isolation Black students may feel when starting out in business school. "I wanted to make a space for myself and people like me so that we can have a sense of community."

While establishing the Alliance of Black Business Students, Authorlee played a pivotal role in establishing the Black Queer Collective, a group dedicated to supporting Black students who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Authorlee noted that the supportive environment found within the Black Queer Collective helped members navigate difficult personal experiences, such as coming out to their parents. "It was necessary to know that there were other people going through the same thing you were going through," she said.

Authorlee also held the position of treasurer for both the Black Student Union and the Undergraduate Student Government. She further contributed as an ambassador to the Carolyn Barber-Pierre Center for Intercultural Life and participated in Newcomb Institute's Town Mom Program. She received numerous recognitions, including the Daniel P. Nadler Crest Award, the 2022 Dorothy Young Memorial Award and the Freeman School's Dean's Service Award, among many others. Post-graduation, Newcomb Institute invited Authorlee back to New Orleans to be honored as part of the Newcomb 30 Under 30.

In addition to being a student leader at Tulane, Authorlee always juggled between two to four jobs, such as being a resident advisor, serving as a tutor and a TIDES Peer Mentor, and working at the Newcomb Children's Center.

After graduating from Tulane, Authorlee moved back to her hometown of Houston and embarked on a career as a senior consulting analyst at Accenture. Almost immediately, she became an active member of the Tulane Club of Houston. She quickly ascended to a leadership position on the board, where she now co-chairs the philanthropy committee, demonstrating that same commitment to community engagement that she exhibited at Tulane. 📖

