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TULANE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT

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Wow. Has it really been four years since I stood before so many of you, welcomed you to campus and then, in the next breath, told you it was time to evacuate ahead of a storm named Katrina?

I will tell you something now that I would not admit then. I was afraid I would never see most of you again. But then, astonishingly, when we reopened after being closed for a full semester due to storm damage, more than 80 percent of you came back. For those who had already been enrolled at Tulane a year or two, the return rate was even higher. When I saw how many of you had returned, that was the moment I knew we would make it as an institution. It was the first of many miracles that have brought us to this day.

Today, interest in Tulane is at an all-time high. Nearly 40,000 high school seniors from around the country have applied to be part of Tulane University’s 1,400-member fall 2009 freshman class. Tulane also continues to be consistently ranked in the top tier of national research universities and was again named one of the “Hottest Schools in America” by Newsweek magazine in 2008.

None of this would have been possible if you had not taken a chance on Tulane and returned in such numbers. Your mere presence lifted the prospects of an institution and the spirits of a city in desperate need of hope. But you did more than return. You became a driving force in the city’s recovery, volunteering countless hours in cleaning up, rebuilding, tutoring, mentoring and healing our battered city.

Your service continues as you graduate. An amazing 1 in 10 of you have applied to Teach for America, a program that places our best and brightest young people as teachers in our nation’s schools with highest needs. Others of you are about to begin careers in architecture, business, law, the liberal arts, medicine, public health, tropical medicine, the sciences, engineering and social work.

I am certain that no matter what field you choose, you will continue to make a difference and continue to make miracles happen. Please know that you leave this day with my warmest wishes and my deepest gratitude.

Scott S. Cowen
President
May 16, 2009
Their story began in August 2005, just before Katrina’s landfall. This extraordinary class endured an exodus—a semester for most, but for medical students, a year in Houston.

Today, the Tulane community celebrates their achievements and loyalty to Tulane and New Orleans.
WHEREAS, the Class of 2009 was once the Freshman Class of 2005-2006 and faced unique challenges as their college careers began in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and

WHEREAS, the City sustained unprecedented destruction, turning routine student orientations into evacuations, as parents struggled with crisis management, and

WHEREAS, administrators for our institutions of higher learning balanced personal emergencies with professional responsibilities in order to make assessments, manage students, and open temporary facilities, and

WHEREAS, at the same time, exceptional courage was required of this class of students because of their commitment to four years of residency in a city with an uncertain future, and

WHEREAS, today that future is brighter, in no small part, due to decisions to re-establish higher learning in New Orleans and the resolve of administrators, faculty, the students and the families who supported their decisions to return, now, therefore

At the request of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that this Council acknowledges TULANE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2009 whose courage to matriculate here and determination to graduate have created this triumphant milestone in the recovery and rebirth of the City of New Orleans.
### THE “KATRINA SCHOOLS”

Just days before the start of the fall semester in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and flooded 70 percent of the uptown campus of Tulane University and all of its downtown campus. Tulane closed its doors for that fall semester, but these 600-plus colleges and universities took in Tulane students so that they could continue their studies. The entire Tulane community is sincerely appreciative of the assistance by these institutions of higher learning during our nation’s worst natural disaster. Almost four years later, upon the graduation of many of those students who were dispersed around the nation by Katrina, Tulane salutes these colleges and universities who will always be friends of Tulane.

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University of St. Thomas
University of Tennessee
University of Tennessee–Martin
University of Tennessee–Chattanooga

