

Letter from the President



FALL 2019

Dear Tulane Community,

The energy of the new academic year is always tangible, but this year feels electric. Tulane's soaring trajectory—led by ascending admissions numbers, record fundraising efforts and a fresh focus on research efforts—allows us to aim for the pinnacle of the higher education landscape.

Tulane is unlike any other institution in the country: we are the only university with a school of medicine, a school of science and engineering, a school of public health and a primate research center. This unique arrangement is our academic superpower, affording us the opportunity to attract the world's finest students, teachers, researchers and administrators.

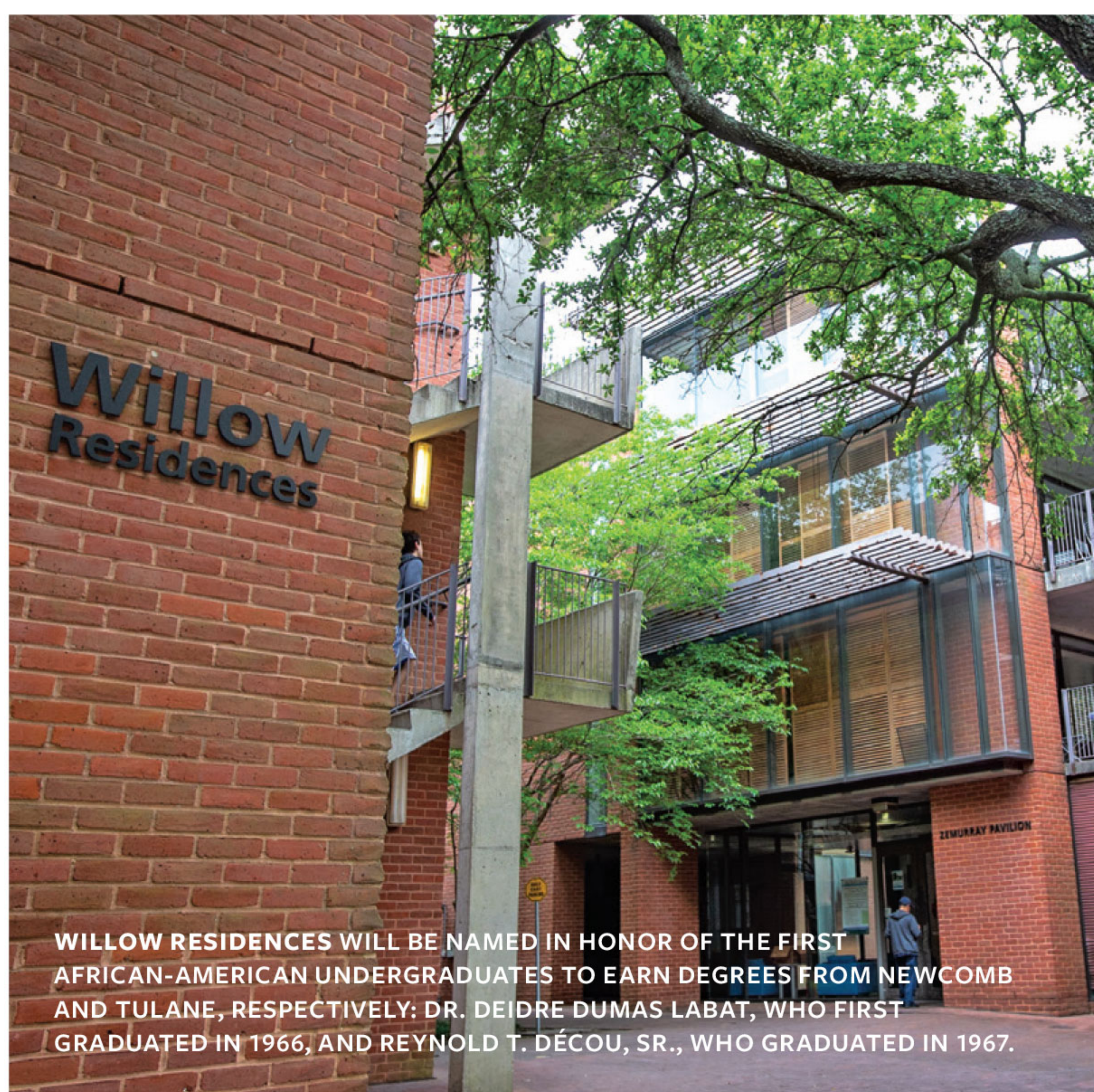
Joining our incoming Class of 2023—the most academically-qualified, diverse and selective class in our history—are new academic leaders at Tulane University. Lee Skinner, PhD, a leading scholar of Latin American literature, is our new dean of Newcomb-Tulane College, and she has exciting plans to enhance our undergraduate experience in meaningful ways. We also welcome a new vice president for research, Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte, formerly the chair of Pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic. Our research ambitions are further bolstered by the interdisciplinary appointment of Tony Hu, PhD, as Tulane's second endowed presidential chair. Dr. Hu is a world-renowned leader in the fields of personalized medicine and nanotechnology.

Supporting our new academic leaders is the ongoing physical transformation of our campuses. The uptown campus buzzed at the start of the fall semester as we opened the Commons, Tulane's 77,000 square-foot masterpiece overlooking the Berger Family



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WILLOW RESIDENCES WILL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES TO EARN DEGREES FROM NEWCOMB AND TULANE, RESPECTIVELY: DR. DEIDRE DUMAS LABAT, WHO FIRST GRADUATED IN 1966, AND REYNOLD T. DÉCOU, SR., WHO GRADUATED IN 1967.