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Charlotte Shoaf Robinson (NC '50) | Ronald C. Senac Sr. (A&S '57) | David M. Serrone (G '62) | Larry J. Schneider (A&S '68) |
| Claire Rouff Surles (NC '50) | Joan Barkerding Hennessey (NC '58) | Norman D. Stockwell (A&S '62) | Stuart W. Weppler (A&S '68) |
| Milton A. Surles (A&S '50) | Constance Lewis (NC '58) | Ann Coulon Thompson (NC '62) | Catherine Zehner Dorn (NC '69) |
| Mary Soule Weiss (NC '50) | Frank A. Little Jr. (A&S '58, L '61) | Deborah Daley Barker (B '63) | Roberta Knopfer (SW '69) |
| Frances Lockridge Bailey (SW '51) | Charles S. Mackey (A&S '58) | Bennett G. Braun (A&S '63, G '64) | Russell B. Rothrock (M '69) |
| Donald Feldman (G '51) | John V. Burkes III (E '59) | Frank J. D'Angelo (G '63) | Victoria Noble Weiner (NC '69, L '77) |
| Wilfred L. Guerin Jr. (A&S '51, G '53, G '58) | Carlos M. Hecker (A&S '59, M '63) | Ann Arnof Fishman (NC '63) | Lawrence J. Boudoin Jr. (UC '70) |
| Mary Steele Rossano (NC '51, SW '59) | Thomas E. Johnson (E '59) | Douglas W. Lamppin (M '63) | Paul M. Chiarello (A&S '70) |
| Francis M. Scarritt Jr. (A&S '51) | Howard N. Kandell (M '59) | August W. Mysing Jr. (A&S '63, L '65) | George J. Ditta Sr. (A&S '70) |
| Elsie Smith (G '51) | William J. Kearney III (A&S '59) | Gerald J. Rubin (E '63) | Woodard E. Farmer Jr. (A&S '70) |
| Robert H. Young (A&S '51) | Claude A. Mason (B '59, L '68) | Anthea Barnes Boarman (NC '64) | Jeffrey M. Holmes (A&S '70) |
| Claudio J. Barsoza (A&S '52) | Thomas A. Nolan Sr. (A&S '59) | Thomas J. Crouch (A&S '64) | John J. Levy (A&S '70) |
| Rosa Lamar Herich (NC '52) | Richard M. Bordelon (E '60) | Mary Draisker (NC '64) | Robert M. Meith (E '70) |
| Jeanne Amis Jernigan (NC '52) | Sarah Bledsoe Brannan (NC '60) | Laurance Eustis III (A&S '64) | Charles E. Risley (UC '70) |
| Noelie Carmouche Stansbury (NC '52) | Norman J. Coquyt (UC '60) | Susan McCarthy Fagocki (NC '64) | Fred H. Sellers Jr. (A&S '70) |
| Alfred A. Wick (A&S '52, M '56) | Jack R. Crais (A&S '60) | Eugene A. Grasser Jr. (B '64, B '71) | Joel A. Shumrak (A&S '70) |
| Anne Williams Booth (NC '53) | Beverly Sanderfer Dalton (NC '60) | Linette Albert (NC '65) | Napoleon O. Benoit Sr. (SW '71) |
| Robert C. Culpepper Jr. (M '53) | William J. Drawe III (E '60) | Robert A. Blanchard Sr. (A&S '65) | John M. Caldwell (B '71) |
| Aline Stouse Koppel (NC '53) | Nicketti Tillery Gibbons (NC '60) | Christopher R. Calt (A&S '65) | Claude W. Poag Jr. (G '71) |
| Barry L. Fanburg (A&S '54, M '57) | Elizabeth Sullivan Holleman (NC '60) | Frances Flapan Durbin (NC '65) | Adinah Brown Robertson (SW '71) |
| Chandra Chambers Lencina (NC '54) | Gayle John Howell (E '60) | William T. Finch (M '65) | Ralph E. Wafer (A '71) |
| Diane Smith Lynne (NC '54) | Paul C. James (UC '60) | Joan Giffin (A '65) | David R. Collins (G '72) |
| Joy Tarlowe Bookman (NC '55) | Robert A. Kennedy (A&S '60) | Robert A. Houston (M '65) | Karen Conley-Greene (NC '72) |
| Nancy Liljenstein Caldwell (NC '55) | Norbert E. Landry (E '60) | William P. Kelleher (UC '65) | Henry V. Orgeron Jr. (UC '72) |
| Alfred F. Daech (A&S '55) | William E. Laudeman III (B '60) | Paul B. Lansing II (M '65) | Mary Annel (PHTM '73) |
| Laura Planche Graber (NC '55) | Michael O. Marcoux (A&S '60) | Flora Fogel Lebowitz (NC '65) | Nolan E. Asch (B '73) |
| Peggy Strauss Greenbaum (NC '55) | Walter H. Moleski (A '60) | Kathleen Ross Melville (NC '65) | Bernard W. Chill Jr. (A&S '73) |
| Austin M. Lindsey (A&S '55) | Ellis F. Muther III (M '60) | James H. Miller III (A&S '65) | Mervyn J. Cross (F '73) |
| Melvin W. Mathes Jr. (B '55, L '57) | Eleanor Roberts Rubin (UC '60) | Edmund M. Monberg (A&S '65, A&S '66) | Dennis A. Giesemann (E '73, B '75) |
| Emile C. Netzhammer Jr. (B '55) | Martha Smith Schiaffino (NC '60) | Doyle C. Phillips Sr. (UC '65) | Kathi Arbogast (NC '74) |
| Ann Shafto Noel (NC '55) | Frances Crow Stumpp (NC '60) | Russell H. Simons (UC '65) | John P. Icenogle (L '74) |
| Morton P. Sherzer (A&S '55) | Alvin S. Transeau (B '60, L '61) | Bernhard T. Smith (UC '65) | William S. LaCorte (M '74, PHTM '05) |
| Carole Long Thompson (NC '55) | Reynolds B. Wagnon (E '60) | Clare Vega Trahan (UC '65) | Keith M. Pyburn Jr. (L '74) |
| Lawrence D. Wiedemann (L '55) | Arthur J. Bouvier Jr. (E '61) | Robert L. Jones (A&S '66, M '70) | Rory B. Babbitt (A&S '75) |
| Charles E. Zamzow (A&S '55) | Lawrence H. Hennessey Jr. (UC '61) | Carol Knurr Kain (NC '66) | Eileen Bowen Christensen (NC '75) |
| Katherine Moore (NC '56) | Jerry E. Hudson (G '61, G '65) | Conrad Meyer IV (A&S '66, L '69, L '81) | Marcus V. Hallum (L '75) |
| Janet Mickenhime Sandifer (NC '56) | Elizabeth Himel Killeen (NC '61) | Ronald C. Reitz (G '66) | Linda Arnette Martin (NC '75) |
| Milton G. Scheuermann Jr. (A '56) | Herbert A. Mendel (B '61) | James M. Schendle (A&S '66) | Rikka Pulliam (NC '75) |
| Phyllis Scharff Stern (NC '56) | John A. Scholl (E '61) | Rebecca Reames Trader (SW '66) | Marc A. Reshefsky (A '75) |
| Daniel A. Veith (A&S '56, G '63) | Jane Crawford Welty (SW '61) | Hugh A. Andrews (UC '67) | William R. Rutledge (UC '75) |
| Melaine Speer Wiggins (NC '56) | Virginia Carlock Zee (PHTM '61) | Robert S. Burgess (A&S '67) | Nancy Mcjunkin Scalise (UC '75) |
| Ray Cinnater (A&S '57) | Louis V. Crenshaw Sr. (A&S '62) | John R. Hailman (G '67) | Alison Zehr (NC '75) |
| William B. Coker (A&S '57) | Lois Brown Fine (NC '62, G '65) | William A. Jennings (B '67) | Theodore M. Pierre Jr. (A '76) |
| Charles J. Gratz (A&S '57, M '60) | Bernardine Miller Meaker (G '62) | James R. Leonard Jr. (A&S '67, L '70) | Paul L. Zimmering (L '76) |
| Constance Stewart Green (NC '57) | Phillip E. Morehead (A&S '62) | Anna Baugh Valerius (NC '67) | Peter R. Alfaro (A&S '77) |
| Henry H. Lansford (A&S '57) | Sonja Romanowski (NC '62, SW '64) | Daniel J. Dembinski (A&S '68, B '72) | David L. Chidester (A&S '77) |

