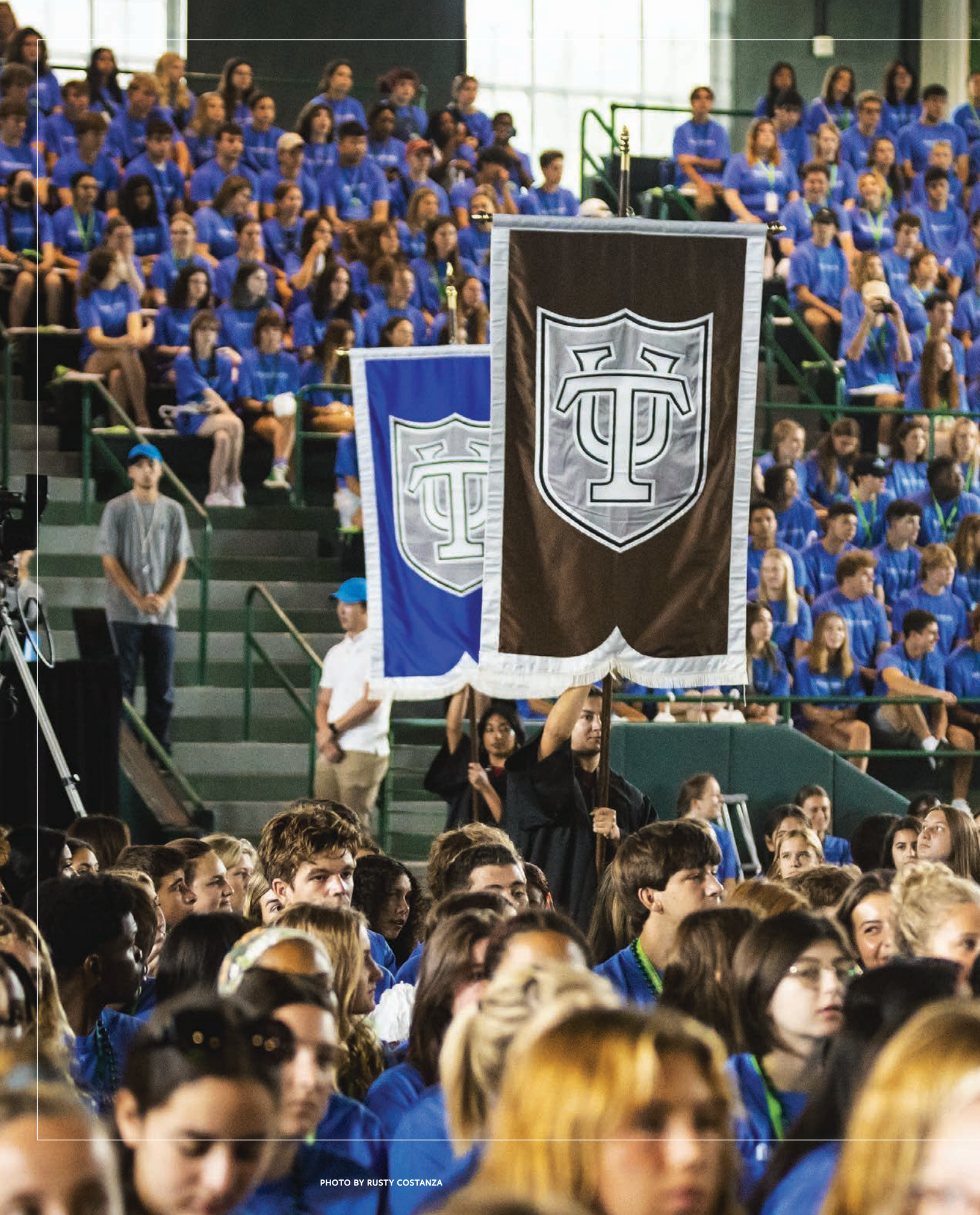


# TULANIAN



Brain Institute  
Answers Big  
Questions



## *ACADEMIC TRADITION*

At the President's Convocation for New Students, held in Avron B. Fogelman Arena in Devlin Fieldhouse on Aug. 18, students carry gonfalons representing Tulane's schools.



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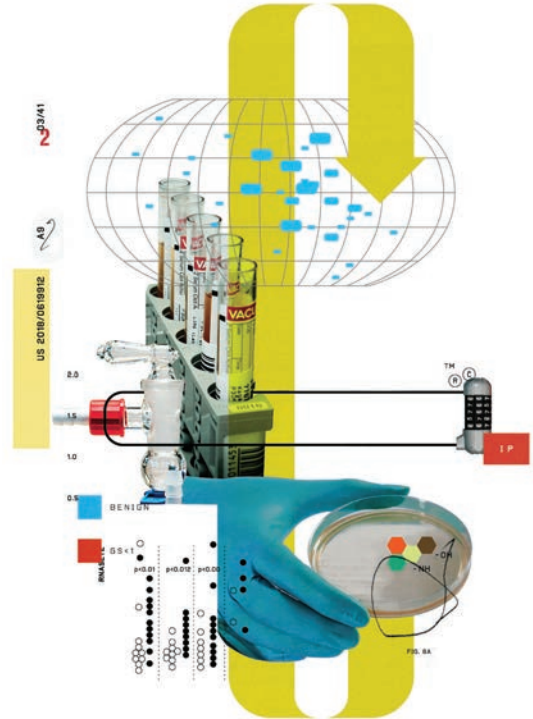
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MAIN FEATURE

## INVESTIGATIONS OF THE BRAIN

The Tulane Brain Institute under the leadership of psychology professor Jill Daniel is answering some of the biggest questions in brain science, from aging and estrogen therapy to fear and trauma. The institute involves researchers and students from all parts of the university.



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In an essay, journalist Gwen Thompkins writes about *City of a Million Dreams*, the 2021 documentary by Jason Berry. The film traces the origins and power of New Orleans funeral parades.



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Kimberly Gramm leads the Innovation Institute at the vanguard of boosting breakthroughs and discoveries and spurring creation of new businesses that will bring these advances to market faster.



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In an excerpt from his new book, *Lost in the Game: A Book About Basketball*, Thomas Beller writes about the inexorable, generational pull of a game of hoops.

# Make Way

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[tulanian.tulane.edu](https://tulanian.tulane.edu)

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Front cover: Illustration by Stuart Bradford



## From the Editor

Our cover story, “Investigations of the Brain,” exemplifies the theme for this *Tulanian*: “Interdisciplinary efforts rooted in purpose and solutions.” The story is a look at the multidisciplinary Tulane Brain Institute, where purposeful research and education address big issues in brain science, from aging and estrogen therapy to fear and trauma. In “A Coach for Innovation,” we introduce Kimberly Gramm, the new Innovation Institute’s leader who has big plans to draw on expertise from across the university to develop inventions and innovations to bring to the marketplace. “Home Movie” by alum and music authority Gwen Thompkins is an essay on New Orleans jazz funerals as depicted in the documentary *City of a Million Dreams*. Lastly, we’re pleased to present a story about basketball by English Professor Tom Beller from his new book, *Lost in the Game*.

## To the Editor

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

### The Greatest Concert

The article “Soul Bowl ’70” (*Tulanian*, spring 2022) brought back memories from 52 years ago of the greatest concert I ever attended. I was a freshman and readily volunteered when the organizers requested students to assist with security. Where else could I see James Brown, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, Isaac Hayes, Junior Walker and the All Stars, Rare Earth, and Pacific Gas and Electric — all at Tulane Stadium, a short distance from my dorm.

**Steven H. Schiff, A&S ’74**  
*Rockville, Maryland*

### More to Soul Bowl Story

Kudos to Theo Mitchell for resurrecting the history of Soul Bowl ’70 (*Tulanian*, spring 2022). Nevertheless, there are some glaring omissions to the article that need elucidating. The Afro-American Congress of Tulane (ACT) played an essential role in the conceptualization and implementation of SB ’70 as a way of raising scholarship funds for Black students. In the first decade of Tulane’s desegregation, nearly all financial aid available at the university consisted of Rockefeller Grants, Federal Student Loans or outside scholarships (I attended on a Teagle Foundation Scholarship). There were very few Blacks on sports scholarships. Black students established

ACT to recruit and retain the limited number of African Americans admitted under those Financial Aid constraints. ... The overall story of SB ’70 would be better documented with interviews of those who had first-person experiences to share.

**James C. Cook Jr., MD, A&S ’72, M ’76**  
*Jacksonville, Oregon*

### Rekindling Memories

Thanks so much for continuing to produce a superb publication that is informative and entertaining and rekindles many fond memories of living in NOLA, attending and teaching at the School of Social Work.

**Lori Posdal, SW ’89**  
*Palm City, Florida*

### Missing Sno-balls

As a former resident of New Orleans and a Newcomb graduate, the “Williams Plum Street Snoballs” picture on the back cover of the *Tulanian* this quarter [spring ’22] brought back delightful memories. ... I’ve been in the New York suburbs for 60 years but still miss those sno-balls as much as the gumbo, boiled crabs & crawfish etouffee.

**Elaine Hartel, NC ’59**  
*Ossining, New York*

# In Brief

## ON CAMPUS

### DEAN OF ADMISSION

Shawn Abbott is Tulane's new vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission. He came to the university from Temple University in Philadelphia, where he was vice provost for admissions, financial aid and enrollment management. He has also held leadership roles at NYU, Stanford and Columbia.

[tulane.it/dean-of-admission](https://tulane.it/dean-of-admission)

## ACADEMICS

### CLASS OF 2026

About 1,875 new undergraduate students entered Tulane in fall 2022. These students are the highest achieving and most diverse in university history. They were selected from an applicant pool of 43,028, which made Tulane's acceptance rate 8.4%. Twenty-eight were valedictorians of their high schools, and 178 had perfect GPAs. Thirty-two are Louisiana Promise students who are enrolled with their full financial need met without loans.

[tulane.it/class-of-2026](https://tulane.it/class-of-2026)

## ACADEMICS

### ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

Laura McKinney, associate professor of sociology, and Michelle Foa, associate professor of art history, have received a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities to develop a minor in environmental humanities. The interdisciplinary curriculum will give students more opportunities for deep examination of people's relationship to the environment and draw on the expertise of humanities, social and natural sciences, and architecture faculty.

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

## QUOTED

“If we don't take the information we currently have and **be proactive by addressing the potential negative impacts on academics, emotions and socialization**, we are going to have more children with anxiety or children experiencing depression, hopelessness, etc.”

**MAURYA GLAUDE**, a professor of practice at the School of Social Work, quoted in an article in *Teen Vogue*, discussing the mental health of teens in Southeast Louisiana who are affected by hurricanes.

[tulane.it/teen-vogue-2022](https://tulane.it/teen-vogue-2022)

## ENGLISH

### FICTION PRIZE

Professor of English and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities Jesmyn Ward was awarded the 2022 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. The annual prize honors an American literary writer whose body of work is distinguished for its mastery and originality. Ward is the youngest person to receive the award.

[tulane.it/fiction-prize](https://tulane.it/fiction-prize)

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### SKIP THE SALT

Dr. Lu Qi of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine found that people who always add extra salt to their meals have a 28% higher risk of dying prematurely compared to those who never or rarely add salt. By age 50, always adding salt could shave off 2.28 years for men and 1.5 years for women.

[tulane.it/skip-the-salt](https://tulane.it/skip-the-salt)



**FROM CAMPUS**  
**NEW PODCASTS AVAILABLE**

*On Good Authority*, Tulane's official podcast, carries on with new episodes featuring School of Medicine's Dr. Demetri Maraganore about **better brain health**, alumna Franziska Trautmann (SSE '20) on **glass recycling**, School of Professional Advancement's Suri Duitch on **changing workplaces** and more.

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

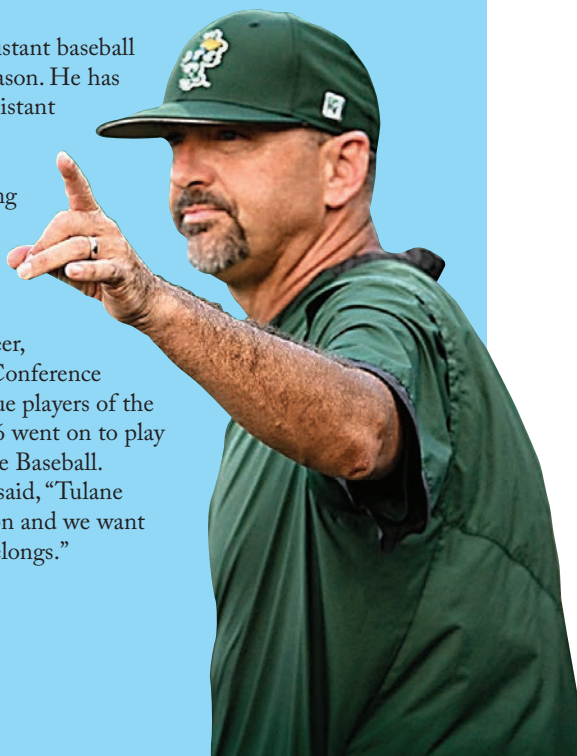
# A NEW HEAD BASEBALL COACH FOR THE GREEN WAVE

Jay Uhlman was named head coach of the Tulane baseball team in June, after serving as interim coach. While interim, Uhlman led the team to the American Athletic Conference's semifinal round.

Uhlman joined the Green Wave staff as assistant baseball coach in 2019, guiding the team to a 15-2 season. He has more than two decades' experience as an assistant and head coach. Prior to Tulane, Uhlman spent eight seasons as a member of the University of Oregon baseball staff, including three years as associate head coach. He has also coached in the junior college ranks and held positions with teams in the Western Athletic Conference, Pac-12 and Big 12 conferences. Throughout his career, Uhlman has coached and recruited 85 All-Conference honorees, 22 All-Americans and seven league players of the year. Among the players he has coached, 106 went on to play professionally, including 24 in Major League Baseball.

Of his role as new head coach, Uhlman said, "Tulane Baseball has such a rich history and tradition and we want to see this program back on top, where it belongs."

[tulane.it/new-baseball-coach](https://tulane.it/new-baseball-coach)



## EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### RIVER CHANNELS

José Silvestre, a PhD candidate in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, is part of a team of scientists that analyzed 50 years of satellite imagery to generate the first global database of river avulsions. Avulsions occur when a river abruptly jumps course and forges a new river channel. Silvestre hopes to gain a better understanding of what controls avulsion location in the context of climate and land use changes.

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



## MEDICINE

### FAST TB TEST

Using CRISPR analysis, School of Medicine researchers have developed a highly sensitive blood test for tuberculosis that screens for DNA fragments of the bacteria that cause the disease. The test can deliver results within two hours.

Dr. Tony Hu, Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation and professor in biochemistry and molecular biology, biomedical engineering, and microbiology, is lead author of the study.

[tulane.it/fast-tb-test](https://tulane.it/fast-tb-test)

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

### HEALTHCARE INEQUITIES

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine assistant professors Brigham Walker and Janna Wisniewski and professors from Portland State University presented research on the barriers patients from marginalized communities face when seeking primary care appointments and how healthcare providers can address these inequities. The research is part of Count the Costs: Racial Inequity, launched by The Albert Lepage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the A. B. Freeman School of Business, which awards research grants to projects focused on identifying and addressing the economic impacts of racial inequities.

[tulane.it/healthcare-inequities](https://tulane.it/healthcare-inequities)

# COVID-19 RESEARCH

## MENSTRUAL CHANGES

Katharine Lee, assistant professor of anthropology, co-authored a study that found COVID-19 vaccines affected people's menstrual periods, especially those who don't typically have periods due to long-acting contraceptives, gender-affirming hormone treatments or menopause. The study began shortly after vaccines became widely available and individuals reported through social media changes in their menstrual cycles after receiving the vaccines.

