



*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.*

*Named for the year the university was  
founded, 1834, Tulane 34 is among the  
most coveted university-wide honors  
bestowed upon students.*

## 2025 Tulane 34 Recipients

H. Luke Anderson	Abbey Hochreiner
Bobbie Baker	Domini Ahzjia-Monyelle Johnson
Aryanna J. Baytop	Kaitlyn A. Lewis
Nathaniel Hoban Beech	Avery Mae Liggon
Alexis Block	Kayleigh Macumber
Janae Burney	Jack Thomas McDonnell
Richard Cantwell	Rachel Alex Moody
Jason Chen	Anna Catherine Nussbaum
Katie Sooyon Chong	Gabriella Olivieri
Jared Michael Christian	Charlotte Osterman
Maria Jose Cordero Acevedo	Stephen Randle
Jack Martin Dean	Samantha Ratakonda
Michael A. DeGuzman	Ezra Remer
Kate Donaghey	Hannah Sophia Rubinstein
Isaiah Epstein-Bagneris	Maya Rose Shields
Pablo Antonio Gonzales	Benjamin Singer
Catherine Eleanor Hawkins	Benjamin Yoss



**H. Luke Anderson**, from East Bloomfield, New York, is graduating with a doctor of philosophy in ecology and evolutionary biology. His accomplishments reflect his dedication to advancing ecological research, education and community engagement. Luke earned a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship and a predoctoral

fellowship at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. While at Tulane, he mentored undergraduate students pursuing independent research and honors thesis projects, several of which resulted in peer-reviewed publications. He created and implemented hands-on biology modules for New Orleans schools through his outreach work with the Center for K-12 STEM Education and helped to cultivate a love of science in young students. Luke also collaborated with communities in northwest Ecuador to build capacity and support for ecological research. He has accepted a position as a Rose Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where he will continue conducting evolutionary biology and genomics research on the Galápagos Islands.

**Bobbie Baker**, from Pittsburg, California, is graduating with a bachelor of science in neuroscience with a minor in public health. During her three years as a resident advisor, Bobbie created a welcoming, inclusive environment for upperclassmen at Mayer Residence Hall. She expanded her technical expertise as an information technology intern at the Newcomb Institute, where she managed computer systems and provided vital tech support. In Bobbie's work as a shadowing liaison with the Research Ambassadors Organization, she forged meaningful connections between undergraduate students and medical professionals and created opportunities for clinical shadowing and research engagement. Her contributions as a research assistant at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine focused on sexual health disparities within African American communities in New Orleans. Bobbie also volunteered as a certified emergency medical technician with Tulane EMS, New Orleans EMS and the New Orleans Health Department. Bobbie will return to Tulane in the fall to pursue graduate studies, continuing her impactful public health research and her dedication to community-based service initiatives.





**Aryanna J. Baytop**, from Los Angeles, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in management and a minor in economics. Aryanna's passion for service, leadership and academic excellence is reflected in her record of engagement. She received the King Freedom and Justice Community Service Award in recognition of her volunteer work with Hotel

Hope, SOUL Nola, Grace at the Greenlight and her efforts as president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In the latter role, she led the group in completing over 190 service hours during fall 2024. Aryanna co-founded Students Against Food Insecurity and used her skills in communication, design and management to coordinate initiatives such as the Battle of the Cans event. As president of Mortar Board Honor Society, Aryanna revitalized the Sophie Newcomb Alpha Sigma Sigma chapter. Her dedication to scholarship led to her induction into Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Following graduation, Aryanna will intern with KPMG in San Diego and Manchester, England before returning to Tulane in the fall to complete her master of accounting.

**Nathaniel Hoban Beech,**

from Metairie, Louisiana, is graduating with a doctor of medicine. Nathaniel served as class president for the class of 2025 and was an active member of the Medical Student Government throughout his time at the Tulane University School of Medicine. Through his presidency, Nathaniel built stronger relationships with his classmates and assisted in decisions that led to the betterment of the medical school overall. Nathaniel also served as the student liaison on the Downtown Student Safety Committee where he worked to improve the safety and well-being of all those who work on the Downtown campus. Outside of Tulane, Nathaniel served as assistant coach for the Jesuit High School Rugby Team (and they won the state championships in 2022, 2023 and 2024) and as a medical/training staff assistant for the NOLA Gold Rugby Team. After graduation, Nathaniel will move to Nashville to start his residency training at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He will intern with the internal medicine department, then will complete four years of advanced training with the radiology department. His eventual goal is to work at an academic medical center and teach medical students and residents.