University of Texas–Arlington
University of Texas–Austin
University of Texas–Dallas
University of Texas–El Paso
University of Texas–Pan American
University of Texas–Permian Basin
University of Texas–San Antonio
University of Texas–Tyler
University of Texas Health Science Center–Houston
University of Texas Health Science Center–San Antonio
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center–Dallas
University of the Incarnate Word
University of the Pacific
University of the South
University of Toledo
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
University of Vermont & State Agricultural College
University of Virginia
University of Washington–Seattle
University of West Florida
University of Wisconsin–Madison
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin–Platteville
University of Wisconsin–Whitewater
University of Wyoming
Upper Iowa University
Ursinus College
Utah State University
Utah Valley State College
Valdosta State University
Valencia Community College
Valley Forge Military College
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Villa Julie College
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytech & State University
Vista College
Wake Forest University
Wake Technical Community College
Walsh University
Warren Wilson College
Washington & Lee University
Washington State University
Washington University
Washtenaw Community College
Wayne State University
Webster University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Chester University
West Virginia University
Western Connecticut State University
Western International University
Western State College of Colorado
Western Washington University

Westminster College
Wharton County Junior College
Whitman College
Whitworth College
Wichita State University
Willamette University
William Paterson University of New Jersey
Williams College
Winona State University
Wofford College
Woodbury University
Wright State University
Xavier University
Yale University
Yeshiva University
York College of Pennsylvania
TULANE UNIVERSITY
UNIFIED COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Presiding
SCOTT S. COWEN, D.B.A.
The President of the University

Announcer
LESLIE CARDÉ, M.S.

Musical Prologue
DR. MICHAEL WHITE’S ORIGINAL LIBERTY JAZZ BAND and PIPES AND DRUMS OF NEW ORLEANS

Academic Procession
EDWARD V. MORSE, Ph.D.
The University Marshal

Call to Order
PHILIP GREER, M.B.A.
The Chair of the Board of Tulane University

National Anthem
LAUREN ELENS
B.F.A. and B.A. Candidate

Musical Invocation
DR. WHITE’S JAZZ BAND

Welcome
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Class of 2009 Speaker
HELEN JAKSCH
B.A. Candidate

Presentation of University Honors
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Commencement Address
ELLEN DEGENERES
Emmy award-winning comedian, actress and television host

Presentation of Teaching Awards
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Musical Interlude
“Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans” by Alter and DeLange
WANDA ROUZAN and DR. WHITE’S JAZZ BAND

Conferring of Degrees
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Sending Forth

Intermission
DR. WHITE’S JAZZ BAND

Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony
(see program on following page)
The Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony will begin after the conclusion of the University Commencement Ceremony. All undergraduates enrolled in Newcomb-Tulane College and the School of Continuing Studies will come together in this single ceremony to receive their degrees.
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

ELLEN DEGENERES

A New Orleans native who is a television icon and entertainment pioneer, Ellen DeGeneres’ distinctive comic voice has resonated with audiences from her early days in stand-up comedy to her work today in television, film and the literary world. DeGeneres has made a home for herself in the daytime arena with her hit syndicated talk show, “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” Currently in its sixth season, the show has earned a total of 25 Daytime Emmy Awards. She began her career as a stand-up comedian, starred in the hit ABC show “Ellen” and won accolades for her character, Dory, in the animated film Finding Nemo. Also an author, DeGeneres has written two bestsellers. Both on and off screen, her humanitarian efforts take center stage. Passionate about bringing awareness to the people of New Orleans, DeGeneres through her TV show has raised nearly $10 million to improve the lives of New Orleans residents. Overall, the show has raised more than $40 million and brought attention to various causes, including global warming and animal protection. She continues to raise awareness about breast cancer, recently serving as spokesperson for General Mills’ breast cancer awareness initiative, Pink for the Cure.

CLASS OF 2009 SPEAKER

HELEN JAKSCH

Helen Jaksch, of El Paso, Texas, is a B.A. candidate of Newcomb-Tulane College in the School of Liberal Arts. A recipient of merit scholarships who has majored in theater and English, she is scheduled to graduate summa cum laude. As a theatrical artist, she has worked as a performer, playwright, set painter and assistant in numerous campus productions and received the Cynthia B. Taffaro Memorial Award for contributions to the arts and community. Volunteering in community outreach projects has been an important part of her Tulane career. She worked three years as a resident advisor but also stayed active in various student organizations, including Mortar Board Honor Society, Tulane Undergraduate Theatre Society and Residence Hall Government. After graduation, she hopes to join an acting apprentice company and eventually wants to pursue a graduate degree.

