

2024  
Alumni Awards  
Celebration



TULANE UNIVERSITY  
School of Science  
& Engineering



**TULANE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2024 ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON CELEBRATION**

Friday April 12, 2024  
Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life  
Kendall Cram Lecture Hall

**WELCOME**

Kimberly Foster, PhD  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Kathryn Stone  
Chemical Engineering, BSE '83

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**2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI  
AWARD**

Robert Feiner  
Mechanical Engineering, BSE '91

**2024 OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
ALUMNI AWARD**

Brad Moore  
Civil Engineering, BSE '76

**2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI  
AWARD – PROFESSIONAL  
EXCELLENCE**

John M. Lachin III, ScD  
Psychology (Experimental), BS '65

**2024 OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
ALUMNI AWARD**

Evan J. Kyzar, MD, PhD  
Neuroscience, BS '12

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**CLOSING REMARKS**

Kimberly Foster, PhD  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

**ROBERT FEINER**

Mechanical Engineering, BSE '91

Bob Feiner (BSE '91) joined Dell Technologies in 1999 and has had a successful career as a senior executive for several decades. He has held a variety of global leadership roles, with significant financial and leadership responsibility. Bob currently leads all technical and field service support for Dell across all of Dell's computer products including desktops, notebooks, and gaming devices. His responsibilities include over 5,000 Dell team members and 15,000 third party contractors, in over 100 countries on six continents, influencing over \$1 billion in spend. He engages with dozens of CXO's and senior leaders at customers and vendors. In the past, he has held a variety of roles across Dell's services business, including implementation, deployment, consulting and recycling of all of Dell's various product lines. He also cofounded Dell's award-winning global Employee Resource Group focused on people with disabilities, True Ability.

Prior to Dell, Bob was a management consultant in Ernst & Young's supply chain management practice. He also held a variety of roles in the energy industry. Bob also received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997.

Bob exemplifies Tulane's focus on community service. In addition to his current service on the Tulane School of Science and Engineering Alumni Advisory Board, Bob also serves on the board of the Platelet Disorder Support Association, a health care non-profit, the Advisory Council for the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas at Austin, the Board of Advisors for Stanford University's Center for Down Syndrome Research, and the Creek at Riverbend Homeowners Association. In the past, he has also served on the boards of his local synagogue, Austin's performing arts center (the Long Center), and various advisory boards for the University of Texas McCombs School of Business.

Furthermore, Bob and his wife have been prolific donors and fundraisers in their community. Over their 25 years in Austin, they have raised or donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to a variety of local causes including the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas and numerous children's charities.

Finally, Bob has been a dedicated and passionate alumnus of Tulane since his graduation in 1991. He has served on boards for Tulane's engineering department since 2002 including entering his 12th year on the School of Science and Engineering's Alumni Advisory Board. Bob has been a dedicated recruiter at Tulane over the last decade, hiring numerous interns and full-time hires to Dell from both the School of Science and Engineering and the A.B. Freeman School of Business. He has participated in career mentoring sessions through the Career Resource center, served as an alumni mentor for the Novel Tech Challenge, funded scholarships for the STEM engagement programs and been a consistent contributor to various Tulane School of Engineering fundraising campaigns. Most recently, Bob and his wife Emily were significant donors to Paul Hall, resulting in the named sponsorship of a lab space.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD –  
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

**JOHN M. LACHIN III, SCD**  
Psychology (Experimental), BS '65

Dr. Lachin received his B.S. in experimental psychology from Tulane University in 1965 under the mentorship of the late Arnold Gerall and Davis Chambliss, and his Sc.D. in Biostatistics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972. He has been a member of the George Washington University faculty for 51 years, having joined in 1973 and then rising through the ranks to tenured Full Professor. He also provided dedicated leadership to the GWU Biostatistics Center, serving as the Assistant Director from 1980-1985, Co-Director from 1985-1988 and 2001-2010, Director from 1988-2000, and Interim Director from 2010-2012.

Dr. Lachin has been an impactful scholar through his research in biostatistical methods in parallel with that in diabetes, having published 400 peer-reviewed manuscripts (over 300 medical) and 5 books (biostatistical). With more than 100,000 citations his H-index is 101 and his citations were ranked at the 99.94th percentile among 8 million authors worldwide. He was an author of 20 articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, including the most cited paper in 2002 and 2015, and the most cited author and paper in *Contemporary Clinical Trials* in 1981 and 1988. He also trained 16 doctoral students.

Dr. Lachin received more than \$471 million as the principal investigator (PI) of grants from the National Institutes of Health to provide biostatistical support for major studies, principally of diabetes.

Dr. Lachin, served as the PI of the coordinating center for the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) that established hyperglycemia (elevated HbA1c) as the principal causal mechanism for the onset of Type 1 diabetes complications. The DCCT set a worldwide standard for Type 1 diabetes care and was named by the *Harvard Health Letter* as the most significant advancement in medicine in 1993 “because it asked important questions, was carried out with great care, and generated clear-cut answers.” Its results have helped millions of people with diabetes live longer and healthier lives.”

Dr. Lachin, served as the PI of the Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC) Study coordinating center, a longitudinal follow-up study of the DCCT cohort, encompassing more than 40 years of follow-up, and recognized as the longest study of Type 1 diabetes and its complications. Among the major findings was the phenomenon of metabolic memory whereby periods of hyperglycemia have long term adverse effects even after the prior levels are improved.