**Alexis Block**, from Glenview, Illinois, is graduating with bachelor of science in management degrees in finance and management. Lexi's record of engagement demonstrates her commitment to leadership and professional development. Her work as an equity analyst in the Burkenroad Reports program led to her being chosen to be an investment research manager

after her initial report was published. As an IRM, Lexi led teams of analysts as they wrote equity research reports. Lexi served as president of Tulane's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi honor society and coordinated networking events between financial information students and accounting and finance firms. As treasurer of the Tulane Consulting Group, she helped charter the organization and secure initial funding. Away from the Business School, Lexi served as director of financial operations and director of member finances for Tri Delta and promoted a culture of financial integrity within the organization. After graduation, Lexi will move to Chicago to work as a finance associate in the corporate finance track of the Morningstar development program.



**Janae Burney**, from Los Angeles, is graduating with a bachelor of science in public health with a minor in Africana Studies. Janae is a co-founder of Students Against Food Insecurity and helped the organization establish the first food pantry on the Uptown campus. SAFT's distribution of more than 4,400 pounds of free food earned



Tulane a federal Hunger-Free Campus designation. Janae is also an advocate for reproductive justice and worked as a Newcomb Institute Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health intern. She used her platform as senior editor of ReproNews to highlight students working to achieve reproductive health equity in New Orleans. As a Community Engagement Advocate, Janae designed and facilitated new workshops emphasizing the need for identity reflection in public health work and survivor support. Janae is currently completing the accelerated master in public health program at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine as well as training to become a certified breastfeeding specialist. She plans to earn doula certification as well as an accelerated bachelor's in nursing so that she can address severe disparities in maternal mortality as a nurse midwife.





**Richard Cantwell**, from Indianapolis, Indiana, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in legal studies in business and a master of accounting. Richie is most proud of his work leading Trash to Treasure, a student organization that reduces waste and raises funds for local non-profits. Richie oversaw the

expansion of donation locations from four to seven and kept more than 100 tons of materials out of landfills during spring 2024 move-out. In addition, Trash to Treasure raised \$9,000 for New Orleans organizations at the fall move-in sale. Richie and Trash to Treasure received the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Collegiate Environmental Steward Award in recognition of the group's work. Inspired by the mentorship he received as a first-year student, Richie also served as a Wave Leader, TIDES peer mentor and resident advisor and has helped more than 100 students through the many stages of their college careers. In addition, Richie guided student entrepreneurs as a Lepage Center student fellow and coordinated internal communications for a student-run Tulane Earth Day Festival. Following graduation, Richie will sit for the CPA exam before beginning his career in public tax accounting at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Indianapolis.

**Jason Chen**, from Taipei, Taiwan and Seattle, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in finance and a master of accounting in taxation. Jason also earned minors in English and psychology. He received the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board scholarship which honors students for academic excellence



and a deep commitment to the accounting profession and its ethical standards. Jason's performance as a summer intern with John Hancock's tax division earned him a part-time role as he continued his studies, allowing him to share information and professional insights to enhance the practical components of the accounting curriculum. Jason is committed to service as well — he coached middle school students in debate and serves as a global ambassador to help support incoming international students at Tulane. As a global ambassador, Jason co-authored "Scholar of the Storms," a book about international students' experiences after Hurricane Ida. Following graduation, Jason will join Manulife John Hancock in Boston as part of their CPA development program.



**Katie Sooyon Chong**, from Agoura Hills, California, is graduating with a juris doctor and a certificate of concentration in maritime law. As president of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Katie has been a driving force in promoting cultural awareness and empowering Asian Pacific American students within the

Tulane Law community. As chief justice of the Tulane Law Moot Court program, Katie oversaw a rigorous academic initiative and guided students as they honed their advocacy skills while preparing for the challenges of the legal profession. Her success in the Southwest Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Competition, where she was named runner-up champion, further showcases her exceptional talent in litigation and dedication to excellence. After graduation, Katie will remain in New Orleans while studying for the bar and will then join Frilot LLC as a first-year associate.