HONORARY DEGREES

FRANÇOISE BARRE-SINOUSSI, Doctor of Science

Françoise Barre-Sinoussi is the 2008 Nobel Prize Winner in medicine. She co-discovered the virus responsible for AIDS in 1983 and since that time, she has been at the forefront to create tools to diagnose this terrible disease. As director of the regulation of retroviral infections unit of the Virology Department at the Institut Pasteur in France, she has continued groundbreaking work on the impact of the body’s innate defenses in controlling HIV/AIDS. She also has done extensive work on controlling the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child. She has served as an international consultant to the World Health Organization as well as the United Nations HIV/AIDS task force. For more than 20 years, she has initiated collaborations with developing countries to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS. She has trained numerous young researchers resulting in her efforts succeeding well beyond her immediate contact. These efforts, as well as her continued pursuit to permanently link clinical and basic research have contributed immeasurably to improved prevention, clinical care and treatment of HIV/AIDS.
HARRY CONNICK JR., Doctor of Humane Letters

Harry Connick Jr. is a native New Orleanian and an internationally recognized musician and actor. His album sales of more than 25 million, three Grammy awards, an Emmy award, and Tony nominations reflect Connick’s creative energy. Importantly, he has been a driving force in the recovery of New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. Connick was in New Orleans days after Katrina navigating flooded streets by boat to help in any way he could. He later testified on Capitol Hill about conditions in New Orleans and contributed two albums to benefit the American Red Cross. Together with Branford Marsalis, he launched a Habitat for Humanity project in the upper 9th Ward called the Musicians Village, with the focus of rebuilding a community and preserving a culture. Since that time, he has spent countless hours acting as a goodwill ambassador for our city. His status as an internationally recognized musician and actor give him entry into avenues for aid that would otherwise be closed. He has excelled in his professional career and has aided immeasurably in the recovery of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

WILLIAM MCDONOUGH, Doctor of Humane Letters

William McDonough is one of the leading figures in sustainable design through North America and beyond. Trained as an architect, his contributions have spanned well beyond the scale of individual buildings to include sustainable cities in China and molecular work on creating materials that aspire to follow his trademarked “Cradle to Cradle” principles. He is one of the three leading partners in creating and sustaining the Make It Right Foundation locally, providing all of his own work pro bono. His awards include the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development given by President Clinton, Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects and Fellowship in the Royal Institute of British Architects. He served for five years as dean and Edward Elson Professor at the University of Virginia and holds several visiting faculty appointments at institutions including the Darden School of Business Administration, Stanford University and Cornell College. He also has founded several non-profit organizations including the UVA Institute for Sustainable Design and the Green Blue Institute.

JESSIE GRUMAN, Doctor of Science

Jessie Gruman is the founder, president and executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for the Advancement of Health, an independent, nonprofit policy institute founded in 1992. She has spent years working on national efforts to reduce the toll of cancer, particularly related to smoking, first as the national director of public education for the American Cancer Society, and then by designing and administering the National Cancer Institute’s $150 million anti-smoking campaign. One of the few truly independent voices speaking on behalf of patients, she has forged a set of core ideas about health that center around the involvement of the patient in care and the responsibility each person has in making the healthcare system function. She has received honorary degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, Northeastern University and Salve Regina University as well as the Presidential Medal of the George Washington University. She has served as the executive in residence at Vassar College and serves on the editorial board of The Annals of Family Medicine.
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

Four Tulane University faculty members are receiving universitywide teaching awards at Commencement 2009—two Weiss Presidential Fellowships for Undergraduate Teaching and two President’s Awards for Graduate and Professional Teaching.

In recognition of the importance of undergraduate teaching and with a generous gift from Suzanne and Stephen Weiss, the Board of Tulane University has established the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellowships. Each fellowship honors a faculty member who has a sustained record of effective, inspiring and distinguished teaching of undergraduate students and of contributions to undergraduate education. Recipients receive a special medal, $5,000 a year for four years and permanent designation as a Weiss Fellow.