Dr. Lachin, served as the PI of the Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness (GRADE) study which provides the basis for evidence-based decisions in medical care of Type 2 diabetes, the most common chronic disease worldwide, and was recognized with a Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Award from the Clinical Research Forum in 2023.

Dr. Lachin also served as a co-PI for the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) which showed that a lifestyle intervention reduced the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by 58% among those with pre-diabetes. This spurred the Centers for Disease Control to implement the DPP Lifestyle Change Program nationally. The DPP was cited as a shining example of comparative effectiveness research from the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research.

Dr. Lachin’s mantra has been “to do good science and have fun with statistics”. Done.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2024 OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
ALUMNI AWARD

**BRAD MOORE**

Civil Engineering, BSE '76

Upon his graduation from Tulane University, Brad Moore began his career in the oil and gas fields of Louisiana, Texas, and the Gulf of Mexico. After finishing the training program and hands-on experience, he established himself as a Well Completion Engineer. In due course, he was then transferred to Dallas headquarters to lead an engineering group charged with well-servicing-equipment design and manufacturing. Moore's next move was to Director of Global Properties where, returning to his Civil Engineering background, he oversaw the acquisition, design, construction management, and expansion of hundreds of properties around the world.

While attending a high school reunion in Dallas, a former classmate, who was a humanitarian mission pastor, asked him to come "fix" two wells (water wells) for him in Kenya. Moore agreed and six months later he was on the ground in the Rift Valley, successfully repairing the wells and again providing clean water back to the villages, schools, and orphanages. From this experience, he became focused on this type of work. A short time later, after raising sufficient funds, he was back again to drill and complete his first water well in the small western Kenyan town of Kitale. Subsequently, he formed the Wind & Water Foundation to have a pathway to continue this work. Over the last decade plus, he has evaluated locations, promoted villagers' involvement, designed well plans, secured government Water Ministry approvals, raised funding, and successfully drilled in excess of thirty wells. These provide clean, accessible water to thousands of children, women, and men in Kenya and the country of Cameroon, on the west coast of Africa.

Six more wells are now in the development phase, including one in Lodwar, a small village in the lower Sahara Desert region of northern Kenya. Because of water scarcity in this extremely arid region, this well will pose the largest challenge to date for the Foundation, but one of the greatest needs.

While traveling internationally, Moore became aware of the US based Engineers Without Borders organization. EWB is primarily a university engineering students led organization, performing both international and domestic humanitarian projects. Licensed Professional Engineers provide design assistance, guidance, quality control, engineering instruction when needed and or requested, and travel mentorship. There are also multiple professional chapters around the country performing similar work. Moore assisted the Tulane School of Science and Engineering gain an EWB chapter and worked with the faculty and students on their first projects. During this inaugural period at Tulane, he also served as an Adjunct Professor as part of the faculty team to develop Tulane Engineers for International Development. Additionally, he mentors several other University Chapters including Purdue, Tufts, SMU, UNT, UT at San Antonio, and UT at Dallas. He also serves on the EWB South Central Region Leadership Team as State Representative for Louisiana and Texas. He has traveled to Ecuador and Guatemala with EWB student groups from Tulane University and Rutgers University, respectively, to work on water sourcing projects as well as elementary and middle school facilities construction projects.



TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
2024 OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
ALUMNI AWARD

**EVAN J. KYZAR, MD, PHD**

Neuroscience, BS '12

Evan J. Kyzar is a Resident Physician in Psychiatry and a Leon Levy Fellow in Neuroscience at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

Born and raised in Natchitoches, Louisiana, Dr. Kyzar conducted research in the lab of Dr. Allan Kalueff at Tulane and received the Senior Scholar in Neuroscience (B.S., Neuroscience 2012). He went on to obtain his MD and PhD at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he performed his thesis research in the lab of Dr. Subhash Pandey.

Dr. Kyzar's PhD work was supported by a National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His thesis, which explored how early-life alcohol exposure alters transcriptional regulatory systems in the brain in the lab of Dr. Subhash Pandey at UIC, garnered accolades from prominent scientific organizations including the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Society for Neuroscience (SfN), and Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP). He was inducted into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha medical honors society upon completing medical school in 2020. That same year, Dr. Kyzar matched into the research track of the Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute's psychiatric residency program. While at Columbia, he began working in the lab of Dr. C. Daniel Salzman, where he is currently investigating how exposure to drugs of abuse alters fundamental coding principles in the brain. His current work is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Leon Levy Foundation.

At this early stage of his career, Dr. Kyzar has authored over 50 peer-reviewed research articles and has an h-index of 35. His work has appeared in top journals ranging from neuroscience to philosophy of mind, including *Molecular Psychiatry*, *Biological Psychiatry*, *Science Advances*, and the *Journal of Consciousness Studies*. In addition to his research endeavors, Dr. Kyzar is actively collaborating with the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative (NNCI) to develop accessible neuroscience teaching resources for medical trainees and the general public. He continues to teach medical students and residents, and his educational efforts were recently recognized with the prestigious Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.

Following the completion of his psychiatric residency in 2024, Dr. Kyzar plans to continue his postdoctoral research and while also working as an attending physician in the psychiatric emergency room at Columbia.



CLOSING REMARKS

**KIMBERLY FOSTER, PhD**

Dean, School of Science and Engineering







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