



TULANE

34 AWARDS

2026

Named for the year the university was founded, 1834,

TULANE 34 IS AMONG THE MOST COVETED UNIVERSITY-WIDE
HONORS BESTOWED UPON STUDENTS.

THE TULANE 34 AWARD IS PRESENTED TO 34
GRADUATES WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES
THROUGHOUT THEIR COLLEGIATE LIFE.

*Students are recognized for their exemplary leadership,
service and academic excellence.*

2026

TULANE 34 RECIPIENTS

Adella Bartoletti

Paresb Kolluru

Garrett Bartoletti

Roma Kolluru

Luke Thomas Broussard

Cameron Kowitz

Victoria Layne Bustamante

João Lacerda

Veronica Nicole Catanese

Meryl LaRue

Serena Deutch

Miriam Emily Toy Lerner

Pari Mihir Dhruva

Alexandra Jean Mack

Emily Eckerman

Justin W. Magrath

Austin Ezzard

Katina M. McGinnis

Joanna Fashjian

Denys Symonette Mitchell

Ian Faul

Rubén Morales Forte

Taylor Friedman

Kelly Nguyen

Jonathan Hall

Mariana Victoria Pirela Ramirez

Olcaytu Hatipoglu

Autumn Sommers

Avik Hegde

Eli Henry Tsakiris

Kosisochukwu Ifeji

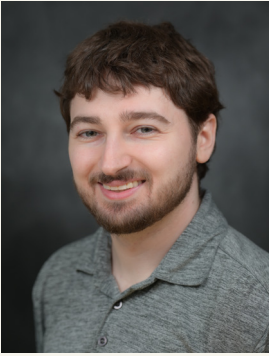
Bin "Jason" Wang

Juwon Isaac Ishola

Ruchi Mitali Wankbede



Adella Bartoletti, from Morgan City, Louisiana, is graduating with a doctor of philosophy in cell and molecular biology. Her dissertation focused on improving research representation for patients with an inherited vascular disease. Under the mentorship of Dr. Stryder Meadows, Adella earned competitive funding from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association, presented her findings at regional and international conferences, and submitted a first-author manuscript. Mentorship has been central to Adella's graduate career. She has trained students at the high school, undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels, helping them develop experimental, analytical and scientific communication skills. Adella also strengthened her teaching practice through pedagogy certification from the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching and served as a teaching assistant for several biology courses. In addition, she has demonstrated dedicated service and leadership through roles with departmental and university-wide graduate organizations, including serving as senator for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Following graduation, Bartoletti will work as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where she will study cerebrovascular disease with the long-term goal of leading her own academic research laboratory.



Garrett Bartoletti, from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is graduating with a doctor of philosophy in cell and molecular biology. He considers his work mentoring nearly a dozen undergraduate students as one of his greatest accomplishments. Many of these students have gone on to successful careers in public health, research and medical school and Garrett is grateful he was able to get to know and guide them. He spent nearly six years working on his doctoral research which focused on lambdoid synostosis, a rare congenital condition characterized by the premature fusion of skull bones that affects brain and skull development. Garrett's work identified molecular and genetic changes in affected individuals and he hopes to transform this new knowledge into potential therapeutics to better the lives of individuals affected with this terrible disease. Following graduation, Garrett will relocate to Charlottesville, Virginia, with his wife (and Tulane 34 awardee) Adella to also begin a postdoctoral research position at the University of Virginia. He will continue his work on congenital disorders while focusing on understudied tissue-tissue interactions.



Luke Thomas Broussard, from Lafayette, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in political science and social policy, with a minor in gender and sexuality studies and a strategy, leadership, analytics minor (SLAM). His involvement with the Tulane Undergraduate Assembly has been central to his time at Tulane. Luke gained experience in leadership, student advocacy and collaboration with Tulane administrators through his many positions in TUA. He served as co-chair of the body this academic year and credits his event planning, leadership and mentorship skills to this work. Luke has also been active with the Office of Undergraduate Admission since his first year, serving as a Green Wave Ambassador and later as vice president for GWA. His most rewarding work was as an intern in the Admission office. In addition, Luke was an active member of Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity and served on the School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board. Following graduation, Luke plans to pursue work in government or public policy in Washington, D.C., with the possibility of attending law school in the future.



Victoria Layne Bustamante, from Baton Rouge, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in human resources and a minor in health and wellness. While pursuing her degree, Tori stayed focused on her goals and continued pushing forward despite navigating COVID-19, a new baby, Hurricane Ida and the loss of her mother. These experiences helped her develop resilience and a desire to support others facing their own challenges, and she has decided to make mental health and suicide prevention a focus of her career. Tori is currently pursuing her master of science in sports studies with the long-term goal of having a meaningful impact on student-athlete development and organizational culture through work in executive-level administration. Tori is deeply committed to helping create environments where individuals feel supported and have access to the resources they need. She hopes to contribute to developing programs, policies and support systems that prioritize mental health within athletics.



Veronica Nicole Catanese from Lombard, Illinois, is graduating with a juris doctor and a certificate in international and comparative law.

Veronica worked as a student attorney in the Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic. Through this experience, she helped clients try to obtain legal status, gave Know Your Rights presentations at a detention center and provided detainees with help and resources. Veronica also served as the director of the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program where she helped members of the Tulane community with their various legal needs. In addition, Veronica was on Law Review and helped many junior members see their work published. Following graduation, she is moving to Washington, D.C. to work as an associate at Goodwin Procter. Veronica will rotate through different types of corporate law for the first three years but will mainly focus on international trade.



Serena Deutch, from Boca Raton, Florida, is graduating with a master of business administration with a concentration in sustainability and energy. Serena served as co-facilitator for the Changemaker Institute, a social venture accelerator for graduate students and staff organized by the Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking. She also conducted an independent study focused on social impact business certifications, which led to the publication of a case study for a network of thousands of B Corporations. As team lead for the IDEACorps MBA Consulting Challenge, Serena worked with her team to develop and present a growth strategy for a local small business at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. In addition, she contributed to student life through leadership roles on the founding advisory board of Jewish Graduate Students of Tulane and the executive board of the Graduate Women in Business club, supporting efforts to create spaces where students can bring their whole identities to Tulane and the A. B. Freeman School of Business. Following graduation, Serena will be joining a company in her field of interest focused on leadership development, strategy and operations, where she is excited to apply her MBA skills and continue building her career.



Pari Mibir Dhruva, from Mumbai, is graduating with a doctor of philosophy in biomedical sciences. Pari has engaged in many academic, leadership and service experiences at Tulane. A key academic milestone was the publication of her dissertation research in mBio, representing years of work in fungal immunology and contributing to understanding about how certain cells orchestrate host defense during infection. She founded the Bridging the Gap: Biomedical Science to Business seminar series in partnership with the Tulane Business School, reaching over a third of the PhD cohort and increasing awareness of career paths beyond academia. As vice president of student affairs for the Biomedical Sciences Student Association, she led initiatives focused on student safety and professional development, including a campus safety survey that resulted in enhanced after-hours security. At the New Orleans BioInnovation Center, Pari supported commercialization and business development efforts and developed outreach strategies connecting more than 45 biotech startups with investors and clinical partners. She also served as a teaching fellow for medical immunology, supporting students through lectures and workshops. After graduation, Pari plans to continue her work in pulmonary immunology as a postdoctoral researcher with the future goal of transitioning to the biotechnology or pharmaceutical industry.



Emily Eckerman, from Saratoga, California, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in finance and a bachelor of arts in political economy with a concentration in international perspectives and a minor in French. Emily has demonstrated strong academic achievement and global engagement while at Tulane. She made the Dean's List every semester while maintaining a rigorous course load of 18 to 21 credit hours. Emily also pursued extensive international study, spending the summer of 2023 in Mérida, Mexico through the Altman Program and her entire junior year in Strasbourg and Toulouse, France. While in France, she developed fluency in French by taking courses at local universities alongside international and French students, including philosophy coursework conducted entirely in French. She was selected to serve as an investment research manager for the Burkenroad Reports after completing the course as a sophomore, contributing to three published equity research reports on small-cap public companies in the Gulf South. Emily also participated in multicultural service-learning experiences, assisting in a French immersion classroom at École Bilingue in New Orleans and working on a sustainable development project in Yaxunah, Mexico. After graduation, Emily will join Morgan Stanley in New York City as part of their investment banking shareholder activism group.



Austin Ezzard, from Macon, Georgia, is graduating with a master in social work. He has contributed to the Tulane University School of Social Work community and New Orleans through leadership, service and public engagement. Austin supported the educational development of his peers by coordinating six events featuring community speakers on topics including reproductive rights, incarceration in Louisiana, domestic violence and psychoanalysis. Austin also organized student volunteers from the School of Social Work for the 2025 Covenant House Sleep Out for Youth Homelessness, helping to mobilize student involvement in addressing youth issues. In addition, he served as a graduate social work intern with the New Orleans Mayor's Office of Youth and Families during the 2025 calendar year. In this role, he contributed to policy development for park revitalization, supported efforts to map the city's juvenile justice ecosystem, and helped coordinate civic education and leadership opportunities for more than 100 youths across multiple programs. Following graduation, Austin plans to continue supporting community-centered work grounded in equity, trauma-informed practice and respect for human dignity and community knowledge.



Joanna Fashjian, from Providence, Rhode Island, is graduating with a bachelor of science in public health, a bachelor of arts in gender and sexuality studies and a certificate in gender-based violence. Jo completed the Tenenbaum Tutorials, an independent research program open to only 12 students, on online spaces' use as a site of care for people with disordered eating. She co-authored a publication for mHealth journal on community health workers and social media, and interned with ReproTLC where she now works. At ReproTLC, Jo creates educational content and researches reproductive issues facing the country. For fun, Jo served as program director at WTUL, Tulane's non-commercial student radio station, where she kept up with more than 120 DJs and created a 24/7 show schedule every semester. She also hosted multiple progressive, jazz and local music shows as DJ Poundcake. Following graduation, Jo will continue her work with ReproTLC and will also be researching injury prevention at the University of Washington Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center through their INSIGHT summer program. She plans to either complete her master's in public health or apply for doctoral programs in gender and sexuality studies in the future.



Ian Faul, from New Orleans, is graduating with a bachelor of science in psychology, a bachelor of arts in philosophy and a minor in French. Ian was editor-in-chief of The Tulane Hullabaloo student newspaper for two years. He helped create a newspaper that was more responsive to a rapidly evolving media landscape by doubling the number of active staff, founding a new section for science, technology and quantitative analyses, and increasing engagement through data-driven strategy. As a result, the organization was a finalist in the American Collegiate Press Pacemaker competition, the highest award in college journalism. Ian also worked for six semesters in the Social Memory Lab, a cognitive neuroscience laboratory, where his research on the neural underpinnings of social reasoning resulted in an honors thesis and two first-author manuscripts. This work, along with his weekly volunteering at University Medical Center and an Alzheimer's clinic, reaffirmed his desire to pursue medicine as a career. After graduation, Ian will spend the summer researching treatments for autism and OCD at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and will also work as a contributing writer for the science and health section of The Advocate.



Taylor Friedman, from Los Angeles, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management with a double major in finance and history and a specialization in energy. Taylor has contributed to the Tulane community through mentorship, teaching and student leadership. As a mentor in the Green Bull Investment Banking Group, he supported students pursuing investment banking internships by providing individualized recruiting guidance and interview preparation, drawing on his own experience as a mentee. He also served as a supplemental instructor for business analytics, leading biweekly instruction sessions for more than 335 students across seven classes and supporting the development of Excel-based technical skills. In addition, Taylor was an investment research manager for Burkenroad Reports, directing equity research coverage on four regional stocks and guiding analyst teams through financial modeling, valuation and publication. Beyond the Business School, he served as vice president of administration and finance for the Wall Residential Hall Association, as a Wave Leader for Tulane's First-Year Experience program, and as vice president of finance for the Ultimate Frisbee Club, where he represented Tulane in regional tournaments. After graduation, Taylor will join Jefferies Financial Group in Houston as an investment banking analyst.



Jonathan Hall, from Pass Christian, Mississippi, is graduating with a master of architecture and a master of sustainable real estate development. Jonathan has been actively engaged in leadership, service and design initiatives during his time at Tulane. He currently serves as president of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) student chapter, as well as a student representative for the Master of Sustainable Real Estate Development program within the School of Architecture graduate government. Within these roles, Jonathan volunteered to teach design and architecture concepts to local students through Louisiana NOMA's Project Pipeline. During the academic year, he has contributed to hands-on projects, including the design and construction of a pro bono project for Recirculating Farms in New Orleans in collaboration with the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design. He also participated in the URBANbuild Studio, helping construct a duplex housing project in the Lower Ninth Ward for a local nonprofit. Following graduation, Jonathan plans to pursue work as an architect while working toward licensure and continuing to collaborate on community-based projects to address inequities and inequalities.



Olcaytu Hatipoglu from Edirne, Turkiye, is graduating with a bachelor of science in biomedical engineering and a minor in electrical engineering. Olcaytu has pursued a combination of research, athletics and campus involvement during her time at Tulane. She completed a 10-week internship at the Vanderbilt Biophotonics Center, working on advanced optical imaging research, and is the second author on a manuscript in preparation for publication. At Tulane, Olcaytu completed an honors thesis on AI-augmented structured illumination microscopy for rapid prostate cancer diagnostics, with an additional co-authored paper submitted for publication. As a Division I swimmer for the Tulane Green Wave, Olcaytu served as team captain for two years, broke two school records, won two gold medals at the American Conference Championships, and was named a 2024–2025 NCAA All-American Team honoree. She was also inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society and selected for the LoveAthlete leadership initiative. On campus, she worked as a peer tutor and served as an international peer advisor. After graduation, Olcaytu plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering, focusing on translational and clinical aspects of research and optical hardware design.



Avik Hegde, from Southbury, Connecticut, is graduating with a master of accounting and a bachelor of science in management with a double major in finance and economics, along with minors in psychology and legal studies in business. As associate director of research for the Burkenroad Reports equity research program, Avik worked with approximately 100 students each semester as they produced sell-side equity research reports and helped organize the annual Burkenroad Investment Conference, which brings together students, company executives and investors. He also served as president and pledge instructor of Alpha Kappa Psi, heading professional development efforts for a chapter of 150 members and mentoring a 32-person new member class. In the classroom, Avik worked as a teaching assistant for financial accounting and financial management, supporting students through office hours and review sessions. His academic experience includes participation in experiential learning courses such as Burkenroad Reports, the Darwin Fenner Student Managed Fund, Forensic Accounting and the Aaron Selber Jr. Course in Hedge Funds, where he received awards for Best Investment Strategy and Best Individual Presenter. After graduation, Avik will join EY-Parthenon in New York City as a business valuation associate and plans to sit for the CPA exam.



Kosisochukwu Ifeji, from Bangor, Maine, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in sociology and a bachelor of arts in Africana studies as well as a minor in Latin American studies. They received the 2025 Udall Scholarship, a national award recognizing the work of undergraduates who have done significant work in conservation, stewardship or environmental policy. Kosi was both an undergraduate research fellow and undergraduate administrative assistant in the Department of Africana Studies. They worked with the Black Studies Book Club in the department and helped with the planning of semesterly events where Black Studies scholars give lectures about their recent publications in addition to participating in smaller discussions. With the support of the Gordon Summer Fellowship, Kosi conducted fieldwork in Johannesburg, South Africa to better understand the socio-political landscape of queer African migration. Following graduation, Kosi will be attending Columbia University for their doctorate in African American and African Diaspora Studies. They will be focusing on how Black queer immigrants living in Brazil and South Africa create community and how they think about home and citizenship.



Juwon Isaac Ishola, from Nigeria, is graduating with a master of business administration in business analytics with a specialization in strategy and marketing. He earned a full merit-based fellowship at the A. B. Freeman School of Business and was awarded the Kenneth J. Boudreaux, MBA '67 Endowed Fellowship for the 2025–2026 academic year. Juwon was selected for the inaugural cohort of the NOLA Clean Energy Fellowship, where he explored clean energy challenges and developed knowledge of energy transition, grid resilience, and community engagement. Through this experience and Tulane's career network, he secured an internship with Clearloop, a subsidiary of Silicon Ranch, supporting solar farm deployment projects across Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi. Juwon also served as a Freeman Student Ambassador, representing the business school to prospective students from five continents and strengthened the culture of giving as a member of the Freeman Graduate Class Gift Committee. After graduation, Juwon plans to pursue a career applying his training in business analytics and strategy to support data-driven decision-making and organizational growth.



Paresh Kolluru, from Lafayette, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of science in neuroscience and a minor in philosophy. As president of Phi Delta Epsilon medical fraternity, he focused on learning the needs of his members and then creating programs and support systems to meet those needs. PhiDE hosted skills workshops, professional speakers, MCAT/application panels and more. His experiences with PhiDE informed how Paresh approaches medicine — as a community centered commitment. His campus service also included leading the South Asian Association with his twin sister (and Tulane 34 awardee) Roma as the organization sought to broaden representation from its previous narrower focus on Indian culture. Paresh is a co-author on two publications, including work examining the neurological effects of Long COVID and a study on the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and college students' mental health. Throughout his extracurricular and academic work, he has focused on mentorship, developing resources for students and supporting peers through leadership roles and experiences across campus. After graduation, Paresh will attend LSU Health New Orleans Medical School. He plans to pursue a career in pediatric neurosurgery and continue his involvement in research, service and mentorship.



Roma Kolluru, from Lafayette, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of science in neuroscience and cognitive studies. As executive director of the Residence Hall Association, she led initiatives to enhance residential life and served as a student representative on the Dining RFP Committee, contributing student perspectives to university decision-making. Roma also served as chair of the Access, Belonging and Change Committee and as co-president of the South Asian Association. In both roles, she fostered cultural expression and inclusion. Roma extended this work to the broader community as chair of Outreach Tulane 2025, coordinating the university's largest day of service. Through the Newcomb Scholars Program, Roma conducted and presented independent research in the Social Memory Lab. She later interned at Grace House, where she led reproductive health workshops for women in recovery. While vice president of recruitment for Phi Delta Epsilon medical fraternity, she also gained clinical experience as a medical assistant in preventive cardiology at the Tulane Professional Athletes Clinic. After graduation, Roma will attend medical school and plans to pursue an MD/MPH, with an interest in cardiology and improving access to care.



Cameron Kowitt, from Erie, Colorado, is graduating with a bachelor of science in public health and minors in entrepreneurial business and environmental science. She has been actively engaged in leadership, research and service during her time at Tulane. Cameron re-established the Tulane Public Health Society, growing the organization from five members to more than 400 and creating opportunities for professional development, community service and mentorship. In academics, Cameron published two peer-reviewed articles on medical ethics and prostate cancer and serves on the operations team for the Public Health 'zine. She was also selected to present her research on auto-brewery syndrome at the Society of General Internal Medicine conference in Washington, D.C. In addition to her academic work, Cameron served as a service engagement intern at Hillel, connecting more than 100 students to community service initiatives. She also contributed over 300 hours of service in the Greater New Orleans area, including work in coastal restoration, support for essential workers and participation in Girls in STEM programs. Cameron has also been a WTUL-FM DJ since her first semester at Tulane. After graduation, Cameron plans to gain experience in healthcare administration, either through a professional position or graduate study.



João Lacerda, from Rio de Janeiro, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management with a double major in finance and economics and a minor in legal and business studies. João combined his roles as service learning assistant for a finance class and president of First Generation Investors to lead a financial literacy initiative that reached more than 200 Tulane and New Orleans-area high school students. He reactivated the Brazilian Student Association and served as its first president, and supported Brazilian students as a global ambassador for the admissions office. João was also a service learning assistant leader at the Center for Public Service and received the Gulf South Award for Outstanding Student Contributions to Service Learning in Higher Education. Academically, he has maintained a near-perfect GPA while completing a double major and a minor on a full-tuition scholarship. He also received the Cowen Award scholarship. In addition, João worked at the Schwartz Center for Experiential Learning, supporting courses in investment banking and a business capstone. After graduation, João will join Goldman Sachs in New York City as a sales and trading analyst.



Meryl LaRue, from Dublin, Ohio, is graduating with a bachelor of science in earth and environmental sciences along with a minor in Spanish and certificates in computer science and Geographic Information Systems. As a Stamps Scholar, TIERA Scholar and member of the Mangrove Lab, Meryl's Tulane career has been dedicated to research. She planned and conducted a project in the Chocó Rainforest of Ecuador in collaboration with the Ecuadorian organization FCAT where she led a field team studying the impact of land use on above ground tree carbon stocks. The data she gathered formed the basis of her honors thesis which she plans to share with FCAT. Meryl also served as president of the Tulane Earth Science club, organizing lectures, events and volunteer initiatives, including science outreach with the Louisiana Children's Museum. She coordinated the club's biannual fundraiser and they raised over \$600 in a single day. In addition, Meryl worked as a teaching assistant for the Earth and Environmental Sciences department, instructing lab sections and supporting student learning. Through the Stamps Scholars Program, she participated in immersive Spanish language study in Spain and Ecuador. After graduation, Meryl will work as a research technician at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.



Miriam Emily Toy Lerner, from Oakland, California, is graduating with a bachelor of science in engineering in engineering physics and a minor in mechanical engineering. Throughout her time at Tulane, Miriam has served on the executive board of the Society of Women Engineers in multiple roles. She served as president this year and supported more than 50 students in attending the national SWE conference in New Orleans and led programming for a chapter of over 200 members. Miriam also founded the Pie a Professor fundraising initiative as a sophomore and raised more than \$1,500 this year to support the KNOS FIRST Robotics team. Miriam has contributed to research in the Escarra Photonic Materials and Devices Lab, serving as thermal lead for the Solar Co-Generation Receiver project and working in the 2D semiconductors subgroup. In addition, she has worked as a fabrication technician and machine specialist in the Tulane Makerspace since her sophomore year, served on the executive board of engineering fraternity Theta Tau, and kept WTUL-FM on the air as tech director and as a DJ. After graduation, Miriam will intern with Caterpillar before returning to Tulane to complete her master's in electrical engineering.



Alexandra Jean Mack, from Harker Heights, Texas, is graduating with a master of science in public health in nutrition. Alexandra is currently completing a 1,400-hour dietetic internship across clinical, community and foodservice settings in the New Orleans area. She previously completed the Health Resources and Services Administration Nutrition Leadership Training Program, during which she worked with Recirculating Farms to research food insecurity, develop nutrition education materials and lead cooking classes for children and families using low-cost ingredients. Alexandra supported the Tulane community as a teaching assistant for undergraduate nutrition courses and as a graduate assistant for the nutrition program. She also contributed as a research assistant in both the nutrition and epidemiology programs at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She served as vice president of finance for the Graduate and Professional Student Association, as well as an admissions ambassador, student mentor and member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council. After graduation, Alexandra plans to prepare for the registered dietitian certification exam and pursue a career as a community dietitian. Her goal is to find a position where she can help fight food insecurity and promote agricultural sustainability.



Justin W. Magrath, from Mandeville, Louisiana, is graduating with a doctor of medicine and a doctor of biomedical sciences. Justin has demonstrated strong academic achievement and leadership during his time at Tulane. He has published seven first-author papers on Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, contributing to research on this rare disease. He also served as the only student in the nation on the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. In recognition of his academic performance, he was inducted as a Junior Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society member, placing him in the top five percent of his class. After graduation, Justin will continue his medical training in the Boston Children's Combined Residency Program at Harvard, where he will pursue a residency in pediatrics.



Katina M. McGinnis, from New Orleans, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in general legal studies and a human resources management certification. Katina founded the Leadership and Society for Human Resource Management (LéSHRM), creating a platform to connect students with the evolving field of human resources. Through this organization, she organized events focused on emerging technologies including programming on the impact of artificial intelligence in the workplace, providing students with opportunities to engage with current topics and industry trends. Katina's work with LéSHRM reflects a focus on leadership, service and supporting peers in preparing for professional careers. After graduation, Katina plans to pursue a career in law and is currently preparing for law school. She aims to build on her background in human resources and legal studies, with the goal of developing expertise in employment law and advocating for ethical workplace practices and organizational integrity.



Denys Symonette Mitchell, from Orlando, Florida and Washington, D.C., is graduating with a doctor of public health in social, behavioral and population sciences. Her work at Tulane has centered on integrating academics, service, research and leadership to support the broader community while advancing public health. Denys served as a teaching assistant across multiple departments in the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, including biostatistics and data science and health policy and management, supporting student learning across disciplines. She was also a research assistant in the department of epidemiology on a National Institutes of Health-funded study, contributing to equity-centered public health research. In addition, Denys served as a peer mentor through the Office of Student Experiences where she supported students through encouragement and example. Denys is a Health Resources and Services Administration-funded maternal and child health doctoral scholar through the Mary Amelia Center for Women's Health Equity Research and the Tulane Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice. After graduation, Denys plans to pursue a career at the intersection of public health, policy and government relations, with a focus on translating research into policy and supporting public health systems and institutions.



Rubén Morales Forte, from Fraijanes, Guatemala, is graduating with a doctor of philosophy in anthropology. He received support for his work through the American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Innovation Fellowship and a fieldwork grant from the Endangered Languages Fund, as well as additional funding from Tulane programs, to conduct sociolinguistic fieldwork in the Ch'orti' region of Guatemala. Through the Mellon Community-Engaged Internship program, Rubén mentored undergraduate students participating in the Maya Scripta Project in collaboration with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. He has also contributed to scholarship in his field through two peer-reviewed publications and has served as a reviewer for two more publications. After graduation, Rubén will begin a tenure-track position as assistant professor of anthropology at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt in Arcata, California. He will teach courses in archaeology and linguistic anthropology while continuing research on Maya culture in collaboration with local, indigenous and descendant communities, including projects focused on sociolinguistic patterns of Ch'orti', the Dolores Slow Archaeology Program, and the Maya Scripta initiative.



Kelly Nguyen, from Tucson, Arizona, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in digital media and marketing communication. Kelly served as vice president of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Mentorship Program, partnering with New Orleans high schools to encourage student pride in their identities and backgrounds and incorporating those experiences into college applications. She received the Lawrence G. Foster scholarship, marking a pivotal moment in her discovery and pursuit of her passion for public relations. Kelly was also selected for the FINN Partners x PRSSA Mentorship Program, a prestigious industry opportunity that connected her with professionals for education and mentorship. She made academics a priority while at Tulane, prioritizing her classes within a busy extracurricular schedule. After graduation, she plans to return to her hometown to apply her communication and strategic skills to support a Vietnamese-owned accounting firm and to contribute to the Vietnamese community in Tucson. Kelly plans to develop expertise in marketing and public relations while exploring ways to expand her work internationally and connect with audiences worldwide.



Mariana Victoria Pirela Ramirez, from Maracaibo, Venezuela, is graduating with a bachelor of science in biomedical engineering with a minor in mathematics. Mariana traveled to Sierra Leone as student coordinator for the Sierra Leone Prosthetics Project to help fit amputees wounded in war with prosthetics. She helped coordinate a student team that designed and produced the prosthetics back on campus. She also re-founded the Biomedical Engineering Society after a period of inactivity and helped it grow to more than 120 members. Mariana's senior capstone project was to develop a soft robotic sleep sack that helps stabilize infant breathing during sleep. She is currently submitting a provisional patent for the device design. Mariana helped support Greek student life at Tulane as vice president of chapter programming and development for her sorority Delta Delta Delta, and as director of Greek Ambassadors and vice president of scholarship for Panhellenic Council. Following graduation, Mariana will pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research interest is in engineering education, particularly how technologies like robotics and wearable devices can be used to create more impactful and hands-on learning experiences for students.



Autumn Sommers, from Shreveport, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in political economy and a bachelor of arts in philosophy. Autumn was editor-in-chief of the Tulane Journal of Policy and Political Economy where she led a team of 35 students to produce the peer- and faculty-reviewed academic publication. In this role, she has also organized events featuring state and federal legislators, political scientists and economists to foster dialogue on pressing issues. Autumn competed in the University of San Diego Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law Research Competition and placed first one year and second the next. She also led Tulane students as an Ethics Bowl site leader as they delivered philosophy and critical thinking workshops to New Orleans high school students. On campus, Autumn was a Civic Engagement Coalition Fellow where she organized and hosted events focusing on voter education, participation and the importance of informed democratic involvement. Following graduation, Autumn plans to work in free speech policy in Washington, D.C. to gain hands-on experience in the development, analysis and advocacy of policies that protect and promote free expression. She later plans to attend law school.