The 2009 Weiss Fellows are Judith Maxwell, professor of anthropology, and Justin Wolfe, associate professor of history. Colleagues said Maxwell is the best teacher in her department, whose enthusiasm and dedication are legendary at Tulane. She has been head of the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics since 1986, receiving numerous teaching excellence awards and directing many dissertations and theses during her 26-year career. One student recalled Maxwell as “the professor who changed my life.” Wolfe, who holds the William Arceneaux Professorship in Latin American History, is praised by his students as “a natural teacher with a true gift for engaging students” and “uniquely committed to undergraduate teaching.” The recipient of past teaching awards from the Honors Program and Mortar Board, Wolfe wrote that his goal is to engage students in critical thinking through the history of Latin America.

President’s Awards for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching are awarded to faculty members who have a sustained and compelling record of excellence in teaching, learning and research and an ongoing commitment to educational excellence. Each recipient receives a medal designed by professor emeritus Franklin Adams and $5,000.

Receiving 2009 President’s Awards for Graduate and Professional Teaching are John Perdew, professor of physics, and Tania Tetlow, associate professor of law. On the faculty since 1977 and one of the world’s experts in solid-state physics, Perdew excels at teaching at the graduate level, one colleague wrote in his nomination letter. “Simplicity, clarity and elegance define his teaching style,” one student wrote, while others said Perdew is always available to help students outside of class. A Tulane alumna, Tetlow joined the law faculty in 2005, and as director of the school’s Domestic Violence Clinic, educates not only students but also the Tulane community about this important issue. Students described Tetlow as innovative, inspirational and an exceptional teacher and mentor who combines depth of knowledge, passion for her subject matter and skill at engaging students of all types.

THE PROCESSION

The university marshal leads the academic procession of students and faculty members of the 10 schools and colleges. Candidates for degrees are presented to the president for the conferring of degrees.

Colorful gonfalons precede the academic procession into the Louisiana Superdome and are displayed on stage. This banner or ensign is suspended from a cross-bar instead of being directly fastened to the pole. The use of the gonfalon as a ceremonial banner dates back to the 1500s. Italian towns, for example, each have a gonfalon, which is the official emblem of the town, showing its coat of arms. Tulane gonfalons are emblazoned with images representing the university and the city.
In 2008, new designs were commissioned for academic robes worn by graduating students and members of the Board of Tulane, which is the governing body of Tulane University. Special design details have been added to robes to identify the three levels of academic degree earned by students. These identifying designs and colors all reflect the established Tulane colors and logo design, and help distinguish each group, as follows:

- Candidates for bachelor’s degrees are wearing a black gown with green Tulane University shield printed on the back, on the yoke.
- Candidates for master’s degrees are wearing a black gown with tabs on the front that have green Tulane University shields embroidered on them.
- Candidates for the Ph.D. degree are wearing hunter green robes with black velvet trim and Tulane University shields on the front.

Members of the Board of Tulane who are participating in the ceremony have on hunter green robes with black velvet trim and Tulane University shields on the front, as well as black velvet trim on the sleeves and hem. They also are wearing a new flat hood with the school colors, dark green and light blue.

The practice of wearing academic attire extends back to medieval times and the Renaissance, when it was the custom for teachers and students in European universities to wear gowns, caps and hoods. Although the wearing of the garb is now limited to formal occasions, the garb itself may be called the uniform of the professional scholar and teacher. The style and color serve as symbols of collegiate attainment.

The long sleeves of the gowns and deep hoods were used to carry books and refreshments. Each European university developed its own style of garb with strict rules for its design. In the United States, however, most American colleges have agreed on a uniform design and color code.

Holders of all degrees wear caps, popularly known as mortarboards, to which a long tassel is fastened and which hangs over the left side of the cap. Doctoral degree holders may wear tassels of gold thread.

The academic hood goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The length and shape of the hood vary with the degree.

