



TULANE

School of Medicine

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Orthopaedic Faculty

Felix H. "Buddy" Savoie III, MD

Chairman
Shoulder & Elbow Surgery
Sports Medicine Surgery

Charles R. Billings, MD
General & Total Joint Surgery

Mathew Cyriac, MD
Adult Spine Surgery

J. Ollie Edmunds, MD*
Hand Surgery – Emeritus

Jaime Garza, MD
Clinical Professor

Dongxia Ge, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor

Paul B. Gladden, MD
Trauma Surgery

Barrett Hawkins, MD
Trauma Surgery

Seth Hawks, PT
Instructor

Wendell M.R. Heard, MD
Knee Surgery
Sports Medicine Surgery

Stephen D. Heinrich, MS, MD
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery
Musculoskeletal Oncology

Kelly Hill, MD
Hip Preservation Surgery
Sports Medicine Surgery

Hunter Hood, MD
Total Joint Surgery

Mohamad Issa, MD
Foot & Ankle Surgery
Sports Medicine Surgery

Lisa Jaubert, MD
Sports Medicine

Hilda Kriel, MD
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

André Labbé, PT
Instructor

Murphy Martin, MD
Trauma Surgery

Leland McCluskey, Jr, MD
Adult Spine Surgery
Assoc. Residency Program Director

Daniel Miles, MD
Trauma Surgery

Jami Montagnino, MD
Sports Medicine

Michael J. O'Brien, MD
Shoulder & Elbow Surgery
Sports Medicine Surgery
Residency Program Director

Blair Pfister, PA
Instructor

Raoul P. Rodriguez, MD
Chairman Emeritus
Foot & Ankle Surgery

Fernando L. Sanchez, MD
Vice Chairman
Total Joint Surgery

Logan Seal, PT
Instructor

Bryan Seely, PA
Instructor

William Sherman, MD
Vice Chair of Research
Total Joint Surgery

Timothy Skalak, MD
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

Gregory W. Stewart, MD
Sports Medicine

K. Chandra Vemulapalli, MD
Trauma Surgery

Zongbing You, MD, PhD
Professor

A Letter from the Chairman

Dear Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and enjoying some time on the water—a great way to escape the heat. Here in New Orleans, we are in the dog days of summer. We've had just enough rain each day to keep the humidity high, but not nearly enough to cool things off. Thankfully, hurricane season has been quiet so far, and we're hoping it stays that way—but, as always along the Gulf Coast, we're prepared.

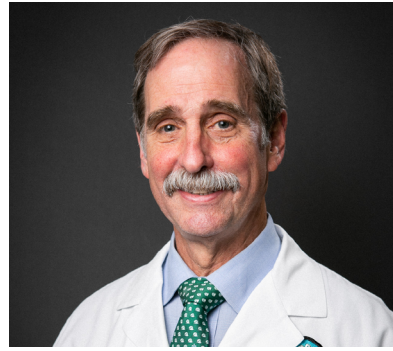
A special thank you to all who joined us for AAOS. We had a great crowd on the rooftop of the Higgins Hotel with a wonderful view of the New Orleans skyline and the Mississippi River. It was so much fun connecting with everyone, and it's really special to see how wonderfully the resident classes gravitated to each other, even after many years. Thank you again to everyone who was able to come. To all who could not make it, we missed you. Please consider coming to Vegas in 2027 or joining us at next year's graduation.

Speaking of graduation, we bid a very fond farewell to our 4 graduates who are off to do fellowships this fall: G. Hunter Williams, Foot/Ankle at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore; James Clemmons, Trauma at WashU in St. Louis; Zach Salas, Spine at Harvard; and Onyebuchi "Buchi" Imonugo, Spine at the University of Maryland. We had an awesome day with our graduation speaker, Dr. Andy Burgess, known to all of you, I am sure, for his tremendous work at Maryland Shock Trauma and his innovative work in auto safety that essentially changed the world—truly amazing accomplishments for a superb surgeon and a great speaker.

As expected, your department again leads Tulane Medical Center in publications. Thanks to medical student outreach by Drs. Hill and McCluskey, and scholarships in honor of Dr. Ollie Edmunds and Dr. Gene Dabazies, along with our vice chair of research, Dr. Sherman, we have generated extensive peer-reviewed publications, helping to advance our field.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our faculty, staff, residents, and alumni for their unwavering commitment and support. Together, we continue to contribute to the field of Orthopaedics and make a meaningful impact on the lives of our patients, advancing our profession while continuing to train medical students, residents and fellows.

