



2013
SPRING 2013

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

April 19, 2013

Dear alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends:

Is Tulane University producing graduates who are dedicated to public service but ill-equipped to have a successful career outside of the nonprofit or public sectors?

That was a question posed recently by a Tulane supporter concerned that our emphasis on community service runs counter to the goal of producing well-educated and enlightened students, instead of graduates fully prepared to join the workforce and become productive citizens.

Sure, we are among the top universities when it comes to the number of graduates who join the Peace Corps and Teach for America. But will our service-minded students be able to have successful careers in their chosen profession? The answer to that question is emphatically “Yes”!

While our students spend their years at Tulane using the skills and knowledge they acquire in the classroom to help empower others less fortunate than themselves, they also learn how to become social innovators and entrepreneurs who can do a lot of good, while providing themselves and others with rewarding and enriching careers. They are learning to be engaged citizens and leaders of the world.

In addition to our public service requirement for all Tulane undergraduates, our new social innovation minor offers students majoring in any subject—from architecture to zoology—the chance to learn how to create new business ventures and enterprises focused on bringing about positive social change.



SCOTT S. COWEN

TULANE WELCOMES THE DALAI LAMA TO COMMENCEMENT

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and the spiritual leader of Tibet, will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters and deliver the keynote address to graduates at the 2013 Tulane University Commencement, which will take place on May 18 in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

Commencement will be especially memorable for this year's graduates. Honorary degrees also will be given to popular New Orleans musicians Allen Toussaint and John “Mac” Rebennack Jr., better known as “Dr. John,” and poet laureate Natasha Trethewey.



TOP PHOTO: Tibetan prayer flags decorate campus on the announcement of the Dalai Lama's visit.



SITE OF ZIMPLE HOUSE

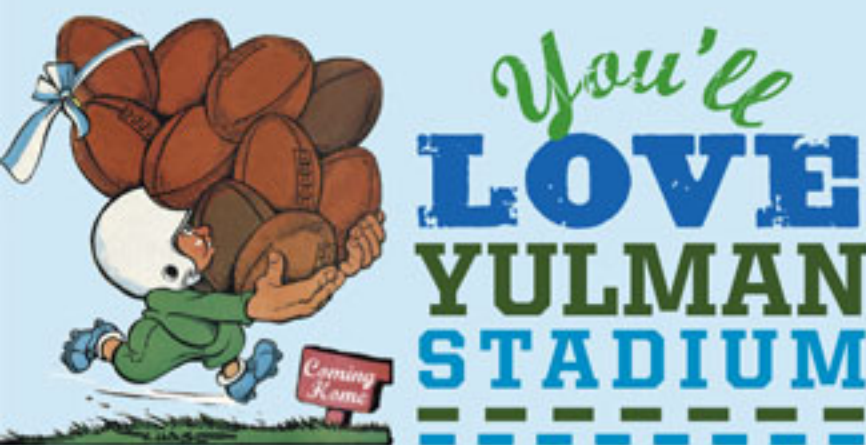


YULMAN STADIUM

GOING UP: ZIMPLE HOUSE

Pile driving is under way on the Tulane uptown campus at Zimple Quad near Broadway, the first signs of work on Zimple House. Tulane's newest residential college, it will meet high energy-efficiency standards and house 256 students when completed in mid-2014.

"The idea of having a building that flanks Newcomb Hall across Newcomb lawn from Josephine Louise Hall dates back to 1912 and the original plan for the Newcomb campus," says Collette Creppell, university architect and director of campus planning.



WAVE OF PROGRESS: YULMAN STADIUM

On Jan. 25, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu signed the agreement with Tulane outlining the use and operation of Yulman Stadium, the new on-campus stadium set to open in fall 2014. With that green light, Tulane got its first permits and began demolition and pile-driving work on the stadium site where the track and practice field were located.

"The Green Wave will have the home field advantage that we have missed for the last 35 years," said Rick Dickson, athletics director, "and our friends, fans and neighbors will have the chance to experience a first-class collegiate football experience on Tulane's beautiful campus."

Rob Lynch, who received an MBA in 2012, is a good example. He not only founded Bike Taxi Unlimited, which provides eco-friendly tours of New Orleans via bike taxis, he also worked to pass a city ordinance allowing such enterprises to operate in New Orleans. Through Rob's efforts, three bike taxi companies are now operating in the city, employing people, getting folks where they need to go and reducing congestion and greenhouse gases.

Such examples of Tulane graduates making a living by making a difference are endless. Consider 2010 Tulane graduates **Doug Jacobs** and **Kevin Morgan-Rothschild**, who founded Aquaponic Modular Production Systems. This company builds and operates urban farms that use recirculating water, rather than soil, to sustainably grow produce for stores and restaurants. Besides preserving land, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs also eliminate the greenhouse gases necessary to transport food long distances.