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**GONFALON BEARERS**

Mary Katherine Baker, *School of Science and Engineering*
Seth William Cunningham, *School of Science and Engineering*
Melvet Brian Dangerfield, *School of Science and Engineering*
Mariah Hope Flynn, *School of Liberal Arts*
Catherine Anne Freshley, *School of Liberal Arts*
Jessica Anne King, *School of Liberal Arts*
Maren Rene Leopold, *A. B. Freeman School of Business*
Jessica A. Roberts, *School of Science and Engineering*
John Patrick Sprovach, *A. B. Freeman School of Business*
Elizabeth Green Williams, *School of Science and Engineering*
Jared Micah Worche, *School of Science and Engineering*
Longstanding academic tradition, showing acumen and imagination, has designated the following colors to represent the common academic disciplines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Discipline</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Maize</td>
<td>Medicine, Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Letters and Humanities, White</td>
<td>Music, Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Drab</td>
<td>Nursing, Apricot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry, Lilac</td>
<td>Oratory, Silver Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics, Copper</td>
<td>Pharmacy, Olive Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Light Blue</td>
<td>Philosophy, Dark Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering, Orange</td>
<td>Physical Education, Sage Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts/Architecture, Brown</td>
<td>Public Administration, Peacock Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, Russet</td>
<td>Public Health, Salmon Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Economics, Dark Cardinal</td>
<td>Science, Gold Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism, Maroon</td>
<td>Social Science, Citron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law, Purple</td>
<td>Theology/Divinity, Scarlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science, Lemon</td>
<td>Veterinary Science, Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE ACADEMIC MACE**

“Inasmuch as they were scepter-staffs, the academic maces ideally expressed the dignitas of rector and university; inasmuch as they were weapons, they helped to stress the authority of rector and university.”


The ceremonial academic mace is a historical amalgam of the regal scepter of rulers and the weapon-like instrument known as a mace. The first dated record of the ceremonial academic mace goes back to 1385 at the University of Vienna. An academic mace is traditionally carried in procession and mounted on stage whenever degrees are granted or when the faculty is assembled in formal academic dress.

In 1999, for the first time, an academic mace was designed and made for Tulane University. The Tulane mace is made of silver and African Blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*). The Blackwood tree has an extensive range on the African continent and can be found in the savanna regions of the Sudan. It is considered to be the best wood available for ornamental turnery. Its chief use is for woodwind instruments such as flutes, clarinets and bagpipes.

Atop the Tulane mace is the “pelican in her piety”—a symbol from the university seal—with the bird tearing at her breast to feed her young. The heraldic shield from the university seal adorns the front side of the mace’s shaft. Inspired by Newcomb Pottery, the verso side of the mace features a stylized magnolia blossom and the Newcomb College pottery mark. The magnolia is derived from the design of the commemorative poster for the traveling exhibition of Newcomb Pottery, organized by Newcomb College and the Smithsonian Institution in 1986, as a celebration of the college’s centennial. A pattern of entwined ivy is etched on the silver base of the mace as a symbol of the Medical College of Louisiana, antecedent to Tulane University. The names and dates of service of the 14 presidents of Tulane University are engraved on a spiral silver band around the mace’s wooden shaft.

Jonathan Hils, who earned a master of fine arts from Tulane in 1999, designed and
sculpted a prototype for the mace. The wood for the finished mace was donated and turned by master wood-turner Gorst Duplessis. The silver was cast at one of the world’s leading foundries, Tallix in Beacon, N.Y.

**PRESIDENTIAL CHAIN OF OFFICE**
The Tulane presidential chain of office—representing the president’s authority as head of the university—features the university seal suspended from a chain. The chain embodies two repeated motifs: a stylized TU shield, drawn from similar architectural details on the façades of Tilton Memorial Hall and Robert C. Cudd Hall, and oak leaves, portraying the stately trees that line the Tulane campus. Alan Hill of Symmetry Jewelers designed the chain of office. Hill earned a bachelor of science from Tulane in 1973.