I'm happy to share that our residency program fully matched this March, and we're excited to welcome our four new residents, one of whom is the 4th generation in his family to practice orthopedic surgery.



Please join us in welcoming our new residents: Drs. Cameron J. Gerhold, Connor A. Nyborg, Ricardo "Bond" J. Rodriguez, Jr, and Thomas J. Spackman, III. There's more about them later in the newsletter.

We've also recently added two new faculty members. Dr. Hunter Hood, one of our former residents and an Adult Reconstruction specialist, has returned home after spending the last two years on staff at Vanderbilt. He will be working primarily at Touro Hospital in Rick Meyer's old office. Dr. Hilda Kriel has also joined the staff and is primarily at Manning Family Children's Hospital (formerly Children's Hospital of New Orleans). She will be taking over the practice of the legendary Steve Heinrich, who retired this summer after an incredible career with both LSU and Tulane.



Dr. Stephen Heinrich is well-known throughout the region and the nation for having served at Children's Hospital of New Orleans from 1989 until April 2015 and for serving as Chairman of Orthopaedics at Children's

from 2008 to 2014. Dr. Heinrich is board-certified and has treated all areas of pediatric orthopedics and provided orthopedic oncology surgical services. The children of Louisiana, and all of Louisiana, are better for having Steve in our state. A fond farewell to an awesome surgeon and colleague.

We did lose one of our own this year as Dr. J Ollie Edmunds passed away. Ollie contributed immensely to our knowledge of hand surgery and was a foremost pillar of support for Tulane, Duke and Stetson University. Please join me in sending condolences to Karen and the family. He is dearly missed! We plan to honor Ollie by continuing the Edmunds Lectureship—more to come on this event.

Please reach out anytime with suggestions or concerns. It is an honor to serve as the Ray J. Haddad Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Tulane University.

Warm regards,
Felix "Buddy" Savoie
fsavoie@tulane.edu | 504-655-1849



1.



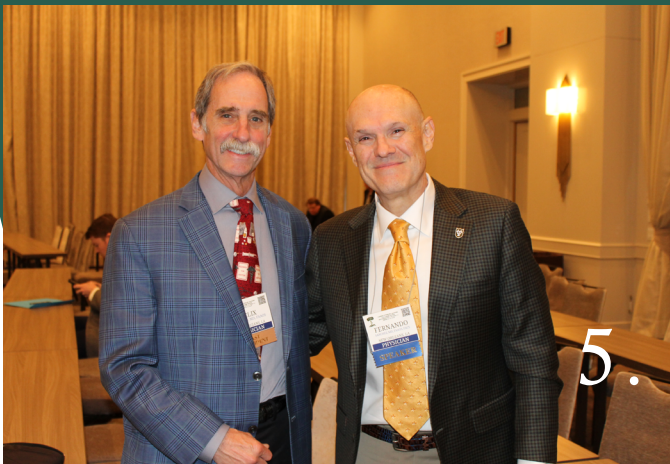
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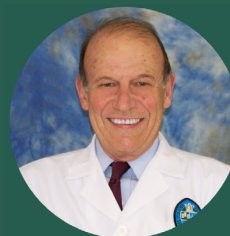
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6.



7.



Dr. Charles Billings

Dr. K. Chandra Vemulapalli



8.

Faculty Highlights

1. College Football Playoffs debut

Fresh off an American Conference Championship, the Tulane football team made history on December 20, 2025, by competing in the College Football Playoffs for the first time against Ole Miss. We are so proud of our Sports Medicine providers for helping the team on college football's biggest stage and for a special season.

2. Donations to the Tulane Cancer Center

The students, athletes, and administration at Cabrini, Mount Carmel Academy, St. Mary's Dominican, and St. Scholastica Academy raised **\$32,558** during the "Pink Games" this past October. 100% of these proceeds were donated to the Tulane Cancer Center Patient Relief Fund for the Tulane Cancer Center and Breast Cancer Center at EJGH. An in-person check ceremony was held at Yulman Stadium in February. The "Pink Volleyball Games" were created by David Mocklin, MCA athletic trainer. All of the schools mentioned above have Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine athletic trainers on site.

3. Dr. Jaubert volunteers

Dr. Lisa Jaubert, an avid marathoner and skier, volunteered with the National Ability Center in Park City, UT to help people with modifications enjoy the slopes.

