



2010

Scott S. Cowen



March 22, 2010

Dear alumni, faculty, staff and friends,

It's been 12 years since I arrived in New Orleans to become president of Tulane University, and I can tell you without hesitation that in that time I have experienced nothing that can compare to the palpable sense of excitement, optimism and good will that is in the air on campus and around town. In February, New Orleans voters elected a new mayor by an overwhelming margin, giving him what can only be seen as a mandate to unify the city and fully realize New Orleans as a model city for the 21st century.

In addition, as some of you may have heard, the city's NFL football team had a pretty good year. Ordinarily I would consider a Super Bowl victory to be an uplifting but brief moment in the life of a city, but as you know, this is no ordinary city and the last four-and-a-half years have been anything but normal.

*At right, President Scott Cowen and New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow address the National Press Club of Washington, D.C., as Fleur de Lis Ambassadors promoting New Orleans. At left, walkers enjoy the new McAlister Place pedestrian mall on the uptown campus.*

### PLEDGE FOR **PROFESSORSHIPS**

Tulane University has received a \$50 million pledge from the Weatherhead Foundation to establish several University Professorships, a special designation for faculty members who have achieved outstanding accomplishments and made significant contributions as artists, researchers or scholars.

Faculty members from any school or discipline at Tulane will be eligible for the appointment as Weatherhead University Professors.

"This fund will reward faculty achievement," said Albert J. Weatherhead III. Weatherhead and his wife, Celia, a graduate of Newcomb College at Tulane and a member of the Board of Tulane, oversee the Weatherhead Foundation, an Ohio-based family organization that has generously supported higher education, including Tulane, for decades.

The foundation's gift will establish a permanent endowment at Tulane funding the professorships for years to come.

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## MEDICINE MOVES AHEAD

A program that helps Tulane University attract promising researchers in cancer genetics is getting an \$11.1 million boost in federal funding.

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Tulane a five-year, \$10.5 million grant to continue a career-development program affiliated with the Tulane Cancer Center and the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium.

The grant funds research projects for five junior faculty members who are matched with senior scientists who act as mentors. Tulane also received a \$600,000 grant to add a sixth junior faculty member and four mentors to the program, which aims to grow the pool of research scientists in New Orleans.

## TRAINING FAMILY DOCTORS

The Tulane School of Medicine has received a three-year, \$411,400 grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation to launch the Rural Immersion Program. Third-year medical students will reside and train in a rural Louisiana community while also applying a public health focus to their education.

The grant will be matched by funds from the medical school for a nearly \$800,000 commitment to help address the shortage of primary care physicians.



A Tulane medical student trains in a rural Louisiana clinic.

The relationship between the Saints and the city has been widely reported on in the media, and for me, among the most insightful observations that have been made is that the team is not a symbol of the post-storm rebuilding process, but rather, the Saints are a symbol of what has been rebuilt. When New Orleanians look at their championship team, they see a reflection of their own determination, perseverance and faith.

And as a proud member of the “Who Dat Nation” I cannot resist using a football metaphor to begin talking about our beloved university. Because for the first time since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, I feel like I’m playing offense and not defense. Opportunities now outnumber the challenges remaining from Katrina and the economic downturn, and Tulane’s future looks brighter than ever.

Ultimately, what dictates the nature of any university is the quality of its faculty, staff and students. I’d like to use this letter to acquaint you with just a few of the new faculty members. Each represents the commitment to education, research and service shared by all their colleagues.



## OSCAR BARBARIN

*Professor of psychology and holds the Lila L. and Douglas J. Hertz Endowed Chair, School of Science and Engineering*

A native New Orleanian, Oscar Barbarin has focused his research on the familial and social environments of young children and their impact on social and academic development.

Before joining the Tulane faculty, Oscar was a professor at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, where he directed the South African Initiative Office and the University Center for the Child and Family. As a fellow of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, he directed a national project addressing the socio-emotional and academic development of boys of color.

His research has focused on early childhood mental health as well as ethnic and gender-based achievement gaps. In addition, he collaborated on a longitudinal study of child development in South Africa, including publishing a book in 2001, *Mandela’s Children: Child Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. He chairs the U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Psychological Sciences at the National Academy of Sciences. He also is editor of the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. His most recent publications include the *Handbook of Child Development and Early Education*, an edited volume that translates developmental research into educational practice.



## JANE T. BERTRAND

*Professor and chair, Department of Health Systems Management, and holds the Vanselow Chair in Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine*

Although Jane Bertrand assumed the position of professor and chair in the Department of Health Systems Management in August of last year, many in the Tulane community know her from her 22 years on the faculty of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from 1979 to 2001.



# 2010



Construction has begun for a new residence hall on the uptown campus at Willow Street and Newcomb Place. The residential college, which will include living quarters for a faculty family, is scheduled to be completed in summer 2011.

