

2023

Alumni Awards  
Celebration



TULANE UNIVERSITY<sup>®</sup>  
School of Science  
& Engineering



**TULANE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2023 ALUMNI AWARDS CELEBRATION**

Thursday April 13, 2023  
Tulane River Coastal Center

**WELCOME**

Kimberly Foster, PhD  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Kimberly Foster, PhD  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

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**2020 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA  
AWARD**

Parastoo Khoshakhlagh, PhD  
Biomedical Engineering, PhD '15

**2020 OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
ALUMNUS AWARD**

David B. Lipps, PhD  
Biomedical Engineering, BSE '07

**2020 OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
ALUMNUS AWARD**

Donald Vinci  
Chemical Engineering, BSE '79,  
MBA '01

**2023 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA  
AWARD**

Lisa Jackson  
Chemical Engineering, BS '83

**2023 OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
ALUMNA AWARD**

Franziska Trautmann  
Chemical Engineering, BSE '20

**2023 OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
YOUNG ALUMNA AWARD**

Krista L. Jankowski, PhD  
Earth and Environmental Sciences,  
PhD, '18

**2023 OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
ALUMNUS AWARD**

Uwe R. Pontius, MD, PhD  
Engineering, BSE '68, Mechanical  
Engineering, MS '71, PhD '75,  
Medicine, MD '76

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**CLOSING REMARKS**

Kimberly Foster, PhD  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2020 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

**PARASTOO KHOSHAKHLAGH, PhD**

Biomedical Engineering, PhD '15

Parastoo Khoshakhlagh, PhD is the CEO and co-founder of GC Therapeutics, Inc. GCTx is a VC-backed cell therapy company based on a technology that Dr. Khoshakhlagh co-invented during her postdoctoral research in Professor George Church's Lab at Harvard Medical School and co-authored in Nature Biotechnology. GCTx was the recipient of grant awards from the Harvard Biomedical Blavatnik Accelerator in 2017 and 2018, received the Massachusetts Life Sciences Innovation Day Prize in 2018 and was among the winners of the Harvard President's Innovation Challenge in 2019 and MIT 100K in 2020. GCTx's technology was also featured in Nature Biotechnology's News Feature and in NBC's 60 minutes.

Prior to this, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Ali Khademhosseini at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. Dr. Khoshakhlagh is also the co-founder, co-inventor and former CSO of Tympanogen, Inc., a woman-led company which is developing Perf-Fix, the first non-surgical, minimally invasive 3D hydrogel patch to heal chronic eardrum ruptures. Tympanogen has won multiple national and international awards such as the NASA Earth / Space Life Science Innovation Award and the nCourage Courageous Women Entrepreneur Prize. Dr. Khoshakhlagh and her co-founder worked with NASA and the Center for Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), the manager of the International Space Station, to investigate the effect of microgravity on hydrogel structure and drug release capabilities which was launched into space on the SpaceX Dragon Cargo Ship in a first-of-its-kind experiment.

She completed her PhD in Biomedical Engineering in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Moore, a Langer laboratory alumnus, at Tulane University. Her work during her PhD led to her being a co-inventor on a U.S. patent application that resulted in the creation of Axosim, a start-up that develops drug screening nerve-on-a-chip products. In addition, Dr. Khoshakhlagh has previously received a prestigious award from the NIH, the Avon Foundation and the Center For Advancing Innovation for creating a commercialization pathway for a reconstructive scaffold for breast cancer.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2020 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

**DAVID B. LIPPS, PhD**

Biomedical Engineering, BSE '07

David B. Lipps is an Associate Professor of Movement Science and Director of the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics and Imaging Laboratory at the University of Michigan School of Kinesiology. Dr. Lipps also holds appointments with the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Cancer Control and Population Sciences program at the Rogel Cancer Center.

Dr. Lipps is a 2007 graduate of the School of Science and Engineering (B.S.E., Biomedical Engineering). After graduating from Tulane University, Dr. Lipps received his M.S.E. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Michigan. Following his doctoral training, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (now Shirley Ryan AbilityLab). He joined the University of Michigan School of Kinesiology in 2015.