**THE PRESIDENTIAL COSTUME**
In 1999, when the Tulane University Unified Commencement ceremony was reinstated, bringing together graduates from all Tulane schools and colleges, President Scott S. Cowen wore a new doctoral robe designed especially for the president of Tulane. The presidential robe is tailored in the deep green color of the Tulane campus trees. It is adorned by chevrons and panels of black velvet, which are outlined in sky-blue silk cord. The robe’s sleeves are emblazoned with four chevrons, which is a distinction reserved for the presidential rank. The heraldic shield from the university seal is embroidered on each of the front velvet panels. Fourteen embroidered frogs decorate the velvet hem as a historical reference to the 14 presidents who have served the university during its history. The satin inside the presidential doctoral hood is green and blue—the colors of Tulane. The presidential hat is an eight-cornered black velvet soft tam with a gold metallic tassel. The presidential academic costume was designed to represent the university and the office of the president, not any particular holder of the office.

**TULANE UNIVERSITY RING**
The Tulane University official ring, worn by graduates, incorporates several traditional symbolic motifs in its design, including the university seal on the top side of the ring. The left side of the ring features a Gibson Hall dormer window, accentuated by a palladium window and flanked with ivy encrusted spires. Gibson Hall, constructed in 1894, is the oldest building on the uptown campus. Designed in the neo-Romanesque architectural style, Gibson Hall is an identifying landmark for the Tulane community. It symbolizes the traditions and history of Tulane. Directly below the dormer window can be seen 1834, the founding date of the university. On the right side of the ring is the shield with interlocking Tulane University initials, a distinctive symbol of the university drawn from architectural details on the façades of Tilton Memorial Hall and Robert C. Cudd Hall.
The imagery of the Tulane seal symbolizes the university’s founder, Paul Tulane, the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana—entities whose fates and fortunes have been closely bound to the university.

Central to the seal is a heraldic shield. Paul Tulane is represented in two quarters of the shield with identical imagery—three silver towers on a black field—from the coat of arms of Tours, France, his ancestral home. The other two quarters of the shield also depict identical images—a silver crescent flanked by gold stars on a red field—to signify the coat of arms of New Orleans’ founder, Bienville. These images represent the city, as does Bienville’s twisted cloak of silver and red, illustrated beneath the pelican’s nest.

The mother pelican in her nest represents Louisiana. Drawn from the state seal and based on an ancient legend, the “pelican in her piety” brings her young back to life by shedding her own blood on them. This symbol of self-sacrifice is explained in the motto, Non sibi, sed suis: “Not for one’s self, but for one’s own.” The motto is bisected by 1834, the founding date of the Medical College of Louisiana, forerunner of Tulane University.

Tulane University’s historic and traditional colors, olive green and blue, are on the outer lozenge of the shield.

The Tulane University seal is only used on formal occasions. It is emblazoned on the university flag displayed on the commencement stage. Its use is otherwise reserved for diplomas, official academic transcripts and Board of Tulane communications.
**ALMA MATER**

*Words and Music by Williams and Ruebush*

We praise thee for thy past, O Alma Mater!
Thy hand hath done its work full faithfully.
The incense of thy spirit has ascended
And filled America from sea to sea!

Olive Green and Blue! We love thee!
Pledge we now our fealty true
Where the trees are ever greenest,
Where the skies are purest blue.
Hear us now, O Tulane, hear us,
As we proudly sing to thee!

Take from us our hearts’ devotion,
Thine we are and thine shall be!

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**A BRIEF HISTORY**

Founded in 1834, Tulane University is one of the nation’s most highly regarded and selective universities. Students from around the world are drawn to its unique setting, unparalleled research opportunities and stellar programs in the liberal arts, science and engineering, architecture, business, law, social work, medicine and public health and tropical medicine.

As a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Tulane is part of a select group of the 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. Tulane is also ranked by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a university with “very high research activity.” Of more than 4,300 higher educational institutions rated by the foundation, Tulane remains in a prestigious category that includes only 2 percent of universities nationwide.

Tulane traces its origins to the Medical College of Louisiana, the Deep South’s second-oldest medical school, which was founded in 1834 and by 1847 was part of the newly established public institution, the University of Louisiana.