From 2001 to 2008, Jane directed the Center for Communication Programs at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her professional interests include management of international and domestic health systems, behavior change and program evaluation, with a particular focus on HIV and reproductive health. She is widely published and is actively involved in research on HIV prevention in the developing world.



## COLEMAN COKER

*Professor of Practice, School of Architecture*

Coleman Coker is a fellow of the American Academy in Rome and a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is co-founder of "buildingstudio," a collaborative firm focusing on inventive and imaginative work. It is regularly acknowledged for its design excellence and has received numerous honors and awards.

Coleman has earned numerous honors, including a P/A Design Award for low-cost housing, "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty." In 1991, he was recognized by the Architectural League of New York in its Emerging Voices Series. He has received two Record Houses Awards from *Architectural Record*, as well as a National AIA Honor Award.

Coleman is a former director of the Memphis Center of Architecture, a collaborative program of design open to advanced architecture students in the region. He has been the visiting Favrot Chair at Tulane and has held the E. Fay Jones Chair in architecture at the University of Arkansas.



Architecture students complete a project for the Hollygrove Market and Farm.

## FOCUS ON **COMMUNITY**

The Tulane School of Architecture, which has linked its curriculum to community needs in new and profound ways since Hurricane Katrina, has received a \$1 million grant from an anonymous donor to continue its effort.

The grant will benefit the Tulane City Center, home to many of the school's applied research and outreach programs. The grant will be paid in yearly installments of \$100,000 that will support one "design/build" project and one "visioning document" each year.

These programs include university and community design partnerships to help revitalize neighborhoods; GREENbuild, through which students design and build sustainable homes; and the CITYbuild Consortium of Schools, which coordinates efforts of architectural students nationally to aid New Orleans' recovery.

The school continues to earn national attention, including its recent ranking as one of the nation's "Hidden Gems of Architecture Education" by the prestigious *DesignIntelligence* report, which also named Dean Kenneth Schwartz among its 25 "Most Admired Educators of 2010."





## COURT COMEBACK

Green Wave men's tennis is back playing on its home court for the first time since 2005 at the Goldring Tennis Center on the uptown campus. The men's tennis team, along with seven other Tulane athletic programs, suspended operations following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

On Jan. 23, a special ceremony celebrated the team's return as Tulane, led by head men's tennis coach Mark Booras, hosted its first tournament on campus against Centenary College.

"On the court you could feel the nervousness of the guys and the excitement," said Booras, who was hired in July 2008 to lead the team's comeback. "It was really a great atmosphere."

Tulane fields a roster of eight players that includes seven first-year student-athletes and one sophomore. Booras said of his team, "They're thankful that they get to be a part of this rebuilding opportunity, and they want to lead Tulane down that road to recovery and back into national prominence."



## NORA LUSTIG

*Professor of economics and Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics, School of Liberal Arts  
Stone Center for Latin American Studies*

Renowned economist Nora Lustig, whose field of study focuses on poverty and inequality with an emphasis on Latin America, was attracted to Tulane partly because of its strength in social entrepreneurship and service learning.

Nora began her academic career as a professor of economics at the prestigious Colegio de Mexico. Prior to joining Tulane she was Shapiro Visiting Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University, president and professor of economics at Universidad de las Americas Puebla and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. She also held positions at the Inter-American Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme.

Nora currently is working on a book on the new dynamics of inequality in Latin America and a social report card for Latin America. She was president of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association and co-director of the 2000–2001 World Development Report *Attacking Poverty*. She is a member of the advisory boards of the Center for Global Development, the Earth Institute, the Institute for Development Studies and the Inter-American Dialogue, and is on editorial boards of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*, *Latin American Research Review* and *Feminist Economics*. She also is the co-director of the Latin American Economies Roundtable in Washington, D.C.

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Moving from defense to offense means moving beyond survival and recovery to a position of strength in developing not only our human capital, but also restoring our financial stability. Despite the economic downturn, our financial performance since Katrina has been stronger than we anticipated. There were no layoffs or furloughs during the downturn and we continued to make progress on our academic and financial goals. Student enrollment and quality are extremely strong; faculty and staff hiring, albeit at a slower pace, has been successful; and funded research is at an all-time high. Overall fund raising has decreased, but we continue to see an increase in donors giving to the university. Our balance sheet and cash flow remain strong, and the value of our endowment is rebounding at a pace exceeding most of our peers. Barring any unforeseen adverse situations, our financial recovery should be completed within the next year.

No matter what metric you use to measure our progress, Tulane is on the upswing. The confidence gained from Katrina combined with the commitment of all those who comprise the Tulane community ensure a bright future.

All the best,

Scott S. Cowen