[tulane.it/menstrual-changes](https://tulane.it/menstrual-changes)

## VASCULAR EFFECTS

Researchers are investigating the role endothelial cells play in the development of severe and long COVID-19. The cells line blood vessel walls and can malfunction following SARS-CoV-2 infection. This dysfunction can cause blood clotting in organs, as seen in the most severe COVID-19 cases. Dr. Xuebin Qin of the Tulane National Primate Research Center is leading the research.

[tulane.it/vascular-effects](https://tulane.it/vascular-effects)

Make  Way

For more research and other news,  
go to Tulane Today:  
[tulane.it/tulane-today](https://tulane.it/tulane-today)

### JEWISH STUDIES

## GIRLS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS

According to a study co-authored by Ilana Horwitz, assistant professor in the Department of Jewish Studies and holder of the Fields-Rayant Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life, girls raised by Jewish parents are 23 percentage points more likely to graduate college than girls with a non-Jewish upbringing. Girls raised by Jewish parents also graduate from more selective colleges, the study, which involved researchers from Cornell and Stanford universities, found.

[tulane.it/girls-academic-success](https://tulane.it/girls-academic-success)

### BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

## ENDOMETRIOSIS DETECTION

Four School of Science and Engineering students won the grand prize at the eighth annual Tulane Novel Tech Challenge for their design of a home-use test to detect endometriosis. Named Team Fleur FemTech, the group developed a tool that utilizes lateral flow technology and antibody detection techniques to determine if a person has elevated levels of antibodies associated with endometriosis.

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

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

## DATA ACCESSIBILITY

Brian Summa, assistant professor of computer science, was awarded an Early Career Award from the U.S. Department of Energy to examine how to decrease data size from supercomputers to make the data more accessible and easier to analyze. Summa is one of 83 researchers from across the country to receive the award.

[tulane.it/data-accessibility](https://tulane.it/data-accessibility)

### ARCHITECTURE

## U.N. CLIMATE REPORT

Jesse M. Keenan, the Favrot II Associate Professor of Real Estate at the School of Architecture, contributed to the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report: Mitigation of Climate Change*. The report provides an updated global assessment of emissions pathways and progress to curb those emissions. Keenan served as editor of the chapter on buildings, which focuses on how buildings can be constructed, managed and operated in a manner that reduces greenhouse gases and promotes sustainability.

[tulane.it/climate-report](https://tulane.it/climate-report)

### MEDICINE

## HYPERMOBILITY CLINIC

Dr. Jacques Courseault, assistant professor of sports medicine at the School of Medicine, has opened one of the world's first Ehlers-Danlos syndrome clinics, the Tulane Hypermobility Clinic. The Ehlers-Danlos syndrome is a group of inherited genetic conditions that affects connective tissue. The idea to open the clinic came after Courseault saw several patients with a range of symptoms resembling the syndrome.

[tulane.it/hypermobility-clinic](https://tulane.it/hypermobility-clinic)

### HISTORY

## CIVICALLY ENGAGED

Laura Rosanne Adderley, associate professor of history, was named a finalist for the Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award, presented by the Campus Compact coalition of universities. Nominees are considered for their collaboration with communities, institutional impact and academic work. Adderley was nominated by the Tulane Center for Public Service for her community-based initiatives rooted in public humanities.

[tulane.it/civically-engaged](https://tulane.it/civically-engaged)



“Umbrellas — and minds — work best when they are open. ... Together, with our umbrellas, we are prepared for any storm.”

**MICHAEL A. FITTS**, president of Tulane University, at the Convocation for New Students in Avron B. Fogelman Arena in Devlin Fieldhouse on Aug. 18, 2022. Students were provided second-line umbrellas, which they were encouraged to adorn with memorabilia.

[tulane.it/welcome-convocation](https://tulane.it/welcome-convocation)



CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

**FEAR MEMORIES**

Researchers found that the stress neurotransmitter norepinephrine, or noradrenaline, in the brain facilitates fear processing by stimulating neurons in the amygdala to generate a pattern of electrical discharges. This pattern changes the frequency of brain wave oscillation to an aroused state that promotes the formation of fear memories. Jeffrey Tasker, professor of cell and molecular biology and holder of the Catherine and Hunter Pierson Chair in Neuroscience, and Xin Fu, PhD student, led this research.

[tulane.it/fear-memories](https://tulane.it/fear-memories)

MEDICINE

**TREATMENT FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**

A study led by Dr. Nassir Marrouche, director of the Tulane Heart and Vascular Institute, shows that the simple approach — compared to advanced image-guided technology to aggressively target diseased areas of the heart — has better patient outcomes when it comes to ablation, a procedure that destroys cardiac tissue to correct irregular heart rhythms, also known as atrial fibrillation.

[tulane.it/atrial-fibrillation-treatment](https://tulane.it/atrial-fibrillation-treatment)

MEDICINE

**KIDNEY FUNCTION**

A research team led by Dr. Samir El-Dahr, Jane B. Aron Professor and chair of pediatrics at the School of Medicine, examined why human kidneys, which are composed of nearly a million filter units, stop creating new filter cells after birth. The researchers used a mouse model to understand what occurs when a fetal stem cell differentiates into a mature kidney cell. Researchers found that near the time of birth, the DNA blueprint that controls the fate of kidney stem cells changes dramatically.

[tulane.it/kidney-function](https://tulane.it/kidney-function)

ENGINEERING PHYSICS

**NASA COMPETITION**

Engineering physics senior Kate Scalet, and graduates Elliot Lorenz, Austin Wolf and Brock Headen were finalists in a NASA competition for design concepts that allow the expansion of human space exploration, including short-term stays and scientific operations on planetary bodies. The team’s project: a mobile cube that “blooms” into a flower-like shape when deployed and is intended to provide communication capabilities, power generation, energy storage and multipurpose storage on the moon.

[tulane.it/nasa-competition-2022](https://tulane.it/nasa-competition-2022)

ARCHITECTURE

**SPRUCING UP TEMPORARY HOME**

Architecture students Jose Castillo, James Poche and Chelsea Kilgore won the 2022 Newcomb Quad Pavilion Design Competition for their project “Melt” — decals to adorn the School of Architecture’s temporary home — while the school’s permanent home, Richardson Memorial Hall, undergoes extensive renovation. “Melt” depicts a timeline of the school’s past, present and future. The design also features new seating on the quad.

[tulane.it/temporary-home](https://tulane.it/temporary-home)



Tulane offers doctoral, master's and professional degrees focused on finding innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

# Up First 5,900

Nearly **5,900 graduate and professional students are enrolled at Tulane.** They experience unparalleled access to collaboration, service and opportunity while tackling meaningful work that is both timely and relevant.

3

Graduate education is offered at **three campuses** in New Orleans — uptown, downtown and Elmwood.

200+

In **more than 200 graduate degree programs**, graduate students follow their curiosity as they explore and conduct research.

90

**Ninety research institutes and centers worldwide** are part of Tulane, including the Brain Institute and the new Innovation Institute. Other multidisciplinary centers are the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, the Murphy Institute for Political Economy, the Center for Cellular and Molecular Diagnostics and more.

1/3

**One-third** of the nearly 14,500 students enrolled at Tulane are graduate and professional students, contributing to the university's powerful, unique and transformative community.

1 of 65

Tulane is **one of 65 members of the Association of American Universities.** The AAU is an organization of American research universities devoted to maintaining a strong system of academic research and education. AAU membership is by invitation only and requires an affirmative vote of three-quarters of current members.



## ON THE UPSWING

BY JILL DORJE

Indigenous people and culture are still here in the U.S. and worthy of recognition and study, according to Professor of Anthropology Judith Maxwell, founder and director of the Native American Studies Minor program.

“There has been an intellectual erasure of Native America. If you talk to most people about Native Americans, they tend to talk about them in the past tense. The message I’m delivering is — we are still here,” said Judith Maxwell, professor of anthropology in the School of Liberal Arts. “Native Americans have and are contributing to United States history.”

The Native American Studies Minor, a program that Maxwell founded and directs, grew out of her work for the past 10 years with the Tunica-Biloxi tribe of Louisiana. When she started the project, Tunica was a “sleeping language,” as it had no Native speakers, despite being a community that identifies with the language and culture. The language is now reawakening, with approximately 80 Tunica-Biloxi children who are learning the language, five adult master teachers and about 20 fluent Tulanians.

In the classroom, Maxwell discusses issues that tribes face across the country, including environmental concerns about mineral rights and management of natural resources on Indigenous territory.

“Perhaps the most important thing is the recognition. Because if you recognize that Indigenous people are still here, then you can think about how you interact with them and what kind of policies you might be willing to support in the future considering their effect on Indigenous peoples,” said Maxwell. 🇺🇸

A member of the Etowah Tribe and a professor of anthropology, Judith Maxwell is cultivating understanding and awareness of Indigenous people and culture.

## SLAVERY HISTORY PROJECT

BY KEITH BRANNON

Tulane has joined a consortium of more than 90 universities across the country that are researching and publicly documenting how their institutional histories are tied to slavery and its lasting legacy.

Created and led by the University of Virginia, Universities Studying Slavery (USS) is a leading resource for universities to share best practices in launching and managing research projects that address ties to the slave trade and racism throughout their histories.

The consortium will be a guide for the Tulane University History Project, a long-term effort to research and develop a detailed history of Tulane with respect to its racial history and founding, including the impacts from slavery, segregation and systemic racism. Working with historians, archivists and community members, researchers will conduct a deep and rigorous historical study of Tulane from its founding as the Medical College of Louisiana in 1834 to the present.

“As we work to become a more inclusive and supportive university community for everyone, it is essential that we fully understand our past,” said Tulane President Michael A. Fitts.

“Our membership in the Universities Studying Slavery consortium will help us create a strong foundation for our work ahead,” said Robin Forman, Tulane senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. 🇺🇸

**“Through the USS, Tulane hopes to discover the truth of its past and to use this truth as a guide to a better future.”**

MICHAEL A. FITTS, president

# SAILING SUCCESS

BY BARRI BRONSTON

**W**hen Ciara Rodriguez-Horan, who's studying environmental studies and computer science, was recruited to join the Green Wave sailing team in its inaugural year, she knew she'd be taking a chance by saying yes. On the other hand, she felt that Tulane was the right place at the right time.

The Miami native did say yes, and four years later, she calls it one of the best decisions of her life.

"Honestly, it did not take a lot of convincing," said Rodriguez-Horan, the team captain. "I knew what the school had to offer, saw the potential the team had for success, and I was locked-in, ready to go."

Coach Charles Higgins, who took the helm of Tulane sailing after 10 years as an assistant coach at Old Dominion, could not have been happier. He said Rodriguez-Horan and the other students who signed on to the team in 2018 set the tone for the team's early and continued success.

"That first year was a bit of an unknown, as far as who was going to come," Higgins said. "We were selling a dream."

Sailing had been a club sport at Tulane for many years. But in 2017, after careful consideration of facility availability,


established interest and potential for competitive success, combined with support from Elizabeth "Libby" Connolly Alexander (NC '84) and Robert Alexander as well as a solid partnership with Community Sailing New Orleans, Tulane Athletics made sailing its newest fully funded varsity sport. The program includes women's and coed teams.

Among the team's many successes was claiming the 2022 ICSA (Intercollegiate Sailing Association) Open Dinghy National Championship, beating the Yale Bulldogs

by one point. Last year, the women's team finished as the national runner-up at ICSA Women's Championship Regatta.

"Very few, if any, thought we were even in the hunt," Higgins said. "We proved that we were more than underdogs."

Rodriguez-Horan attributes the team's success to the closeness of its members.

"This team is a family, and we push each other on and off the water. I couldn't have asked for a better four years, a better coach or better teammates." 

The Tulane Green Wave sailing team wins the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Open Dinghy Race National Championship on the waters of Lake Pontchartrain on May 22, 2022. The team topped the Yale Bulldogs to secure the Wave's first title since 1973.





## FREE NEUTRONS

BY BARRI BRONSTON

Fred Wietfeldt, professor and chair of physics and engineering physics, has been awarded an \$8.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation — the largest ever direct NSF award to Tulane.

**T**he grant is to build a new apparatus aimed at solving “one of the most important problems in physics today” — precisely measuring the lifetime of a free neutron.

The neutron, a fundamental particle present in the core nucleus of all atoms — except hydrogen — is an important ingredient of ordinary matter. Neutrons contribute the “glue” that holds the atomic nucleus together. Most of the mass of the Earth is provided by neutrons. But when freed from the confines of a stable atom, the neutron is unstable. It decays with a lifetime of about 15 minutes into a proton, electron, and antineutrino, a light, electrically neutral particle.

“This free neutron decay was a key process in the early universe,” Wietfeldt said. “It governed the formation of the lightest elements in the first 5 minutes after the Big Bang. In particular, the neutron decay rate determined the amounts of helium and hydrogen in the early clouds of gas that later developed into stars and galaxies.”

The neutron lifetime has been measured by dozens of experiments over the past 70 years, but the most precise results from the two leading methods — cold neutron beam measurements and ultracold neutron storage measurements — significantly disagree by more than 4 standard deviations.

Correcting that discrepancy is the goal of the experiment, which will use a new apparatus called BL<sub>3</sub>. “We will measure the free neutron lifetime using the cold beam method to unprecedented precision and innovative techniques that promise to resolve the neutron lifetime discrepancy,” Wietfeldt said. 🍷

Fred Wietfeldt, professor of physics, says that precision measurements of fundamental quantities such as the neutron lifetime enable scientists to critically test theories of physics and the universe.

New students, parents and friends express their excitement on social media about the Move-In experience in August.

**And the journey begins!!** May GOD be with me and may the odds be in my favour ❤️ There is no turning back 😊

[thebloggerfrompeshawar](#)

A hot, steamy, seamless move in day @tulaneu!

Never thought this day would really come.

**So very proud of you!** ❤️❤️🇺🇸 #tulane

#myboy #class of 2026

#imnotcrying #NOLA

[@JoanHalpern](#)

What an emotional day to be able to support this strong Latina in attending a top school in the US. Jannette is making big moves...

better said, BIG

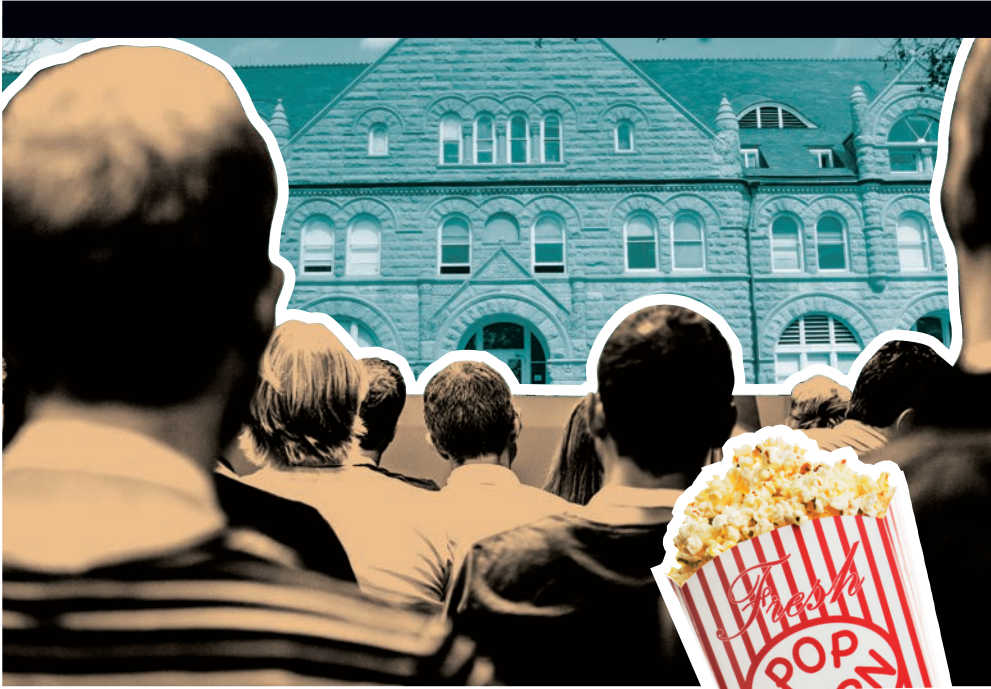
WAVES!! **Si se puede**

 **Tulane University**

Elle Jay is with Sal Diaz

Got @Tulane's newest freshman all moved in today. Sad to say goodbye but **excited to see what the next four years will bring for her.**

[@mattgandal](#)



## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

BY ANGUS LIND, A&S '66

Memorable movies have been filmed on the streets of New Orleans and the Tulane campus for decades.