Andrew P. Dwyer (SW '77)
 Mary Howell (NC '77)
 Barbara Black (G '78)
 Catherine D'Agostino Ziepniewski (G '78)
 John C. Tollefson (L '79)
 Marilyn Broker Wenzel (G '79)
 Willie Clifton (NC '80)
 James G. Dubuisson III (B '80)
 Richard H. Kalina (A&S '80)
 Clay B. Jackson Jr. (E '81)
 David L. Shall (B '81, L '87)
 Llewellyn H. Cox III (B '82)
 John S. Tenenholtz (L '84)
 Thomas E. DeCamilla (B '85)
 Carey Turner Mackie (NC '85)
 Victor R. Teumer (A&S '85)
 Carlos F. Trenary (UC '85, PHTM '87)
 Anthony A. Wood (UC '85)
 David Gardner Jr. (UC '86)
 Rogers Nunnery (UC '86)
 Lucius J. Doucet III (M '87)
 Craig H. Kliger (M '88)
 Robert W. Little (PHTM '88)
 Julia Loftus Niehaus (SW '88)
 Kay Wicker (UC '88, UC '90)
 Rama P. Bhattacharya (E '89)
 John J. Finn Jr. (B '89)
 Ella Goodyear (NC '89, L '94)
 Warren L. Roberts (E '89)
 James F. Bernazzani Jr. (UC '90)
 Christine Weiss Cantrell (UC '90)
 Caliste C. Cenac Jr. (UC '90)
 Elizabeth Jacob Crowell (UC '90)
 Antony B. Phillips (A&S '90)
 Timothy S. Duncan (UC '91)
 Cedric Wilson (UC '91)
 Alexa Anderson (NC '92)
 Joshua S. Lipschutz (B '92)
 Justine Manzella (UC '92)
 Paula Poche (SW '92)
 Louis M. Byron (L '93, SW '02)
 Maurice J. Duplantis III (UC '93)
 Bryan S. Dillon (B '95)
 Kiersta Kurtz-Burke (PHTM '95, M '99)
 Wesley S. Munchrath (UC '95)
 William F. Peterson (A '95)



TRIBUTE

DR. MITCHELL EDE

When Dr. Mitchell Ede (A&S '43, M '45) passed away in October 2023 at the age of 101, he concluded a life that was remarkable not only for its longevity but for being exceptionally well lived. A dermatologist for more than 70 years, Ede's Tulane education set him on a course that touched countless lives.

Ede grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, milking the family goats and drinking Coca-Cola at the general store his parents ran. Both parents had emigrated from Lebanon, and the family's passion for the transformative power of education was well-evident with several of the children ultimately taking advanced degrees.

Ede was a standout from his earliest days, occasionally being called upon to step in as a substitute teacher for his high school — while still attending high school. By senior year, his passion for science led to acceptances to Tulane University, Auburn University, the University of Alabama and a full scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Already there was a part of Ede that was perhaps both practical and sentimental. "He chose Tulane because the train from Hattiesburg to New Orleans was the last train to leave. He wanted to stay with his mom as long as possible," recalled his daughter, Ann Boyle.

