MISSION

The School of Liberal Arts is dedicated to nurturing and promoting innovative scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Based on a distinctive vision comprised of our interdisciplinary approach, dedication to place-based creativity, and commitment to service learning, the school provides students with an outstanding education founded on close working relationships with distinguished faculty. In our belief in interdisciplinary inquiry, our faculty reach beyond traditional academic boundaries; in our dedication to place-based learning, we engage with New Orleans and the greater Gulf region; in our pursuit of social innovation, we foster a lifelong enthusiasm for service to the community and the world.
All too often, the liberal arts are questioned for their relevance in today's society. As our fifth annual publication of Reflections makes clear, nothing could be further from the truth. Throughout the School of Liberal Arts' sixteen departments and nineteen interdisciplinary programs, the importance of the arts, humanities, and social sciences is undeniable. Both in terms of the research we explore and the endeavors of our students, our scholarship and teaching serve to illuminate who we are, from where we have come, and the future that awaits us.

The breadth and depth of our school are also essential to our unique vision, which not only distinguishes SLA from other colleges and universities, but also serves as the organizing principle of the articles found within this publication. As in the past, we have structured Reflections to highlight our focus on mission, place, and approach. Through our service mission, our students and faculty have linked work in the classroom to activities beyond the university's walls. Through our conviction in place-based learning, we believe that each region, with its own distinctive culture, offers a lush canvas for study and engagement, whether that locale is New Orleans or around the world. And, as broad-based thinkers, our students and faculty have connected strong disciplinary studies through double majors, minors, and programs that have transcended traditional academic boundaries and created a true community of scholars.

This publication of Reflections also allows us to acknowledge the importance of our donors whose enthusiasm for our vision and support of our programs are essential for all we do. They truly fund the margin of excellence that ensures our success.

And finally, as I step down as dean of the school after ten years, I wish to thank everyone—faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, and friends—for allowing me the privilege of leading this amazing school. I am humbled by the trust and support that has been given to me over the past decade and can't wait to see the future of SLA.

CAROLE HABER
Dean, Tulane School of Liberal Arts, 2008–2018
SLA REFLECTIONS Year In Review - A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of the School of Liberal Arts Volume 5, 2017-2018

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ON THE COVER Caroline Chase (LA ’18), 438, 2018, acrylic and oil on canvas, 30x24” each (2 panels)


PICTURED ABOVE: Five SLA students accompanied Assistant Professor of Classical Studies Emilia Oddo to perform research in Knossos, Crete, in the quarters of the British School of Archaeology. The team is pictured above in front of the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens. Students received training in pottery analysis and learned how to properly record hundreds of ceramic fragments, getting a sense of archaeological fieldwork beyond excavation.

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MISSION

STUDENTS IN THE PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL Change course in Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts learn the ins and outs of giving by distributing funds provided by The Philanthropy Lab to local organizations of their choosing. During the fall 2017 semester, the students received a visit from Dr. Peter Gold, a Tulane alumnus and founder of Strong City, who offered guidance on creating a foundation to support nonprofit organizations.

“I can lecture to them, but having someone they can relate to makes a world of difference.”

“I invited Peter to speak to the students because he and his story reflect the true spirit of philanthropy,” said Michele Adams, associate professor in the department of sociology and instructor of the philanthropy course. “It’s good for them to see someone who is part of their generation. I can lecture to them, but having someone they can relate to makes a world of difference.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

PICTURED: Students in the School of Liberal Arts Philanthropy and Social Change course learn the ins and outs of giving by distributing funds provided by The Philanthropy Lab to local organizations of their choosing. Students received a visit from Dr. Peter Gold, a Tulane alumnus and founder of Strong City, who offered guidance on creating a foundation to support nonprofit organizations.
Gold launched the foundation with eight of his closest friends after he was shot attempting to stop a woman from being abducted in 2015. “It was 4 a.m., and I was the only one there. I just acted on my instinct,” Gold said about the moment that would change his life. “In turn, the guy tries to rob me and ultimately shot me in the stomach.”

After Gold’s recovery, Strong City was born. Today the organization works to raise funds to support community-based organizations that empower under-served youth—those who could end up following the footsteps of Gold’s shooter.

Gold and four of his co-founders addressed Adams’s class, walking the students through aspects of marketing, research, starting a 501(c)3, and a list of resources offered by Tulane that often go untapped.

Philanthropy and Social Change, which is offered through the School of Liberal Arts Management Minor (SLAMM), began in fall 2015. This past spring, students awarded $72,000 across five local organizations in the distribution areas of Education, Environment, Food Security, Trauma/Mental Health, and Women’s Issues.

### Visual History & Filmmaking

**STUDENTS BECOME BOTH** historians and filmmakers in Visual History and Filmmaking, a service-learning course taught by Justin Wolfe, the William Arceneaux Professor of Latin American History. Challenging students to conduct archival research and then create short documentary films showcasing their findings, the class is centered on collaboration and the ethics of representation.

As the groups are composed of two to three students, Wolfe emphasized the importance of both the product and the process. “I wanted students to think theoretically about how we tell historical stories in written and visual forms and then put those theories into practice,” said Wolfe.

Film topics in the spring 2018 course ranged from the evolution of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club from its civil rights origins, to a documentary about the history of Preservation Hall and its struggle with gentrification in New Orleans. One of the spring 2017 documentaries, “Camp of Innocents,” uncovers stories behind the U.S. internment of Latin American “enemy aliens” during World War II in New Orleans and across the Southern U.S. Directed by graduate students Mira Kohl, Joe Hiller, and Jack Collins, “Camp of Innocents” was selected for inclusion in the 2017 New Orleans Film Festival.

View the students’ work here: http://bit.ly/tulanesla_visualhistory

**PICTURED:** Preservation Hall Bass Drum from Wikimedia Commons
TRANSLATION THEORY AND PRACTICE, an advanced French service-learning course, recently completed translating a 400-page U.S. history textbook titled *Mon Monde: Science Sociales*, or *My World Social Studies: Building Our Country*. Begun in 2014 through a partnership with the International School of Louisiana (ISL), this project provided Tulane students the opportunity to combine challenging academic tasks with service to the community.

The project was directed by Annette Sojic, senior professor of practice in the department of French and Italian. Over the years, with the help of Tulane’s Center for Public Service, she has created long-lasting collaborations with local teachers that have been especially rewarding to Tulane students. “Working on *Mon Monde* enhanced students’ translating skills and provided them with multiple occasions to consult with ISL’s French teachers for advice on pedagogical expertise,” said Sojic.

The publication of this translation was particularly significant as teaching materials in French are in short supply in the U.S. This lack of suitable resources has notably affected French immersion schools throughout the nation. While the schools follow the American standards-based curriculum and teach in French, they traditionally had to rely on English texts.

Sojic expressed her excitement with the success of the collaboration. “I am delighted to see that our project has materialized into the publication of this version by Pearson and is now available to French immersion schools across the United States.”
New Orleans: Music, Culture, and Civil Rights

The Interplay of Socio-Political Change

and creative expression was the focus of New Orleans: Music, Culture, and Civil Rights, two week-long workshops hosted this past summer by Music Rising at Tulane, a program of the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South. The Center received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for School Teachers program to offer the workshops and stipends for all participants.

“Teachers are hungry to learn from New Orleans, a landmark city in global narratives of justice and music, and to receive and contribute methods for talking about race and social change in their classrooms.”

More than 30 artists and scholars led site-visits, lectures, and performances, creating a week of inspiring experiences that built camaraderie among educators and community members. The workshops provided methods and resources for teachers to incorporate the intricate history of race relations and music into their daily curricula.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

PICTURED: The New Orleans Center for the Gulf South hosted the National Endowment for the Humanities funded workshop, “Black Men of Labor - Social Aid and Second Line.” Workshop Co-Director Bruce Sunpie Barnes (RIGHT) with Fred Johnson from Black Men of Labor, and Dorotha Smith-Simmons who spoke about how music is connected to the struggles for equality.
The first week was offered for New Orleans-based teachers, forging relationships that continued with local follow-up this past year. Teachers from all over the country came for week two. “Studying the sustained efforts of people who have fought for social change through their art, passion, and intellect was important to me,” said April Crandall, who teaches in a juvenile detention center in Minden, Nevada. “I am ready to re-enter my classroom with the belief that we can cause community transformation and positive change.”

“Teachers are hungry to learn from New Orleans, a landmark city in global narratives of justice and music, and to receive and contribute methods for talking about race and social change in their classrooms,” says Rebecca Snedeker, Clark Executive Director of the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South. “Workshop Co-Directors Sonya Robinson and Bruce Sunpie Barnes were phenomenal leaders, holding space for all that emerged. It was transformative for all of us.” Snedeker is hopeful that Music Rising at Tulane will receive the support needed to provide these summer workshops again, and to create others like them for teachers and residents of the Gulf South.

“MAKING NEW ORLEANS HOME:” Cokie Roberts, a political commentator for ABC and NPR, delivers the keynote address Thursday, March 8, 2018, in McAlister Auditorium kicking off the New Orleans Tricentennial Symposium. “Making New Orleans Home: A Tricentennial Symposium” was a series of lectures, panels, and roundtable discussions held throughout the city to explore how the concept of home has become central to the Crescent City’s cultural identity. The symposium was co-sponsored by Tulane University.

Tulane Researchers Central to Laser-Discovered Maya Cities

THROUGH THE USE OF JUNGLE-PENETRATING LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technology, two Tulane archaeologists are part of a team of researchers who received international media coverage and acclaim for the remarkable discovery of dozens of ancient cities in Guatemala.

Marcello A. Canuto, director of the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane, and Francisco Estrada-Belli, a research assistant professor and director of the Holmul Archaeological Project, said the discovery in the Petén forest of Guatemala comprises more than 60,000 structures, including isolated houses, large palaces, ceremonial centers, and pyramids. LiDAR technology is able to pierce through thick forest canopy and map features on the earth’s surface. The maps can often reveal changes in elevation, enabling archaeologists to identify human-made features on the ground, such as walls, roads, or buildings.

Estrada-Belli noted the discoveries were made in a matter of minutes, compared to what would have taken years of fieldwork without the LiDAR technology. “Seen as a whole,” he remarked, “terraces and irrigation channels, reservoirs, fortifications, and causeways reveal an astonishing amount of land modification done by the Maya over their entire landscape on a scale previously unimaginable.” CONTINUED RIGHT...
The story of the discoveries appeared on National Geographic’s “Lost Treasures of the Maya Snake Kings,” a one-hour documentary that was televised on the National Geographic Channel.

PICTURED LEFT: Tikal, a popular tourist destination and one of the most studied cities of the Maya world, is now being seen in a new light with the LiDAR survey revealing a previously unknown pyramid in the very center of the city. Credits: PACUNAM/Estrada-Belli.

Anthropologist Makes Major Discovery of Ancient Mass Sacrifice

A TEAM LED BY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS Professor of Anthropology John Verano and Gabriel Prieto of the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo recently uncovered the site of a mass child sacrifice that took place more than 500 years ago. The discovery was first reported in a National Geographic exclusive and has been picked up by international news organizations including CBS News and BBC.

Archaeologists made the discovery on the northern coast of Peru, where the Chimú empire flourished between the 12th and 15th centuries. In 2011, children playing in the sand dunes found human bones at the site, which is less than a half mile from the ancient Chimú capital of Chan Chan and near the modern city of Trujillo. Verano joined Prieto to lead the dig and the team excavated the bones of more than 140 children and 200 young llamas.

Verano says it is the first evidence of child sacrifice by the Chimú and one of the largest discoveries of child sacrifice anywhere in the world. Researchers think the region may have been experiencing devastating floods at the time.

“In most societies, human sacrifice is the most precious gift you can give if you need to make an offering to the gods,” says Verano. “It’s some kind of event that happened, some kind of crisis where they felt they had to sacrifice a large number of children and llamas. We may never know why they did this but it’s important to document it.”

Verano plans to return to Peru this summer with support from the National Geographic Society, along with grants from Tulane’s Carol Lavin Bernick Family Foundation and Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies. The team includes two graduate students and one undergraduate student from Tulane’s Department of Anthropology.

PICTURED BELOW: Professor John Verano with Tulane graduate students Khrystyne Tschinkel and Rachel Witt, along with undergraduate student Mathilde Morzaniga at the excavation site in Peru.
APPROACH
IN THE SPRING OF 2018, A NEW COURSE, How to Acquire a Work of Art, was offered by the Newcomb Art Department and led with creativity and innovation by Associate Professor Michael Plante. The class was made possible through the generous funding of New York City-based art advisor and Tulane graduate Sandy Heller (A&S ’94). Heller, a former student of Professor Plante, was an eager participant in the conception and design of the class as well as provided the funds that allowed students to purchase a piece of art.

Developed for the School of Liberal Arts Management Minor (SLAMM), the course allowed students to learn about the logistical operations of museums, auction houses, and galleries, as well as gather skills in cataloguing, research, and composing condition reports and curatorial proposals. Students worked under the guidance of New Orleans art professionals, including New Orleans Museum of Art curators Russell Lord and Katie Pfohl and local gallery owners Arthur Roger and Jonathan Ferrara.

The course culminated in a juried panel where seven student groups, charged with researching works of art available in New Orleans, made formal presentations.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

PICTURED: (LEFT) Robert Colescott, Pontchartrain, 1997. Color sugar lift and spit bite aquatint with soft ground etching and drypoint. (ABOVE) In the culminating class of the How to Acquire a Work of Art SLAMM course, Tulane alum Sandy Heller sits on the jury that selected two pieces of art that will be housed in Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts.
APPROACH

ARTWORK CONTINUED...

The jury, comprised of art experts, decided which pieces should be purchased and displayed in the School of Liberal Arts. The presentations were so outstanding that the jury was split between two works of art: Kara Walker’s Pastoral and Robert Colescott’s Pontchartrain. In the end, through the generosity of Sandy Heller, both works were purchased.

Plans for a second How to Acquire a Work of Art course are underway.

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PICTURED: Katie Pfahl, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the New Orleans Museum of Art, shared the details of art acquisition and curation.

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Opera returns to Tulane

Through the generous support of alum Gus Juneau (A&S ’88), Gian Carlo Menotti’s opera The Old Maid and the Thief was presented in March 2018 on Tulane’s uptown campus. The fully staged opera-comedy was a collaborative effort of students and faculty from the Newcomb Department of Music and the Newcomb Department of Theatre and Dance. The Gus Juneau Fund for Voice not only created the foundation for this opera workshop but will undoubtedly inspire future Tulane students to find their voices.
Donor Provides Firsthand Media Experience to Communication Students

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of Tulane alum Bruce Murray (A&S ’85), four School of Liberal Arts students were given the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about the television industry at the 2018 National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) conference in Miami, FL. The NATPE conference brought together 5,000 television executives from 32 countries for three days of “frenzied deal-making,” as reported by the Miami Herald.

According to Assistant Professor Benjamin Han who attended the conference with the students, one of the three core curriculum areas for the School of Liberal Arts Communication major is “Structures and Institutions.” Students learn how political, social, and economic forces shape the media landscape. “The NATPE Conference not only provided students with a critical insight into how those factors structure the television industry in terms of marketization, programming, and audience but they also developed an even deeper understanding of the theoretical and practical implications of the media industry,” said Han.

Kevin Credo, a sophomore who is majoring in film studies and digital media production, says the conference proved a valuable learning experience. “Our trip to NATPE not only gave me a lot of top-notch industry contacts but also an increased industry perspective useful when developing my own original projects.”

With the student experience in mind, Murray, a sportscaster on SiriusXM, established a Television and Radio Fund in the School of Liberal Arts that allowed students to attend the NATPE conference. “I wanted to do something that could help anybody who wanted to be involved in communications because of how much it’s meant to me.”

Anonymous donor funds professional music studio at Tulane

THE NEWCOMB DEPARTMENT of Music in Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts will soon have its first professional music recording studio and production space thanks to support from an anonymous donor. The space will be located in Dixon Hall on the uptown campus where both students and faculty will have access to the new isolated recording space and professional recording control room.

Plans are in place to turn a former band rehearsal hall into a 21st-century facility. Along with acoustic and HVAC improvements, the studio will be furnished with cutting-edge equipment for music recording, production, mixing, and editing. Proposed capabilities for the new space include the ability to record ensembles with professional level microphones and pre-amplifiers in up to 24 individual channels and the mixing of projects in surround sound.

Rick Snow, professor of practice in the Newcomb Department of Music, said the renovation will create a space on par with some of the best music studios in the city. “This resource has the potential to be a destination music studio for a city and university overflowing with musical talent.”

PICTURED ABOVE: Communication students Jade Bender, Zharia Jeffries, Kevin Credo, and Natalie Shaffer at the NATPE Conference in Miami, FL.
SLA FACULTY AND STUDENTS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Unsung Hero

SLA undergraduate student RACHEL BLUME was recently awarded the Campus UnSung Hero award from the One Love Foundation for her work leading campus programming around healthy relationships and relationship violence. Blume, who is a junior studying international relations and social policy and practice, directs a team of undergraduate students in facilitating workshops to train participants in identifying unsafe or concerning behavior in romantic relationships.

In Print and On Air

LADEE HUBBARD, an adjunct lecturer in the Africana Studies program, discussed her debut novel, “The Talented Ribkins,” on “Late Night With Seth Meyers” in fall 2017 after receiving the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence.

Gender Politics

Political science Associate Professors MIRYA HOLMAN and J. CELESTE LAY are among a group of authors who received the 2018 Elsie Hillman Prize from the Pennsylvania Center for Women & Politics at Chatham University. Their winning project was titled “Political Socialization and Early Gender Gaps in Images of Political Leaders, Political Knowledge, and Interest in Politics.”

SLA Professors Receive Prestigious Fellowships

Three Tulane professors in the School of Liberal Arts were awarded fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the preeminent representative organization for humanities and social-sciences scholarship in the U.S. Tulane’s winners are KATE ADAMS, an associate professor and holder of the Martha McCarty Kimmerling Chair in Women’s Literature in the English department; ELIO BRANCAForte, an associate professor of German and chair of the Germanic and Slavic Studies department; and ALLISON L. C. EMMERSON, an assistant professor in the Classical Studies department.
Digital Media Students Take Top Honors

Two SLA seniors were awarded top prizes in the Short Subject category of the 2018 Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts’ Student Screenwriting Competition. MOLLY BOOKNER and BRENNAN O’DONNELL, both digital media production majors in the School of Liberal Arts, placed first and third, respectively, for their film scripts.

Courageous Scholarship

KATHRYN COOK, a junior pursuing a double major in history and Russian, was selected as a 2018 Beinecke Scholar. The Beinecke Scholarship encourages highly motivated U.S. students who have demonstrated superior intellectual engagement and academic ability to be courageous in their pursuit of graduate study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The scholarship supports this pursuit with a $34,000 award. Tulane can nominate one student each year for this selective award. Cook was one of only 18 Beinecke Scholarship winners in 2018.

Genius Grant Awarded to Tulane's Jesmyn Ward

Two-time National Book Award winner and Professor of English JESMYN WARD, who has been hailed as the heir to William Faulkner and one of TIME magazine’s Most Influential People of 2018, also received a 2017 MacArthur “Genius Grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Music to the Ears

Composer, pianist, and assistant professor in Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts Newcomb Department of Music, COURTNEY BRYAN is one of five 2018 recipients of the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts.
AS DEAN CAROLE HABER steps down from her leadership role, she leaves behind a School of Liberal Arts that is bigger, better, and bolder than it was ten years ago. Hired in July 2008 to chart a fresh course for the school—which was founded under a university-wide reorganization plan after Hurricane Katrina—Haber tackled the lingering challenges with vigor and determination. But it wasn’t always easy. “We absolutely did not exist,” she said of the SLA’s lack of identity.