If you are familiar with historic St. Charles Avenue where Tulane University is situated and you happen to live there, you drive past Tulane a lot. I fall into this category and as long as I'm in town there isn't a day I don't drive past Tulane. A bonus: Gibson Hall is gorgeous in the spring with its blooming azaleas.

There has been considerable construction work on all streets in this area since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and more recently Hurricane Ida. Traffic cones and No Parking signs seemingly have become a permanent part of the landscape. Another constant is that a movie or TV show is being filmed near Tulane or Loyola University or across the avenue at the Round Table Club or in mammoth Audubon Park with its oaks.

All of these are great venues for filming. There's the picturesque TU quadrangle with its sprawling oaks, Dinwiddie Hall, the stone building that features carved gargoyles and suggests that bats could emerge at night. And then there are the fraternity and sorority houses. I've been convinced since my time at Tulane more than 50 years ago that *National Lampoon's Animal House* with John Belushi could have been filmed at my long gone fraternity Beta Theta Pi.

Why? Well, we had a pretty solid history of shenanigans. From the second floor bathroom we frequently filled balloons with water and tossed them out the window when people were walking up the front stairs. The victim could be one of our own members, coeds or on one unfortunate

occasion the mailman. A direct hit into his mailbag caused mail delivery to be suspended and we were forced to go to the post office to pick up our mail, which we didn't do because we were too lazy.

Which without mail meant we got no bills, which of course weren't paid, which provided money for more parties with bands. Genius! "Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life," as Faber College Dean Vernon Wormer lectured the members of Delta Tau Chi, aka the Deltas, who were always on "double secret probation."

Which got me to thinking about movies filmed at Tulane. *Number One* in 1968 was a total bomb. It starred Charlton Heston as an aging quarterback for the New Orleans Saints. The game was filmed at old Tulane Stadium on Willow Street. Heston was the most un-athletic human I've ever seen. I remember this all too well as I was an extra in that movie.

Other movies filmed at Tulane include 22 *Jump Street*, *Bad Moms*, *Kristy* and by light years the best, John Grisham's 1993 *The Pelican Brief* starring Julia Roberts and Denzel Washington. The film won multiple awards for acting and box office appeal.

It's a thriller about a young Tulane law student Darby Shaw (Julia Roberts) whose legal brief about the murder of two Supreme Court Justices causes her to be targeted by hit men. She's then aided by investigative reporter Gray Grantham (Denzel Washington) of the *Washington Post*.

Shaw realizes how accurate her accusations are when her mentor and lover is murdered after eating lunch with her at Antoine's Restaurant on St. Louis Street in the French Quarter. Shaw watches as Professor Thomas Callahan gets in his car on nearby South Peters Street, and it explodes. Eventually Grantham helps her unravel a conspiracy involving senior government officials.

Then there was *JFK*, a 1991 Oliver Stone movie, starring Kevin Costner as Tulane Law School graduate and District Attorney Jim Garrison. In the movie Joe Pesci played David Ferrie, a seedy character who DA Garrison investigated. Pesci famously said of the whole story, "It's a mystery wrapped in a riddle inside of an enigma." 🍿

# BREAKING BARRIERS

BY FAITH DAWSON

With a U.S. State Department grant, Tulane alumni and students formed a nonprofit organization to provide international affairs career guidance and mentorship to underrepresented students from noncoastal areas of the United States.

A team of Tulane alumni and students recently received a \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State's Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund to increase the number of diverse students pursuing careers in international affairs.

Tulane alumni Kyla Denwood (SLA '21), Emma Brick-Hezeau (SLA '21), Emma Hawkes (SLA '19), and Ashley Chen (NTC '21) and student Ayanna Hill created the nonprofit organization Youth International Leadership Initiative (YILI). YILI seeks to provide international affairs career guidance and mentorship to underrepresented students from noncoastal areas of the United States.

With 15 undergraduates and new college graduates in its first cohort, YILI works from a virtual format. The plan arose from Denwood's personal network and her own international experiences, notably as a Youth Ambassador at Expo 2020 in Dubai, where many of the ambassadors came from coastal states like California and New York.

"I noticed that students of color and also students from noncoastal areas — we didn't have the same experiences. So I knew entering into international affairs careers in general is going to be harder for us because we don't have our résumés packed with international affairs opportunities. I came up with this idea ... to create a network of people that will help each other achieve these opportunities," said Denwood, who is from Chicago.

She designed YILI as a project of a 16-week program sponsored by the Pacific Council for International Policy. To meet the council's criteria, "My project was translating local problems to global problems and figuring out how we can combine the two to create solutions," she said.

Denwood, who also holds a position with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C., later recruited teammates whom she knew from Tulane.

"It's been an amazing experience to work in this field and hear other people's stories about how they've also had trouble breaking into this field," Denwood said. "I feel like, even though we just started, we've already made a huge impact on the people we've reached." 🍷

**"It's been an amazing experience to work in this field and hear other people's stories about how they've also had trouble breaking into this field. I feel like, even though we just started, we've already made a huge impact on the people we've reached."**



Kyla Denwood (SLA '21), who double majored in international development and economics with a minor in Spanish, is seeking to create a network of people who will help each other find more opportunities in international careers.

BY DIETMAR FELBER

The first writer after World War II to use *Konzentrationslager* — “concentration camp” — in German-language literature, Ilse Aichinger was a major voice in the work of memory of the Holocaust.

# ILSE AICHINGER'S



## ALMOST FORGOTTEN VISIT TO TULANE

Last November, Germany and Austria celebrated the 100th birthday of Ilse Aichinger, one of the greatest writers after World War II and a major voice in the literature of the Holocaust. Although no one remembers it now, this voice spoke at Tulane University once, on Nov. 15, 1967. On that day, Aichinger read from her work at the Alumni House on Willow Street, according to an entry in the monthly calendar *Docket*, whose discovery we owe to University Archivist Ann Case.

We also have a snapshot (this page) of the visiting author in conversation with an unknown faculty member. The picture was likely taken at the Alumni House or in the Department of German and shows a jovial and smiling Aichinger with a couple of books in her hand.

Finally, we have a thank-you note from Aichinger, written across the back of a postcard (facing page) and dated Feb. 6, 1968. The note is her reply to a letter the Department of German had sent her around Christmas.

In polite yet enthusiastic words, Aichinger conveys her thanks for a wonderful visit and for the follow-up letter with photographs. The front of her postcard shows Paul Klee's *Landscape Wagon No. 14*.



Klee's dream-like construction is at once house, field, vegetation and vehicle on wheels. In her note, Aichinger explicitly refers to this bizarre chariot: "I would like to return to New Orleans in this or any other vehicle." Her reference to Klee's "wagon" adds a dash of whimsical humor to her customary thank-you note, while her selection of art by Klee slips a sly anti-Nazi connotation into it.

How did Ilse Aichinger become the writer who went on an American reading tour that included Tulane University? Which of her works might she have read at the Alumni House on Nov. 15, 1967? She and her twin sister, Helga, were born to a Jewish mother and a Catholic father in Vienna in 1921. While Helga fled Nazi Germany on a child transport to London in 1939, Ilse and their mother, Berta, stayed behind. They survived the Holocaust, but Berta's mother, Gisela, and siblings Erna and Felix did not. They were deported and murdered in 1942.

Initially, Aichinger merely wanted to report on the Nazi persecution of children, but she gradually turned toward imaginative literature. Her first publication, "The Fourth Gate," appeared in a newspaper on Sept. 1, 1945. It focuses on a group of Jewish children who play in Vienna's Jewish Cemetery because they are barred from City Park. Asked what would happen if they went to the Park, a little boy "throws his ball into the radiant sky" and replies calmly: "Concentration camp."

In this exchange, the word *Konzentrationslager* appeared for the first time in German-language literature. "The Fourth Gate" also referred to "the urns of Buchenwald." Françoise Rétif and other scholars therefore suggest that Aichinger was "one of the first, if not the very first to fight against collective suppression and to call for the work of memory."

Most likely, Aichinger did not read "The Fourth Gate" at Tulane, but she may have read from the novel that grew from that seed: *The Greater Hope* (1948). The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum characterizes this novel as a "highly symbolic and dreamlike work that describes the fate of a group of Jewish children in Vienna during World War II and how the realities of life under Nazi occupation gradually overwhelm childhood dreams." In chapter 6, we find

out what happened to the children from the cemetery: as they playfully enact the Nativity scene at home, they are unwittingly detained by a Gestapo agent, taken to a camp and murdered.

Or maybe Aichinger read *Mirror Story* at the Alumni House, the work that made her famous in Germany in 1952. *Mirror Story* relates the life of a woman dying after an abortion, but mirrors time so that it runs backwards to her birth: death is birth. For Aichinger, the recognition of death jolts life into more intense living: "Everything is for the last time. If we comprehended that, love would reveal itself to us. Repetition only sets the rhythm."

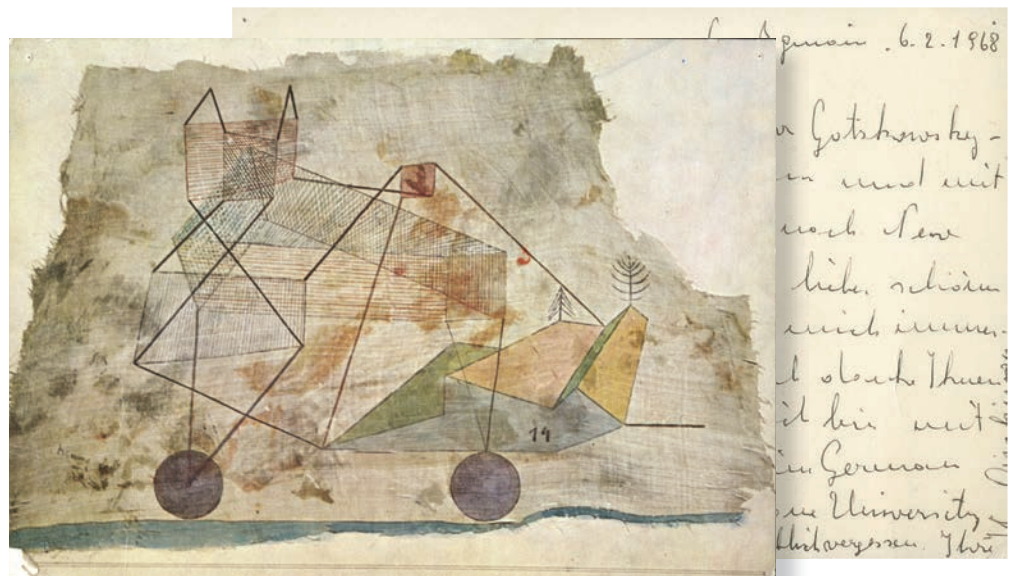
Maybe she chose neither of these two works but instead read "The Bound Man," a story about a man who attains an unheard-of grace of movement that depends on being fettered with rope all over his body. Aichinger's stories undermine conventional language and understanding by means of surreal, dream-like events, ambivalent symbols, baffling paradoxes and confounding parables that ask for interpretation but deny any definitive resolution of meaning. When she retells fairy tales like Grimm's *The Wolf and the Seven Young Goats*, as she later did in the 1970s, they turn into prose poems about mass murder.

Whatever Aichinger read at Tulane, we know that she read in German. After the war and the Holocaust, Germanophone writers had to find a language that could speak to the historical catastrophe they

**After the war and the Holocaust, Germanophone writers had to find a language that could speak to the historical catastrophe they had experienced; destroy the language of the Third Reich; express the inexpressible in words; and inscribe in memory the people and the places that had been lost.**

had experienced; destroy the language of the Third Reich; express the inexpressible in words; and inscribe in memory the people and the places that had been lost. Aichinger's defamiliarizing, disorienting, shocking image-language was one of many responses to this dilemma. The faculty and students at the Alumni House thus heard post-Holocaust literary German from the mouth of its creator — as did audiences in Boston, Montreal, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., New York City and other cities. Along with other institutions, Tulane played a role in disseminating in America Ilse Aichinger's answer to German literature's dilemma. Moreover, by means of its foreign language teaching, Tulane enabled its students to become listening participants in this post-war German and American language history. ▣

*Dietmar Felber is a PhD candidate and language instructor in the Tulane Department of German and Slavic Studies.*



# Investigations of the BRAIN



The Tulane Brain Institute under the leadership of psychology professor Jill Daniel is answering some of the biggest questions in brain science, from aging and estrogen therapy to fear and trauma. The institute involves researchers and students from all parts of the university.

**BY BARRI BRONSTON**

**S**hannon McQuillen (SSE '20, '21) is passionate about the brain — so much so that she enrolled at Tulane University largely because of the school's acclaimed neuroscience program. Her studies eventually led her to the Tulane Brain Institute, which, still in its infancy, was already making a name for itself in the world of brain research.

Around the same time, McQuillen's grandmother, who had had dementia for many years, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, a brain disorder that wiped out her memory and thinking skills.

"Watching her progress into Alzheimer's disease ignited a passion in me to learn everything I could about what was happening to her brain as she aged," said McQuillen, who is now in her second year at Tulane School of Medicine.

"Ultimately, this is what pushed me to seek out a position in Dr. (Jill) Daniel's lab during my junior year at Tulane. She was focusing on sex differences in neurodegenerative diseases, which I felt was a perfect fit for me."

Conducting research under Daniel (G '97, '00), a professor of psychology and director of the Brain Institute, was the highlight of McQuillen's undergraduate experience. She was so absorbed in her studies that after earning a Bachelor of Science with a major in neuroscience and a minor in psychology in 2020, she stayed at Tulane an additional year to get her master's.

"I wasn't quite ready to stop learning about the brain," said McQuillen, whose older brother Brendan McQuillen (SSE '18, '19) was also a neuroscience student at Tulane.

## A Gamut of Research

Daniel, the Gary P. Dohanich Professor in Brain Science, is grateful to have had such an impact on students like Shannon McQuillen. But she is quick to point out that she is only one part of the institute. Since its inception in 2016, the Brain Institute has been an all-encompassing, interdisciplinary entity, bringing together brain experts from across the university, including the School of Science and Engineering on the uptown campus, the School of Medicine, and School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine on the downtown campus and the Tulane National Primate Research Center on the North Shore in Covington.

The faculty includes neuroscientists, neural engineers and clinical researchers, all working to fulfill the three pillars under which the institute began — research, education and community outreach.

“The boundary-crossing research being conducted through the institute has grown exponentially, resulting in myriad discoveries being made by top faculty,” Daniel said. “This allows our undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the institute’s significant work.”

Research studies have run the gamut from one that is delving into the link between diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease to another that is looking into ways to end opioid addiction. Other areas of research include genetic aging, panic disorder, and the link between stress and mental health disorders.

## Estrogen and the Brain

Earlier this year, the Brain Institute received one of the biggest grants ever awarded to Tulane — a \$14 million award from the National Institute on Aging to study why the brain-protecting benefits of estrogen may not apply to all women, especially those with hypertension and Type 2 diabetes.