FOCUS ON opportunity and diversity

This fall, we will honor the courage and perseverance of diverse members of the Tulane community with campus-wide recognition ceremonies. Tulanians will have a residential hall, a center, a professorship and a lectureship named in their honor.

WILLOW RESIDENCES, currently named for the street on which they sit, will be named in honor of the first African-American undergraduates to earn degrees from Newcomb and Tulane, respectively: **Dr. Deidre Dumas Labat** (NC '66, G '69) and **Reynold T. Décou, Sr.** (A&S '67, A&S '79).

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Gender and Sexual Diversity, as well as its new space in the Richardson Building, will be named the **CAROLYN BARBER-PIERRE CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL LIFE** in honor of the campus pioneer whose decades of dedication to the Tulane community have been instrumental in its movement toward greater inclusion.

Over the course of the next academic year, the university will name a **PROFESSORSHIP** for **Luis Guillermo Solís** (G '81), a Tulane graduate and former president of Costa Rica; and a **LECTURESHIP** for **Bobby Yan** (TC '95), a six-time Emmy Award winner and the founder of Tulane's Asian American Student Union.

These recognitions are just the beginning of a multi-year effort across schools and programs to acknowledge the crucial role Tulanians from all backgrounds have had on the university.

FOCUS ON BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENT TO support excellence

THE COMMONS opened on the uptown campus to much fanfare in August. The newly completed \$55 million, 77,000-square-foot marvel serves as a meeting, studying and gathering place for students, a unified home for the Newcomb Institute and a state-of-the-art dining facility with multiple serving stations, a rotating menu of local and international cuisine and a Chef's Table demonstration kitchen.

Directly connected to the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life and just steps away from the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, The Commons will act as the central hub for social and academic life at Tulane. Multiple dining options and innovative architecture follow the latest trends about the way that food and community are intertwined. The first and second floors will offer more than 1,000 seats for eating, studying and conversation.

The Newcomb Institute's space on the third floor features an open-air courtyard, an area for archives and special collections, a library with a dedicated reading room, a stunning event space and offices for the Newcomb Alumnae Association.

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Lawn. Connected directly to the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, the Commons serves as the new home for the Newcomb College Institute and a hub for all Tulane students. The magnificent facility replaces Bruff with a new, state-of-the-art dining experience that can serve more than 1,000 students at a time. In what will ultimately become the largest construction project in the history of Tulane, we plan to build new residential learning communities where Bruff currently stands.

The next bold project to break ground will be Steven and Jann Paul Hall, anchoring Tulane's Science and Engineering District on the academic quad. Tulane's downtown campus may also soon be transformed as we continue serious discussions to become the anchor tenant in the redevelopment of Charity Hospital, an architectural landmark that could form the nucleus of our downtown campus.

Why does our star continue to rise?

It's because Tulanians don't just bleed green and blue—we live and dream with our beloved university. That passion has put Tulane in a position to touch countless lives around the world. I challenge our community to look to the future—one where Tulane stands tall as the model for academic excellence and celebrated discovery.

This is a transformative year for Tulane University. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish together.

Roll Wave!

Mike

▼ COVERING 77,000 SQUARE FEET AND THREE STORIES, THE COMMONS HOUSES A STATE-OF-THE-ART NEW DINING HALL, MULTIPURPOSE MEETING SPACES AND A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE NEWCOMB COLLEGE INSTITUTE.



FOCUS ON pioneering research

Tulane has named research scientist **TONY HU, PHD**, a pioneer in developing advanced diagnostics for personalized medicine, as its second endowed presidential chair.

Hu joins Tulane University School of Medicine as the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Biotechnology Innovation and will lead the school's newly created Center of Cellular and Molecular Diagnosis.

Presidential chairs are exceptional, internationally recognized scholars whose work transcends traditional academic disciplines.

Hu's research focuses on developing and validating highly sensitive blood tests to find previously undetectable biomarkers of diseases. These diagnostics can also be used to develop personalized medicine tailored to a patient's specific genetic strain of disease.

"Dr. Hu is a visionary whose groundbreaking work developing new methods to find undiscovered markers of disease has the potential to improve countless lives and transform medicine," said Tulane President Michael A. Fitts. "He exemplifies the extraordinary ideals we seek in a presidential chair, which is to work across disciplines to pursue discoveries that can make a global impact."



THE PINCUS FAMILY FOUNDATION VIOLENCE PREVENTION SCHOLARSHIP AT TULANE WILL FOCUS ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN THROUGHOUT NEW ORLEANS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CENTRAL CITY.

FOCUS ON transformative teaching

THE PINCUS FAMILY FOUNDATION has awarded a \$550,000 grant to Tulane to create a new, interdisciplinary program that will train future leaders in community-focused violence prevention in New Orleans.

"Exposure to violence, both within the home and in the community, leaves biological, behavioral, cognitive and socio-emotional scars that alter the life course trajectory and health of youth within and across generations," said Catherine Taylor, director of the Tulane Violence Prevention Institute and professor of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences.

Scholars will be immersed in an innovative new training initiative focused on building skills to partner with community organizations and co-develop programs designed to mitigate the effects of violence.

The Pincus Family Foundation was formed in 2005 by Philadelphia philanthropists David and Gerry Pincus who dedicated themselves to learning firsthand about the challenges children face worldwide and helping to address those challenges.

"Having spent four years living in New Orleans as a student of Tulane University, I felt compelled to find a way to give back to the city that had given so much to me," said Pincus Family Foundation Trustee Leslie Pincus-Elliott, who graduated from Tulane's Newcomb College in 1990 and is the daughter of the foundation's founders David and Gerry Pincus.

Tulane University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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