At Tulane, he worked toward his undergraduate degree, picking up Latin, joining Beta Mu and becoming a noted flirt before continuing on for his medical degree. Boyle dryly remarked, "I think that [reputation as a flirt] was during pre-med. I'm assuming he didn't have any time during med school."

Upon graduation, he was all set to have a leading career as an obstetrician and gynecologist. However, he'd obtained his degrees during World War II. Eager

to serve his country in the medical field, he joined the Navy immediately after completing his medical degree.

He was sent up to Walter Reed. Upon his arrival, he was informed that his specialization was in fact going to be in the then-emerging area of dermatology.

Entirely unruffled, Ede used his training as an internist to his advantage, often reflecting that to know what is going on with the skin, you need to know what is going on in the body. He would spend more than seven decades as a dermatologist.

His service at Walter Reed offered another advantage for Ede. It was there he met a lovely young nurse named Ruth Koch, with whom he would enjoy a 45-year marriage and welcome four children.

"When he moved to Cincinnati, he went into a practice with a dermatologist that had had polio," said Boyle. "Their office hours started about noon and went until about eight. My mother would have a hot meal for him at eight o'clock, even after she had made dinner for us. They certainly had an Ozzie and Harriet family."

Ede led a thriving practice in the Cincinnati and Hillsboro, Ohio, communities and served as a professor in the dermatology department of the University of Cincinnati.

With his soft voice and soothing manner, patients felt comfortable to fully explain their troubles.

Boyle laughed, "He was a very loving, caring dad. Family came first — as long as there weren't patients who needed him."

Though he lived in a quiet and leafy neighborhood of Cincinnati for most of his life, he never forgot his time at Tulane — or his experiences as a young man during Mardi Gras.

His office had a king cake following Epiphany each year. And even as he recovered from a broken hip in his late 90s, he nevertheless donned Mardi Gras beads when Fat Tuesday came around.

Tulane itself was also a cause for celebration for Ede. When neighbor Peter Hines (B '23) received his acceptance, Ede was over the moon, delighted to see a talented young person about to embark upon the same journey he took ... if, admittedly, just a few years later.

And though Ede officially gave up seeing patients when the pandemic struck, he never, ever stopped being the 'Dr. Ede' he first became at Tulane. "He liked to be known as Dr. Mitchell Ede," said Boyle who recalled her father offering a diagnosis on one of his last days.

"He prescribed something and said to come back in a week." 🍷

—Mary-Elizabeth Lough

Arnon Davidovici (E '97)
 Charles J. Griffin (UC '97)
 Amanda Pennison Luneau (E '97)
 Julie Dahlin Gardner (L '98)
 Pauline Gammons Feist (L '99)
 Laura Curry Cornell (NC '00)
 Edwin J. Kivell (UC '00)
 Caroline Wright (A '01)
 Justin L. Cummings (M '02, PHTM '02)
 Michael R. Johnson (B '02)
 Wayne W. Killion III (B '02)
 David J. Lemaire Jr. (UC '02)
 Lynne Kruse (PHTM '03)
 Victoria Huynh Nguyen (NC '03)
 Nicole Fleiss (NC '05)
 Christopher J. Koralik (TC '05)
 Jacqueline Brettner De Obaldia (L '06)
 John M. Sitton (SW '07, L '20)
 Connie Strahan (UC '07)
 Adrenne Dedeaux (SW '11)
 Anthony M. Livaccari (M '12)
 Anthony G. Green (SCS '15)
 Elmer L. Constant (SoPA '18)
 Cassandra Huntington-Johnson (SoPA '22)
 Makayla Mackin (SLA '23)
 Rithvik Tadakamalla (SSE '27)

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.)



Dermot McGlinchey Lifetime Achievement Award

Avron B. Fogelman (A&S '62)

Avron B. Fogelman is the founder and chairman of Fogelman Management Group, Inc., which he grew from a small local management firm to one of the country's largest privately owned operators of multifamily apartment communities. He has served the Tulane community on such impactful bodies as the Board of Tulane, the President's Council and the Athletics Campaign Committee, as well as meaningfully supporting philanthropic priorities across the university. The Avron B. Fogelman Arena in Devlin Fieldhouse and Fogelman Hall in the new residential Village are named in his honor.



Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Robert I. Grossman (A&S '69)

Dr. Robert I. Grossman is the chief executive officer of NYU Langone Health and dean of NYU Grossman School of Medicine. During his more than 50-year medical career, Grossman has been recognized nationally as a top health care executive. He leads one of the largest health systems in the Northeast and his visionary leadership has transformed NYU Langone into one of the best academic medical centers in the U.S. Grossman also served impactfully on the Board of Tulane, where he continues to hold an emeritus role.



Lisa P. Jackson Professional Achievement Award

Julie I. Greenwald (NC '91)

Julie I. Greenwald is chairman/CEO of the newly created Atlantic Music Group. The New York native began her music career in 1992 at Def Jam Records and is today considered one of the industry's most admired executives, widely recognized for her business and creative acumen. She has been ranked five times in the number one position on Billboard's "Women in Music/Power Players" list.



International Award for Exceptional Achievement

Stanley A. Motta (B '67)

Stanley A. Motta is one of the foremost business leaders, investors and philanthropists in Latin America. He is chairman of the board of Copa Holding (NYCE CPA), ASSA Group, TVN Media, Inversiones Bahia and SUMARSE, the organization for the promotion of corporate social responsibility. Under his leadership, his organization has expanded throughout Latin America.

2024 ALUMNI AWARDS

The Tulane Alumni Awards, honoring alumni who have transformed the Tulane community and communities around the world, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024. To mark the event, the Tulane Alumni Association redesigned its awards after the earliest-known Tulane alumni dinner, hosted in 1904.



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award

Danielle Y. Conley (NC '00)

Danielle Y. Conley is a partner with Latham & Watkins LLP. Prior to joining Latham, Conley served as deputy counsel to the president in the office of White House Counsel. In that role, she advised the president, vice president and other senior White House officials on a wide array of legal issues related to voting and democracy, policing and criminal justice reform, reproductive rights, tech accountability and judicial nominations.



Robert V. Tessaro Young Alumni Volunteer Award

Eric D. Lipkind (B '11)

Eric D. Lipkind is a private wealth advisor in the investment management division of Goldman Sachs and Company. He has garnered attention for his remarkable dedication to his alma mater, including through his service as president of the Tulane Club of New York. He has spent countless hours organizing events, meeting with volunteers and representing the university at events throughout the tri-state area.



Scott Cowen Service Award

William A. Marko (E '81, E '83) and Marta Robidoux Marko (HA '20)

William A. Marko is a managing director at Jefferies LLC in the Energy Investment Banking Group and a Board of Tulane member. Marta Robidoux Marko is retired from Raytheon. The Markos have been committed service leaders at Tulane and are regional co-chairs for the Houston National Campaign Council for *Always the Audacious*. Ardent Tulane supporters who are passionate about finding treatment for Alzheimer's disease, the Markos are foundational supporters of the Tulane Brain Institute.



Tulane Medical Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award

Dr. Debra E. Houry (M '98, PHTM '98)

Dr. Debra E. Houry is currently the chief medical officer and deputy director for program and science at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Houry also serves as the designated federal officer for the advisory committee to the CDC director. She was a key leader in the reorganization of the agency, resulting in structural changes to the immediate office of the director and elevated cross-cutting units in preparedness, data and laboratories.



Bobby Boudreau Spirit Award

Charlotte Barkerding Travieso (NC '64)

Charlotte Barkerding Travieso was the executive director of the Office of Alumni Affairs at Tulane University and executive director of the Tulane University Alumni Association for 12 years before retiring in 2012. She is an emeritus past president of the Tulane Alumni Association Board of Directors and former chair of the Tulane Fund Advisory Board. She further served on the President's Council, the Bea Field Alumni House Committee, the Executive Education Board of Directors, the Newcomb Alumnae Association Board of Directors and as an official Athletics Ultimate Fan, among other roles.



Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Outstanding Alumni Award

Shalanda D. Young (PHTM '01)

After graduating from Tulane, Shalanda D. Young moved to Washington, D.C., where she began work with the National Institutes of Health as a presidential management fellow. A noted American political advisor with demonstrated skill in the area of budget negotiation, she is the current director of the Office of Management and Budget.



Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Professional Achievement Award

Cheredith D. Rhone (B '18)

Cheredith D. Rhone is a program examiner at the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. She is a current member of the Tulane Association of Business Alumni Board of Directors and serves on the board of Thrive Unburdened, LLC. She was nominated as a "Change Maker" and attended the White House summit on the United State of Women, which was hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.



