

[Most popular Tulane Today stories of 2021](#)

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Though 2021 presented many challenges, there were also numerous achievements and moments to celebrate. Below are Tulane Today's most read stories of 2021.

Class of 2025



Even amid a global pandemic, [Tulane shattered institutional records](#) by receiving over 45,000 applications for the Class of 2025. The newest class of Tulanians are [the most academically qualified students](#), as well as the most diverse class to be admitted to the university to date.

The Nissan Cedric



[Cedric Walker, a retired biomedical engineering professor at Tulane, was surprised with the gift of a rare classic car](#), a 1964 Nissan Cedric, from former student Jim Dillard during Homecoming Weekend 2021.

Marijuana infertility study

[A study by Dr. Omer A. Raheem](#), associate professor of urology at the School of Medicine, suggests that marijuana use can cause infertility in men. However, further research is needed to gain a full understanding of the effects of marijuana on male reproductive health.

Hurricane Ida



[Classes were cancelled](#) and students were evacuated to Houston following Hurricane Ida. Meanwhile, [assessments and repairs were made](#) to campus infrastructure and the [academic calendar was revised](#).

COVID-19



Tulane researchers, doctors and medical staff have worked tirelessly to treat patients and conduct COVID-19 research. [Tulane began the vaccine rollout in January](#) and continued to tackle questions such as [what makes a person a super-spreader](#).

Lyme disease

In a study led by Monica Embers, associate professor of microbiology and immunology and director of vector-borne disease research at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, evidence of [persistent Lyme infection](#) in brain tissue was found despite aggressive antibiotic therapy.

Cavitand molecules

Tulane chemistry professor Bruce Gibb and chemical engineering professor Hank Ashbaugh collaborated on a study that shows there are exceptions to Aristotle's rule that says unfilled spaces go against the laws of nature and physics. An exception is [the bowl-shaped molecules called cavitands](#).

Tulane rankings

The *U.S. News & World Report* and the *Princeton Review* [ranked Tulane among the top schools](#) in several categories in their 2022 rankings.

Charity lease

Tulane has signed the lease for the former [Charity Hospital building](#). The university will occupy over a third of the total square footage and fill it with state-of-the art

spaces for research, teaching and administration.

Warwick Hotel redevelopment

Tulane, in partnership with the New Orleans Redevelopment Fund, renovated the former [Warwick Hotel building](#). Named Thirteen15, the former hotel is now a modern apartment building with retail space on the downtown campus for students, staff, faculty, postdocs, residents, researchers and other Tulane affiliates.