**Jared Michael Christian,**

from Woodford County, Kentucky, is graduating with a master of public health in disaster management. As president of the Student Government Association, Jared fostered student engagement, planned events, represented students on school and university committees, and championed



constructive change within his academic environment. His commitment to impactful research is shown in his role as a research assistant at the Highly Vulnerable Children Research Center, and his dedication to mentorship is demonstrated in his work as a teaching assistant for undergraduate public health courses. Jared's hands-on experience includes internships with the New Orleans Health Department and Lexington Emergency Management, where he furthered his expertise in public health operations. In addition, Jared volunteered with the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish Medical Reserve Corps and served as an ambassador with the Global Scholars Program, School of Public Health Admissions, and with This is Public Health. After graduation, Jared will pursue a career in public health emergency preparedness. He plans to continue his education as well.



## **Maria Jose Cordero**

**Acevedo**, from Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and New Orleans, is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in philosophy and political science - international relations. Maria's honors thesis explores the conception of lived experience in the colonial city through the works of Frantz Fanon,

Albert Camus and Henri Lefebvre. Her research on Camus was accepted to the Cornell University Norman Kretzmann Undergraduate Philosophy Conference as well as the Tulane Research, Innovation and Creativity Summit in 2024. Maria is the founding captain of both the Ethics Bowl and Bioethics Bowl teams at Tulane and competed in San Antonio two years in a row. The bowls are competitions based on the collaborative discussion of contemporary ethical dilemmas. Maria shared her skill in these competitions with the students at her alma mater, Bonnabel High School, as coach of their Ethics Bowl team. The group reached the semi-finals in the regional competition. After spending the summer with family and friends and reading a ton of books, Maria will pursue a doctorate in philosophy.

**Jack Martin Dean**, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is graduating with a juris doctor and a certificate in environmental law. Jack is an advocate for environmental justice and equal access to legal services. As a student attorney with the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, he argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on behalf of RISE St. James, a faith-based grassroots organization, in an environmental justice and civil rights lawsuit. This work allowed Jack to support some of Louisiana's most resilient and hardest-working community leaders. Jack has particularly treasured his role as director of the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program civil clinic. Through TULAP, he has ensured that Tulane students, faculty and staff receive high-quality, affordable legal services and furthered his advocacy for equal access. Jack has also excelled as a mentor and editor, serving as both a Legal Research and Writing Senior Fellow and the Senior Notes & Comments Editor for the Tulane Environmental Law Journal. Following graduation, Jack will take the Georgia Bar and begin his career in Atlanta, pursuing public interest environmental litigation with a focus on clean air initiatives.







**Michael A. DeGuzman**, from New York City, is graduating with a doctor of public health with a concentration in leadership, advocacy and equity. Michael is a dedicated leader within the public health community, serving as co-president and vice-president of the Public Health Doctoral Students Organization, providing mentorship and

support to his peers. As a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council and as the Student Government Association's doctoral student representative, Michael played a key role in voicing student concerns and fostering collaboration between students and faculty. In addition, Michael served as chair of the Asian Healthcare Leaders Community Committee within the American College of Healthcare Executives, where he championed diversity and inclusion in healthcare leadership. Amid his professional and academic achievements, Michael also became a first-time single dad to his 16-year-old son. Following graduation, Michael will work to develop and promote new models integrating complementary philosophies to develop healthcare professionals who can effectively navigate complex systems while staying focused on patient care, safety and quality.



**Kate Donaghey**, from Boston, is graduating with a master of public administration with a certificate in equity-centered education leadership. Kate serves as the chief strategist for Patrick Tuwiler, education secretary for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In this role, she has helped operationalize more than \$11 billion for education initiatives in the state.



In 2023, Kate and her team provided free community college for eligible people 25+ through MassReconnect and increased enrollment by more than 14,000; established a program that provides resources for professional development and instructional materials to improve literacy rates for children; and ensured the continuation of the Commonwealth Cares for Children program that subsidizes child care assistance. Additionally, Kate and her colleagues updated the state's health and physical education frameworks for the first time in 17 years. Following graduation, Kate will continue to serve Massachusetts Gov. Kimberly Healey's administration as chief of staff and undersecretary, championing educational equity.



