

Letter from the President



SPRING 2020

Dear Tulane Community,

In a time of texting rather than conversing — of AirPods drowning out the sounds of a city that marches to its own beautiful beat — Tulane fosters connectivity. Our extraordinary momentum has set the stage for an era of inclusive growth, heightened engagement, and expanded research across our prolific community. Tulane University is a family, and the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of our parts has permeated every corner of campus.

Our football team took that ethos to heart and kicked off the new decade in style as they returned victorious from the Armed Forces Bowl, marking the first back-to-back bowl wins in the history of Tulane University. The big win encapsulates how our new era will be defined: Tulane's ambitious spirit has carved a path towards sustained excellence in academics, research, athletics, and service — and our bold plans for the future chart a course towards a world-class university experience.

This year, two projects are set to break ground on the uptown campus, redefining what it means to be academically and socially engaged while fostering an environment of connectivity. The transformation begins as we begin construction on a new, state-of-the-art residential quad, complete with spaces that intentionally bring people together for creative collaborations. Studies show that residing on campus has a positive effect on student success and retention. Living and learning together with faculty and staff in our expanded residential learning communities will make for a healthier, happier, and more engaged student body.

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DR. GIOVANNI PIEDIMONTE HAS BEEN NAMED TULANE UNIVERSITY'S NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH.

FOCUS ON pioneering research

Tulane stands at an exciting time in its research enterprise, according to **DR. GIOVANNI PIEDIMONTE**, Tulane's new vice president for research. Piedimonte, a pediatric pulmonologist, joined Tulane in fall 2019 from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, where he held the Steven and Nancy Calabrese Endowed Chair for Excellence in Pediatric Care.

Piedimonte is optimistic about Tulane and plans to foster collaboration among interdisciplinary researchers. "Great research comes from the combination of experiences that are as different as possible.

When you put together an engineer and a medical doctor, when you put together a public health specialist and somebody who is interested in literature, that's when new and standard-breaking research is created."

His own research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more than 30 years, and he has been principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 40 research projects. He led a recently published study that found that a common cold virus can infect cells derived from human placentas, suggesting that it may be possible for the infection to pass from

expectant mothers to their unborn children.

Piedimonte says that all the pieces are in place for "exponential growth" in research to occur at Tulane.

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FOCUS ON BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENT TO

support excellence

Tulane has a \$3.14 billion a year economic impact on the Louisiana economy, according to a new economic study. Tulane's operations, capital investments, and other activities are responsible for more than 19,000 jobs statewide, according to Philadelphia-based Econsult Solutions. As New Orleans largest private employer, Tulane generates 13,934 jobs in the city alone and attracts \$312 million in annual spending from visiting parents, alumni, patients, and potential students.

Tulane's positive impact on the area is only going to rise in the future. The university has planned \$1 billion in construction over the next five years, on both the uptown and downtown campuses. The building boom on Tulane's uptown campus continues as Bruff Commons Dining Room was torn down in January to begin building a residential quad.

Downtown New Orleans, where Tulane already occupies 17 buildings, is the next major growth area for the university. As the anchor tenant of the Charity Hospital building, Tulane's new laboratories, clinical space, classrooms, and student housing will stimulate retail and hospitality growth, more pedestrian traffic, and a stronger sense of community. Tulane's reciprocal relationship with New Orleans sets the stage for an era of inclusive growth across the city.

Shortly after we break ground on our new residence quad, we will begin work on Steven and Jann Paul Hall, the lynchpin of Tulane's new Science and Engineering District. Located in the heart of our academic quad, Paul Hall's classrooms, labs, and study spaces will fill a facility roughly the same size as The Commons, with the same guiding principle—that the learning, research, and social interactions that make Tulane so magical happen when we put the best and brightest under one roof.

With space at a premium on the uptown campus, we turn our gaze to the downtown campus — a veritable playground for our community of creators, innovators, and leaders. We are primed to incite inclusive growth in the downtown neighborhood that will allow for an even more dynamic partnership with the city of New Orleans. The rebirth of Charity Hospital is at the center of our endeavor to strengthen that crucial link between city and university. As the anchor tenant in Charity and sole occupant of an adjacent property, a sizeable portion of our research enterprise and academic community will be positioned alongside the city's burgeoning Innovation District. But Charity — and by extension, the reawakening of our downtown campus — isn't about occupying additional properties. The influx of students, scientists, faculty, and staff on the downtown campus will trigger more retail, housing, and businesses in the neighborhood, solidifying our inextricable bond with the city of New Orleans.

It is a thrilling time to be a Tulanian. With all the exciting developments on both campuses, Tulane University might be physically unrecognizable by the time we celebrate the next decade. But I can assure you one truth will remain the same: the incredible support of the global Tulane University community is the engine that drives our truly incomparable institution.

Thank you for standing with Tulane University. I can't wait to see what our family will accomplish together!

Roll Wave,

Mike

▼ THE LYNCHPIN OF TULANE'S NEW SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DISTRICT, PAUL HALL WILL BE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF OUR ACADEMIC QUAD.



▲ WE WILL BREAK GROUND THIS YEAR ON A NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART RESIDENTIAL QUAD. THIS SPACE FOR LIVING AND LEARNING WILL BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS.

Only the Audacious
The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane

To learn more about the campaign and how you can be involved go to audacious.tulane.edu

FOCUS ON

transformative teaching

Tulane Law School is expanding skills-training opportunities for students by opening two new law clinics in fall 2020—on the First Amendment and immigrants’ rights. Law clinics are among the most innovative experiential learning opportunities offered at Tulane Law, allowing students unparalleled opportunities to work with expert faculty and provide direct client representation. Under Louisiana’s student-practice rule, clinic students are sworn in to practice law.

The law clinic dedicated to First Amendment rights is supported by a nearly \$1 million gift from the Stanton Foundation, created by Frank Stanton, a former CBS News president. Once in operation, clinic students (under the supervision of faculty mentors) will represent clients seeking to vindicate First Amendment rights of speech, the press, to petition, and assembly.

The new Immigrants’ Rights Law Clinic will prepare students to meet the rapidly growing crisis in access to justice for detainees. The new clinic, supported by a generous seed gift of \$400,000 from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, comes as Louisiana is playing an increasingly central role in the nation’s immigration crisis.



MAUREEN LICHTVELD, GLOBALENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

FOCUS ON

opportunity and diversity

Tulane researchers are working to ensure the United Houma Nation (a state-recognized tribe of 17,000 members in southeastern Louisiana), maintains its unique culture while coping with climate change and economic inequality. **DR. MAUREEN LICHTVELD** of Tulane’s Department of Environmental Health Sciences is lead researcher on the \$2.1 million research project sponsored by the

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Gulf Research Program.

Tribal citizens have lived in southeast Louisiana’s shifting landscape for generations. Today, however, ongoing coastal land loss combined with the cumulative impacts of health, social, and economic disparities pose new challenges for the tribe.

Innovative solutions are required. This

need for innovation is the impetus for the United Houma Nation’s decision to partner with Tulane to organize a research team. The research team will examine existing and emerging stressors, identify resilience strategies, and produce actionable information, tools, and interventions that can be used by the tribe to navigate these challenges. Project results may help other Gulf Coast communities facing similar issues.

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