Dr. Lipps' research examines the mechanisms of upper extremity musculoskeletal injuries using diagnostic imaging and assessments of biomechanical and neuromuscular function. His work has primarily focused on understanding how intrinsic and contractile muscle properties alter upper extremity function in breast cancer patients following surgery and radiotherapy. His lab aims to leverage these assessment tools to develop objective diagnostic criteria to identify breast cancer patients that would most benefit from active clinical surveillance or referral to rehabilitation services. He has published 35 manuscripts in leading journals in the biomechanics, surgery, and oncology fields, including *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, *Radiotherapy and Oncology*, *Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology*, *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*, and *the American Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Dr. Lipps' research program has received over \$1.2 million in extramural support from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Plastic Surgery Foundation. He also serves as on the Executive Board of the American Society of Biomechanics.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2020 OUTSTANDING SERVICE ALUMNUS AWARD

**DONALD VINCI**

Chemical Engineering, BSE '79, MBA '01



Don is an accomplished utility executive who retired from Entergy Corporation (a fortune 300 company) after a highly successful career leading in both operational and corporate roles. His experience includes more than five years as a member of the executive leadership team reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and responsible for all aspects of company strategy, operations, and customer experience. During that time, Don served as Chief Human Resources Officer & Chief Diversity Officer and was subsequently promoted to Chief Administrative Officer responsible for all functions related to information/operational technology, supply chain, facilities, corporate aviation, security, customer service support and shared services.

Prior to his time as a member of the executive leadership team, Don held a variety of leadership roles at Entergy over his 33-year career. As Vice President, Gas Distribution Business, he was responsible for all aspects of the local gas distribution business serving more than 190,000 customers in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Other roles held included Vice President, Business Development for Entergy Nuclear, and Vice President, Risk Management Services and General Auditor.

Don began his career with Entergy in nuclear operations, where he held numerous positions of increasing responsibility including Maintenance Manager, Operations Manager, Engineering Manager, Director of Fleet Training, General Manager Plant Operations at River Bend nuclear station, and General Manager, Fleet Operations and Support.

He served on active duty for more than six years as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy and in the Navy Reserves for 17 years, including a tour as Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Pensacola Reserve Unit. He retired as a captain from the Naval Reserves in 2003.

Don is currently a mentor and facilitator for the Severn Leadership Group (SLG). He also serves on the advisory board for Tulane University's School of Science and Engineering, chairs the task force for Technology Commercialization and Entrepreneurship and has twice chaired the annual Tulane Engineering Forum. Additionally, he serves on the New Orleans advisory board for the Posse Foundation, a national college access and youth leadership development program and the Tulane NROTC Alumni Board. Don formerly served on the Louisiana Military Advisory Council, and boards of Greater New Orleans, Inc., and Operations Technology Development.

Don is a New Orleans native and received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in business administration, both from Tulane University. He was a licensed Louisiana professional engineer and a licensed senior reactor operator at the Waterford 3 nuclear station.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2023 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD

**LISA JACKSON**

Chemical Engineering, BS '83

Lisa Jackson is Apple's Vice President of Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives, and served as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2009 to 2013. At Apple, Lisa leads the company's environmental initiatives, global community education programs, product accessibility efforts, corporate giving, and worldwide government affairs. Since Lisa's arrival in 2013, Apple has transformed its environmental footprint. Under her leadership, the company reached the goal of powering its operations around the world with 100 percent renewable energy and is now implementing its industry-leading supplier clean energy program — responsible for adding over 5 gigawatts of new clean energy around the world — to drive the transition to renewable energy with Apple's manufacturing partners. In addition, Lisa spearheads Apple's circular economy programs, grounded in the company's ambition to one day make its products using only recycled or renewable materials.

President Barack Obama appointed Lisa as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2009 — the first African-American to hold the position. As Administrator, she focused on reducing greenhouse gases, protecting air and water quality, preventing exposure to toxic contamination, and achieving environmental justice by expanding environmental outreach to underserved communities and communities of color. Lisa also served as chief of staff to New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine and as Commissioner of the state's Department of Environmental Protection, following nearly 20 years in the career ranks of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Lisa has been recognized as a leader in business and sustainability in a number of leading publications including Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business, Vogue's Game Changers, InStyle's Badass Women, Newsweek's Most Important People, TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World (2010 & 2011) and Ebony's Power 100 lists. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including Princeton's James Madison Medal, Tulane University's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Environmental Law Institute's Environmental Achievement Award, the Corporate EcoForum's C.K. Prahalad Award for Global Sustainability Business Leadership and The Captain Planet Foundation's Protector of the Earth Award.