Tulane students also have numerous opportunities for experiential, real-world, real-time learning that takes them far beyond the boundaries of campus and classroom and makes them far more marketable when they graduate.

The Tropical Field Biology and Conservation course, taught by Assistant Professor of Ecology and Biology **Jordan Karubian**, requires students to design a research project related to tropical ecology in one of three sites in Ecuador. The students then travel to Ecuador to carry out research.

Starting in May, public health students will travel to Cuba to study its universal health care



KEVIN MORGAN-ROTHSCHILD



JORDON KARUBIAN



ROB LYNCH



and the economic and political context in which it was developed. Science and engineering students will soon be studying in Cuba as well, while architecture students will continue to travel to New Jersey to help in the rebuilding of communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

The longtime presence and efforts of Tulane social work students among Tibetan refugees in India continue—a partnership that resulted in the **Dalia Lama** serving as the keynote speaker for this year's Commencement.

Of course, there are plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning right here in New Orleans, which is not only our beloved hometown but also a real-world laboratory in which students can carry out research projects and scholarly investigations that reap benefits to both the community and themselves.

This was the idea behind the hiring of **Jim Letten**, who was U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for more than 11 years. As a U.S. attorney Jim Letten was known as the scourge of political corruption, successfully prosecuting a string of high-profile public officials accused of wrongdoing. Now, Jim is bringing that one-of-a-kind experience to Tulane as the newly created assistant dean for experiential learning.

In this role, Jim will lead Tulane's expanded practical training program for law students. This includes coordinating the law school's current skills programs, such as our law clinics, and spearheading new efforts to enlist employers and alumni to create more opportunities for students to learn through simulation courses, supervised courtroom externships, judicial clerkships, pro bono work and much, much more.

Does any of this sound like the college days you remember? If you are like me, things have changed a lot—for the better—since you were a student. This includes a major change in the make-up of our student body. In days gone by, attending universities like Tulane was largely the provenance of the privileged.

Now, thanks to scholarship funding provided by people like you, we are able to attract top students from around the country and world no matter what zip code they were born in or what disadvantages they overcame.

JOHN AYERS

"This year, parents have more school options and better information than ever ... but we are not there yet," John Ayers wrote in a *Times-Picayune* column about New Orleans' public schools. The executive director of the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives, he leads the institute's work to evaluate the city's school reforms.



ARACHU CASTRO

A medical anthropologist who studies infectious disease and women's health, Arachu Castro holds the new Samuel Z. Stone Chair of Public Health in Latin America. She says Tulane "offers an incomparable academic environment to rethink how we approach public health and to strengthen institutional links throughout Latin America."