A. B. Freeman School of Business Outstanding Alumni Award

David G. Moore (B '87)

David G. Moore is the co-founder, chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of MidCap Financial. He is a member of the Business School Council and has served as a judge for the Business Model Competition, as a participant in the Career Wave Program and as a Give Green ambassador. The Moore Family Undergraduate Academic Advisor Office in the Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex is named in honor of Moore and his wife, Susan Brophy Moore (B '88).

THE TEST OF TIME

BY MICHAEL A. FITTS, President

Since I arrived at Tulane 10 years ago, I have accumulated a wealth of stories and anecdotes that capture the magic of this great institution. But one story in particular stands out. In 2017, an interdisciplinary team of Tulane students won the NASA Big Idea Challenge. With majors ranging from engineering physics to architecture to economics, the Tulanians developed a truly innovative proposal that bested teams from top aerospace engineering programs nationwide. To my mind, this story encapsulates the characteristics that set Tulane apart: our interdisciplinarity, our collaborative culture and our outward-looking focus. A primary goal of my presidency has been to build an environment that leans into these traits, which are establishing us as a global leader in research and education.

From the moment undergraduates apply to Newcomb-Tulane College, they encounter an academic environment that erases the traditional boundaries between disciplines. Across the university, we have invested in interdisciplinary programs and centers that tackle the complex problems of our world, as well as state-of-the-art spaces that encourage creative collaboration. We have established 10 presidential chairs to recruit world-renowned faculty whose expertise spans fields. These efforts have contributed to an explosion in research at Tulane, with external funding up 70 percent over the past six years.

Interdisciplinarity can only thrive in an atmosphere of collaboration — and this is another area where Tulane stands out. While it may be harder to quantify than the stratospheric growth of our research enterprise or the steadily climbing caliber of our students, our relational culture sets the standard for relationship-building and emotional intelligence. We are leveraging this culture with a \$1 billion investment in transforming our campuses to facilitate engagement and connection between students, faculty, staff and the wider community.

As I have written in these pages, Tulane's identity has always been outward-facing, ever since our founding in 1834 in response to a yellow fever epidemic. When we apply our interdisciplinary ethos and our collaborative culture to problems beyond the confines of our campus, our impact is tremendous. This is why we are building a world-class academic medical center in partnership with LCMC and expanding our capacity for translational research. Through the Tulane University Innovation Institute, we are bridging the gap between academia and the real world, bringing breakthroughs and innovations to market faster.



Biomedical engineering and engineering physics students participate in the Truss-Bust Competition, where students aim to design and build the lowest-weight structure that bears the most weight. This competition was held in the Scot Ackerman MakerSpace, a collaborative workshop that facilitates interdisciplinary learning.

Ten years from now, Tulane will mark its 200th anniversary. Few institutions have managed to survive and thrive for centuries, but universities are a notable exception. Just as they are exceptional in their longevity, they are extraordinary in their scope. It's fair to say that every issue confronting society is surfaced at a university, forcing us to change and evolve. This is both our challenge and our strength: paradoxically, we owe our permanence to our adaptability. We turn our attention to every unanswered question and every intractable problem; we lean into difficult conversations, which at times can be contentious. As a result, we are better prepared for the unexpected challenges that lie ahead.

While we cannot predict what the future will bring, we can clearly see that citizens of tomorrow's world must be prepared to adapt to constant and ever-accelerating change. They must also be ready to live in a world that is no longer siloed, moving physically, mentally and culturally in and out of different spaces. The university

environment builds these skills by bringing people together from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives to learn, work and live together in an intensely relational environment.

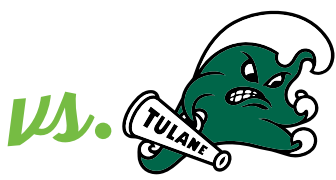
Among universities, Tulane is uniquely positioned to unlock promising new pathways for the world. Our fluid academic structure, distinctive relational culture and outward-looking focus underlie our adaptability, strength and success. No other university in the country integrates these qualities better than Tulane, and we have been building on these traits vigorously and systematically for the past decade. Exactly 400 years after John Donne wrote that "no man is an island," the digital age seems intent on isolating each of us within a solitary techno-bubble — but Tulanians understand that each and every one of us is "a piece of the continent, a part of the main." This knowledge ensures that Tulane will continue having a positive impact for centuries to come. 🍷



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Sizzle and drizzle: Tourists take refuge in a carriage ride as a summer pop-up shower cools down the steamy French Quarter streets.

PHOTO BY PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO