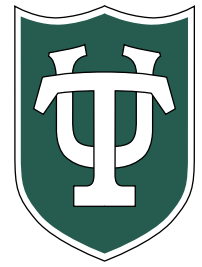


# Letter from the President



SPRING 2019

Dear Tulane Community,

Biomedical engineering graduate students Elaine Horn-Ranney ('08, '13) and Parastoo Khoshakhlagh ('13, '15) were working together at a Tulane lab when they had a radical idea – what if damaged eardrums could be repaired without surgery? They invented a gel-based patch that delivers drugs directly to the eardrum's wound site. Their invention got the attention of NASA, which launched the wound-healing patches into space on the SpaceX Dragon Cargo Ship in December. While we await the outcome of their testing, I have to say: Tulane students and alumni never cease to amaze me. Their commitment to improving the human condition has long gone above and beyond, but now we can officially say it's "out of this world."

Horn-Ranney and Khoshakhlagh's discovery is just one example of how Tulane researchers are making game-changing breakthroughs. Tulane University School of Medicine virologists Robert Garry, PhD, and James Robinson, MD, are narrowing in on a vaccine for deadly Lassa Fever. Polar scientist and Arnold Early Career Professor Brent Goehring is heading to Antarctica to study glacier collapse and its impact on global sea rise. And Tulane archaeologists Marcello A. Canuto and Francisco Estrada-Belli are using innovative technology to uncover the past, revealing more than 60,000 ancient Mayan structures deep in the Guatemalan jungle.

Whether abroad or on campus, research at Tulane is thriving. We're set to break ground on a new "science district" with the construction of the Steven and Jann



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THE OFFICE OF  
MULTICULTURAL  
AFFAIRS FOUNDER  
AND CURRENT  
DIRECTOR,  
CAROLYN  
BARBER-PIERRE

FOCUS ON

## opportunity and diversity

**THE OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (THE O)** celebrated its 30th anniversary in fall 2018 by commemorating the many ways the office has played a major role in creating a more inclusive community where students from all walks of life can find their voice.

Founded in 1988 as a cultural center to provide programming for underrepresented groups, the office has grown to include the Office of Gender and Sexual Diversity and Religious Life at Tulane. Today, The O brings students together from a variety of different racial, sexual and cultural identities and creates a hub for diverse exchanges, events and relationships.

“How far we’ve come since the inception of this office,” said Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Life Carolyn Barber-Pierre, The O’s founder and current director. “There are so many memories, experiences and people who we, as an office, have been fortunate enough to witness and are here to celebrate.”

FOCUS ON

## transformative teaching

Tulane’s **CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINIC** allows law students to work for criminal justice reform by representing Louisiana’s most vulnerable defendants at all stages of their criminal cases.

Lawyer and Senior Professor of the Practice Katherine Mattes has led the clinic since 2007, and she and student attorneys have transformed the lives of hundreds of accused and incarcerated persons.

The clinic often serves clients who have been left behind: Juveniles sentenced to life in prison; habitual offenders sentenced to life without the possibility of parole – even for nonviolent offenses; persons incarcerated without treatment despite having been found incompetent to stand trial; and clients whose trials did not permit the entry of mitigating evidence of domestic abuse.

Mattes, who has been at the forefront of criminal justice reform in Louisiana, has helped prepare graduates of the Criminal Justice Clinic to become insightful public defenders, private criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors, immigration lawyers, partners in multinational law firms, judicial law clerks, clinical law professors, and more.

The dedication to improving the human condition that so inspired our founders, that inspired our NASA student engineers, that is in our very DNA as an institution, is the driving force of our bold path forward.

*« continued from page 1*

Paul Hall for Science and Engineering. This district will be located in the middle of the undergraduate student academic quad, another way Tulane's shared spaces catalyze connection and discovery among students and faculty. And, at Tulane, we know that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. We are thrilled that later this year we will open The Commons, which will help form the nucleus of our campus community with its state-of-the-art dining facility and new home for the Newcomb College Institute. In addition, over the next decade we will continue to grow our living and learning communities like Third Coast, which focuses on New Orleans' rich cultural heritage and coastal environment, offering students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to live and learn in a shared community.

When we look ahead to the Tulane of tomorrow, one thing is certain: the dedication to improving the human condition that so inspired our founders, that inspired our NASA student engineers, that is in our very DNA as an institution, is the driving force of our bold path forward.

Mike

## Commencement 2019

**APPLE CEO TIM COOK** will deliver the keynote address to Tulane graduates at the university's 2019 Commencement, 9 a.m., May 18 in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

"Tim Cook represents the kind of success we hope all of our graduates can attain — not only because he is the CEO of the most innovative company in the world, but because he leads with dignity and uses his role to make a positive difference in the world," said Tulane President Mike Fitts. "At Tulane, we are committed to addressing global challenges, giving back to our community and always acting with integrity and wisdom. Tim shows us how we can incorporate these values into life beyond graduation, and we are thrilled to have him as part of our commencement celebration."



**PRESIDENT MIKE FITTS, TIM COOK, APPLE CEO, AND LISA JACKSON ('83), APPLE VICE PRESIDENT OF ENVIRONMENT, POLICY AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES TOURED APPLE'S CAMPUS IN CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA.**



To learn more about the campaign and how you can be involved go to [audacious.tulane.edu](http://audacious.tulane.edu)

FOCUS ON BUILDING  
AN ENVIRONMENT TO

## support excellence

Recently, the New Orleans Police Department turned to the **A. B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** students in the newly launched Master of Business Analytics program for help making 911 call data more accessible to the New Orleans community.

For the past seven years, the New Orleans Police Department has published the data it collects when residents call 911 with a police emergency, but with more than 750,000 different data points in a given month — detailing everything from the time the call was received to the incident’s ultimate resolution — making sense of it all can be a challenge for the public.

The student teams created dashboards that enable users in the community to sort the calls by type and display them on a map. One team combined the calls for service with geographic information system (GIS) data, enabling users to get a more granular picture of crime in their neighborhoods than ZIP codes alone would offer.

“We think it’s a very good way not only to help the students learn how to do data visualization, but also to give back to the community,” said Ricky Tan, assistant professor of management science and instructor in the course.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY FACULTY JAMES  
MCLACHLAN AND LISA MORICI

## FOCUS ON pioneering research

Tulane University **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE** is on the front lines of fighting one of the world’s most highly contagious respiratory diseases.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 24.1 million cases of pertussis and 160,700 deaths per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Medical experts say the current vaccine does not provide lasting immunity and requires multiple booster shots. The National Institutes of Health awarded Tulane School of Medicine an \$8.5 million contract to develop a more effective and longer-lasting vaccine against pertussis, more commonly known as “whooping cough.” Tulane researchers believe they can create a vaccine that will provide longer lasting immunity in fewer doses. School of Medicine associate professors, microbiologist Lisa Morici, PhD, and immunologist James McLachlan, PhD, will lead the project.

Tulane University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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