### **Isaiah Epstein-Bagneris,**

from New Orleans, is graduating with a bachelor of science in psychology and a bachelor of arts in Africana Studies. One of Isaiah's proudest accomplishments at Tulane has been writing an honors thesis that explores how hip hop serves as a coping mechanism for grieving Black youth. This project integrates developmental psychology,

cultural identity and community resilience — the culmination of Isaiah's academic and research interests. He has presented his research at Howard University's annual Hip Hop Conference twice and is slated to present at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference this month. Beyond his academic pursuits, Isaiah is deeply committed to Jewish education, teaching Hebrew, biblical literature and prayer leadership to children while facilitating discussions on values and social justice. These efforts highlight his dedication to nurturing critical thinking and moral development in younger generations. Following graduation, Isaiah will begin a doctorate in developmental psychology at Tulane under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Cunningham, focusing on cultural resilience and identity development, particularly among Black Americans. Isaiah hopes his work contributes to more culturally responsive understandings of development and resilience within psychology and beyond.

**Pablo Antonio Gonzales,**

from Dallas, is graduating with a juris doctor. As editor in chief of volume 99 of the Tulane Law Review, Pablo oversaw the publication of distinguished legal scholarship across multiple issues while fostering a sense of community among members and expanding outreach efforts. He also served as secretary of the Tulane Latino Law Students



Association, collaborating with peers to implement an academic success program that supports minority and first-generation law students by broadening access to resources and assistance. Pablo further contributed to Tulane Law School as a peer tutor, student notetaker and member of both the Dean's Advisory and Faculty Interview Committees. His dedication to service extended to volunteering as a tax preparer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Clinic and as a Spanish-language translator for the Immigrants' Rights Clinic. After graduation, Pablo will work as a federal judicial law clerk for the Honorable John A. Kazen of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.



**Catherine Eleanor Hawkins,** of Fairhope, Alabama, is graduating with a bachelor of science in engineering in biomedical engineering with a minor in electrical engineering. Catherine has demonstrated exceptional leadership, a commitment to STEM outreach, and a passion for biomedical innovation during her Tulane career. She served in multiple

leadership positions in the Society of Women Engineers, including president, vice president and public relations director. As president, she successfully led a fundraising campaign for STEM education at Esperanza Academy Elementary, raising over \$1,150 through the Pie a Professor initiative. Her work as a student leader in the Toddler Mobility Trainer Biomedical Engineering Service Project, which provides low-cost mobility devices for young children with impairments, remains a highlight for Catherine. In fall 2024, she organized six workshops with Mount Carmel juniors, helping them personalize mobility trainers for future recipients. Additionally, she completed an independent research thesis in the Biomedical Functional Imaging Lab. Her work focused on designing and manufacturing a complex metal housing for photoacoustic imaging that combines ultrasound and laser technologies to detect optical differences in tissue. After graduation, Catherine will work at Medtronic in Lafayette, Colorado, as a quality engineer in the Neuroscience Business Unit.

**Abbey Hochreiner**, from Springfield, New Jersey, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in finance and a bachelor of science in economics. As part of the Altman Program in International Studies and Business, she completed extensive Spanish language instruction and studied abroad in Mérida, Mexico and Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. Abbey also participated in the top experiential learning courses at the A. B. Freeman School of Business:



Burkenroad Reports, the Darwin Fenner Student Managed Fund, and the Selber Jr. Course in Distressed Debt. In those courses, she gained valuable hands-on experience in equity research, portfolio management and alternative investments. Beyond academics, Abbey held multiple leadership roles in the Community Action Council of Tulane University Students, including vice-president and treasurer, where she oversaw more than 40 student-led service clubs and fostered partnerships with local organizations. As president and vice-chair of Global Guides, she reinstated the organization, paired more than 20 exchange students with local peers and secured funding for semester-long events. Following graduation, Abbey will work as an equity research analyst at J.P. Morgan in New York City, analyzing publicly traded companies and providing investment recommendations to institutional clients.