Although trained as a historian, Haber’s grasp of the future was as detailed as her understanding of the past. With input from faculty and staff, she crafted a vision that sealed the school’s reputation as a paragon of innovation and a flourishing hub for the liberal arts. From that vision sprang what Haber considers two of her supreme achievements: the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, founded in 2011 to celebrate the city’s gumbo of diverse cultures; and SLAMM—the School of Liberal Arts Management Minor, first offered in 2015 to teach management skills to non-business majors.

Haber also oversaw the rejuvenation of numerous doctoral programs; the creation of the Department of Jewish Studies and a PhD program in aging studies; and the establishment of several endowed chairs. In addition, she championed new summer programs such as the Contemporary Hollywood Film Industry option and the Mandel-Palagye Program for Middle East Peace. SLA is now an academic powerhouse, teaching 43 percent of Tulane undergraduates and offering 47 majors as the largest of the university’s nine schools.

To honor her service, the SLA Dean’s Advisory Council has established the Carole Haber Dean’s Endowed Fund for Innovation. The fund will provide future SLA deans with the discretionary funds to launch ambitious new programs and courses, acquire key equipment, and improve physical spaces for students and faculty. To contribute, contact SLA Development Director Kassie Cosgrove at kcrosgrove@tulane.edu or 504.247.1375.

Haber’s commitment to Tulane remains steadfast. After a sabbatical, she will return as a professor. She also plans to turn her book The Trials of Laura Fair into a movie. Looking back on her many accomplishments as dean, Haber declared, “I’m most proud of the community we created in SLA.”
Why We Give

Because of the support of alumni and friends, the School of Liberal Arts is able to give students an innovative and transformative education. We are grateful to the following individuals, companies, and foundations that gave gifts and made pledges or pledge payments of $1,000 or more from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
“As a recent graduate, I’m beginning to realize the true value of a School of Liberal Arts degree. I want to provide future generations of students with the same enriching experiences that I was afforded during my time at Tulane.”

- EMILY SHEARBURN

Emily Shearburn (LA ’15), the newest member of the SLA Dean’s Advisory Council, is a New York City Social Media Manager at Hawkins International Public Relations, a boutique travel PR agency specializing in media relations and influencer marketing for luxury hotels and resorts.

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Once Upon a Time Foundation
The William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation
Stacy Palagye and Keith Palagye

“The more of our alums that are involved and interested in the university, the stronger the university becomes. In very real ways, it does make a difference.”

- BENJAMIN BOHLMANN

Benjamin Bohlmann (A&S ’82), a Miami-based accountant with the Bohlmann Accounting Group, gave a $50,000 pledge in honor of his 35th reunion.

Singer Family
Endows SLAMM

Suellen Krieger Singer (NC ’85) and Howard M. Singer (A&S ’85) pictured here with their son, Eric (B ’18), recently established the Singer Family School of Liberal Arts Management Minor (SLAMM) Endowed Fund. SLAMM is the first SLA minor to be endowed. The Singers’ gift also supports the SLAMM Philanthropy and Social Change course, which secured additional matching funds this year.
“If you felt like Tulane had value and an impact on your life in a positive way, you are well positioned to make sure the university is viable and has the resources available to be a world-class institution.”

- MICHAEL BRACCI

Michael Bracci (A&S ’87) is President of Northern Trust’s Palm Beach Treasure Coast Region, a School of Liberal Arts Dean’s Advisory Council member, National Campaign Council member, and a 30th Reunion Committee member. Bracci and his wife Colleen give each year to the SLA Annual Fund.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list.

Please contact Kassie Cosgrove at 504.247.1375 or kcosgrove@tulane.edu with corrections or questions.
As Brian Edwards begins as Dean of Tulane’s School of Liberal Arts, he sees exciting opportunities. “I was immediately impressed by the range of departments in the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts, and the ways in which ambitious faculty had come together to build dynamic interdisciplinary programs,” he said. “One can feel the energy and enthusiasm.”

Edwards, who stepped into his new role on July 1, 2018, was most recently the Crown Professor in Middle East Studies and professor of English and comparative literary studies at Northwestern University, where he founded and directed the Middle East and North African Studies (MENA) program.

