Tulane University
School of Science and Engineering
Sixth Annual Alumni Awards Celebration

April 10, 2014
Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life
1834 Club

Welcome
Nicholas J. Altiero
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

Presentation of Alumni Awards
Shepard Perrin III
Chemical Engineering ’83

Outstanding Alumnus Award
Victor Law
Chemical Engineering ’60

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award
Marc Matrana
Psychology ’01

Outstanding Service Alumnus Award
Rusty Pickering
Biomedical Engineering ’91

Closing Remarks
Nicholas J. Altiero
Dean, School of Science and Engineering
In the Fall of 2014, Dr. Victor Law will begin his 52nd year on the faculty of Tulane University. Dr. Law graduated with a BS (ChE) degree from Tulane in 1960, an MS (ChE) degree in 1962, and a PhD degree in 1963. Dr. Law was the very first Ph.D. graduate of the then School of Engineering at Tulane. He joined the faculty of the Tulane School of Engineering (Department of Chemical Engineering) on July 1, 1963. Dr. Law's PhD thesis was in the area of automatic process control. Early on, he taught graduate and upper-level undergraduate courses in process control, transport phenomena, applied mathematics, and applied statistics. He began using computers while still an undergraduate, and his research was centered on the use of computers for process control and process simulation. Dr. Law worked for several summers at the Monsanto research campus in St. Louis, MO, and was peripherally involved in the development of one of the first "process simulators" called FLOWTRAN. While working at Monsanto, Dr. Law became interested in numerical optimization methods. He worked with Monsanto colleague Dr. Robert H. Fariss on general-purpose software for nonlinear equations, nonlinear regression, nonlinear programming, and constrained nonlinear regression. In 1967, Dr. Law was promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure) and in 1970 to Professor. In 1973, Dr. Law initiated a program that was to become the Department of Computer Science at Tulane. He was the head of that department from 1979 to 1982. During his tenure in computer science, Dr. Law wrote two textbooks on introductory computer programming (one on FORTRAN77 and another on Pascal). In 1988, Dr. Law returned to the Chemical Engineering Department in order to resume his research career. Since returning to Chemical Engineering, he has taught classes in unit operations laboratory, practice school, process control, transport phenomena, process design, engineering statistics, and numerical methods for chemical engineers. His research has included projects in coastal erosion, methane emissions from rice paddies, thermochemical processes for hydrogen production from water, and butanol production from biomass. Dr. Law has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

During the period July, 1998 until June, 2000, Dr. Law was on leave from Tulane while he visited the University of Limerick (UL) in Ireland. While at UL he established a presence in Chemical Engineering by initiating a Graduate Diploma program. In April, 2000, this program received accreditation from the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE of the United Kingdom. Also during this period Dr. Law was elected a Fellow in the IChemE and became a registered engineer in the UK and Europe.

In the spring of 2013, Dr. Law again published a textbook derived from his teaching at Tulane. This book is entitled Numerical Methods for Chemical Engineers (Using Excel, VBA and MATLAB) and was published by CRC Press. He used this new textbook in the fall of 2013 while teaching a class with a similar name (Numerical Methods for Chemical Engineers).

Dr. Law is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers; a Chartered Engineer in the United Kingdom and Europe, No. 20514794; and a Registered Professional Engineer, State of Louisiana, No. 10961. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, and Omega Chi Epsilon.
Dr. Marc Matrana is a ninth generation native of the New Orleans region, who grew up cheering for the Green Wave and dreaming of the day, he might attend Tulane University. Marc arrived at Tulane in 1997 and began his pre-med studies and research in the field of psycho-oncology under the mentorship and direction of Dr. Chizuko Izawa. He deeply loved research, but also was drawn to direct patient care, spending many long hours during his college years at Tulane volunteering with cancer patients in various New Orleans hospitals. Marc received his bachelor degree in psychology from Tulane in 2001 and the following year, he became one of the first two students to receive a master’s degree in human genetics from Tulane.

Marc went on to receive a medical degree from the LSU School of Medicine at New Orleans in 2006. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Ochsner Medical Center, where he served as Chief Medical Resident, a position which allowed him to further nurture his interests in medical education. He then went on to complete training in hematology and medical oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where he won numerous awards and served as both Chief Fellow for Resident Education and as overall Chief Chief Fellow. While at MD Anderson, he became interested in genitourinary malignancies and conducted much ground-breaking research and authored numerous peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and other publications in the field of genitourinary medical oncology. Dr. Matrana has spoken at conferences around the world on kidney cancer and is a recognized expert on this topic.

Dr. Matrana was recruited back to New Orleans by Ochsner Medical Center in 2013. He currently maintains a busy clinical practice at Ochsner, focused on treating patients with cancers of the genitourinary tract, as well as lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, and other malignancies and hematologic diseases. He is an active medical educator, serving as Senior Lecturer and Key Faculty as well as Director of the Mentorship Program for the University of Queensland School of Medicine/Ochsner Clinical School. He is a Core Faculty member of the Ochsner Internal Medicine Residency Program and the Associate Program Director of the Ochsner Medical Oncology Fellowship Program. He is an active researcher, serving as the Principal Investigator of several active clinical trials and is actively involved in translational research.

In addition to his medical career, Marc is very active in historical preservation and historical and architectural research activities, serving on the boards of directors for historical societies, speaking around the country, and authoring books, articles, and essays on historical and architectural preservation topics. He is the co-founder (along with another Tulane Alumnus) and vice-president of a non-profit preservation organization aimed at architectural education and preservation of traditional built environments in Louisiana. Dr. Matrana lives in the New Orleans area with his wife, Heather Green Matrana, and their two dogs, Bonaparte and Beignet. Their first child is due this summer.
Mr. Pickering is the General Counsel and Chief Compliance and Corporate Development Officer of Ingo Money, Inc., a groundbreaking mobile payments company located in Atlanta, GA. He frequently speaks on the topics of emerging payment systems and risk management. Prior to joining Ingo Money, Mr. Pickering was the Co-Chair of the Venture Capital and Emerging Technology Practice in the Atlanta office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, an AmLaw 100 firm. There he spent 18 years representing technology companies and private equity firms in the areas of public and private securities law, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and technology licensing. Mr. Pickering has specific expertise in financial technology, serving from 2000 – 2002 as the General Counsel of a Nasdaq-listed core banking system provider.

Mr. Pickering received his BS in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University in 1991 and his JD cum laude from the University of Texas School of Law in 1994. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, a former Director of the Business & Finance Section of the Atlanta Bar, a former Director of the Entrepreneurs Foundation of the Southeast, an annual judge of the Georgia Tech Business Plan Competition, and an active member of the Association for Financial Technology. In 2011, Mr. Pickering served as pro bono General Counsel for the Quicken Loans Carrier Classic, an NCAA basketball game played on the deck of the USS Carl Vinson in San Diego harbor in celebration of Veterans Day. In recognition of this he received Nelson Mullins’ annual pro bono award for community service.

Mr. Pickering attended Tulane on a Dean’s Honor Scholarship, an opportunity that changed his life. He believes it is his obligation to give back more to Tulane than he has received. He has served Tulane for 9 years as an officer, director and committee chair for the Tulane Alumni Association Board of Directors, for 7 years as the President of the Tulane Alumni Club of Atlanta, chaired his 20th class reunion, and currently serves as President of the Tulane Alumni Association. He also serves as a mentor for several former Tulane BME students who have founded companies based on technology developed at Tulane. He is a technology fanatic, and scratches his engineering itch by upgrading and driving a track car at Road Atlanta.