Lisa holds a master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Tulane University. She holds honorary degrees from Montclair State University, Florida A&M University, Tulane University, Dickinson College, Spelman College and Oberlin College, and an honorary law degree from Pace Law School. She serves on the boards of Tulane University, Emily's List, and Conservation International, and is an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2023 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA AWARD

**FRANZISKA TRAUTMANN**

Chemical Engineering, BSE '20

Franziska Trautmann is the Co-Founder, CEO, and resident chemical engineer at Glass Half Full (say that 3 times fast). Born and raised in Louisiana, she grew up hearing about our coastal erosion crisis and experienced our lack of recycling options. Once in college, she quickly realized that we needed to do something about these two profound problems facing our state.

During her time at Tulane University, she was recognized by the chemical engineering faculty for outstanding performance and inducted into the national engineering honors fraternity.

Today, she heads up the research and development for projects such as coastal protection and restoration, new glass products, and process design. She proudly maintains GHF's social media presence and communications. She is also the proud mother of our mascot Miss Tchoupitoulas.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2023 OUTSTANDING SERVICE YOUNG ALUMNA AWARD

**KRISTA L. JANKOWSKI, PhD**

Earth and Environmental Sciences, PhD, '18

Krista L. Jankowski is a Senior Scientist, Strategic Planning at the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority where she manages the development of the State's Coastal Master Plan. Dr. Jankowski is also a Licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Louisiana and was awarded a National Academies of Science Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship in 2017.

Prior to attending Tulane University, Dr. Jankowski earned bachelor's degrees in Geology and Political Science from Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) and a master's in Climate & Society from Columbia University (New York, NY). She also worked as a High School Biology Teacher in Memphis, TN, and as a Technical Advisor for the Red Cross Climate Centre where she worked to integrate climate change-related tools into disaster risk reduction practices in Southeast and Central Asia. Dr. Jankowski is a 2018 graduate of the Tulane University School of Science and Engineering (Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Sciences) where she focused on understanding the impact of environmental and climate change on coastal Louisiana wetlands.

Dr. Jankowski applies her technical expertise to a \$50 billion/50-year predictive modeling and project planning effort that guides investment in restoration and risk reduction projects in coastal Louisiana. Through her work to connect community members to accurate and accessible scientific information, she leverages a variety of tools – including public presentations, technical writing, digital and print media, video, and more – to provide clear and accurate information to a wide variety of audiences. Through this work, she and her team illustrate how individuals and communities may experience future environmental change in order to support informed decision-making under climate uncertainty.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
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2023 OUTSTANDING SERVICE ALUMNUS AWARD

**UWE R. PONTIUS, MD, PhD**

Engineering, BSE '68, Mechanical Engineering, MS '71, PhD '75,  
Medicine, MD '76



Uwe was appointed to the Adjunct Faculty of Tulane University's Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2022. Before this, he was an Orthopedic Surgeon in private practice for 35 years.

From 1965 to 1967, Uwe was the walk-on field goal kicker for the Green Wave. He was awarded his Bachelor of Science degree from Tulane University in 1968. Immediately he began to work toward a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at Tulane. Because he felt a close relationship with medicine and engineering, he blended a PhD in Bioengineering with entering medical school.

Uwe completed the degree requirements for his Master's degree in 1971. He began work on his Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering. He began medical school at Tulane three years prior to completing his PhD, which was awarded in 1975. Just six months later, he was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree as well as the Gold Scalpel Award by the Department of Surgery.

Uwe interned at Charity Hospital of Louisiana in General Surgery, then completed an Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the U.S. Air Force Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

He spent the next two years as an attending surgeon at Sheppard Regional U.S. Air Force Hospital, Wichita Falls, Texas, including a year in service as Chief of Surgical Services, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Air Force.

Uwe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in 1983 with the rank of Major.

He became Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery in 1984, and entered private practice in San Antonio, Texas, for the next 35 years.

In 2020, Uwe began a collaboration with the Department of Biomedical Engineering to develop an innovative implant to treat knee arthritis in a difficult patient population. It was a population he knew well from his decades of private practice. He developed and received several patents for this knee implant device.

Through Uwe's generosity of time and resource, this collaboration has been more than fruitful. He has involved 16 undergraduates, master's candidates, and alumni directly, and supported department efforts in many other ways. He has given a number of lectures reliant on his clinical experience, and is active on master's theses committees, including serving as co-director of a master candidate student.

In 2022, Uwe was appointed to the Adjunct Faculty of the Department of Biomedical Engineering. It has been a gratifying experience for him to return to his alma mater, where his Tulane education shaped a rewarding career and life.



CLOSING REMARKS

**KIMBERLY FOSTER, PhD**

Dean, School of Science and Engineering



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