4. Trauma Docs in CO

Drs. Paul Gladden and Trey Martin were Faculty Instructors at the DePuy Synthes Future Leaders: Trauma Senior Resident Symposium. They had a great time educating senior residents going into orthopaedic trauma at the impressive University of Colorado cadaver lab. Dr. Trey Martin spoke on Anterior Pelvic Ring injuries and Treatment Strategies.

5. LOA participation

Many of our Tulane faculty and residents shared their knowledge at this year's Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting on March 20-21 at The Roosevelt. Dr. Sanchez participated in the Prosthetic Joint Infection Case-Based Panel. Dr. Sherman was a moderator on a Knee Arthroplasty panel. Dr. Miles was on a Trauma/ Perioperative Fractures panel and moderated a session. Drs. Savoie and O'Brien participated in multiple Shoulder/Elbow panels.

6. STEM Award at UMC

Congratulations to Daniel Miles, MD, on receiving the STEM Award at UMC! Dr. Miles is dedicated to improving lives through expert, compassionate care. This award is a true reflection of his precision, dedication, and impact on patient recovery.

7. High School Physicals

Dr. Kelly Hill, along with Tulane medical students, performed hundreds of physicals at local high schools in May. Volunteers were able to listen to heart and lung sounds, take histories, and obtain blood pressures.

8. AOA Inductees

Drs. Charles Billings and K. Chandra Vemulapalli were inducted as Fellows of the American Orthopaedic Association! They were inducted at AOA's 139th Annual Leadership Meeting on May 15, 2026, in Albuquerque, NM. Inductees are nominated by their peers within the AOA for their exceptional leadership and accomplishments in the orthopaedic specialty. Fewer than 10% of practicing orthopaedic surgeons have achieved AOA Membership. Congratulations!

NOLA Family Favorite Nominations

The Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine is nominated for a 2026 Favorite Orthopedic Clinic by Nola Family Magazine. In addition, Drs. Buddy Savoie, Wendell MR Heard, and Kelly Hill are nominated in the 2026 Favorite Orthopedic Doctor category. The voting is open to the public. People can vote daily from July 15 to August 15. Vote at <https://nolafamily.com/family-favorites>

Scan the QR
code to vote!



Research Updates

December 2025 - June 2026

Miles, D - Posters, "Characteristics of Existing Polyethylene During Retrograde IMN: How Often Are We Changing the Poly?" and "Imaging Parameters Predictive of Distal Femoral Replacement versus Nail Plate Combination in the Treatment of Periprosthetic Distal Femur Fractures." Current Concepts in Joint Replacement (CCJR) Annual Meeting 2025. Dec 11-13, 2025.

Nicholson KS, Christianson EA, Catanzano AA, Tuason DA, Skalak T, Clement RC. "Enabling Technologies for Pedicle Screw Placement in Pediatric Spine Surgery." *Journal of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America*. Dec 31, 2025.

Savoie, F.H., O'Brien, M.J., Familia, M.M. (2026). Book chapter: Heterotopic Ossifications Around the Elbow. In: Espregueira-Mendes, J., Karlsson, J., Musahl, V., Ayeni, O.R. (eds) *Orthopaedic Sports Medicine*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65430-6_248-1. Jan 2026.

Montagnino J - Posters, "Respiratory Infection Turned Joint: An Extremely Rare Case of EBV Causing Reactive Polyarthritis" and "When The Spine Speaks Through the Knee: Radicular Pathology Presenting with Focal Pathology." AMSSM 2026.

Cyriac M, Reinhart N, Salas Z, Sherman WF, Tate J - "Evolving trends in anterior cervical spine surgery: a decade-long shift towards standalone constructs." *Current Orthopaedic Practice* 37(2). Feb 2026.

Savoie FH - "The Sport Publication Observational Research Tool (SPORT): An Objective Tool to Score the Methodological Quality of Observational Clinical Sports Medicine Research." *Orthop J Sports Med*. 2026 Feb 6;14(2):23259671251380883. Erratum in: *Orthop J Sports Med*. Feb 27, 2026.

Le B, Troutman T, Perez-Chaumont A, Savoie FH 3rd, Skalak T. "Let them move: Early range of motion and rehabilitation after fixation of medial epicondyle fractures in adolescent athletes." *J Child Orthop*. Feb 2026.

Sanchez, F - Chapter 28: Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty, Orthopaedic Knowledge Update, OKU 15. *Lippincott Williams & Wilkins*, March 3, 2026. Partnership with the AAOS.

Tate JP, Reinhart NM, Desai N, Collins LK, Sherman WF. "Who Is on Call? Trends in Hemiarthroplasty Versus Total Hip Arthroplasty for Femoral Neck Fractures Based on Subspecialty Training." *J Arthroplasty*. March 2026.

Cavataio J, Chen I, Christianson E, Collins L, Sherman WF, Skalak T. - Poster, "Pediatric Femoral Shaft Fractures: Trends in Submuscular Plating vs. Intramedullary Nail Fixation." Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. March 2026.

"Single-cell dissection for bone cells" Sherman, WF. Grant Funding completed 3/31/26.

Sanchez, F and Sherman, WF - "Decoding cellular communication networks and signaling pathways in bone, skeletal muscle, and bone-muscle crosstalk through spatial transcriptomics in a young male mouse." *Bone Research* 14(1). May 2026.

Hood H- ANCHOR Study Group. "Survivorship of femoroacetabular impingement surgery at mean 10-year follow-up, prospective multicenter cohort study." *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. June 2026.

Sanchez, F - "Spatial transcriptomics reveal microenvironmental heterogeneity and metabolic rewiring in osteoarthritic subchondral bone." *Nature, Aging* A13526. 2026.

Sanchez, F and Sherman, WF - "Mapping the spatial atlas of the human bone tissue integrating spatial and single cell transcriptomics." *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2025, 53, gkae1298. 2026.

Add'l. Faculty Presentations

Savoie FH - Faculty, AAOS/AOSSM/AANA Sports Medicine Course. Park City, UT. Feb 2026.

Vemulapalli KC - Speaker, Houston Orthopaedic Trauma Symposium. Houston, TX. Feb 2026.

Savoie F - Speaker, Rockefeller University, Weill Cornell Medical College, John Marshall Lectureship, March 2026.

Vemulapalli KC - Faculty, Curvafix Fellows Course. Houston, TX. March 2026.

O'Brien M - Speaker, Latin American SLARD Meeting in Lima, Peru. March 2026.

Vemulapalli KC - Faculty, Upper Limb Trauma Association (ULTRA) course. Austin, TX. March 2026.

Skalak T - "Scoliosis: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Innovation." Manning Family Children's Grand Rounds in New Orleans, LA. April 1, 2026.

Gladden P - Faculty, AO Trauma NA Blended Course – Advanced Principles of Fracture Management in Bellevue WA. April 9-11, 2026.

O'Brien M, and Savoie, F - Faculty, Turkish Shoulder & Elbow Society in Adana, Turkey. April 12-19, 2026.

Hill K - Pickleball Injuries in the United States: A Rapidly Growing Sport with a Disproportionate Rise in Orthopedic Injury Burden. New Orleans, LA. April 15-16, 2026.

Savoie FH - Featured Expert, "Arthroscopic Management of Lateral Elbow Instability," ISAKOS Webinar Series #008 - With GEN: Soft Tissue Sports Injury Issues in the Athlete's Elbow, on April 23, 2026.

O'Brien M, and Savoie, F - Faculty, Shoulder 360 in Miami Beach, FL. April 2026.

O'Brien, M - Faculty, Rotator Cuff Controversies Cased-Based Roundtable; Debate: In-Lay vs. In-Set Polyethylene in an Anatomic Total Shoulder for Patients With Younger Shoulder Arthritis; Debate: MLB Triple Threat UCLR Throwdown, Addressing UCL Injuries in the Thrower Panel Discussion. AANA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. May 2026.

Savoie, F - Faculty, Let's Get It Right the First Time: Tips and Tricks to Getting the First Time Rotator Cuff Repair Right; Debate: Posterior Shoulder Instability With is the Right Way; Case-Based Complex Shoulder Instability: Reducing Failures, Minimizing Risks and Maximizing Outcomes; Addressing UCL Injuries in the Thrower: Boiling Down the 102 Ways to Do It and Get It Right & Panel Discussion; Let's Get Back to Basics: Techniques and Advancements in Soft Tissue Shoulder Stabilization Procedures; Conundrums of the Throwing Shoulder: A Case-Panel Discussion; How to Identify and Address HAGL and rHAGL Lesions Arthroscopically; Case-Based: The Spectrum of Posterior Glenoid Labral Injuries in Youth to Adult Overhead Throwing Athletes; Shoulder Instability for the In-Season Athlete. AANA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. May 2026.

Savoie F - Speaker, Hawkins Society Meeting in Hilton Head, SC. May 2026.

Savoie F - Faculty, AOA Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. May 2026.

Vemulapalli KC - Faculty, AO Basic Course. Tampa, FL. May 2026.

Cyriac M - Moderator: AAOS Master Workshop: Tubular MIS Surgery: How to expand practice, refine indications, and fine-tune the learning curve; Instructional Course Series: Minimally Invasive Posterior Cervical Fusion - Indications and Technique; Moderator: AAOS Master Workshop: Anterior-to-psoas (ATP) fusion: OLIF surgical technique and contraindications; Instructional Course Series: What's new in listhesis - prone lateral approach, Lateral approach for thoracolumbar corpectomies, Minimally invasive options for adult deformity correction. AAOS-India Spine Colloquium in Bengaluru, India. May 2026.

Savoie F - Speaker, SDSI Shoulder Course in Coronado, CA. June 2026.

Resident Highlights

1. Cameron J. Gerhold, PGY 1

Dr. Cameron Gerhold is a New Orleans native and has returned home after spending more than a decade in Florida. She earned her B.S. in Biology from Florida State University in 2021 and went on to complete an orthopaedic surgery research fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago during medical school. She received her M.D. from the Florida State University College of Medicine. In her spare time, she enjoys weightlifting, listening to country music, trying new restaurants, and playing with her dogs.

2. Connor A. Nyborg, PGY 1

Dr. Connor Nyborg grew up in Alaska. He earned his B.S. in Neuroscience, Foreign Language, and Psychology from Tulane University. He earned his M.D. from Tulane University School of Medicine. When he's not working, Connor enjoys fishing, bowhunting, sailing, and running.

3. Ricardo “Bond” J. Rodriguez, Jr, PGY 1

Dr. Bond Rodriguez, a Louisiana native raised in Baton Rouge, completed his undergraduate degree at Birmingham-Southern College, where he earned a B.S. in Chemistry as a student-athlete. He went on to receive an M.S. in Biomedical Science from Mississippi College and a medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine. Outside of work, Bond enjoys inshore and offshore saltwater fishing and cheering on the Saints, Tulane, and LSU sports teams.

4. Thomas J. Spackman, III, PGY 1

Dr. TJ Spackman is from Dallas, TX. TJ earned his B.S. from Tulane University and his M.D. from McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Outside of medicine, you'll find him playing golf, weightlifting, swimming, and running (slowly). When he can, he loves to fly fish for trout!

5. LOA participation

Our Tulane residents shared their research at this year's Louisiana Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting on March 20. Connor Maginnis, MD, presented “Is Molybdenum-Rhenium (MoRe) Alloy a Viable Option for Fracture Treatment?” Chauncey Bridges, MD, presented “Neurosurgeons and Orthopaedic Spine Surgeons Similarly Trend Toward Stand-Alone ACDF.” Our research fellows, Ivette and Joseph, also presented “Decade-Long Changes in the Operative Management of Femoral Neck Fractures” and “Primary Arthrodesis vs. ORIF of Lisfranc Injuries: Trends in Utilization.” James Clemmons, MD, presented “Role of Approach in Scapula Open Reduction Internal Fixation: Outcomes at a Level 1 Trauma Center.” Tara Reza, MD, presented “National Trends and Socioeconomic Disparities: Finger Replantation vs. Revision Amputation.” Our residents also had several e-posters accepted, and James, Hunter, and Akshar participated in the residency skills competition. Congratulations to PGY 3 Sione Ofa for winning first place in the Best of LOA Research Presentations for “Comparing Return-to-Sport and Outcomes of Ulnar Collateral Ligament Repair vs. Reconstruction.”

6. VA Health Professions Trainee of the Year

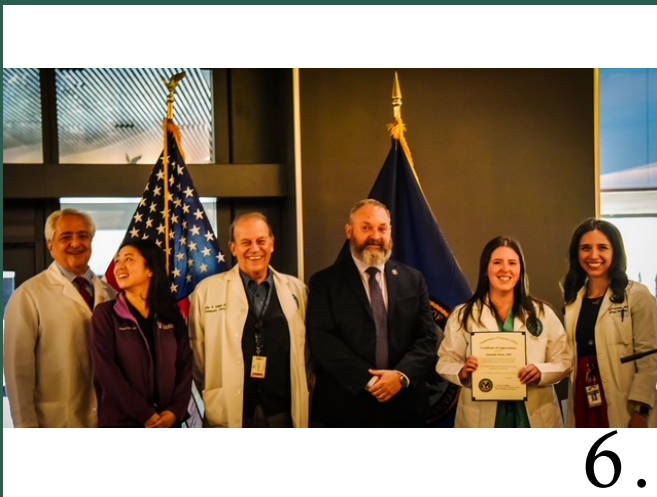
PGY 1 Amanda Davis, MD, earned the VA Health Professions Trainee of the Year Award for Orthopedics. She accepted her award alongside Tulane Ortho faculty Drs. Charles Billings and Olivia Lee. Congrats!

7. LCMC Resident of the Year

PGY 5 Garrett “Hunter” Williams, MD, earned the 2026 LCMC Health Resident/Fellow of the Year Award at Tulane Lakeside Hospital. Each of the seven LCMC facilities chose one resident/fellow. The members of Lakeside's medical staff nominated him for his collaborative approach and dedication to delivering high-quality, compassionate patient care. LCMC awarded Hunter a \$1,000 educational stipend. Congrats!

8. Sawbones lab

Drs. Leland McCluskey, Andrew Gabig, Sione Ofa, Lacey Collins, Connor Maginnis, Julianna Winter, Conner Fox, Parker Mitchell and Nolan Reinhart taught Tulane Medical students how to fix bones at a Sawbones lab.



AAOS Annual Meeting

The AAOS Annual Meeting returned to New Orleans March 2-6, 2026. Drs. Mathew Cyriac, Paul Gladden, Leland McCluskey, Jr, Michael O'Brien, and Buddy Savoie, III participated in numerous case discussions and shared their expertise throughout the week. Three papers with contributing Tulane faculty were accepted and displayed at the meeting.

Our Faculty participated in the following ways:

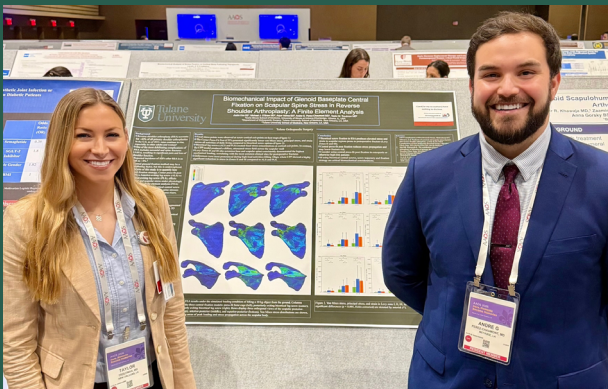
Mathew Cyriac, MD: Speaker, "Differential Diagnosis in Degenerative Cervical Spine," "Lateral Approach to Spondylolisthesis (Prone, direct, or antepsoas approach)."

Paul Gladden, MD, FAAOS: Moderator 1, Case Chats: Trauma V Papers; Speaker, "Difficult Proximal Femur and Shaft Fractures: Tips and Tricks."

Leland McCluskey, Jr, MD: Speaker, "Posterior Approaches in the Management of High-Grade Spondylolisthesis."

Michael O'Brien, MD: Speaker, "Shoulder Instability: What's the best surgical treatment?"

Buddy Savoie, MD, FAAOS: Speaker, "Case-Based, Advanced Decision Making in Complex Shoulder Instability in the Setting of Other Complex Associated Conditions;" Speaker, "The Early Bird Gets the Worm."



AAOS Annual Meeting

In addition, Drs. James Clemmons, Andrew Gabig, Connor Maginnis, Conner Fox, Sione Ofa, and Andre Perez-Chaumont, otherwise known as “TromBONE Shorties,” participated in the Resident Bowl. They tested their trivia knowledge against other residents training across the country. They came in 5th place - the best finish in years!

Finally, we enjoyed seeing many of our alumni at the TU Caldwell Society Alumni Reception at Rosie's on the River. It was a gorgeous night for a rooftop view. We hope to see y'all next year in Las Vegas!



Ray J. Haddad, Jr. Lectureship and Senior Resident Graduation - June 5, 2026

The visiting professor was Andrew R. Burgess, M.D., a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who specializes in orthopedic trauma, complex injury management, and limb reconstruction. He is a Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston and is affiliated with Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. The four graduating residents, Drs. James Clemmons, Onyebuchi Imonugo, Zachary Salas, and Garrett Williams were joined by their families, faculty, and colleagues at the New Orleans Country Club for dinner.



Thank you to our generous sponsors Ray J. Haddad Jr., MD and Rudolph Matas-Nu Sigma Nu.

Ray J. Haddad, Jr. Lectureship and Senior Resident Graduation - June 5, 2026

Our faculty gave out several awards at the Graduation reception. Chauncey Bridges, M.D., received the William F. Sherman Award. Sione Ofa, M.D., earned the Orthopaedic Research Award. Taylor Troutman, M.D., received the Highest OITE Award. James Clemmons, M.D., received the Trauma Interlock Award. Hunter Williams, M.D., received the Chairman's Award. Our residents had a great time honoring James, Buchi, Zach, and Hunter!



Thank you to our generous sponsors Ray J. Haddad Jr., MD and Rudolph Matas-Nu Sigma Nu.



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A Little Lagniappe

- Dr. Kelly Hill was tapped to join The Forum.
- Dr. Mike O'Brien was elected AANA Secretary for 2026-2027.
- Dr. Leland McCluskey Jr. represents Tulane in the inaugural group of Founding AOC MedTech Innovation Pioneers, a distinguished cohort of 46 academic orthopaedic departments that have stepped forward to establish institutional profiles within the new POST™ digital platform prior to formal launch.
- Dr. Stephen Heinrich retired from clinical practice in July.
- Liz Wesley resigned as Residency Program Administrator.
- Dr. McCluskey is taking over the Residency Program Assoc. Director role.
- Sam Gaulden graduated with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Tulane University.
- Dr. Andrew Gabig got engaged to Daniela in April.
- Hannah Vicknair, PT, and her husband welcomed a baby in May.
- Dr. Austin Ross and his wife, Maribeth, welcomed a baby in May.
- Logan Seal, PT, and his wife are expecting a baby in July.
- Dr. Rick Levy R*95 passed away on June 4, 2026. If you're interested in honoring his memory, the family asks you to make a donation in Richard's name to Doc's Derby benefitting the ALS Association at <https://tinyurl.com/j3st58ma>
- Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds passed away on March 13, 2026. See the full obituary on the next page.



John Ollie Edmunds, Jr. MD, 85, died peacefully at home in New Orleans on March 13, 2026. Dr. Edmunds was internationally known as a teacher, lecturer, author, and pioneer of surgical procedures and medical software. He practiced medicine for 44 years before retiring in 2015 as Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery at Tulane University School of Medicine.

Known to most as “Ollie,” Dr. Edmunds was born to Emily Caroline Bryant Edmunds and J. Ollie Edmunds, Sr. in Jacksonville, Florida on September 18, 1940. He spent his early years in Deland, Florida where his father was president of Stetson University. After graduating from Woodberry Forest High School in Virginia, Dr. Edmunds attended Washington and Lee University for two years, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi before transferring to Stanford University, where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences. He then spent a year at Regent’s Park College at the University of Oxford. He was an avid wrestler

during high school and college. In 1967, he graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine and started his internship at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, where he met his future wife, Karen Ann Oser. They later married in New Orleans on April 11, 1970.

In 1968, Dr. Edmunds went to Naval Air Station Pensacola for training as a flight surgeon. He was then stationed at Naval Air Station New York. He also worked at St. Albans Naval Hospital taking care of soldiers returning from Vietnam. After the Navy, he set course for Duke University, where he completed residencies in general surgery and orthopaedic surgery, in addition to a fellowship in hand and microvascular surgery.

In 1976, Dr. Edmunds moved his family back to Karen’s hometown of New Orleans, where he joined the faculty at Tulane University in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Edmunds served as the Chief of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery at Tulane University Medical Center, Charity Hospital of New Orleans, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center of New Orleans. After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Edmunds worked for several years at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Nashville and served as a Visiting Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical School.

Dr. Edmunds was a Fellow of the American Orthopaedic Association and the American College of Surgeons. He was a past president of the Southern Orthopaedic Association and the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association. He was also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the Southern Orthopaedic Association and later the Journal of Surgical Orthopaedic Advances. He was especially known for surgical procedures of the thumb basal joint and hemophilic joint replacement. Countless patients appreciated his kindness and compassion. Dr. Edmunds also designed medical software as Chairman of Aesculapius Technologies.

After his father’s death, Dr. Edmunds became Chairman of Gualala Redwoods, Inc., managing timber north of San Francisco, in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. He was also a member of Abita Springs Timber Company, L.L.C. in St. Tammany Parish.

