

Devoted employees named honorary alumni

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The Tulane Alumni family shared its gratitude with some of the university's most committed and longstanding employees by recognizing them at a special event this November.

Honorary alumni status is granted by Tulane Alumni to select faculty and staff who have served the university for a quarter century or more. Each of the individuals named this year have proven essential to the fabric of our community on countless

occasions, creating a lasting and meaningful legacy at Tulane through their many contributions and passion for the school.

Lori Hurvitz, associate vice president of alumni relations, led the Nov. 21 ceremony at the Bea Field Alumni House, lauding the group for their many contributions. “They have exemplified the spirit of what it means to be a Tulanian — selflessly serving the university and strengthening the community in countless ways.”

This year, the following individuals were named honorary alumni:

Michael Cunningham, whose service to Tulane since 1996 has included roles as professor, associate provost, member of the President’s Cabinet and founding executive director of the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching. Cunningham’s dedication to changing the world one classroom at a time has impacted countless students.

Melanie Ehrlich, who is the founder of the Epigenetics Society, joined Tulane in 1972. A professor at the School of Medicine and core member of Tulane Cancer Center, Ehrlich’s research has provided game-changing cancer treatment development.

Norm Kreisman, who holds the longest standing continuous appointment in the history of the Department of Physiology, having joined the university in 1971. An award-winning teacher, Kreisman’s research has focused on ameliorating the impact of strokes.

Lisa LeBlanc came to Tulane in a temporary role in 1981, rising through the ranks to stand as accounts payable manager for more than 20 years. LeBlanc has been essential in helping the university implement new systems for efficiency and organization.

Tulane Alumni has established the tradition of inducting honorary alumni as a way to recognize how faculty, staff and administration play an important role in making Tulane such a special place.