**Domini Ahzjia-Monyelle**

**Johnson,** from Kansas City, Missouri, is graduating with

a master of science in sports studies with certificates in sports medicine and sports coaching.

Domini provided essential resources, fostered community-building, and offered mentorship to Black queer and trans students on campus as a member of the

executive board of the Black Queer Collective. In their role as a graduate assistant academic advisor for Tulane Athletics, Domini guided students in balancing their academic and athletic pursuits while serving as a steadfast advocate and support system. Domini's contributions to Tulane's Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education organization include updating the resource binder to ensure survivors and peers have access to resources tailored to intersecting identities. Domini has completed bachelor's and master's degrees in neuroscience as well as the current master's degree they are receiving. They have dedicated their life to becoming "the best physician, advocate, mentor, friend, and family member" possible. Following graduation, Domini will begin medical school at Tulane, pursuing a career as an orthopedic surgeon focused on sports medicine. Their ultimate goal is to work in college athletics to aid underserved communities and continue their work in advocacy and social justice.



**Kaitlyn A. Lewis**, from Simi Valley, California, is graduating with a master of science in tropical medicine. Kaitlyn conducted a study on arboviral transmission focusing on mosquito species responsible for spreading numerous human pathogens. The work will help develop strategies to address the spread of diseases, such as Zika and malaria, that are transmitted to humans through the bites of infected species of mosquitoes, ticks and flies. Kaitlyn also contributed to a study that developed a new workflow to bridge the gap between in vitro cell culture and animal models, enabling in-depth investigations of mosquito-borne pathogen transmissions. Kaitlyn was part of a team that presented at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene annual conference and also presented her findings on arboviral transmission at the Delta Omega Poster Competition. Her contributions led to her induction into the Delta Omega National Honorary Society in Public Health. Kaitlyn plans to continue her career in infectious diseases as a research technician, with a particular focus on arbovirology. She hopes her work will advance the understanding of arboviral diseases.







**Avery Mae Liggon**, from Madison, Wisconsin, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in communications with a minor in political science. One of Avery's most meaningful accomplishments was expanding the National Panhellenic Conference (NPHC) presence on campus, creating more opportunities for students to engage with organizations

focused on scholarship, leadership and service. As president of the Omicron Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the 2024–2025 NPHC president, Avery played a pivotal role in strengthening the Tulane community. Another highlight of Avery's experience was working with the International Dance Festival for two years, combining a love for the arts with event planning and cultural outreach. Supporting international artists and coordinating performances allowed Avery to celebrate diversity and global connections through dance. Beyond formal roles, Avery values the supportive network of friends who motivate and inspire each other that she has built at Tulane. After graduation, Avery plans to pursue a master's in sports studies at Tulane while working with the Tulane Football team as a graduate assistant, continuing a journey of leadership and service.

**Kayleigh Macumber**, from La Grange, Kentucky, is graduating with a bachelor of architecture. Kayleigh's time in New Orleans has shaped her approach to the work she does. In Professor Liz Camuti's National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Research Studio, Kayleigh researched the importance of critiquing the labor in resiliency



work and developed an abolitionist framework separating future projects from carceral labor. This class helped her shape research into solutions and reaffirmed her belief that the stories she values can exist within her profession. Selected for a yearlong fellowship with Virginia Sea Grant, Kayleigh conducted design research on the working waterfront in the Chesapeake Bay, focusing on resilience strategies for an oyster hatchery facing subsidence and inundation. Collaborating with community members and experts, she mapped scenarios of sea level rise and storm surge, creating impactful design proposals. Kayleigh is currently working at SCAPE, a nationally recognized landscape architecture firm in New Orleans, where she combines her love of illustration and storytelling with ecological and cultural design practices. Her contributions include drawings featured in the Nelson Atkins Museum Addition Competition. After graduation, Kayleigh plans to remain in New Orleans, pursuing interdisciplinary opportunities that connect advocacy, design and storytelling.



**Jack Thomas McDonnell,**

from Chicago, is graduating with a doctor of medicine.