Tulane emerged as a private university in 1884 when the public University of Louisiana was reorganized and named in honor of benefactor Paul Tulane, a wealthy merchant who bequeathed more than $1 million to endow the university. In 1886, the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College for women was established as part of Tulane University. Today Newcomb-Tulane College is the portal through which all Tulane undergraduates, regardless of gender, enter the university.

Tulane moved to its present campus on oak-lined, historic St. Charles Avenue in 1894. Tulane’s School of Medicine and School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine are located in downtown New Orleans. The Tulane National Primate Research Center is in Covington, La. The university also has campuses in Houston, Biloxi and suburban New Orleans.

Research in many disciplines has flourished at Tulane through the establishment of centers such as the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies, the Middle
American Research Institute, the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, the Murphy Institute, the Tulane Cancer Center, the Tulane Center for Gene Therapy and the Newcomb College Institute.

In fall 2005, Tulane weathered Hurricane Katrina, the nation’s worst natural disaster. Despite more than $650 million in damages and losses, Tulane’s spirit was unbowed. Through an innovative “Renewal Plan” that streamlined and refocused the university, Tulane has emerged stronger than ever. Interest in Tulane is at an all-time high with more than 35,000 students from around the country vying for the 1,400 spots available in next year’s freshman class.

While Tulane’s programs have been shaped by the university’s experience with Hurricane Katrina, Tulane has refused to be defined and restricted by this tragedy. Rather, it has dedicated its scholarly resources to lead the recovery of one of the world’s most culturally rich and historically significant cities. In doing so it has also provided faculty, staff and students with once-in-a-lifetime research, learning and community-service opportunities.

New Orleans

With its 175-year history as a New Orleans institution of higher learning, Tulane University has infused its commencement ceremony with elements of New Orleans culture and music. As the largest employer in the city, Tulane’s local ties are extremely important and are stronger than ever as the university works alongside the city and its leaders to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

The university integrated various symbols of the Crescent City into commencement in 1999, when Tulane President Scott Cowen brought back the all-university ceremony after a 30-year hiatus. Over the years, graduates and their families and friends have expressed delight in having the sights and sounds of New Orleans in Tulane’s most important ceremony of the academic year.

The first New Orleans element of the ceremony in the Louisiana Superdome is the music of Dr. Michael White and his Original Liberty Jazz Band. White, who earned his Ph.D. from Tulane, is an internationally known clarinetist and composer. He is on the faculty at Xavier University, holding the Rosa and Charles Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities/New Orleans Music and Culture. White and his band will play throughout both the commencement ceremony.

Joining White to sing the classic tune “Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans,” will be popular singer and recording artist Wanda Rouzan as she gives the entire assembly of graduates a proper send-off.

Since celebrations are such a part of New Orleans culture, Tulane helps the festive event by giving all graduates colorful beads with the Tulane logo, reflective of the Mardi Gras parade tradition in which float riders throw beads and other tokens to paradegoers.

During the undergraduate diploma ceremony that follows the morning event, graduates will be “second lining”—traditional dancing behind brass band parades—in the aisles with decorated umbrellas and White’s brass band. For the grand commencement occasion, everyone involved can “laissez les bons temps rouler”—let the good times roll!
TU LAN E UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Tulane’s purpose is to create, communicate and conserve knowledge in order to enrich the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities to think, to learn and to act and lead with integrity and wisdom.

Tulane pursues this mission by cultivating an environment that focuses on learning and the generation of new knowledge; by expecting and rewarding teaching and research of extraordinarily high quality and impact; and by fostering community-building initiatives as well as scientific, cultural and social understanding that integrates with and strengthens learning and research. This mission is pursued in the context of the unique qualities of our location in New Orleans and our continual aspiration to be a truly distinctive university.

PRESIDENT SCOTT S. COWEN

Scott S. Cowen is Tulane University’s 14th president. He also holds joint appointments as the Seymour S Goodman Memorial Professor of Business in Tulane’s A. B. Freeman School of Business and Professor of Economics in the School of Liberal Arts.