Eli Henry Tsakiris, from Acton, Massachusetts, is graduating with a doctor of medicine. As president of the Medical Student Government, he supported initiatives that improved student life and academic engagement. As vice president of the Student Clinic Council, Eli helped oversee Tulane's student-run clinics that provide care for underserved communities in New Orleans. As part of this work, he helped organize JAMbalaya, a fundraising event that funded over 1,500 public transit passes to help unhoused patients travel to medical appointments. His service was recognized with the 2024 Cathy J. Lazarus Award for Student Excellence in Service Learning and the 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Leadership Award. In academics, Eli has been involved in cardiovascular research through the Tulane Research Innovation for Arrhythmia Discovery group and his work has resulted in numerous national conference presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts. As a jazz pianist and former president of the Music and Medicine group, Eli organized concerts benefitting the student-run clinics and community organizations and performed at community events. Following graduation, Eli will begin an internal medicine residency this summer and aspires to become a cardiologist while pursuing interests in medical education and clinical research.



Bin "Jason" Wang, from Wenzhou, China, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in finance and a minor in marketing. Jason consistently earned Dean's List honors while at Tulane and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. He also served as a research assistant at the Schwartz Center, supporting faculty research in consumer behavior and decision making through data collection, analysis and experimental design. Jason gained industry experience through internships in venture capital, marketing analytics and investment banking. Most recently, he assisted with financial analysis and transaction research and is currently working with his team to identify a strategic buyer for a global AI advertising firm. On campus, Jason served as the co-chair of the Campus Support Committee on the International Student Advisory Board, helping students adapt to campus and build a supportive community. Jason also volunteered as a math tutor at KIPP Central City Academy and helped students develop confidence by adapting math concepts to real-life financial decision making. After graduation, Jason will pursue his master's in management at the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.



Ruchi Mitali Wankhede, from Port Huron, Michigan, is graduating with a juris doctor in law. While at Tulane, Ruchi externed for Judge Bernadette D'Souza at the Orleans Civil District Court. She enjoyed the community she built during that time as well as the opportunity to see different types of lawyers argue in the court. Ruchi also worked with the Tulane Domestic Violence Clinic, where she represented survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. She especially appreciated working on the Women's Prison Project as part of the clinic, as it allowed her to see a side of the law she had not previously known. In addition, Ruchi was senior business editor for the Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law where she planned events and supported organization members as they published the journal. Following graduation, Ruchi will be clerking for Judge Felice Kerr and Judge Natalie Haskins at the Family Court of Delaware.

THANK YOU

*Khaled Adjerid, Ronald Anderson, Mia Bagneris,
Nelda B. Bailey, Tel Francois Bailliet, Matt Barrios,
Charlotte Battiast, Candice Beasley, Dan Burnston,
J. Quincy Brown, Richard Brunies, Alan E. Clerk,
Gretchen Clum, Allison Cruz, Benjamin M. Deen,
Leisha DeRiso, Matthew D. Escarra, Robin Forman,
Michael A. Fitts, Daniel Friess, Lauren A. Gauthier,
Tamar Gregorian, Fenglei He, Michelle Hewlett Sanchez,
Edna Hoff, John Louis Howard, Shira Hussain,
Robyn Ice, Katharine Jack, Kristen Jones,
Mary Jane Jones, Jordan Karubian, Iliana Kwaske,
Elma LeDoux, Kimberly Lempfert, Elizabeth Langlois,
Judith M. Maxwell, Stryder Meadows, Joe Mistrot,
Jamie Montelepre, Scott N. Nolan, Laurie O'Brien,
Keelia O'Malley, Laura Osteen, Pamela Palmer,
Derek Pociask, Arthur Ponson, Ambika Prasad,
Catherine Restrepo, Erin Revere, David E. Robinson,
Janet Ruscher, Carol Spansel, Megan St. Pierre,
Chad Steele, Venkata Subramaniam, Emilie Taylor Welty,
Erica Valenzuela, Chad Van Schoelandt, Beth E. F. Wee,
Emily Wojna-Hodnett, Erica Woodley, Myke Yest*

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