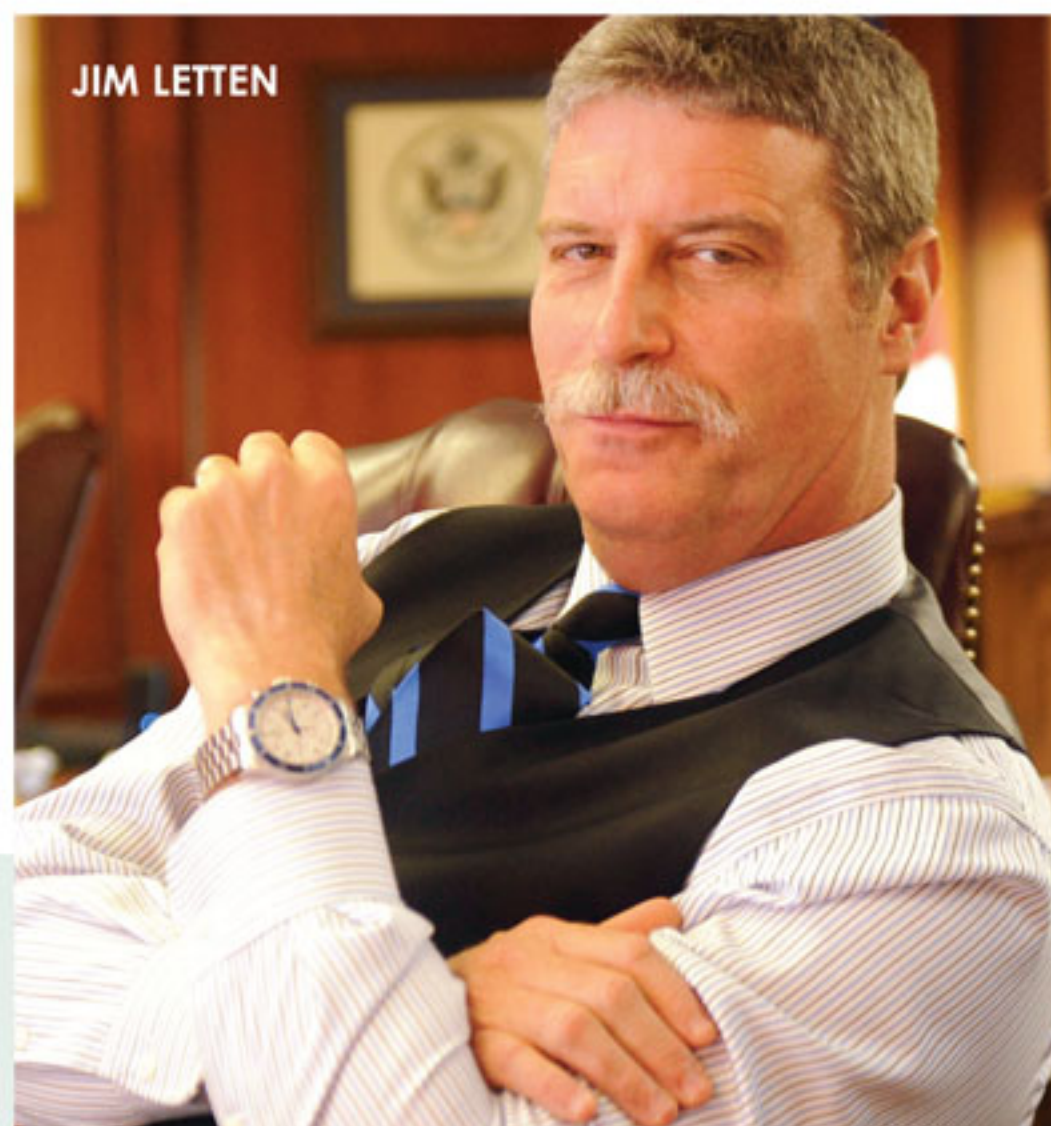


DOUGLAS HARRIS

"The whole idea is to engage scholars from Tulane and other local universities in important new research and to work with local educators to make it relevant—to improve schools," says Douglas Harris. An education economist who is launching a new research consortium, he holds the inaugural Tulane University Endowed Chair in Public Education.



TROMBONE SHORTY



JIM LETTEN



VICKI MAYER

TEACHING THROUGH OUTREACH

After five years of teaching service-learning courses, communication professor Vicki Mayer has been honored for bringing classrooms to life through engaged community partnerships.

She received this year's Barbara E. Moely Service Learning Teaching Award at Tulane. Mayer has partnered with a variety of agencies, including the Bayou Keepers (Neighborhood Partners Network) and the organization's newsletter "Trumpet," and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and its KnowLA project.

Service-learning course credit is required for Tulane undergraduates.



MEDICAL STUDENTS MATCH UP

On March 15, Tulane medical students in the Class of 2013 learned where they will do their medical residencies, as assignments were handed out from the National Resident Matching Program.

"Match Day is really the culmination of their medical career," said Dr. Marc Kahn, senior associate dean for admissions and student affairs at the medical school. In this year's match were 188 students. Thirty-four of them will do their residencies at academic medical institutions in Louisiana.

A total of 34.6 percent of the class will specialize in primary care.

Tulane Posse students are a good example of this. Each year the Posse Foundation identifies, recruits and trains dynamic urban public high school students and sends them to elite colleges and universities in multicultural teams or "posses." The universities grant merit scholarships to these students. Having a cadre of friends from a shared background has proven effective in helping these students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college, earn a degree.

It also makes Tulane a better university, attracting and retaining a caliber of student any university would covet. One such example is **Chris Hanuscin**. A member of one of our first Posse classes, Chris joined the Tulane community in 2009 and earned a spot on the Green Wave football team as a walk-on. He will graduate from Tulane in May and has already been accepted at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. He's awaiting an offer from UCLA's School of Medicine as well.

Tulane is also reaching out to students from disadvantaged neighborhoods right here in New Orleans in numerous ways, the latest of which is its partnership with the Trombone Shorty Foundation. A Grammy-nominated, international sensation who has performed from the streets of Treme to the White House, **Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews** credits mentors with much of his success. Now he is selecting local high school students to participate in the free after-school program taught on campus by Tulane jazz instructor **Jessie McBride**.

In addition to helping develop the next generation of New Orleans musicians, the Trombone Shorty Academy will also bring many high school students to Tulane's campus, some for the first time. Introducing these young people to the university in an accessible, fun way is a great way to inspire in them the love of learning and the desire to attend college.

So whether they volunteer for the Peace Corps or Teach for America, which incidentally count some of our country's most successful business leaders among their alumni, or launch the next world-changing social enterprise, our graduates are destined to make a good living by doing good. That is, after they receive a superb and rigorous education in and out of the classrooms at Tulane University.

Scott S. Cowen