Dr. Edmunds and his sister, Jane Edmunds Novak, co-founded the J. Ollie Edmunds Distinguished Scholarship Program at Stetson University, in honor of their father. Since 1997, the full-scholarship program has funded dozens of “Edmunds Scholars” to attend Stetson. In 2022, Stetson University awarded Dr. Edmunds an honorary doctorate.

He loved the New Orleans Saints and popcorn. On his way home from work, he would often stop at the Prytania Theatre—just to buy the popcorn. He also loved to sing. With his deep vocal range, he sang bass in the choir at the Tulane Catholic Center during Sunday mass. While in Nashville after Katrina, he sang in the choir at Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Personally, he was most proud of his talented and beautiful family. His loving wife of 55 years, Karen Oser Edmunds, is an artist. “Happiness is being married to your best friend,” he used to say. Professionally, Dr. Edmunds was most proud of the generations of medical students he taught, including the approximately 250 Tulane orthopaedic residents he trained over four decades. He was awarded the Outstanding Orthopaedic Faculty Teacher Award at Tulane in 1981 and 1996, and the Spartacus Maximus Award in 2011.

Dr. Edmunds is survived by his wife, Karen; his children Anne (Ernie) Aguirre of Nashville; John (Rachel) Edmunds and their children, Julian & Rosie of Rutherford, NJ; Caroline (Ryan) Purdy of Maplewood, NJ; and Chris (Cristina) Edmunds and their children, Oscar & Arabella of New Orleans; and his sister, Jane (Wayne) Edmunds Novak of Atlantic Beach, FL. Dr. Edmunds’ family is beyond grateful for Dr. Mark Berenson, Hospice Specialists of Louisiana, and the wonderful caretakers who served him selflessly during the final years of his life, especially Renaldo, Nicole, Sherlita, and Taylor.

If you’re interested in honoring his memory, the family asks for donations to the Ollie Edmunds Research and Education Fund at Tulane University Orthopedics at <https://tinyurl.com/mwusc4>

Graduating Residents



James Clemmons, MD
*Trauma Fellowship at
Washington University in St. Louis*



Onyebuchi Imonugo, MD
*Spine Fellowship at
University of Maryland*



Zachary Salas, MD
*Spine Fellowship at
Harvard Massachusetts General*



Garrett "Hunter" Williams, MD
*Foot & Ankle Fellowship at
Mercy Medical Center*

Giving Opportunities

- **The Residents' Support Fund for Orthopaedics**
to purchase needed equipment and pay for travel and other expenses for the residents
- **Thomas S. Whitecloud, III, MD Professorship in Orthopaedics**
to support a faculty member selected by the chairman
- **Dr. and Mrs. Paul Davis Fund for Orthopaedic Services**
to support the services and programs of the department
- **Felix "Buddy" and Amy Savoie Professorship in Orthopaedics**
to support the Lead Orthopaedic Surgeon responsible for Tulane Athletics
- **Raoul P. Rodriguez, MD Professorship in Orthopaedics**
to support a faculty member
- **W. Kennon McWilliams Professorships in Sports Medicine**
to support faculty in the sports medicine program
- **Ray J. Haddad, Jr MD Chair in Orthopaedics**
to support teaching and research by the Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics
- **The Ray J. Haddad, Jr MD Memorial Lectureship in Orthopaedics**
to support the annual graduation lectureship
- **Bette and Jack K. Wickstrom, MD Professorship in Orthopaedics**
to support a faculty member
- **Lee C. Schlesinger Chair of Orthopaedics**
to support a faculty member
- **Motion Analysis Research and Support Fund**
to support Tulane Performance Institute's operations and motion analysis research (www.tpinola.com)

If you'd like to make a donation specific to one of these funds, please use the following steps:

1. Log on to giving.tulane.edu/ortho
2. Type in the amount of the donation you'd like to make.
3. When asked where you'd like to direct your contribution, select "Other."
4. In the "Specify if you selected 'Other'" text entry box, type out the name of the fund you'd like to receive your donation, such as the Thomas S. Whitecloud, III, MD Professorship in Orthopaedics.
5. After you've filled in the mandatory personal and billing information, you can be assured that your gift will be applied to the fund of your choice.

You may also make a donation by contacting Mary Kate Bray in the Office of Advancement at (504) 390-0754 or mkbray@tulane.edu.