

After being cooped up in their residence halls because of Hurricane Isaac, students enjoyed breakfast with President Cowen on August 30.



FALL 2012

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oct. 24, 2012

Dear Alumni, Parents, Faculty, Staff and Friends:

The beginning of this semester has been challenging but also inspiring.

We began the year by welcoming our largest student body ever—13,500 students, from 50 states and more than 100 countries. This includes a first-year undergraduate class that is one of the most academically qualified and service-minded in Tulane's history.

But, despite this promising start, the resilience, will and character of the Tulane community would, once again, be tested by events beyond our control. On the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, slow-moving Hurricane Isaac made landfall near New Orleans, downing power lines, flooding homes and businesses throughout the area and closing the university for a week.

While still recovering from Isaac we were devastated by the serious injury of Devon Walker, our student, teammate and friend, during the Sept. 8 football game against Tulsa.

Devon's injury was obviously more personal and heartrending for us, but both of these incidents, in separate ways, revealed the best of Tulane and brought us closer together as a university and universal Green Wave community. The outpouring of prayers, donations, support and love shown to Devon by so many of you from around the country has been extraordinary and has meant a great deal to the Walker family and Devon. Tulane alumni, students, faculty and staff have hosted fundraisers, sold T-shirts, donated supplies, sent get-well cards and held vigils for Devon.

As a cell and molecular biology major who earned a starting position and a scholarship as a walk-on at Tulane, Devon epitomizes the best of college athletics and scholarship.



### FELLOW SENIORS SELL SHIRTS FOR DEVON

White T-shirts emblazoned in green with "Walker, 18" are best-sellers in New Orleans thanks to a fundraising drive by two Tulane students to support their fellow senior Devon Walker, injured seriously in a Sept. 8 football game.

Seniors Brad Girson and Jesse Schwartz, who started their own clothing line as sophomores, designed the shirt and a wristband. Several thousand have been sold during events on the uptown campus, at football games, at the Tulane bookstore and at the team shop in the Wilson Center, and online, [tulane.edu/devonwalker](http://tulane.edu/devonwalker). Proceeds from each \$20 shirt go to the Devon Walker Fund.

"President Cowen does a great job inspiring us to give back," said Girson. "We thought, 'What can we do to help Devon and his family as Tulane students?' We're hoping the T-shirts and wristbands will unite the whole school like never before."





It is for the recruitment and development of such student-athletes and the betterment of our football program and the wider community that we are building the new Tulane Stadium, the university's first on-campus football stadium in more than 30 years. I can't tell you how many times in my travels as president of Tulane I have been stopped by Tulane alumni and regaled by story after story related to the old Tulane stadium.

"I used to sell programs there when I was a kid."

"My old man and I went to every game."

"I sold Cokes in the concession stand to pay for college."

"Me and my buddies used to sneak in by going under the fence."

"I had my first kiss there."

"I was a cheerleader in 1952.

Our skirts were a lot longer then."

"I was at the first Saints game when John Gilliam took the opening kickoff all the way back for a touchdown."

By my count, half the country must have witnessed that play. But now it is time to make some new memories.

We are moving forward on all fronts to have the stadium ready for the opening kickoff of the 2014 season. What a day that will be. We are expecting many Tulanians will use this as another excuse to come back to campus and relieve their youth.

We recently received several multi-million dollar donations from major individual donors for the stadium.

These commitments reflect the groundswell of excitement, dedication and enthusiasm that is surrounding the new stadium. Stay tuned for an announcement of these donors as well as the stadium facilities that will be named in their honor.

Gould Evans and Associates and Lee Ledbetter & Associates have been named the architects of the new stadium, and Woodward Design+Build, one of the largest construction firms in the Gulf Coast region, is the contractor. Other Woodward projects at Tulane include the Israel Science Building, Greer Field at Turchin Stadium, Weatherhead Hall and Flower Hall for Research and Innovation, which is currently under construction.

When the stadium was first announced, then-Associated Student Body President Evan Nicoll summed up the drive behind the new stadium, perhaps envying younger students who will be the first in a generation to enjoy on-campus football games: "Imagine," Evan said, "something as simple as having Homecoming at home, it's incredible."