Under Edwards’ direction, MENA grew from a small, faculty working group to an internationally recognized program with 20 core and language faculty and 13 affiliates, offering an undergraduate major, curricula in four languages, and an interdisciplinary PhD certificate. MENA also hosted internationally acclaimed writers and filmmakers, as well as extensive programming on campus and in the community.

Edwards received his bachelor’s degree in English from Yale University, magna cum laude, in 1990, where he wrote a prize-winning honors thesis on Eudora Welty and William Faulkner. After two years in New York, where he worked in music book publishing and co-founded a small theater company in Brooklyn, he returned to Yale for his graduate work. There he earned his master’s degree, a master of philosophy degree, and in 1998 his PhD, all in American studies. During that period, he spent a year in Morocco on a Fulbright grant studying Arabic and researching his dissertation on American cultural and political encounters with North Africa.

Edwards joined Northwestern in 2000, and during his years on the faculty, was involved in a number of interdisciplinary initiatives. He served as director of graduate studies of English, was core faculty in comparative literary studies, MENA, international studies, and American studies, and a faculty affiliate of African studies, screen cultures, rhetoric and public culture, and the Buffett Institute for Global Studies.

He is an advocate for language learning at both the university and K-12 levels. A speaker of four languages himself, he led initiatives at Northwestern and in partnership with Chicago Public Schools. From 2016 to 2017, he served on the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ Commission on Language Learning, which was charged by a bipartisan group of members of Congress to make recommendations for ways to meet the nation’s future language education needs.

“In Brian Edwards, Tulane has found an acclaimed global scholar to lead the School of Liberal Arts as it prepares our students to thrive in an increasingly complex, diverse, and interdependent world,” Tulane President Mike Fitts said upon his appointment. “His influential writings and award-winning research on issues ranging from U.S. foreign policy to globalization to contemporary literature and popular culture reflect the approach of our liberal arts faculty in reaching across traditional academic boundaries.”

As a scholar, Edwards’ work has brought together American studies and Middle East studies and engages literature, anthropology, media studies, and political history. He is the author of *Morocco Bound: Disorienting America’s Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express* (Duke, 2005) and *After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East* (Columbia, 2016). He is coeditor of *Globalizing American Studies* (Chicago, 2010), a collection which emerged from a longstanding project he led at Northwestern, and editor of *On the Ground: New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies* (NU-Qatar, 2013).

A frequent contributor to both scholarly and general interest publications, he has published numerous essays, Op Eds, and articles, as well as podcasts, radio, and television appearances. Edwards has won major grants and awards for his work, and was named a 2005 Carnegie Scholar by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a 2008 New Directions Fellow by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and a Class of 2015 Emerging Leader by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

“I am tremendously excited to move to New Orleans, at once both a unique and essential American city and a cosmopolitan, global port connected to the world. Tulane’s connection to New Orleans is profound, and I look forward to building on that historical relationship while working with our great faculty, students, and alumni to explore new intellectual avenues and pathways as SLA commences its next chapter.”

Looking Ahead

Interdisciplinary Scholar and Program Builder Named *New Liberal Arts Dean* at Tulane
2017-2018

SLA By the Numbers

2,369 Declared SLA Students
1,990 Undergraduate
106 Masters
273 PhD

373 Total Faculty
214 Tenure Track
19 Visitors
55 Professors of Practice
85 Adjuncts

TOTAL DONORS’ GIFTS & PLEDGES
$5,344,454
1,735 Number of Donors
$580 Average Annual Fund Gift
$478,292 Total Annual Fund Gifts
$1,228,312 Total Sponsored Research

422 Top Major
Political Science
422 Number of Declared Majors

353 Top Minor
School of Liberal Arts Management Minor (SLAMM)
353 Number of Declared Minors

65% of SLA Students with more than 1 major or minor

52 SLA Students who Study Abroad

47 Majors Offered
31 Minors Offered
19 Interdisciplinary Programs
16 Departments

RATIO OF FULL-TIME FACULTY TO STUDENTS 1:8