“It was a real coup to get this,” said Daniel, who serves as the principal investigator on the grant. “It’s very competitive. We started working on our grant proposal in 2019, and with support of the Tulane Office of Research Proposal Development, we developed a 540-page proposal.”

The lead investigators include Sarah Lindsey, PhD, an associate professor of pharmacology; Ricardo Mostany, PhD, an associate professor of pharmacology; Laura Schrader, PhD, an associate professor of cell and molecular biology; and Andrea Zsombok, PhD, an associate professor of physiology.

Under the five-year grant, Daniel is leading a team of scientists from the Tulane schools of Science and Engineering, Medicine, and Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the LSU Health Sciences Center, and Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in determining under what conditions estrogen therapy may increase or decrease risk for developing dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.





“The boundary-crossing research being conducted through the institute has grown exponentially, resulting in myriad discoveries being made by top faculty. This allows our undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the institute’s significant work.”

**JILL DANIEL | DIRECTOR** and the Gary P. Dohanich Professor in Brain Science

Jill Daniel is a professor of psychology and director of the interdisciplinary Brain Institute.

Daniel said preliminary evidence suggests that post-menopausal women taking estrogen, a hormone that plays an important role in sexual and reproductive development, could be at increased risk of cognitive disease if they have a pre-existing condition such as Type 2 diabetes or hypertension. The project will determine if and how estrogens interact with cardiovascular and metabolic health to impact the brain and cognitive aging.

“In the lab, estrogens are neuroprotective and enhance memory,” Daniel said. “Yet in women, effects of menopausal estrogen therapy on aging brains can range from beneficial to detrimental.

“We hypothesize that cardiovascular and metabolic disease alter the neuroprotective effects of estrogens. This comprehensive research program will determine mechanisms by which a healthy brain responds differently to estrogens as compared to an unhealthy one, and identify conditions under which estrogen administration will or will not prevent or delay age-related cognitive disease.”

## Growth of the Institute

Daniel, who received her master’s and doctoral degrees from Tulane, has served as the institute’s director since its inception in 2016. She is proud of its growth, especially in terms of research funding. Brain Institute faculty currently

serve as principal investigators on \$90 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, compared to \$45 million in 2016. And new research initiatives have led to \$23 million in new federal grant funding.

Dr. Stacy Drury, associate director of the Brain Institute and the Remigio Gonzalez, MD, Professor of Child Psychiatry at Tulane medical school, was awarded a \$2.9 million grant from the NIH to lead a research network that will set methodological standards for studying a part of the chromosome that scientists increasingly recognize as an important biological marker of aging and age-related diseases.

“We are charged with bringing together all of the international experts in the field and becoming a central focus for this research across the globe,” she said.

Drury believes the institute is poised to become an internationally recognized research center, especially in the areas of neurodegeneration and the impact of trauma on the central nervous system.

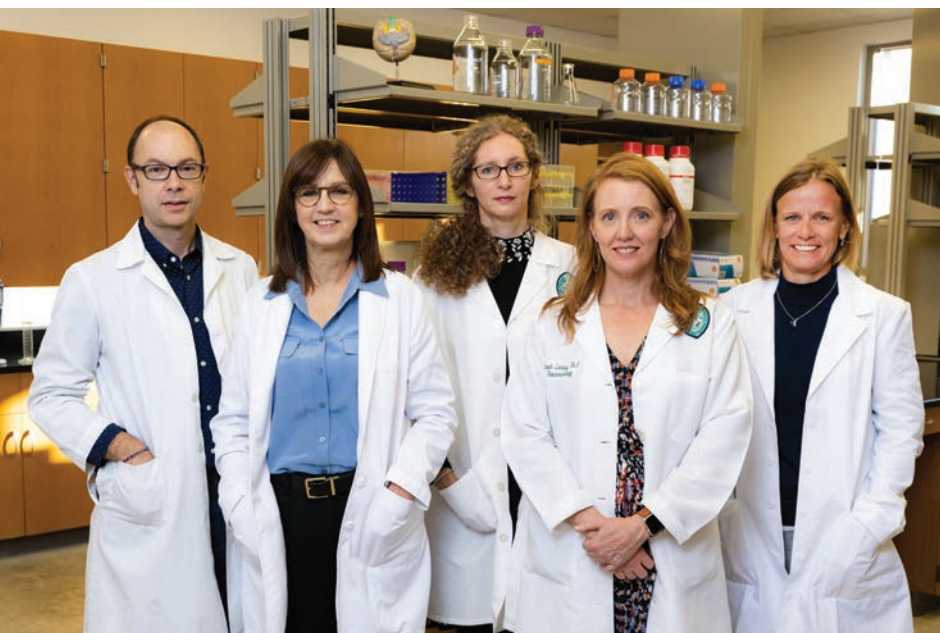
“The institute has stayed very true to its mission, being a place for great education and collaborative research,” Drury said.

What’s more, she said, “It’s a great group of people that love to work together. We’re very much a family. We thought we’d lose that as we grew, but Jill has done a great job in maintaining that family feel. Your voice is always heard.”

“We are charged with bringing together all of the international experts in the field and becoming a central focus for this research across the globe. ...

“The institute has stayed very true to its mission, being a place for great education and collaborative research.”

**DR. STACY DRURY** | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
and the Remigio Gonzalez, MD, Professor of  
Child Psychiatry



Lead investigators on the \$14 million National Institute on Aging grant to study the uneven benefits of estrogen therapy on women's brain health are (left to right) Ricardo Mostany, Jill Daniel, Andrea Zsombok, Sarah Lindsey and Laura Schrader.

## Gifts for Boundary Crossing

Daniel credits donors for the institute's success, especially Tulane engineering alumnus and Board of Tulane member Bill Marko (E '81, '83) and his wife, Marta, who provided the lead gift to turn an ambitious idea into a reality.

“We've always been strong in neuroscience, but we didn't have the infrastructure to take us to the next level,” Daniel said. “We're here because the Markos believed in us.”

Marko said he and his wife were fans of the Brain Institute from the very beginning. Having served on the board of the School of Science and Engineering since 2010, he was well aware of Tulane's reputation in neuroscience and its potential to make Tulane a national leader in brain science.

That Marta's parents had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease made their interest that much keener. At the same time, newly installed Tulane President Michael Fitts was pushing for more interdisciplinary, boundary-crossing research.

“None of this was our idea, but we know a great idea when we hear one, and this seemed like a natural,” said Marko, a Houston-based petroleum engineer and energy banker who has strong ties to New Orleans.

“It's about playing to your strengths and focusing on the things we're good at, and brain research is something we're really good at.”

The Markos' lead gift included endowed funds for the Brain Institute and administrative facilities in Flower Hall. They also started the Marko Spark Innovation Research Fund — \$50,000 a year for five years — which supports annual faculty seed fund awards to fund collection of pilot data needed for federal grant submissions.

One of the first of the Marko Spark awards went to Mostany and Jonathan Fadok, PhD, a professor of psychology in the School of Science and Engineering, to investigate the neural circuits of fear. The cross-campus collaboration brought together the expertise of Fadok in the neural circuits of fear with that of Mostany in advanced neural-imaging techniques to understand how populations of neurons control fear- and anxiety-related behavior. The award led to a \$2.2 million NIH grant.

The Markos aren't alone in their enthusiasm for the Brain Institute. The Priddy Foundation, led by Robert (UC '69) and Kikie Priddy, gave \$1 million to the institute to establish the Priddy Family Spark Research Endowed Fund. The fund provides competitive awards to faculty for early-stage research support that advances the institute's research priorities.

Marcela Villareal de Panetta (NC '67) and Bernard J. Panetta II (A&S '68), both Tulane alumni, established the Panetta Family Presidential Chair Endowed Fund to support a professor in an interdisciplinary area of academic study associated with the Brain Institute. The couple has requested that the initial chairholder be a scholar whose research focuses on hormone-brain interactions in response to trauma and violence.

"All of the supporters of the Brain Institute have displayed an incredible interest and passion for research in this most fascinating and exciting area of science," Fitts said. "Their partnership is helping to make Tulane a leader in knowledge, understanding and discovery at the very center of human knowledge and consciousness."

## Neuroscience Students at All Levels

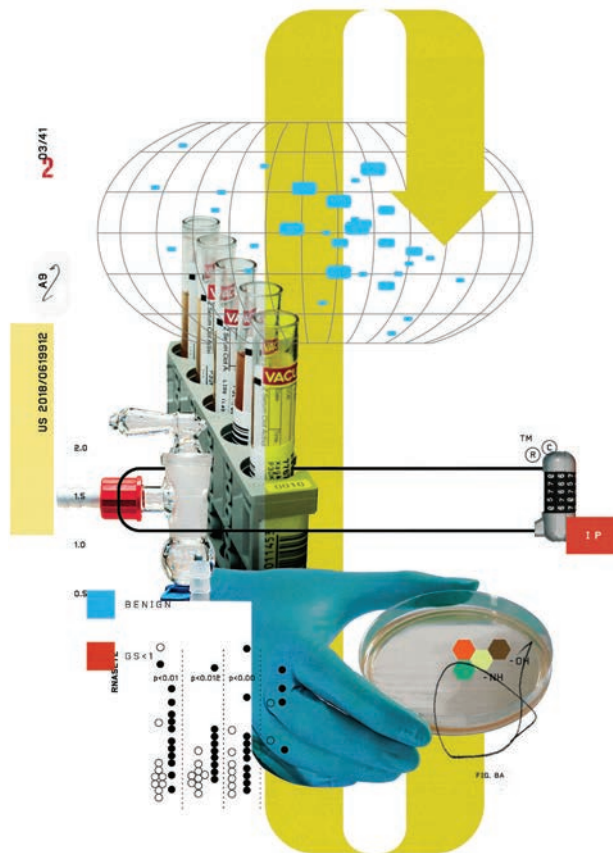
Daniel said the Brain Institute is attracting students from all over the world because of the opportunities to work on meaningful research. Currently, about 450 students are enrolled in the neuroscience program at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels. "Students are very involved in our mission," she said.

Shannon McQuillen observed that passion up close when she signed on to work in Daniel's lab as a junior. A former Tulane cheerleader, she said she never would have taken that step had she not suffered a back injury that forced her to give up cheering.

"It also forced me to expand my horizons at Tulane and focus more on research and academics," she said. "I could not be more thankful for this turn of events. I would have never met some of the most intelligent, kind and passionate people if I hadn't become more involved in the Brain Institute community."

In Daniel's lab, McQuillen worked with preclinical animal models and learned about various lab techniques. Her interest in neuroscience flourished, so much so that now, as a medical student, she is studying to become a neurologist, possibly specializing in neuroradiology.

"My interest in neuroscience grew and I knew I wanted to make a future out of it," McQuillen said.




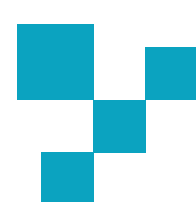
## Limitless Future

As for the Brain Institute itself, the future appears to be limitless. In 2024, the institute will expand into a portion of the Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering, now under construction between Stanley Thomas Hall and Donna and Paul Flower Hall. The five-story building is named for Steve Paul (A&S '72, M '75) and Jann Paul (SW '73), who provided the lead gift.

Upon completion, the building will boast three floors of interdisciplinary research laboratories, an animal research facility and an auditorium with seating for over 200 people. The institute's downtown campus, based in the Hutchinson Building, will soon include a dedicated MRI facility, which will allow for the study of the human brain through human imaging neuroscience.

Beyond the lab and classroom, the Brain Institute is committed to bringing neuroscience to the community. Current outreach activities include a K-12 program to promote brain literacy in New Orleans area schools and special programming to support patients and families affected by brain disorders.

"I'm so proud of what we've accomplished and what we will continue to accomplish," Daniel said. "Through the Brain Institute, we are in a position of answering some of the biggest questions in brain science." 



# HOME MOVIE

BY GWEN THOMPCKINS, NC '87







In an essay, journalist Gwen Thompkins writes about *City of a Million Dreams*, the 2021 documentary by Jason Berry. The film traces the origins and power of New Orleans funeral parades.

Dr. Michael White, the “narrative soul” of the documentary, plays at the funeral of jazz musician Milford Dolliole in 1994. White is with other members of The Young Tuxedo Brass Band in front of St. Augustine Church on Gov. Nicholls Street. Clarinetist White estimates that he has played in more than 200 jazz funerals.

**C**ity of a Million Dreams is the name of a traditional jazz song written at a time when a million of anything seemed like a lot. That was last century. Nowadays, the number sounds fairly modest, what with mega cities and mega deals and mega lottery jackpots. “What about a billion?” “A quintrillion?”

And yet, it’s worth remembering how powerful a single dream can be. It can propel human achievement in any direction to create anything, in any size, anywhere, at any time. A million is plenty. Now, the author and filmmaker Jason Berry has borrowed *City of a Million Dreams* as the title for his documentary about New Orleans street parades. His 2021 film and the city’s parading traditions begin with early inhabitants of the area in conversation with their ancestors. Some of them came to New Orleans by choice. Many did not. But each was standing on someone else’s dreams and carrying their own forward. There’s joy and melancholy and even pain throughout Berry’s *City of a Million Dreams*, not unlike the sweet nostalgia of Raymond Burke’s melody arranged for clarinet, cornet and guitar.

Members of the Original Big 7 Social Aid & Pleasure Club march at their annual Mother’s Day second-line parade on May 8, 2016.



There's a kind of unseen scrim between the local (i.e., the New Orleanian) and the outsider. On theater stages, scrim are often gossamer-like dividers that separate the action between characters, evoking two different realities in the same scene.

... Behaviors and practices that seem normal and even ordinary among locals will mystify the stranger.

The documentary unfolds like the best home movie, ever. Anyone who's shown even a glancing interest in the music and neighborhoods of New Orleans will recognize familiar faces: *Father Jerome LeDoux, the Catholic priest from Tremé! Dr. Michael White [G '79, '83], the clarinet player from Gentilly! Masking Indian Cherice Harrison-Nelson from Bywater! Music scholar Bruce Raeburn [G '91] from Tulane! Geri Elie was my Sunday school teacher! Is that the choreographer Monique Moss [NC '94, SLA '09, '12] from Tulane? It is. And she's DANCING!!*

Massive crowds of regulars along the parade routes also high-step prominently in the film. But the old brass band leaders who appear throughout dang near steal the show — “Papa” John Joseph, Ernest “Doc” Paulin, Harold “Duke” Dejan, Milton Batiste, Anthony “Tuba Fats” Lacen, and Herman Sherman, among others. They are the brass band culture bearers, now dead, whose names still mean something in this city, connecting the present street culture to the past. Watching old footage of these men play their instruments and interact with others is like witnessing something miraculous, akin to stone statues stepping down from their pedestals to share a smoke. And yet, like any home movie, *City of a Million Dreams* packs the added excitement of maybe seeing yourself onscreen. It's a natural and titillating prospect for a moviegoer. “I wait for me,” the writer, psychiatrist and philosopher Frantz Fanon once wrote. “In the interval, just before the film starts, I wait for me.”

Explaining New Orleans street culture to anyone is an ordeal and it's taken Berry, his producer daughter Simonette Berry [NC '07], executive producer Bernard Pettingill Jr. [PHTM '73] and the seasoned editor Tim Watson years to manage it in documentary form. That's because there's a kind of unseen scrim between the local (i.e., the New Orleanian) and the outsider. On theater stages, scrim are often gossamer-like dividers that separate the action between characters, evoking two different realities in the same scene. I've bumped up against that scrim-like divide in my own work as a New Orleans-born public radio journalist. Behaviors and practices that seem normal and even ordinary among locals will mystify the stranger:

“Why do we have to spend so much time in your story on how the Mardi Gras Indians *look*?” an NPR culture editor once asked me.

“Have you ever *seen* them?” I answered, baffled.

“Do we *have* to call Fats Domino ‘fat’?” another asked.

“Yes.”