During the nearly ten years Jack has been at Tulane, he has focused on community. As equipment manager for the football team, Jack cultivated lifelong friendships while traveling the country, creating fond memories that shaped his college experience. He balanced

nearly full-time work hours with his studies, ultimately earning a full scholarship to pursue his master's in neuroscience as a graduate assistant. Jack's passion for teaching was sparked as an ACT tutor and deepened through his time as a teaching assistant for anatomy under the mentorship of Dr. Sarah Garner. Jack spent a year as an anatomy instructor at the medical school and later tutored his fellow medical students. He conducted monthly home visits with a patient to help bridge the social barriers she was facing as she tried to improve her health. In the process, they formed a deep, personal connection and he learned about her community. That connection is illustrative of the community building Jack found at Tulane and is why he is excited to stay in New Orleans for his pediatrics residency at Manning Family Children's Hospital.

**Rachel Alex Moody**, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in political economy, Latin American studies and Spanish. Rachel's honors thesis on the legal and media representation of female bosses in Latin American drug cartels is a culmination of the diverse interests she explored



while at Tulane. As president of Tower and Crescent, Tulane's student-alumni association, she expanded the group's reach and collaborated with faculty and alumni to enrich undergraduates' experiences. Rachel is most proud of her work as a citizenship and ESL instructor in New Orleans. For the past four years, Rachel has worked with immigrant populations striving toward new opportunities through sacrifice and hard work. After graduation, Rachel will work as a state and local government consultant at KPMG in New York City. Her ultimate goal is to attend law school so she will also continue preparing for the LSAT.



**Anna Catherine Nussbaum,** from Metairie, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of science in engineering in chemical engineering. Anna Catherine was invited to join Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and was also a member of Theta Tau engineering fraternity, as well as a two-term president of American Institute of Chemical

Engineers. However, she is most proud of having served as the undergraduate member of the search committee for Dean Hridayesh Rajan of the School of Science and Engineering. Beyond academics, Anna Catherine volunteered as a photographer for Tulane STEM events such as Girls in STEM and the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair and supported outdoor education for local elementary students through her work with Teaching Responsible Earth Education (TREE). Anna Catherine's commitment to fostering community extended to her role as a Wave Leader for commuter students. Following graduation, she will attend Tulane University Law School to merge her engineering background and interest in industrial safety into a career in environmental law.

**Gabriella Olivieri**, from Brooklyn, New York, is graduating with a master of management in energy with a specialization in sustainable and renewable energy. Gabriella Olivieri has made significant contributions to Tulane's energy initiatives during her graduate studies. As vice president of the Tulane Energy Club, Gabriella facilitated student



engagement with industry professionals by moderating panels and contributing to event programming focused on careers in energy. She also served as a research assistant for the Tulane Energy Institute, where she conducted benchmarking analysis of peer institutions and developed visuals and summaries to support a strategic visioning process for the institute's advisory board. Selected for the competitive NOLA Clean Energy Fellowship, Gabriella gained mentorship, skills training and industry exposure in the clean energy field. Her academic achievements were recognized with induction into Beta Gamma Sigma, the international business honor society. Following graduation, Gabriella will launch her career in the power sector, applying her analytical training and industry knowledge to support smarter, more resilient energy systems.





**Charlotte Osterman**, from Los Angeles, is graduating with a bachelor of science in cell and molecular biology and a minor in public health. Charlotte fostered student success as a supplemental instructor for genetics for six semesters. As part of her own academic work, she worked in an infectious disease lab at the Tulane University School of Medicine and completed a thesis

that studied the telomere lengths of pediatric Ebola survivors. Her extracurricular activities included serving as vice president of Women in Science and starting one of the only co-ed flag football teams at Tulane. Following graduation, Charlotte will work as a medical assistant in a New Orleans primary care clinic and tutor for the MCAT while also preparing to attend medical school starting in fall 2026.



**Stephen Randle**, from Arlington, Virginia, is graduating with a master of social work and a master of science in disaster resilience leadership. Stephen combined practical experience, community engagement, and academic achievement during his time at Tulane. As an intern at West Jefferson Medical Center, Stephen honed his



skills as a medical social worker while supporting patients with neurological issues. He developed two mock grant proposals: one aimed at nursing home evacuation on the West Bank of the New Orleans area and another addressing transportation assistance for unhoused individuals. Stephen also conducted interviews with New Orleans community members to build a deeper appreciation and understanding of the city's culture and challenges. After graduation, Stephen will begin his career as a medical social worker at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, where he will continue providing social services and discharge planning to patients with neurological conditions and their families.



