

Letter from the President



FALL 2021

Dear Tulane Community:

“I have faith that we will soon return to normal, stronger than ever. Roll Wave!”

These words were spoken by graduate student Logan Smith as he accessed a Wi-Fi hotspot on Tulane’s downtown campus just days after Hurricane Ida.

Logan’s words were echoed in the thoughts, plans and prayers of Tulanians worldwide – from the youngest first-year student to the most seasoned senior administrator to members of our global family of alumni. Now, as we approach the midway point of the fall semester, we see that Logan’s confidence in the Tulane community was well-placed. We are indeed back and moving forward together – stronger than ever. As we do so, we are helping our neighbors in Southeast Louisiana recover through countless hours of hands-on volunteer work, donation drives and partnerships with government and civic groups at all levels. Through our research and expertise, we are also leading a wide range of water management, coastal restoration, climate change and flood protection efforts throughout New Orleans and the region.

Our response to Ida, as well as the ongoing challenge of COVID-19, exemplify the Tulane spirit and hearken back to our beginning as an institution 187 years ago. Back then, the earliest Tulanians came together to seek answers and educate future generations on combating threats such as yellow fever. Today, we are still confronting infectious diseases, but are also leading the way in advancing discoveries in environmental sustainability, neuroscience, biomedical engineering, disaster management and numerous other areas, while serving as home to some of the country’s leading scholars, writers, artists and thinkers.



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ONLY THE INNOVATIVE

Top high school students from across the United States and the world have, once again, chosen Tulane as their university home. The Class of 2025 represents the most academically qualified students to be admitted to the university, as well as the most diverse class to date. This year also marks the university's most selective class yet, with an acceptance rate of 9.73 percent.

This is the fifth year in a row that the incoming class has broken admissions records for qualifications and diversity.

About 26 percent of the students — more than one in four — identify as Black, Indigenous or people of color, up from 17 percent in 2016.

The average ACT score rose as well, to a range of 31-34 this year as compared to 29-32 five years ago.

The states sending the most students to Tulane this fall are California, New York and Louisiana.



Only the Transformative

PAULO GOES, former dean and Halle Chair in Leadership at the University of Arizona's Eller College of Management, became dean of Tulane University's A. B. Freeman School of Business, effective August 23.

"Freeman is very well positioned to lead in business education into the future with many significant ingredients already in place: great research faculty; strengths in the key business areas; innovative programs; a highly collaborative spirit; focus on student success through experiential learning, global activities and entrepreneurship," Goes said.

As dean of Eller College, Goes prioritized diversity, equity and inclusion as he built nationally recognized programs in entrepreneurship and innovation, digital transformation, economics and business. During his deanship, Eller's online MBA has been recognized as a Top 10 program by *U.S. News & World Report*.

A native of Brazil, Goes' work regularly appears in leading academic journals, and he often presents and delivers keynote addresses at national conferences in the field of information systems.

Goes replaced Ira Solomon, who stepped down after 10 years as dean of the Freeman School.



Those of you who are longtime members of the Tulane family could have predicted that even the double-hit of a hurricane and a global pandemic would not break the Tulane spirit. Rather than crumble, we thrived. Over the past year and a half there has not been one dimension of university life in which Tulane has not innovated. From research to service, from finances to facilities, from healthcare to community service, from admissions to commencement, Tulane has adapted, adjusted and grown.

We have remained forward-facing, future-focused, essential and impactful – locally, nationally and worldwide. Our researchers developed one of the earliest COVID-19 tests, wrote an influential study on the coronavirus' origins and conducted clinical trials of the latest vaccines, including those still in development. Our doctors and other healthcare professionals continue to care for COVID-19 patients while our nation-leading regimen of safety protocols and rigorous testing, contact tracing and isolation helped protect the Tulane and New Orleans communities.

To make way for even greater contributions in the future, we are expanding efforts such as the Tulane University Translational Science Institute, which will help bring our scientific discoveries and breakthroughs to market (and to patients) even sooner, while also developing the next generation of clinical investigators.

We are physically growing as well. Construction on Steven and Jann Paul Hall (the new home for the School of Science and Engineering), expansion of the Don and Lora Peters Academic Center for student athletes, continued work on The Village (our new undergraduate residential quad), and welcoming tenants to Thirteen15 (the latest Tulane residential addition to our downtown campus), all of these transformative projects are on the agenda this semester.

Central to all of our expansion and growth is a continued commitment to creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Tulane, one that elevates, listens and responds to all voices. We will continue to engage in open and honest conversations that bring about real and lasting change in how we welcome, value and empower all to succeed.

Being dispersed for the storm and socially distanced by the pandemic has given us a new appreciation for the richness of campus life and the traditions that unite us as Tulanians. More than ever, we cherish moments of community, gathering and shared experiences of all kinds – from in-person classes to plays, exhibitions and other events. One such moment is the Homecoming, Reunion and Family Weekend, which will take place Nov. 12-14. I hope you will be able to make it to campus and see for yourself how we have met challenges of many kinds, thrived and remained laser-focused on a better future for all.

Roll Wave,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Fitz".

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Learn more about the *Only the Audacious* campaign and how you can be involved at audacious.tulane.edu.



ONLY THE PIONEERING

Tulane University won a share in a \$35 million U.S. Department of Energy clean energy grant. The award is designed to advance new technologies to decarbonize the biorefining processes used to convert organic material, such as plant matter, into fuel.

The \$35 million investment in clean energy technology is part of the Biden-Harris administration's goal of achieving a 100 percent clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050. The effort cuts across the energy, transportation and agriculture sectors.

The Tulane Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering is teaming up with researchers at the University of Delaware on one of the grant's 15 projects. The Tulane portion of that \$2.75 million grant will be led by Nicholas Sandoval, assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

Only the Bold

Two centers dedicated to fostering equitable social, cultural and academic programming, so that all students can thrive during their years at Tulane, have a new campus home.

THE CAROLYN BARBER-PIERRE CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL LIFE and **THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EQUITY** have started their first full academic year with both being housed in the Richardson Building on the uptown campus's Academic Quad.

The Richardson Building provides more areas for students to hold and attend meetings and events and to work and congregate. It is also positioned where students and center leaders can easily collaborate with other departments and offices. The Center for Academic Equity, whose mission mirrors that of the Carolyn Barber-Pierre Center for Intercultural Life by addressing the academic needs of underrepresented students, is now right next door.