Using cleverly edited reenactments of African ring dancing at Congo Square, animated collage drawings, historical commentary, and music, Berry brings much-needed context to street parades so that everyone understands the city better than they did before. Some of the images are particularly affecting, as when the film depicts an 1853 yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans. So many people were dying with fever then that bodies reportedly filled some of the local music halls. In *City*

*of a Million Dreams* the camera pauses over a drawing of a roomful of pleasure-seekers dancing on floorboards above the dead below. “Enjoy yourself,” the image seems to say, predating the Sigman and Magidson song. “It's later than you think.”

For reasons relating to the city's colonial past, its geographic location, and its vital importance to the African slave trade, the scrim surrounding New Orleans is more opaque. That may be why so many people worldwide are attracted to the city. They like a mystery. In 2018, Berry published a history book, also titled *City of a Million Dreams*, which coincided with the New Orleans tricentennial. In the book, he lifts the scrim as best as nearly anyone can, concentrating on real-life characters who decided something, or did something, or made something centuries ago that repeats still in local tradition.

The first chapter begins in the 18th century with the French founding brothers Iberville and Bienville. They dominate any number of Indigenous people, best the Brits, break the terrain, and weather the weather to build and maintain the grid of their newly dug port city. Nowadays, the city grid the brothers worked so hard for is only a neighborhood of New Orleans — the French Quarter — and a frequent leg of street parading past and present. One of the last chapters of the book focuses on the clarinet player and Xavier University scholar Dr. Michael White. White earned a PhD in Spanish from Tulane in 1983. His knowledge of his Black Creole ancestors, born in the 19th century, only strengthens his resolve to make traditional New Orleans music in the 21st century. White's trials and triumphs in the city help illustrate what it means to love New Orleans. Violent hurricanes and even more violent violence can make the loving hard.

What White and the other characters in Berry's book learn is that New Orleans will break your heart. (Even Bienville ended his days forgotten in Louis XV's Paris.) But, in some cases, the people in the book also learn that New Orleans can help put your heart back together again. In a fashion. Maybe. But it would be wise to keep the statins close.

In the film *City of a Million Dreams*, White and several of the other commentators echo remarks they made in Berry's history book. They've been in conversation with him for decades, and on film we watch them grow older and probably wiser as the years pass. While White is



(This page) Grand Marshal Marty Blanco leads the funeral procession for Edwin Harrison Sr., icon of Mardi Gras Indian culture, on Oct. 21, 2016. Grand marshals traditionally guide mourners on the route to the cemetery, often zigzagging and changing direction to fool the spirits and avoid bad luck for participants.

(Facing page) Jarrell Hamilton dances in the documentary's Congo Square reenactment sequence, choreographed by Monique Moss.

the narrative soul of the documentary, the camera returns over and over to the cultural reporter Deborah Cotton, as well as the stout-hearted trumpet player Gregg Stafford, and Fred Johnson, the tart-tongued leader of the Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club. Johnson looks especially sharp on the parade route. (“This is a *sway* music,’ he says authoritatively. “You *take your time* with this. And you *sasbay* through this.”) The saddest moments are when someone who looked so vibrant in one instant is being funeralized the next, as yet another example of how unpredictable life and death can be in the city.

And then there’s André Cailloux and Pierre Casaneve, who likely started the city’s brass band funeral tradition. Each man figures in Berry’s book and film. Cailloux (pronounced: KAI-yooo) was a Black Creole cigarmaker, a former slave, and a Civil War captain in the Union Army, who died in 1863 on a battlefield upriver from New Orleans, near Port Hudson. Casaneve (pronounced: CAS uh nev) was a New Orleans undertaker inspired by Cailloux’s heroism in action. He organized a public funeral for Cailloux that was so grand it was covered by *The New York Times* and other out-of-state newspapers.

But Casaneve, who was also Black and Creole, took the opportunity to make an unprecedented decision. He hired musicians to accompany Cailloux’s body to the cemetery. The New Orleans papers criticized brass music at a funeral procession, but the idea caught on.

Few discrete moments in New Orleans history underpin today’s funeral parade tradition as directly as the Cailloux episode. In addition to Berry, other storytellers have covered its historical precedent, most recently author Michael Tisserand in his 2016 book *Krazy Kat: The Black and White World of George Herriman* and author Fatima Shaik in her 2021 book *Economy Hall: The Hidden History of a Free Black Brotherhood*.

Perhaps the most compelling reason why Cailloux’s story reverberates here is because New Orleanians never tire of dying. Death is an ever-present subject of preoccupation, heartache, and professional opportunity in the city, evident in the way its residents and musicians have comported themselves to these three hundred years. The anxiety that arises from humans living within inches of sea level — in this heat, with this water table and this insect life, with these hedonisms and hurricanes — makes the intense loyalty to the city among locals endlessly fascinating. “Why

don't you move?" my friend Susan Linnee, then of the Associated Press, asked two area women during a hurricane in the early 1970s. "Ain't you got a home?" they replied.

Now, imagine what it was like for the early inhabitants of the city who hadn't come here by choice. Those untold thousands, if not millions, were stolen from their African homelands, put on ships and brought to New Orleans to be sold into bondage. For generations of enslaved African-blooded people and free people of color living in New Orleans in the 18th and 19th centuries, death was only a gossamer-like scrim through which they could condole with their homeland ancestors on Sundays in Congo Square. The drums, the dancing and the chanting were tools of communication. "They didn't have psychiatrists," Fred Johnson says. "These people had to figure out how to be happy in an insane environment."

The contributions those Africans and their descendants made to the city's parading traditions are apparent in Berry's film. But African-blooded people in New Orleans did more than that. Congo Square has since become known as a wellspring of American popular music. And if Johnson is correct, it all began as a kind of weekly group therapy session just outside the French Quarter.

The drums, the dancing and the chanting were tools of communication. "They didn't have psychiatrists," Fred Johnson says. "These people had to figure out how to be happy in an insane environment."

*City of a Million Dreams* follows the various timelines of Africans, Indigenous people, Europeans and Americans in New Orleans and pieces together how their various tribal customs co-mingled to create a one-of-a-kind street culture. Berry, who has been filming parades for more than 30 years, has wrestled what Fred Johnson might call a "gargantuan" narrative into a tidy 90 minutes. And he's had enormous help from a wide cast of characters who bring this story to life. They show the viewer the New Orleans that's an unforgettable place to live and a spectacular place to die. 🍷

*Gwen Thompkins is a journalist and writer in New Orleans. She's currently working on a book based on her long-form public radio interview program "Music Inside Out," which showcases the unusually varied musical landscape of Louisiana. She files stories for NPR Music, The Oxford American, Strangers Guide and The New Yorker online. Thompkins was a longtime senior editor of NPR's Weekend Edition with Scott Simon and later NPR's East Africa bureau chief. She is the New Orleans correspondent for WXPN's World Café.*



Kimberly Gramm leads the new Innovation Institute, which is at the vanguard of improving lives and transforming New Orleans and the region by boosting breakthroughs and discoveries and spurring the creation of new businesses that will bring these advances to market faster.

**BY MARY ANN TRAVIS**



# A COACH FOR INNOVATION

At the dedication ceremony for the new Innovation Institute in June, with a backdrop of bright blue and green umbrellas, Tulane President Michael A. Fitts extolled the qualifications and experience of Kimberly Gramm, the inaugural David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer.

“We had an extensive search committee for the head of the institute, and Kimberly, as you should know, rose immediately to the top,” said Fitts.

The Innovation Institute is a multimillion-dollar, long-term project that will act as a combined technology and startup accelerator for university faculty, researchers, staff, students and community members. It is expected to have a major impact on the regional economy, attracting more than \$100 million in capital and powering business and job creation.

The Innovation Institute is “a direct result of investments in research at Tulane,” said Fitts, noting the 50% jump in research funding between 2017 and 2021 with anticipation for another record year in 2022.

“Out of that explosion in research, the Innovation Institute will help advance Tulane’s most promising ideas for entrepreneurial development, creating new startups, accelerating those companies while fully engaging with the innovation and entrepreneurial communities in New Orleans,” said Fitts.

Thirteen15, the new Gravier Street residential and retail development on Tulane’s downtown campus, is the first stop for the Innovation Institute, which will move to a redeveloped Charity Hospital building within the next few years.

The Innovation Institute will serve as a “convener, collaborator and motivator” for startup talent in the community — and at Tulane, said Patrick Norton, senior vice president and chief operating officer. Driven by the university’s “core strengths in biotech, health sciences, energy, infectious disease and engineering,” the Innovation Institute will “harness and deploy the vast power of Tulane’s top-ranked research enterprise and welcome intellectual assets like never before.”

Under Gramm’s leadership, the institute will identify basic research that has potential to bring about marketable products and services. It will shepherd emerging research and technology approaches from the proof-of-concept phase to pre-seed investment and eventually venture investment.

Gramm has “a passion” for innovative technology activity and “an understanding of what it will mean to Tulane University,” said Fitts.

She has “an incredible track record,” he added.

Gramm is a seasoned leader of university innovation and commercialization projects. She has more than 14 years of early-stage technology venture development experience in Texas and Florida. Her initiatives have launched more than 279 startups, which have attracted more than \$470 million in investment capital.

Gramm came to Tulane from Texas Tech University, where she was associate vice president of innovation and entrepreneurship, responsible for leading economic and industry engagement, increasing startup development, expanding commercialization programs for faculty and students, and growing the university’s innovation district.

With Gramm’s past success, Fitts said, “I can’t underscore enough how happy we are to have her on board.”

## Visionary Support

Tulane's Innovation Institute has three core pillars: entrepreneurial programming on campus, community engagement with the wider New Orleans startup community, and an innovation lab named after Robert L. Priddy (UC '69).

Priddy, whose career spanned aviation and private equity, and his wife, Kikie, run the Priddy Family Foundation, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Shannon and Mike Acks, and their son, Christopher Priddy. The foundation made a lead gift to establish the Robert L. Priddy Innovation Lab.

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

Gramm said that the Priddy Innovation Lab "is designed to systematically provide resources to multidisciplinary teams that will test a technology, make sure it works and does what they thought it would to solve the problem. Does the innovation solve a problem for a market?"

The Innovation Lab will be a competitive environment, said Gramm. Inventors and creators will submit abstracts with their ideas along with proposed milestones for product development and budgets.

There is something called the Valley of Death in a technology/startup stage of development, said Gramm. Ideas can sometimes flounder, and products never get off the ground between when the inventor has an idea and the point when revenue can actually be generated.

"We think of revenue as the lifeblood of a startup company," said Gramm. "Startups have to have money to survive so that they can become profitable."

Many startups fail because they don't have the resources to test whether or not the invention works. Or the startup may not have the capacity to identify a viable market. That's where the Innovation Lab will have a major impact to support the progression of an idea to the market.

"The idea is creating things that people really need," said Gramm.

## Peas in a Pod

Researchers and entrepreneurs are alike, said Gramm. They both are testing hypotheses through a "humbling process of iteration."

While researchers are validated through peer-reviewed journal articles, competitive grants funding and other accolades, "in the case of entrepreneurs, the market tells them if technologies or products are necessary and competitive," said Gramm.

"Iteration is this process of evaluating something, testing it, and then going back, testing it again, making a small adjustment and getting it right."

Gramm said she serves at the "intersection of working with intellectual giants, both in science and industry," who are trying to solve some of the world's biggest problems.

She sees herself as a coach linking the innovation to the right team, the right resources, at the right time to develop, flourish and grow. The Innovation Institute under her leadership will

"commercialize, energize and vitalize" ideas coming out of Tulane labs and classrooms.

Researchers and entrepreneurs are driven in similar ways, said Gramm. "They are innately curious and struggle to find solutions and scratch the itch of something they know can be better." The results may only be seen after a long road with years of work, but the "challenging journey is inspiring."

## American Dream

The struggle and push to make things better are tied to the American Dream for Gramm. "It's what makes our country great." She's the granddaughter of Polish immigrants who came to this country in search of opportunity.

Innovation is personal for Gramm. "Because I believe in our country and the opportunity it brings, particularly related to education," she said. "We try to solve problems through innovation. And the way we do that fascinates me, I love being a part of it."

Gramm especially believes in higher education. She started her career working as a corporate marketing strategist at UPS, which had 457,000 employees around the globe at that time and where decisions were made using big data. That experience positioned her for working in an institutional environment such as Tulane University, she said.

## *"IF YOU CAN'T LEARN THIS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, WHERE DO YOU LEARN HOW TO INNOVATE?"*

She's near the completion of a dissertation on "Innovation ecosystems within higher education" as she pursues a PhD from Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources at Texas Tech University.

"Higher education is the place where people can learn how to do these things and do them in a way that is meaningful," said Gramm. "If you can't learn this in higher education, where do you learn how to innovate?"

Her immediate plans at Tulane are to hire a high-impact team that is experienced and dynamic. "We want to be able to support faculty, students and community entrepreneurs in a way that's comprehensive," said Gramm. "To start with, it makes sense that we think about innovation on a continuum, emphasizing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. That's important to us."

On campus, the Innovation Institute will work with the Office of Research and the Office of Intellectual Property Management as well as programs at the A. B. Freeman School of Business, like the Albert Lepage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and others around campus that emphasize innovation. To get the word out about the institute, Gramm plans to tap Innovation Ambassadors among the faculty ranks. "So that we create an environment and a culture that's peer-to-peer, and relational, so faculty can learn from each other, as we continue to deepen the innovation culture across the campus."

Gramm likes the term "ambassadors." She thinks of these individuals as champions for innovation. "It's piqued their interest, or





*“MY VISION IS TO PUT US ON A NATIONAL STAGE. I THINK WE HAVE ALL THE ELEMENTS, INGREDIENTS AND TENACITY TO DO THAT.”*

they’ve done work in innovation and entrepreneurship. I happen to think many people that I’ve met here at Tulane thus far are embracing innovation.”

In the city of New Orleans, the Innovation Institute will be “all about connecting, fueling and recharging community opportunities,” said Gramm. Organizations such as New Orleans BioInnovation Center, Propeller, and The Idea Village support entrepreneurs in different ways. Initially, Gramm and her team will assess how to work with these programs versus duplication of efforts.

University spinouts and community startups may result in different products and technologies, said Gramm. But there are similarities in basic entrepreneurship education around starting a company, identifying the appropriate market, and developing a team that are universal.

“It’s important to strengthen the underpinnings of what our community is doing, as well as provide educational support and perhaps competitive funding opportunities so that community entrepreneurs reduce the time to market,” said Gramm.

## **Role of Alumni**

Gramm wants alumni to know of Tulane’s ambitious goals for the Innovation Institute. “Our visibility will grow,” she said.

“My vision is to put us on a national stage,” said Gramm. “I think we have all the elements, ingredients and tenacity to do that.”

“We have the right leadership. We have the right board. We have the right community and a great relationship with the community that will ignite and move the Innovation Institute forward in a way that everybody will be extremely proud of.”

“Tulanians can be a part of this transformational effort in many ways,” said Gramm. “They can connect our startups to their networks. They can serve as a mentor for a startup, or provide pro bono expertise, like legal advice, for a startup. Potentially, invest in our startups. Invest in the institute. Or be a role model and share their own entrepreneurial story.”

In the end, “it’s a family,” said Gramm. “We’re building a community around innovation, nurturing ideas, continuing to spark the American Dream right here in Louisiana.”



(Opening page) Kimberly Gramm is the new Innovation Institute’s inaugural David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer. (This page, top) Gramm addresses the audience at the Innovation Institute dedication ceremony in June. (Bottom) Jaunty umbrellas, installed for the dedication, decorate Thirteenth on Gravier Street.



# Lost in the Game

In an excerpt from his new book, *Lost in the Game: A Book About Basketball*, the author writes about the inexorable, generational pull of a game of hoops.