We may have to wait a couple more seasons for a true Home Field Advantage, but this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend, Nov. 1–4, is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in memory. The pep rally, fireworks, reunions, New Birth Brass Band concert, a few surprise announcements and the big game against Rice are just a sampling

of the highlights of Homecoming 2012. I will also host a Town Hall meeting during Homecoming Weekend on Nov. 2, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in Dixon Hall. During the meeting I will answer your questions on all things





## NEW LIFE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CARE

What was once an iconic Ruth's Chris Steak House at 711 N. Broad St. in Mid-City New Orleans has been transformed into the newest Tulane University neighborhood-based healthcare facility.

Tulane officials gathered this summer with donors and supporters to dedicate the Ruth U. Fertel/Tulane Community Health Center and Brinton Family Health & Healing Center.

The renovated 11,000-square-foot center offers high-quality, cost-effective health care to residents, whether they have insurance or not. It is more than triple the size of the clinic's former location at Covenant House, including 13 exam rooms with a capacity of 1,500 patient visits per month.

The Brinton Family Health & Healing Center, which includes space for community events, meetings and group exercise, is a neighborhood hub for wellness care, providing counseling, social services and interactive health programming.



**Top: Working with chefs Michael Makuch, left, and Leah Sarris, Tulane medical students learn how to prepare meals using healthy fats.**

**Bottom: Dr. Timothy Harlan of Tulane, left, calls the new approach to nutrition science "culinary medicine."**

## COOKING UP CULINARY MEDICINE

Doctors and chefs at Tulane will be collaborating to improve the nation's health through the teaching of culinary medicine. The new program is a collaboration announced between the School of Medicine and Johnson & Wales University.

It's the first time for a medical school and a major culinary institution to work together on a joint curriculum for doctors, medical students, chefs and the community. The initial program will be based at Tulane but there are long-term goals for others at JWU campuses.

"Our goal is to change the way health practitioners think about food and the practice of medicine," said Dr. Benjamin Sachs, senior vice president and medical school dean.

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### MAYA DIG HITS ON CALENDAR FIND

Tulane archaeologists working at the site of La Corona in Guatemala discovered a 1,300-year-old Maya text that provides only the second known reference to the so-called "end date" of the Maya calendar, Dec. 21, 2012. It was called one of the most significant hieroglyphic finds in decades.

"This text talks about ancient political history rather than prophecy," says Marcello A. Canuto, director of the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane and co-director of the excavations. "In times of crisis, the ancient Maya used their calendar to promote continuity and stability rather than predict apocalypse."



### HELP FOR PEANUT LOVERS?

Food allergies afflict some 12 million Americans. "Eight foods—milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish—are responsible for 90 percent of allergic reactions to food," says Tulane researcher Soheila Maleki.

But after years of research, scientists still don't know why some people are allergic and some aren't, or why certain foods are allergenic and others are not, says Maleki, an adjunct associate professor of medicine.

Her team is studying how allergens interact with the human immune system by taking blood samples from food allergy patients, isolating immune system components, and then testing how the antibodies react to allergens in foods such as peanuts. She hopes to find methods of processing foods that would reduce their allergenic potential.

Tulane, from the university's current efforts and innovations to our future plans and beyond.

Another Homecoming highlight will be the 11th annual Helluva Hullabaloo Auction and Party that will take place on Nov. 2 from 6–8:30 p.m. in the Lavin-Bernick Center. You can help us in raising funds for Tulane student-athletes. Start bidding now on amazing Helluva Hullabaloo auction items such as Sugar Bowl tickets, vacations, sports memorabilia and top entertainment packages. Or, you can purchase raffle tickets for a Rolex watch and much, much more at [TulaneHullabalooAuction.com](http://TulaneHullabalooAuction.com).

While the beginning of this semester has challenged all of us, it has also deepened our resolve to work together for a better tomorrow. Fundraising for Devon continues to be an inspiration and an outstanding success, and we are all praying and pulling for his recovery. Having weathered Isaac, Tulane has reached out to help others still struggling in its aftermath.

Other storms and challenges will inevitably come our way, but so will many more triumphs, rewards and new opportunities. We will face all of these together, meeting challenges with the unyielding, battle-tested Green Wave spirit and approaching opportunities with the hard work, dedication and vision that have come to define Tulane.

In challenging times or in triumphant ones we will continue to work day and night to ensure that Tulane achieves the greatness for which it is destined.

Scott