**Samantha Ratakonda**, from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, is graduating with a doctor of medicine. She has held a variety of leadership roles at Tulane, rising from patient education leader to secretary to president of the Student Clinic Council, Tulane's largest medical service organization, which directs student run clinics. Samantha

oversaw more than 20 clinic initiatives and expanded services to New Orleans' vulnerable populations. She was also a mentor with the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, volunteered with medical school admissions, and led the student run clinic elective as well as the palliative and end of life care elective. Samantha contributed to more than 10 peer-reviewed publications and posters with mentorship from Tulane Medicine and University of Michigan Medicine faculty. She brought her passion for addressing adverse health outcomes for individuals with disabilities to Tulane's curriculum along with her younger sister (who is also a Tulane medical student). As a result of her dedication to service, Samantha was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. After graduation, Samantha will start residency training in psychiatry at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

**Ezra Remer**, from New Orleans, is graduating with a master of arts in Latin American studies. Ezra collaborated with graduate students, faculty and community members to shape research during his tenure as a Mellon Fellow for Community Engaged Scholarship in New Orleans and called it a formative experience. As part of his work with both the Mellon Fellowship and his master's thesis research, Ezra built long-term relationships with farmers in the small island nation of Dominica as they worked together to develop a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector. He served as treasurer of the Latin American Graduate Organization and connected students to the plethora of events and community partnerships centered around Latin American culture across New Orleans. A highlight of his experience at Tulane was co-teaching a hands-on urban agroecology course alongside Dr. D. Jelagat Cheruiyot. In the course, he worked with undergraduate students in a community garden created by the Mardi Gras Indian Council. Following graduation, Ezra will pursue a Ph.D. in Latin American studies at Tulane.





**Hannah Sophia Rubinstein,** from Millburn, New Jersey, is graduating with a bachelor of science in management in finance and a bachelor of fine arts in studio art. Hannah received \$5,500 for on-site research for her honors thesis on South Korean coffee shop culture. The experience deepened her understanding of Korean culture

and enhanced her perspective on the global business landscape. Hannah knew she'd study business at Tulane, but graduating with an additional degree in fine arts was not part of her original plan. She has developed a unique style in glass and received the Juror's Award at the undergraduate Jury Exhibition this year. Outside of the classroom, Hannah was sponsorship manager for Crawfest and secured many new partnerships, several of which have continued to the present. She became the director of finance the following year and continued building partnerships while learning to manage a team. Hannah worked as a barista at the Labyrinth, a nonprofit café and queer-friendly Methodist Church, and her experiences there along with her involvement at Hillel have led her to value interfaith spaces and collaboration. After graduation, Hannah will join Citi's Global Network Banking group in New York City.

**Maya Rose Shields,**

from Seattle, is graduating with bachelor of arts degrees in political economy and English, along with minors in environmental studies and international development. As president of the Community Action Council of Tulane University Students, Maya supported over 40 community service organizations, continuing

the council's more than 50-year-old legacy of fostering impactful student-led initiatives. Maya also founded and co-directed Tulane's first student-led Earth Day Festival, bringing together student organizations, Tulane departments, local businesses, and nonprofits to inspire environmental awareness and sustainability. Her academic contributions include working as a research assistant for Professor Brandon Davis, where she explored the enforcement of voting rights for minority populations through the political use of law. Maya has further enriched her community engagement as a tutor at Apple Street Learning Center, helping elementary students develop foundational literacy skills, especially those facing language barriers. After graduation, Maya will remain in New Orleans, working with the community while exploring creative passions. She plans to attend law school and pursue a career in environmental law.





**Benjamin Singer**, from Metairie, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of arts in general legal studies. Benjamin also completed minors in business and economics as well as a paralegal certificate. As a supplemental instructor for intermediate microeconomics, he helped students succeed in a difficult class through weekly review sessions. He also completed a

rigorous 23.5-credit business minor through the Business Minor Summer Institute in just 11 weeks, demonstrating discipline and adaptability. Benjamin is an active volunteer with the Miracle League and Special Olympics, building meaningful relationships while supporting children with disabilities. Following his December graduation, Benjamin joined ValueAct Capital, a San Francisco-based hedge fund specializing in activist investing, where he works as a project consultant. His role includes analyzing industries and individual firms, identifying undervalued opportunities and developing governance strategies that create long-term shareholder value. Benjamin has applied to law schools for fall 2025 admission. His goal is to pursue a career focused on corporate law and governance either through continuing his work or by attending law school.