**BY THOMAS BELLER**



## The Maserati Kid

I turned down the driveway, which descended slightly from the road, the house barely visible through the pines. The feeling was of entering a secret world. Just past the open-air garage, filled with vintage Corvettes and Maseratis, was a basketball court.

It was a sunny August morning in East Hampton. I had come to play in a memorial game for a man who had died in the Twin Towers. The man who had built this house.

I was a friend of a friend, recruited to help fill out the roster. Since the guy's last name started with g, and since my childhood friend Jimmy Gartenberg was killed on that same day, in that same place, I gave a private nod to Jimmy.

The basketball court was a fantasy: glass backboards, three-point lines, beautiful landscaping. A TV crew would be filming, I had been told. The widow had written a book. I would be both participant and prop.

The game got going, grown men hustling. The players were mostly members of my tribe — middle-aged guys who seem normal enough until you see them on a basketball court, satisfying the need.

A boy played too — fourteen or so, braces, spindly arms. It was the boy's father who died on 9/11. He was hitting shots like crazy. Game of his life. At first I thought this was touching. But then I began to feel irritated that everyone was giving him room. There is an entitlement to pulling up for a long jump shot.

A woman mingled on the sideline amid the men. She was well put together, in jeans and a white blouse, hands in her back pockets. The widow. A photographer stood on the sidelines, snapping shots with a telephoto. What was so far away, I wondered, that she needed that zoom lens?

The kid was hustling, driving, taking shots, and making most of them. Voices of encouragement and praise came from the sideline.

Someone told a story about standing on this court with the widow just after 9/11. "I've got this asphalt jungle back here," she said. "What am I going to do with it?" Just then her boy, four years old at the time, came out and started dribbling a basketball.

Apparently his dad had been really good. But a dead baller is like the fish that got away, always much better in memory. I looked at the kid now, wheeling and dealing. I was moved, happy to see him so supported by his dead dad's friends. But *supported* in the context of such outrageous wealth is a complicated word.

The next game, I waited for the kid to drive the lane. I was going to block that kid's shot, smack it over the gorgeous landscaping, show him what happens in the real world. But his dad died on 9/11. Isn't that knowledge enough?

At any rate, I never got the chance. The teams were changed. Now he was on my team. I watched him hoist jumpers. Score.

In the end, after the last game, I slapped the kid five, said, "Good game." I shook the widow's hand.


Leaving, I paused at the garage, its floor polished as glass. The Corvette was a shimmering silver. I wonder, now, Why did I wipe my feet?

—2011

Excerpt from *Lost in the Game: A Book About Basketball*, reprinted with permission. Copyright Duke University Press, 2022.

“This is a love song to basketball and its players. At turns fascinating and funny, tenderness beats at the heart of this book in the finely wrought portrayals of the characters: an assassin here, a trash-talking big man there, who transcend and become gods on the court before descending to the page.”

— Jesmyn Ward is professor of English at Tulane and a two-time National Book Award winner.



(Previous page) Thomas Beller's got game and is ready to play on the rain-proof court at Leake Avenue and Prytania Street. (This page) The court, aka Carver Playground, is where many pickup basketball games happen.

**Thomas Beller** is associate professor of English at Tulane, a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, and the author of *J. D. Salinger: The Escape Artist*, *How to Be a Man: Scenes from a Protracted Boyhood*, and *Seduction Theory*, and other books.

# Wavemakers

## BEQUEST STRENGTHENS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



**A** Tulane University alumna who has dedicated her life to counseling patients with mental illness is now giving back further to the university with a \$1 million bequest to the School of Social Work.

The estate gift from social worker Cheryl A. Verlander (NC '70, SW '75) and her husband, Charles "Chuck" N. Bracht, will bolster the Verlander-Bracht Scholarship Endowed Fund, which they created in 2008 to support students, especially Tulane alumni, who are pursuing master's degrees at the School of Social Work.

Verlander, who practices at the Hauser Clinic in Houston, has forged an extensive career in health and mental health sectors. She is a board-certified diplomate of the American Board of Clinical Social Work and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and the Tulane Social Work Dean's Advisory Council.

"The Tulane School of Social Work provided me with the education and clinical experience that facilitated my long and rewarding career," Verlander said. "I would like the scholarship to educate mental health professionals. Social workers do the lion's share of mental health work, and I want to help further educate people to fill that need."

Tulane President Michael A. Fitts noted that the gift arrives as the demand for social workers is increasing.

"With the difficulties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, as well as other stressors such as economic uncertainty and the continued mental health crisis in our country, the need for social workers is urgent and growing," Fitts said. "We are so grateful for the longtime support Cheryl and Chuck have provided to Tulane and for this latest gift that will educate a new generation of social workers to help heal a hurting world."

School of Social Work Dean Patrick S. Bordnick thanked the couple for their forward-thinking donation.

"Cheryl and Chuck's affinity for the school and our students is heartfelt," he said. "Their scholarship gift will provide outstanding opportunities for other social workers to follow in Cheryl's footsteps and make a difference in behavioral health in medical centers as well as local community clinics."

The couple has also supported Newcomb-Tulane College, the schools of Architecture and Science and Engineering, the Green Wave Club, and other areas of the university. They joined the President's Council and the Houston National Campaign Council, which supports *Only the Audacious, The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane*.

Charles "Chuck" N. Bracht (left) and Cheryl A. Verlander have made a \$1 million bequest to the Verlander-Bracht Scholarship Endowed Fund.

# DR. JOHN DEMING'S LEGACY



**I**t was a lovely day to celebrate one of Tulane's greatest philanthropists.

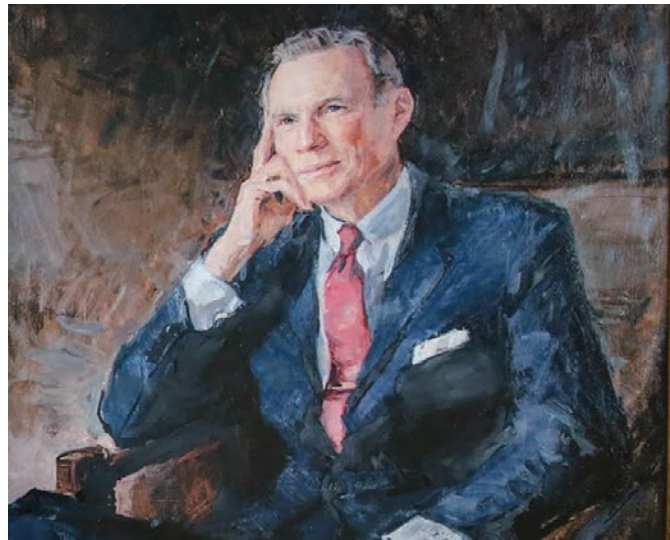
On Nov. 14, 2019, on the seventh floor of the Hutchinson Building downtown, Tulane University School of Medicine commemorated the dedication of the John W. Deming Department of Medicine and formally unveiled a portrait of the department's namesake, Dr. John Winton Deming (M '44).

John Deming's wife of 50 years, Bertie Deming Smith, her children, Cathy Pierson (G '78, SW '89), Bebe Heiner and Claiborne Deming (A&S '76, L '79), and extended family members joined Tulane senior leadership and School of Medicine faculty members to celebrate the occasion and remember Dr. Deming, an extraordinary physician and civic leader.

The event celebrated a \$25 million planned gift that Bertie Deming Smith made in 2017 to the School of Medicine honoring her late husband. The gift is the largest in the School of Medicine's history and will fund both clinical and translational research.

Smith has been making payments on her gift in advance of her bequest. Called a "blended gift," such generosity is typically made partly in life and partly through an estate plan. Blended gifts to Tulane give donors like Smith the pleasure of making an impact today and benefiting Tulane tomorrow.

The Deming dedication and portrait unveiling were especially touching as they allowed the family to celebrate and see the impact of their incredible gift to Tulane. On the day of the dedication, family members shared stories about Dr. Deming. They recalled his compassion, intelligence, sense of humor and dedication, and the vast impact that the \$25 million gift will have on Tulane's future.



In November 2019, a portrait of Dr. John Winton Deming is unveiled at a celebration of his life and career and the gift by his wife, Bertie Deming Smith (front), to fund clinical and translational research at the Tulane School of Medicine. Smith is joined by her children (rear, from left) Cathy Pierson (G '78, SW '89), Bebe Heiner and Claiborne Deming (A&S '76, L '79).



## JAZZ EDUCATION PRESERVED AND PROTECTED

**F**or Dianne La Basse (NC '74, B '76), New Orleans and music were forever intertwined. Though La Basse left New Orleans for New York City in 1983 for a successful career in private banking, the city was never far from her thoughts.

When it came time to think about her legacy, La Basse designed a bequest that would support both her beloved alma mater and her hometown. The Dianne Lynn La Basse Scholarship is an endowed fund that provides scholarship support for students in New Orleans and its vicinity who are studying the performance of jazz or other forms of music.

With two degrees from Tulane, having completed her undergraduate degree at Newcomb College and then her MBA at the A. B. Freeman School of Business, La Basse regarded Tulane as playing a unique role in the city's history — and, perhaps, its future.

According to her husband, Alan Seget, La Basse regarded Tulane “as a repository of New Orleans culture. And she wanted to preserve and protect that.”

“I'm sure she felt also that the kids who were receiving the scholarship money by pursuing music — and jazz in particular — would be great proponents, without even trying, of New Orleans and its unique culture,” he recalled.

La Basse's thoughtful commitment to the students of the Department of Music is already making an impact, according to Dan Sharp, chair of the department. “Our relationship to the New Orleans community is a top priority, and it sounds like Dianne's values were very much in line with that,” said Sharp.

Dianne La Basse (NC '74, B '76) was committed to the musical culture of New Orleans and considered Tulane a repository of that culture. The Dianne Lynn La Basse Scholarship provides support to students studying jazz in the Department of Music.

## NEXT WAVE CHALLENGE

**F**rom the moment he graduated, Mike Tombari (B '75) knew he wanted to give back to the A. B. Freeman School of Business. Mike and his wife, Patty, made a gift to Freeman through the Next Wave Scholarship Challenge, which matches new endowed scholarship donations of \$100,000 to \$500,000, with the goal of increasing the overall endowment dedicated to scholarship support.

“We had an opportunity to double the size of our contribution, so we took that moment to establish [the Tombari Family Fellowship],” said Tombari, adding, “I've been a giver for many years, but I never had a chance to give this amount.”

“It's very personally satisfying,” said Tombari. “You are helping somebody, and you are helping an institution that you have a lot of great memories from.”

Chuck (A&S '77, B '78) and Sue Tilis (NC '77) were equally excited to seize the opportunity presented by the Next Wave Scholarship Challenge. Establishing the Sue K. and Charles L. Tilis Endowed Fellowship Fund in Accounting offered a wonderful way to support the Freeman School, the New Orleans community and the field of accounting, the pair said.

“We wanted to do something for the school, the city of New Orleans and the accounting profession, each of which are such an integral part of our lives,” Chuck said.

Sue added that she hopes supporting a graduate fellowship helps to encourage further diversity in the accounting profession by opening the doors to a Freeman education for students who might not otherwise be able to attend. “If we can make a difference in one person's life, it's important to us.”

The Next Wave Scholarship Challenge, a \$5 million matching-challenge gift, is made possible through the generosity of Board of Tulane member Richard Yulman and his daughter and son-in-law, Katy (NC '05) and Greg Williamson. ♡



# Tulanians

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## ALUMNI PARENTS AND STUDENTS CELEBRATE MOVE-IN

Alumni parents and students attend a Legacy Family Move-In Week event on Monday, Aug. 15, at Bea Field Alumni House on Tulane's uptown campus. Top left, old friends Thuxoan Tsang (NC '88), Dr. Stephen Tsang (E '88, M '92), Dr. George Ingrish (A&S '88, M '92) and Dr. Rebecca Ingrish (NC '88, M '92) chat and laugh about their days at Tulane. Top right, Douglas Carey (A&S '91, L '94) and Deatro Carey, parents of student Kayla Carey, display their TU spirit. Bottom right, Evan Garrett Siegel (A '97) poses with his daughter, Sienna Alexa Siegel, a first-year student.

1960  
1969

**JAMES CIARAVELLA (A&S '64, M '68)** published a book, *Charity's Children: The Long Days and Nights of the Iron Men*. The book is a history of Charity Hospital that delves into the significance of surgical physician/professors as well as the story of Ciaravella's own training as a cardiovascular surgeon and his service at Charity during the 1960s and 1970s. He lives in Shreveport, Louisiana.

**JEFFREY AHLIN (A&S '65)** published his third novel, *Traitors in Treblinka*, a sequel to his second novel, *Traitors in the Gestapo*. The books tell the story of lifelong friends Jenz and Ezekiel, who attempt to save their fellow Jewish citizens from concentration camps in Poland by infiltrating Nazi rocket development sites. Ahlin resides and practices dentistry in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

**ALAN H. GOODMAN (A&S '67)** from the New Orleans-based law firm Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson, LLP, was selected to be a member of the New Orleans *City Business Leadership* in Law class of 2022

and will be inducted into the Leadership in Law Hall of Fame. Goodman was also one of the firm's 18 attorneys to be listed in the 2022 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business for Louisiana.

**EUGENE RAY (G '69)**, architect and emeritus professor at San Diego State University, presented two lectures and exhibits of his work in July. Both events, "Metaphysical Oeuvre of Eugene Ray" and "Architectural Oeuvre of Eugene Ray" took place at Chateau La Jolla in La Jolla, California, where Ray resides.

1970  
1979

**BARBARA KURSHAN (NC '70)** co-authored and published a new book, *InnovateHers: Why Purpose-Driven Entrepreneurial Women Rise to the Top*. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**JAMES C. COOK JR. (A&S '72, M '76)** retired on Nov. 11, 2021, after more than 45 years of practicing medicine, with 39 years specializing in cardiology in various locations throughout the U.S. He lives with his wife, Christina, in Jacksonville, Oregon.



## IMPRESSION

# ELLIE HELMAN DYLAN

“**W**hen he got diagnosed, he said, ‘I’m going to beat it.’ And we thought, ‘Why don’t we just film it?’” Ellie Dylan, who received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Newcomb College in 1974, said of the award-winning documentary film, *On Our Own Island*, which she co-directed with her daughter and fellow journalist, Skyler Dylan-Robbins. The film chronicles the fairy tale–like love story of Dylan and her husband and his journey battling cancer. Dylan credits her experiences at Tulane with playing a

pivotal part in not only the film’s message but also her career — and life.

“The whole Tulane experience seemed like a flowerpot with fertilizer. And I was this little sprout and it just bloomed my whole life.”

It all started with Dylan receiving a failing grade from her freshman English professor, Fannie Rayne Russ. “I went after class and said, ‘How could you do that?’”

Russ’ reply: “I’m going to fail you until you work at your potential.”

It was the first time during Dylan’s educational experience that anyone had challenged her — and recognized her full capabilities. Russ later bestowed academic honors on Dylan at graduation.

Serendipitously, Dylan became the overnight DJ at WTUL, Tulane’s student-run radio station. That would spark a successful career in media:

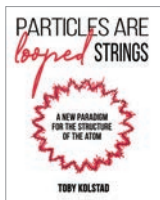
She became the most-listened-to female disc jockey in the country on WMAQ in Chicago and was the first woman to hold a morning drive time spot on AM radio at WNBC in New York. She’s also an Emmy-winning television host and producer.

But it was her time in sociology class with Professor Edward Morse that would lay the groundwork for *On Our Own Island*. “I was so engaged by the way he taught how to look at and examine the zeitgeist of the world.”

Dylan conducted her senior thesis on death, with the belief that death was not the end, rather a transition. “He allowed me to hang out in mortuaries and emergency rooms for my senior year.”