Since Cowen’s arrival in 1998, Tulane University has more than quadrupled its undergraduate applications while experiencing all-time highs in student quality. In addition, Tulane has more than doubled the level of total private giving to the university and received a record level of research awards. The university has implemented a number of innovative academic and research program initiatives and significantly increased its community outreach. In recognition of Tulane’s accomplishments, it was noted as one of the “Hottest Schools in America” by Newsweek magazine in 2002 and 2008, and has been nationally recognized on multiple occasions for its civic engagement programs, while also being consistently ranked in the top tier of national research universities. On March 17, 2005, Cowen announced the public launch of “Promise and Distinction: The Campaign for Tulane.” In 2008 the completed campaign had raised more than $700 million, making it one of the largest university fundraising efforts in the history of Louisiana.

In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans, flooding 70 percent of Tulane’s uptown campus and all the buildings of its downtown health sciences campus. The storm dispersed Tulane faculty, staff and students around the country for an entire semester. On December 8, 2005, the Board of Tulane approved Cowen’s Renewal Plan, a sweeping effort that strengthens and focuses the university’s academic mission while strategically addressing its current and future operations in the post-Katrina era. Under Cowen’s leadership the campus was repaired and a remarkable 87 percent of its students returned for classes in January of 2006.

In response to Katrina, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin appointed Cowen to the city’s Bring New Orleans Back Commission and charged him with leading a committee to reform and rebuild the city’s failing public school system. Cowen has devoted his days and nights to these monumental tasks and has already had impressive results. As part of this effort, Tulane chartered a K-12 school in New Orleans and created an Institute for Public Education Initiatives to support the transformation of public education in New Orleans. In addition, President Cowen has served as a commissioner of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, which plays a major role in the rebuilding of Orleans Parish in
the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He currently is chair of the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, which is charged with turning Louis Armstrong International Airport into a world-class transportation center and a significant economic development powerhouse.

Cowen also is the co-founder of the Fleur de Lis Ambassadors program, a group of New Orleans civic leaders dedicated to spreading the message nationwide that post-Katrina New Orleans is an economically viable, livable city. The ambassadors also actively seek additional support for the recovery of New Orleans from businesses and philanthropic organizations around the country.

Prior to coming to Tulane, Cowen was a professor—and later dean—at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio for 23 years. He is the author of four books and more than 100 academic and professional articles, essays, and reviews, as well as the recipient of several national awards and honors, including multiple honorary degrees.

He has held leadership positions in national academic and professional associations, including the American Council on Education, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the NCAA. In 2003, President Cowen led an effort with his fellow university leaders to reform intercollegiate athletics and ensure that their sports programs are consistent with the values, missions and aspirations of their institutions. Cowen also currently serves as a board member for the National Merit Scholarship Corp. and the Council of Higher Education Accreditation.

A board member of Newell Rubbermaid, American Greetings, JoAnn Stores and Forest City Enterprises, Cowen has consulted with dozens of firms, from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies.

He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut in 1968. After serving a three-year term in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer from 1968–1971, Cowen went back to school and received his masters and doctoral degrees, respectively, from The George Washington University in the fields of finance and management.

Cowen and his wife, Marjorie, are the parents of four adult children.
COMMENCEMENT 2009 CEREMONIES

NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE

A. B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
4 p.m., Dixon Hall, Uptown Campus

A. B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
4 p.m., McAlister Auditorium, Uptown Campus

SCHOOL OF LAW
1 p.m., Fogelman Arena, Uptown Campus

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
2 p.m., Hilton Riverside Hotel

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
1 p.m., Dixon Hall, Uptown Campus

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
1 p.m., Iberville Club Lounge, Louisiana Superdome

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE–BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony
Saturday, May 16
following the conclusion of the Unified Commencement Ceremony
Louisiana Superdome

Graduate- and Professional-Level Diploma Ceremonies
Saturday, May 16

Graduate Programs Recognition and Hooding Ceremony
Friday, May 15
9 a.m. Dixon Hall
Uptown Campus