**Benjamin Yoss**, from Mandeville, Louisiana, is graduating with a bachelor of science in information technology with a concentration in integrated application development.

Benjamin was the sole Tulane representative in the NASA-sponsored LaSPACE Guided Pathways in STEM (GPS) 2024 scholarship cohort during his junior year. He pioneered

a research project to develop an AI-driven VR crisis simulator to train future first responders, coordinating with professors in emergency management at Tulane's School of Professional Advancement. Benjamin led the customer discovery, ideation, development and demonstration of the crisis simulator. As a Changemaker Institute Fellow, Benjamin founded Pixguard AI, a global social venture combating AI-generated misinformation by labeling human-made visual content with digital badges. After Hurricane Ida, Benjamin felt compelled to help his community and joined Mercy Chefs to provide meals to individuals in need. After graduation, Benjamin will work as a data engineer at Plan A Games, a tech startup supporting indie gaming studios, while further developing the VR crisis simulator.





# thank you

Ignacio Alday, Christine Arcaci, Tom Augustson, Nelda Bailey, Tel François Bailliet, Carolyn Barber-Pierre, Susan Barrera, Charlotte Battiest, Vanessa Beary, Tracey Bellina-Milazzo, Michael Brumbaugh, Marcilyn Burke, Sarka Cerna-Fagan, Chayan Chakraborti, Suzanna Chase, W. Susan Cheng, Gabe

Christian-Sola, Alan Clerk, Gretchen Clum, Pierre Conner III, Lindsay Cronk, Christy Crosby, Edward Cruz, Allison Cruz, Michael Cunningham, Sarah Cunningham, Marie Dahleh, Susan Davies, Roxanne Davila, Mollye Demosthenidy, Brenda Douglas, Aaron Dumont, Brian Edwards, Kyle Esteves, Mike Fitts, Holly Flora, Vivian Fonseca, Robin Forman, Deahn Francis, Robert Garry, Lauren Gauthier, Xianjan Geng, Paulo Goes, Sheila Gold, Melissa Gonzales, Kelly Grant, Tara Allison Hamburg, L. Lee Hamm,

Michelle Hewlett-Sanchez, Monique Hodges, Benetta Horne, John Louis Howard, Shira Hussain, Robyn Ice, Katharine Jack, Janarthanan Jaywickramarajan, Kristen Jones, Tonya Jupiter, Jordan Karubian, Joseph Keating, Patricia Kissinger, M. A. "Tonette" Krousel-Wood, Ilianna Kwaske,

Thomas LaVeist, Cristina Lawson, Halima Leak Francis, Elma LeDoux, Michael Legendre, Kimberly Lempfert, Tim Lempfert, Ann Lipton, Berlin Londono-Renteria, Casey Love, Heather Machado, Vicki Mayer, Ryan McBride, Brian McNamara, Joseph Mistrot, Jamie Montelepre, Sharon Moore, Cindy Morris, Deleanor Murray, Erica Neely, Richard Oberhelman, Laura Osteen, Pam Palmer, Eric Pegués, Timothy Peterson, Sue Pollack,

Gabriella Pridjian, Guenevere Rae, Hridesh Rajan, Tracie Ransom, Katherine Raymond, William Rials, Sally Richardson, Tihara Richardson Sommers, Vanessa Rodriguez, Amanda Rosales, Caesar Ross, Chad Roy, Katie Russell, Ralph Russo, Michelle Sanchez, Ann Schumacher, Stacy Seicshnaydre, Daniel Shantz, Eva Silvestre, Christine Smith, Kelli Stidham-Hall, Sheri Tice, Catherine Tyner, Erick Valentine, Erica Valenzuela, Chad

Van Schoelandt, Meena Vijayaraghavan, Beth Wee, David Weinburg,

Emily Wojna-Hodnett, Erica Woodley, Michael Yest