In Morse’s class, Dylan also read the seminal works of Elisabeth Kübler Ross, one of which she would eventually read to her husband before he experienced his own transition. “She (Kübler Ross) says the most powerful and important lessons we all have to learn is to unconditionally love.”

Dylan hopes viewers take away exactly that from *On Our Own Island* and recognize that death and love intersect. “The fear of death informs our life so much so that we hold on so tight that we’re unable to love fully,” she said. “I hope the film contributes to mitigating society’s fear of death, and at the same time, supports the idea that unconditional love is the most important thing of all.” 🍷



### THE PHYSICISTS' DREAM

**TOBY KOLSTAD (E '67)** recently published *Particles Are Looped Strings*, a book that presents a new paradigm for the structure of the atom. The new model offers a path to a Unified Field Theory that has been sought after by physicists for over a hundred years. Following his time at Tulane, Kolstad earned a Master of Science in applied mathematics and material science from the California Institute of Technology. After a 40-year career in railroad management, he retired and returned to his love of science. Kolstad lives in West Linn, Oregon.

**GEORGE INDEST III (A&S '73, L '80)**, president and managing partner of The Health Law Firm, located in Altamonte Springs, Florida, was awarded the highest rating possible in legal ability and ethical standards by Martindale-Hubbell, the standard rating service for all attorneys in the U.S. He also received the highest possible peer review rating for the 20th year in a row. Indest resides in Longwood, Florida.

**BILL KNECHT (SW '73)**, an award-winning therapist, supervisor and trainer, recently published his first book, *Accidental Therapist: Sharing Over a Half-Century of Experience and Insights to Facilitate Positive Outcomes*. He lives in Metairie, Louisiana.

**STEPHEN WEBRE (G '75, '80)**, professor emeritus of history at Louisiana Tech University, has been named editor-in-chief of the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*. Webre lives in Ruston, Louisiana.

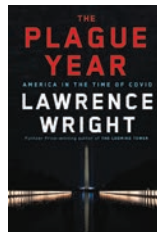
**DR. HARLEY GINSBERG (A&S '77, M '82)** and his wife, Susan, founded Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana in 2018, and due to the venture's initial success, will be expanding later this year. The bank accepts vetted donations of human milk, which are analyzed, pasteurized and made available for critically ill neonates throughout the state. Ginsberg is

the section director of neonatology for Ochsner Health and lives in Metairie, Louisiana.



**PETER J. BUTLER JR. (B '84, L '87)** and **RICHARD G. PASSLER (L '91)**, attorneys at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP, were named to BTI Consulting Group's list of 2022 Client Service All-Stars. The firm, with offices in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was also recognized as one of the top 50 Midsized Client Service Masters.

**JOHN GESSNER (L '84)**, a hospitality industry attorney at the Dallas-based law firm Carrington, Coleman, Sloman and Blumenthal LLP, was selected to serve as a member of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's Public Safety Advisory Committee. Gessner lives in Rockwall, Texas.



### THE FIRST YEAR OF COVID

The latest book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist **LAWRENCE WRIGHT (A&S '69)**, *The Plague Year: America in the Time of Covid* (Knopf, 2021), is "maddening and sobering — as comprehensive an account of the first year of the pandemic as we've yet seen," according to *Kirkus Reviews*. Wright's *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* won the Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction in 2007. Wright, who lives in Austin, Texas, is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

**How many times did you change your major? What major did you settle on?**



3? 4? Ended up with 2 majors and 2 minors because I jumped around so much.

**Rayne Pestello (SLA '18)**



I changed a lot and settled with Economics ... focus on your degree and practice it every day at your career!

**Edgar Figueroa Padilla (A&S '83)**



Never! I went to Tulane knowing I would double major in Homeland Security and International Relations. Now that I'm several years post-grad, I can confidently say I made the right decision.

**Emily Kopsick (SLA '18)**



### THE CAVALIERS MEET AGAIN

**DAVID RITTENBERG (A '67)**, **MICKEY KRONBERG ROSENBLUM (NC '67)**, **JEFFREY ROSENBLUM (A '67)** and **EDWARD ROEHM (A '67)**, "The Cavaliers," met for a reunion in June at Penland Arts and Crafts Center in the Great Smokey Mountains of North Carolina. During the third year of their architecture program, professor and future chair of the School of Architecture James Lamantia described the group's attitude towards a design project as being "very cavalier." They quickly adopted the name and went on to found award-winning architectural and development firms. Rittenberg resides in Weaverville, North Carolina; the Rosenblums in Charleston, South Carolina; and Roehm in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The photo was taken by Rittenberg's wife, Joanne.

**How many times did you change your major? What major did you settle on?**



Because of the onset of COVID-19, I ended up changing my major partway through ... I graduated with a BA in Communication. I would not trade my academic path at Tulane for anything. My twists and turns have armed me with a broad spectrum of knowledge that is applicable in ways that I could not have imagined.

**Nikki Darrow (SLA '21)**



Political Economy (International). Zero changes to my major ... I knew my major before I arrived on campus!

**Austin Bloom (SLA '11)**



I came for Political Economy, and the Murphy Institute never disappointed. So glad I declared that right away!

**Leigh Ann Carver (NC '91)**



**ALL ABOUT PROCESS**

**SHERRY KARVER (G '78)**, an artist who combines photography, painting, creative writing and the use of resin in her works, was recently showcased in the All About Process exploration of artists at the Patricia Rozzar Gallery in Seattle. Karver, who is an avid traveler and people watcher, explores the themes of anonymity and isolation in a crowd while simultaneously highlighting personal identity as an individual. She lives in Oakland, California.

**DR. E. WESLEY ELY JR. (A&S '85, M '89, PHTM '89)**, a Nashville, Tennessee-based internist, pulmonologist, critical care physician and author, was the recipient of a Christopher Award for his book *Every Deep-Drawn Breath: A Critical Care Doctor on Healing, Recovery, and Transforming Medicine in the ICU*.

well as Washington, D.C. Picard resides in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**JIM HOWICZ (L '91)** was promoted to managing partner of the Austin, Texas-based law firm Richards Rodriguez and Skeith LLP in January. He lives in Round Rock, Texas.

**DR. KENNETH MOON (A&S '91)** and **HEIDI STROM MOON (NC '92)** recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Kenneth is a physician at Georgetown University Health Center, and Heidi was recently promoted to director of subscriptions at *Slate* magazine, where she has worked since 2014. Their daughter, Julia, graduated with honors from high school and will be attending Brown University this fall. The family lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**DEANN BLANTON GOLDEN (NC '92)** was named president of the Tulane Alumni Association in July. She is president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Georgia Properties and lives and works in Roswell, Georgia.

**GENTRY KIRBY (A&S '93)** was promoted to the position of senior director and producer at ESPN Films, where he has spent the last eight years producing many film projects, including *The Last Dance* and *Be Water*, as well as directing two *30 for 30* documentaries. Kirby lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**MARY LEBAN (NC '93)** returned to New Orleans in April during the French Quarter Festival to marry Kevin Price at the Hotel Mazarin in the French Quarter. A second-line down Royal Street followed the ceremony. The couple live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



**DAVID BUZARD (L '90)** recently relocated to Highland Park, Illinois, and reactivated his Illinois law license and practice, David. A Buzard PLC. He also began service as an asylum officer with the Chicago office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Additionally, an adapted excerpt of Buzard's thesis, "Ethnocentric Nationality in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: An Analysis of Human Rights Law," was published in the *African Human Rights Journal*.

**TYRON PICARD (L '90)** is the founder and managing partner of The Picard Group, which was recently selected for the second year in a row as one of the top 350 lobbying firms in the U.S. by Bloomberg Government. The company has locations in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles and Ruston, Louisiana, as



**MYSTERIES IN THE GARDEN DISTRICT**

**ELLEN SEIDEMAN BYRON (NC '77)** recently celebrated the release of her newest book, *Bayou Book Thief*, the first book in her new Vintage Cookbook Mysteries series, with a party at the Blue Cypress Bookstore on Oak Street in New Orleans. The new series is set in the Garden District. She also won her second Agatha Award for best contemporary novel, *Cajun Kiss of Death*, her seventh Cajun Country Mystery. Byron resides in Studio City, California.

IMPRESSION

## JUAN CARLOS MONTERREY GOMEZ

Generations have often wondered what kind of world they might leave to their successors. Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez (SLA '14) didn't wait to find out what type of world he would inherit — as vice chair for the Implementation of the United Nations Climate Change Convention, he has already forged a path to accelerate climate solutions globally.

Just a few years after graduating from Tulane, Monterrey Gomez was recognized by President Barack Obama as an inaugural scholar to the Obama Foundation. Since then, he led the youngest delegation (Panama) at COP26, the U.N. Climate Change Conference held last year in Glasgow, Scotland; founded the Climate Resilient think tank; and currently serves as executive director of the Geoversity School of Biocultural Leadership.

The U.N. Climate Change Conference has been at it for 30 years, having been established the same year Monterrey Gomez was born. Panama is one of the few carbon negative countries in the world — its forest absorbs more carbon than the total amount of climate change causing pollution generated by its economy yearly.

"I think the youth climate activists are probably the most important constituency in this whole conversation," Monterrey Gomez said. "They know the science, they defend the science, they see that progress has not really attained the results. ... Also, we are going to be the ones suffering if we do not address the climate crisis with the urgency it deserves."

**"When the youth climate movement started rising, I was inside government already. But the passion, the force, their demands in the streets is what actually helps me to continue to be motivated."**




Monterrey Gomez has worked in many regional and international roles, but "my heart has always been in Panama," he said. Upon returning to the Ministry of Environment from the U.N. in 2020, Panama's leaders asked him to not only lead the climate negotiations team but to also design the national carbon market. In November 2021, the Panamanian president honored Monterrey Gomez's work and appointed him to read Panama's Declaration of Independence from Spain in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Republic.

His time at Tulane, studying economics and international development, helped prepare him for the tasks that lay ahead. Monterrey Gomez

said he worked closely with professors Nora Lustig, Carol Whelan and Laura Murphy, and with the Center for Public Service.

Monterrey Gomez said he's inspired by other young people who advocate every day for climate awareness, including those who protest.

"When the youth climate movement started rising, I was inside government already," he said. "But the passion, the force, their demands in the streets is what actually helps me to continue to be motivated." 



### THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST BICYCLE RACE

**ROBERT WILLIAMS III (A&S '84)** completed the 2022 Race Across America (RAAM), “The world’s toughest bicycle race,” as a member of an eight-person relay team, Aligned Alliance. The team cycled over 3,080 miles from Oceanside, California, to Annapolis, Maryland, in seven days, eight hours and 55 seconds. Unlike the three great European Grand Tours, including the Tour de France, RAAM is one continual stage and once the clock starts it does not stop until the finish line. The event raises funds to combat suicide among veterans and first responders. Williams lives in Wilton, Connecticut.

**DENNIS LAMBERT (E '96, E '00)** was appointed to the Louisiana Water Resources Commission, which works to prevent waste of groundwater and to prevent or alleviate damage caused by subsidence. Lambert is a benefit-cost analyst for flood mitigation at Innovative Emergency Management and lives in Lettsworth, Louisiana.

**JOSE ALCAINE (B '98)** was elected as president of the Virginia chapter of the Society of Research Administrators International for the 2022–23 academic year. He was also the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award from the L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and the Patricia Pleasant Award of Excellence from the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. Alcaine resides in Richmond, Virginia.

*Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* published “A Sense of Peace” by **KENNETH BRYANT (A '98, TC '98)** about his groundbreaking discoveries that the first woman architect in America was likely Eliza Custis, granddaughter of the first U.S. president, George Washington — and



### IMPRESSION

## ERIN CHANDLER

**F**or Erin Chandler (SLA '18) the choice to attend Tulane was an easy one — she is a New Orleans native and her grandfather, uncle and both her parents are Tulane alumni — so TU spirit and pride were a part of her upbringing. However, she didn't know when she began her education, studying French and quantitative economics, where she would end up after graduation — on a Navy nuclear ballistic missile submarine.

Looking for a good option to fund her education after her first year at Tulane and inspired by her grandfather's service in the Navy during World War II, Chandler joined the Navy TUROTC at the beginning of her second year. The decision offered undreamed of possibilities.

Following graduation, Chandler was commissioned and underwent 15 months of rigorous school and training to become a submariner.

“While the days can be very long and everyone on board sacrifices a lot to accomplish the mission, at the end of the day I get to see and do some pretty cool things that most people will never get the chance to experience,” said Chandler.

Chandler is now a lieutenant, assistant operations officer on board the USS Maine, stationed in Bangor, Washington, when not out at sea. She is one of only six female officers on the vessel with a crew of 160.

Chandler was recently featured on an ABC News exclusive about life on board a Navy submarine. She was interviewed and was also seen unlocking the code safe for a nuclear missile test during a “War Day” simulation.

“I've filled many different positions on these days, from driving the ship, to managing the contact picture, to processing messages and responding to the scene of ‘casualties.’ You learn pretty quickly to wear a lot of different hats in this job,” Chandler explained.

“We are a very tight-knit community and lean on each other to handle the long spans underway without much communication with the outside world.”

Serving on a vessel carrying ballistic missiles is a weighty responsibility for the crew and also requires great personal sacrifice as the submarine goes out for uninterrupted three-month patrols. During these long days at sea, the crew is cut off from the outside world without phone or TV and only occasional access to email.

“We are a very tight-knit community and lean on each other to handle the long spans underway without much communication with the outside world. ... The most rewarding part of my job, by far, is the people. I love my crew and the sense of trust and camaraderie that they provide,” said Chandler.

After her commission on the USS Maine is over, Chandler is slated to be an operations analyst in Naples, Italy.

“I don’t know what I’ll do from there, but I’m incredibly excited for the job prospect and to see Europe in my free time. I might even be able to put my French degree to use!”

that Washington’s heirs built mansions in formation along a 15-mile straight line pointing to D.C. (now called the Bryant Axis or Bryant’s Arrow). The article is about Bryant’s decadeslong quest to discover the early American architect who designed Hoxton House (also known as Mt. Washington) on the Episcopal High School campus in Alexandria, Virginia. Bryant is a New York City and Norfolk, Virginia-based residential designer. He is also founder of ADEPT (Alliance for Design Equity in Practice & Theory), a nonprofit focused on improving marginalized communities through innovative walkable and sustainable design, and an adjunct professor of architecture at Hampton University.

**DEBORAH PRESTON (G ’98)** was recently appointed as president of Mercer County Community College in West Windsor, New Jersey. She lives in Bound Brook, New Jersey.

2000  
2009

**NORA RIGBY (NC ’00)** was promoted to the position of partner, consumer financial services, data and technology practice group, at the Washington, D.C., office of the law firm Ackerman LLP after serving for nearly 10 years in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office of Regulations. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**JENNIFER ABAMA (NC ’01)** recently organized the first annual Walk for Literacy in San Diego, California. The event benefits the nonprofit Traveling Stories, which supports children’s literacy.

**KELLY CAHN (NC ’05)** accepted the position of curator, director of sourcing at On Approval, an art rental and private sales platform. She resides in New York City.

**KIM FRUSCIANTE (NC ’05)** graduated in May from Harvard Graduate School with a Master of Arts in Education. Frusciante was also the class marshal and the student speaker for her school’s convocation. She lives in New Orleans.

**JARED ANDERSON (SCS ’06)** recently completed his 90th episode of the podcast Lagniappe Legends, which features interviews with guests who discuss business, technology, entrepreneurship, sports and STEM. Anderson lives in New Orleans.



#### WATER IS KEY

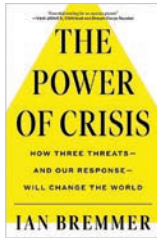
Understanding the importance of water as a crucial nutrient for the body, **KAMIYA STEWART (SSE ’19, ’22)** and **MARIA PATRIZIA SANTOS (SSE ’19, PHTM ’19, ’20)** recently founded the women of color-led New Orleans-based business Caracas Canteen. The company sells smart water bottles and travel mugs that track water intake with an app, using technology to promote water consumption.

**STEVE SULLIVAN (SLA ’07)** completed the 2022 Boston Marathon representing Boston Emergency Medical Services. He is an emergency medical technician and art business owner. Sullivan lives in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

**DEREK FOSSIER (SLA ’08, B ’09)** was named president of Equitas Capital Advisors LLC in May. The company earned a 2021 top performance award for its Equitas Evergreen Fund. Fossier is an investment management consultant at the New Orleans-based company and lives in Metairie, Louisiana.

**ALLEN AUSTIN (B ’09)** joined JD Martin Co. in the position of vice president of the renewable energy and e-mobility division this June. Austin lives and works in Atlanta.

**MATT FORTE (B ’09)** and his What’s Your Forte Foundation teamed up with the Tulane Chicago Alumni Club to pack and distribute back-to-school backpacks to kids at Progressive Baptist Church on Wentworth Avenue in Chicago on Aug. 20. Forte was a standout running back on the Green Wave football team and then played 10 seasons in the NFL, including eight years with the Chicago Bears and two years with the New York Jets.



**SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD'S CRISES**

*The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats — and Our Response — Will Change the World* (Simon & Schuster, 2022) by **IAN BREMMER (A&S '89)** analyzes the triple crises of pandemics, climate change and the ubiquity of digital technology. According to *Kirkus Reviews*, Bremmer, founder of the Eurasia Group, offers “reasonable” solutions that “involve government action, self-sacrifice, and tolerance of opposing opinions, all of which are in short supply at the moment.” Bremmer lives in Washington, D.C.

**TANYA GOLDMAN (SLA '09, SLA '10)** earned her PhD in cinema studies in May from New York University and will be a visiting assistant professor at Bowdoin College during the 2022–23 academic year. Goldman resides in Brooklyn, New York.



**FRANKLIN TILLMAN (B '10)** graduated with a doctorate in marketing, ethics and emotional impact on ethical behavior from the University of Mississippi. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi.

**SAM ALLOUCHE (SSE '11, '16)** and David Shaw, lead vocalist for the touring band The Revivalists, celebrated their wedding with a ceremony in New Orleans' City Park and a party at Tipitina's on May 29. Among the wedding attendees were fellow Revivalists and Tulane alumni **ZACK FEINBERG (SSE '09)**, **ROB INGRAHAM (SLA '09)** and **ED WILLIAMS (B '07)**. Sam Allouche is nearing completion of a PhD in psychology from Louisiana State University.

**JULIANA ARGENTINO (SLA '11)** is director of marketing & communications at the Tulane School of Liberal Arts.

Before she took the position at Tulane, Argentino worked with NBC Universal and A+E Television in New York, as well as the LeBlanc+Smith group in New Orleans.

**SABRINA CUTAIA (SLA '11)** is development director for French Quarter Festivals, Inc., the nonprofit organization that annually produces three festivals: French Quarter Festival, Satchmo SummerFest and Holidays New Orleans Style.

**MARYA EARL (SSE '11)** and her husband, Zack Carpenter, announce the birth of their baby, Greta Louise Carpenter (Tulane class of '42). The family lives in St. Louis.

**JANE ESSLINGER (SLA '11)** earned her MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. She now works for McKinsey & Co. and lives in Fort Green, Brooklyn.



**WESTERN SPIES IN RUSSIA**

**BARNES CARR (UC '74)** recently published his latest Cold War history book, *The Lenin Plot: The Unknown Story of America's War Against Russia* (Pegasus/Simon and Schuster), about the most audacious spy plot in American history — a bold and extremely dangerous operation to invade Russia, defeat the Red Army, and mount a coup against Soviet dictator Vladimir Lenin.

**ANN FABENS-LASSEN (SSE '11)** earned her MBA from Columbia Business School. She now works for Bain and Co. as a consultant and lives in Brooklyn, with her husband, **PATRICK RAFFERTY (SSE '12)**, a fellow Tulanian! — and their dog, Franklin.

**ALISSA “LISSY” ISAACSON (SSE '11)** and her husband, Ari Finkelstein, announce the birth of their baby, Albie Oak Finkelstein. The family recently moved to San Jose, California, where Lissy is a

school social worker and Ari manages a woodshop. Lissy earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Chicago in 2015.

**ERIN JENSEN (PHTM '11, '12)** and **JESSE CHICCO (SLA '10)** celebrated their wedding on Oct. 2, 2022, in New Orleans at the Benachi House in Mid-City. Erin is a health insurance program coordinator at the Louisiana Office of Public Health. Jesse works as a COVID-19 testing coordinator for movie filming. The couple lives happily in New Orleans in the Irish Channel.

**AARON SHLEICHER (L '13)** was made a partner at the New York City office of Sullivan and Worcester law firm in the capital markets practice group. He lives in Syosset, New York.

**REBECCA “BECCA” HILDNER (B '17)** is social and digital media coordinator for Tulane University Communications and Marketing. Before she joined the Tulane staff in July 2021, Becca worked as advertising and digital marketing coordinator at the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**MEGAN HAWKINS (SSE '18, '20)** graduated with honors in May with a Master of Arts in counseling from Wake Forest University. She also passed the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and is currently living in Houston, Texas.



**MAX STEITZ (SLA '20)**, co-founder of the New Orleans recycling company Glass Half Full, will be featured in the limited-run podcast documentary series *Goodniks*. The podcast delves into the journeys of 10 people who are doing good in the world in very different ways.

**JILL DORJE (SOPA '22)** received her Master of Liberal Arts, with a focus on creative writing and literature, from the Tulane School of Professional Advancement this May. She is a fiction writer, poet and an assistant editorial director for Tulane University Communications and Marketing. Dorje has just completed her first novel and hopes to publish within the next year.

**HARRY GESTETNER (B '22)** is co-CEO and co-founder of the company Fanfix, a creator economy tech startup, which was founded when he was a third-year undergraduate at Tulane. The platform, which provides access to exclusive content by popular Generation Z creators, was recently acquired by SuperOrdinary, a leading global growth partner and brand accelerator in an eight-figure deal. Gestetner lives in Santa Monica, California.

## Send Us Your News

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

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



**How many times did you change your major? What major did you settle on?**



Mine became a “yes and...” I came in as a history major, thinking I would minor in English. Sophomore year, my advisor rightfully called out that I was pretty much taking more English courses than history and that maybe I should think about what my heart was telling me. He was right — I love both, but the English department felt like my true home, so I became a double major. I work in communications for a global nonprofit, and I feel like I use the critical skills of my liberal arts education every day.

**Shala Carlson (NC '93)**

**KEY TO SCHOOLS**

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

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

## Farewell

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

- Elizabeth Wheless Eglin (NC '46)
- Reuben J. Plant Jr. (A&S '46, M '49)
- Walton W. Minchew Jr. (E '47)
- Patricia Karst Reed (NC '47)
- Barbara Weiss Jaffe (NC '48)
- Sara Eustis Harris (NC '49)
- Catherine Dicks Schmidt (NC '49)
- Fred W. Dixon Sr. (B '50)
- Rufus C. Smith Jr. (A&S '50, M '53)
- Hernan Arostegui (A&S '51)
- Ralph B. Bergeron (A&S '51, M '54)
- Jane Burkenroad Bories (NC '51)
- Wilbur C. Hantel (A&S '51, G '54)
- Stanley Starr (B '51)
- Virginia McConnell Walker (NC '51)
- Dale E. Wykoff (G '51)
- Henry S. Carter (M '52)
- Emile F. Evans (A&S '52)
- John P. Schneider (M '52)
- Donald Payne (E '53)
- Joseph D. Powers (E '54)
- Edward J. Seymour Jr. (B '54, L '56)
- Roger K. Battle (E '55)
- Lyle H. Degelos (B '55)
- Martin Beckerman (A&S '56, G '59)
- John A. Cramer Jr. (A&S '56)
- Jay W. Oppenheim (G '56)
- Samuel F. Boushy (M '57)
- George S. Michinard Jr. (A&S '57)
- Clarence A. Miller Jr. (L '57)
- Richard R. Neyrey Sr. (E '57)
- James W. Rawlins (SW '58)
- Valentine Reinhard (E '58)
- Paul A. Williams (M '58)
- Sandra Shainock Adair (NC '59)
- Joan Ciruti (G '59)
- Peter H. Hatten (E '59, B '65)
- Laura Magee (NC '59)
- Leslie L. Scharfenstein Sr. (G '59)
- Rudolph W. Bauss (B '60, G '67)
- Vincent J. Ciolino (A&S '60, L '63)

- Richard J. Schunior (A&S '60)
- Francisco J. Civantos Sr. (M '61)
- Janice Stratton (M '61)
- Jack B. Weldy (L '61)
- Alva Reisgen LaPointe (G '62)
- Jean Dawson Smith (SW '62)
- Richard D. Heilbron (B '63)
- Harold D. Kahn (G '63)
- William F. Wessel (L '63)
- Joseph D. Cascio Jr. (L '64)
- Patricia Wylie Faust (NC '64)
- Olive Roberts Forman (NC '65)
- William S. Horne (L '65)
- Sharon Heath King (NC '65)
- Alvin A. Ohm (A&S '65)
- Robert A. Riols (SW '65)
- Edward S. Williams (B '65)
- Numa G. Bulot Jr. (UC '66)
- William F. Font Jr. (A&S '66)
- Edward G. Gingold (A&S '66)
- Owen J. LaCour Jr. (B '66)
- Lange W. Allen II (L '67)
- Ronald G. Anderson (M '67)
- Ada Burson (SW '67)
- Ann Stephens Smith (NC '67)
- John J. Stretch (G '67)
- Frank A. Tapparo (B '67)
- Alexander R. Ashy II (A&S '68, L '71)
- Anthony J. Loria Jr. (A&S '69)
- Joyce Gonzales Penrose (PHTM '69)
- Alton R. Warner (E '69)
- Richard H. Bretz Jr. (A&S '70, B '72)
- Arthur G. Grant Jr. (L '70)
- Gerald F. Moynihan (G '70)
- Luna Roumillat (PHTM '70)
- James E. Wray Jr. (A&S '70)
- Shirley Gilbert Burton (G '71)
- Roger A. Wagman (A&S '71, L '77)
- Lucinda Boyd (SW '72)
- Daniel W. Doherty Jr. (M '72)
- Reginald M. Felton (G '72)
- Joseph M. Harrington III (A&S '72)
- Karl H. Karlson Jr. (M '72)
- Everett W. Beelman (UC '74)
- George S. Greenberg (G '74)
- Ann Boudreaux Metzinger (PHTM '74)
- Mark D. Modest (A&S '74)
- Katherine Busurelo (G '75)
- Cathy Wells (G '75)
- George A. Ball Sr. (M '76)
- Phil H. Synar (M '76)
- Oscar W. Boultinghouse Jr. (A&S '77)
- Jean Marie Kemohah Boese (PHTM '78)
- Robert O. Salus (SW '78)
- Luke J. Sanna (E '78)
- Alexander Baglione Sr. (A&S '79)
- William C. Smith (SW '79)
- Faith Johnson McCloud (SW '80)
- Mark A. Segal (B '81, L '81)
- Peter B. Tillotson (M '82)
- William J. Schaeffer III (B '83, PHTM '83)
- Anita Wagner Hagood-Capron (SW '84)
- William J. Bachemin Jr. (UC '85)
- Setlur R. Rangan (PHTM '85)
- Dorothy Murray (SW '86)
- Charles W. Bohn (G '87)
- Kathleen Carbajal (PHTM '89)
- Ann Stukhart Kenny (PHTM '92)
- Marie Hornyik Pickerill (NC '92)
- Mary McQuaid (SW '93)
- Julius S. Pohlenz (L '94)
- Ashley B. Scriber (A&S '94, B '00)
- Paulo Lam (A&S '96)
- John S. Herring (SW '98)
- Robert D. Hufstader Jr. (PHTM '98)
- Denise Johnson (UC '98)
- Maria Trujillo (G '01)
- Adam F. Zachary (TC '03)
- Beverly Silberling (NC '05)
- David P. Dillard (A '07)
- Benjamin P. Dansro (B '08)
- Sarah Hill Hartlage (SSE '08)
- Adam D. Goldberg Cohen (SLA '14)

# A NEW PATH PAVED BY INNOVATION

BY MICHAEL A. FITTS, President

**W**hen I arrived in New Orleans in 2014, I quickly learned that Tulane’s success stems from its location in one of the world’s most interesting, magical and beloved cities. I also realized the possibilities of partnering with our hometown to achieve a brighter future for New Orleans and the world.

No city on earth celebrates its hometown teams or institutions like New Orleans. Nothing we have achieved as a university would be possible without the dedication, commitment and partnership of New Orleans—area residents.

We have experienced several hurricanes, a global pandemic, social and political unrest and numerous other challenges together. But we have also known the ever-present *joie de vivre* that pervades our hometown and the unflagging hope that seeks better days ahead. As I look ahead, I believe a real game changer for New Orleans is poised to take place in the heart of its downtown.

The American landscape is filled with cities from Pittsburgh to Nashville, from Raleigh to Austin, and numerous points in between, that have been transformed from their core outward by the presence of a major national research university downtown. This is the destiny of Tulane and New Orleans.

We are currently investing more than \$1 billion in construction and renovations in New Orleans. Much of this effort is focused downtown, where the university already occupies 17 buildings. This includes the recently opened Thirteen15, a vacant hotel on the edge of Duncan Plaza that is now a modern apartment building quickly filling up with students, scholars, doctors and researchers.

Work is also currently underway to transform the long-dormant Charity Hospital building into a thriving center of innovation, education and discovery. This New Orleans icon will soon house state-of-the-art labs, classrooms and an innovation institute that will help boost breakthroughs and discoveries from Tulane and other local universities and lead to the creation of new businesses that will bring these inventions to market faster. This promises to spur economic development, including well-paying jobs, throughout New Orleans and the region.

Our downtown campus, located in the heart of New Orleans’ BioDistrict, offers a once-in-a-generation chance to elevate our national standing as a research and innovation powerhouse and support the growth of small businesses. We can become home



Tulane is poised to transform the long-dormant Charity Hospital building in downtown New Orleans into a thriving center of innovation, education and discovery.

to not only great food and music, but a center for discoveries such as the rapid COVID-19 tests created at Tulane or our advances in brain science. The city that care forgot can produce diagnostics, therapeutics and treatments to heal our world as well as economic opportunity for all.

Such a city will keep graduates of Tulane and other Louisiana universities and community and technical colleges here in our home state, while welcoming new residents.

With the help of New Orleanians from all backgrounds and leaders in local government, business, research and educational institutions, we can move our beloved city forward via a new path paved by innovation and research-based entrepreneurship.

In the age of pandemics and graying populations, in the time of CRISPR and other revolutionary advancements, the need and opportunity to create such a city has never been greater. A city rooted in the past and focused on the future and the promise of discovery cannot help but achieve greatness. 🏡

*Reprinted excerpt from The Times-Picayune | NOLA.com.*

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# March 9, 10 & 11, 2023

The inaugural **NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL AT TULANE UNIVERSITY** was a resounding success, and we look forward to bringing authors and guests together again for a unique literary experience. Bustling crowds converged on the uptown campus in March of 2022 for engaging panel discussions with literary luminaries debating everything from history and politics to art, comedy, food and culture. Family Day at the Festival featured readings, literacy activities, intimate conversations with authors and free book distribution, highlighting the importance of incorporating literacy in daily life for budding bookworms. The 2023 festival promises to be as exciting and lively as the inaugural event, so save the dates for **MARCH 9, 10 & 11, 2023!**

**“The New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane University is a Mardi Gras for the mind — a celebration of the written word and the joy of reading.”**

— MIKE FITTS



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