

2018-2019 Wall Society Descriptions

Get Engaged! Civics and Politics Society - Brian Brox, Political Science

This society will focus on politics, civics, and community engagement. If you are interested in campaigns, public policy, the media, or getting involved in politics, this society is for you. This year we will meet once or twice a month on Wednesday afternoons to discuss topics such as the midterm elections, campus political involvement, the news/social media/fake news, and ways to get engaged in the community. Join this society to get involved and make our campus and community a better place.

Life and Death in New Orleans Society - Emily Harville, Public Health

Tulane was founded as a medical school. How have medicine and public health affected New Orleans? How has disease affected the city's history? How does New Orleans' culture, history, and location affect the health of its population?

This society will address health in New Orleans from a medical, public health, and historical perspective. We will focus on field trips to places such as the Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine, the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, the Carville Leper Colony, the Tulane Medical School, the yellow fever chapel and cemeteries, and Touro infirmary and archives. On-campus meetings will feature speakers on current medical/public health research, practical topics (how to get a research internship, what it's like to be a med student), and movies (Big Charity, Jezebel). Some field trips will be on Saturday or late afternoon during the week.

Food and Film Society - Karissa Haugeberg, History

We'll pair independent and commercial films with dinner. At the beginning of each semester, we will select four films to watch at our monthly meetings. We can focus on specific directors, watch Academy Award winning films from various decades, or select an array of foreign films. Whenever possible, we'll eat food depicted in the films we watch. This society will provide you with opportunities to socialize, to eat good food, and to learn how to evaluate films.

Books and Reading Society - Mike Kuczynski, English

New Orleans is one of America's most literary cities. The Wall Books and Reading Society is organized around to "pillar" events, one in October and the other in March, our annual Graveyard Poets poetry reading and lunch at Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, on Washington Ave., and a formal dinner for members of the society at Maple St. Café with a Tulane or visiting creative writer, with whom the students get the opportunity to mingle—and get autographs in copies of books and other publications. In between these two events, Books and Reading members are involved in attending and (if they wish) helping to host literary events run throughout the year by the Tulane English Department, such as the Ian Zelazny Local Writers Series and the Josephine Gessner Ferguson Lecture, which brings a prominent literary scholar to campus for an evening reading and reception. The society also hosts pizza party discussions of books and book-related topics of interest to members and has regularly hosted a rare manuscripts and early printed books "petting zoo" in the Rare Books Department of Howard-Tilton Library, where members and their guests have the opportunity to handle and learn from such items as a 15th c. Book of Hours (a manuscript prayer book) and first editions of works by writers such as John Keats and Langston Hughes. In the past, it has also become involved in reading-related community service, both on and off campus—such as outfitting a dormitory library and

collecting used books for local high school students. The primary purpose of the society is to have book-related fun and to organize book-related events of interest to the members.

Science in the City: Innovation in New Orleans Society - Michelle Lacey, Math

In 2013, the Atlantic published an article entitled “The Big Comeback: Is New Orleans America's Next Great Innovation Hub?” New Orleans has, in fact, demonstrated a great commitment to innovation in the post-Katrina era, with organizations such as the Idea Village, the New Orleans BioInnovation Center, and Propeller providing opportunities and support for start-ups and burgeoning entrepreneurs. Even the public sector is involved, with New Orleans recently awarded an Innovation Delivery Team grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to reduce the murder rate and increase employment opportunities for African-American males. So what does all this innovation mean for the community? Can New Orleans become the hub of entrepreneurship in the South?

We'll hear from some of the key players, visit selected sites, and learn about initiatives to transform New Orleans from the City that Care Forgot to a mecca for young professionals with big ideas.

Gray Matter Society - Gary Dohanich, Psychology and Neuroscience

The human brain. A hundred billion neurons interlinked by a hundred trillion connections, relaying trillions more electrical and chemical signals during each second of your life. Out of this vast communication, we emerge your every movement, sensation, urge, thought, decision, and dream. Today, there is no more exciting field than the study of the brain and its impact of our behaviors. The theme of the Gray Matter Society introduces Wall Scholars to the world of Neuroscience and Psychology as thriving sciences, fields of study, and potential career paths. Monthly group discussions led by faculty members focus on topics that include (1) what Neuroscience and Psychology tell us about the best strategies when you study and learn; (2) how psychoactive drugs can influence your brain and your behavior; (3) what biological factors underlie various psychological conditions such as anxiety, depression, and attention deficit disorder; (4) how philosophers think about the brain and the mind; and (5) what evolutionary theory tells us about the human brain and behavior. In addition, guest speakers provide guidance for students planning majors in Neuroscience and Psychology and considering careers in academia and medicine. Students also have opportunities to meet with graduate and medical students who are training to become the next generation of neuroscientists, psychologists, and clinicians.

World Languages and Culture Society - Charles Mignot, French

The World Languages and Cultures Society gives you the opportunity to discover new languages and cultures, meet international faculty and students, and practice your foreign language skills. Our society will meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 pm to 6/7 pm, depending on the activities/events, which will include informal presentations and discussions about languages, foreign cultures, and cultural differences, foreign language discussion groups, trivia game nights and parties with international students.

Tulane, Naturally Society - Donata Henry, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

If you love nature and the outdoors, come join us for a great year of activities both on and off campus. We'll visit the Audubon Zoo, plant trees with The Nature Conservancy, take advantage of local ways to get in touch

with animals (want to hold a tarantula or just pet a dog?), and wrap things up with a canoe trip and the best donuts on the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. Dr. Donata Henry, the faculty advisor, is happy to discuss study abroad opportunities, local outreach programs, and questions you may have about majoring in the sciences. Enrollment in this society is limited to 30 people who are genuinely interested in getting out! You must be available for three Saturday field trips and three campus meetings that begin at 5pm. Here's a sample schedule:

September: Pizza and Penultimate Frisbee

October: Tarantula Dare - the Insectarium comes to YOU

November: Let's Go On Down to the Audubon Zoo

January: Restoring an Ancient Forest - Longleaf Pine Planting with TNC

February: Wild and Domestic with Audubon Zoo and TUSep (on campus service dogs) April: Up Cane Bayou with a Paddle

The Edge of Medicine - J. Quincy Brown, Biomedical Engineering

The rising costs of healthcare and our aging population is a critical issue facing our society today, and there is no doubt that the solutions that we desperately need will come from the next generation of brilliant minds. Tulane has a long tradition of contributing important innovations that have changed the worlds of biomedical technology, medicine, and public health. Tulane has also been home to groundbreaking medical pioneers and advances over the decades. This Tulane tradition continues today, with a vibrant interdisciplinary culture, where scientists and engineers work side-by-side with the clinical leaders of today. The Life at the Cutting Edge Society will put you at the interface between science, technology, economics, health policy, and medicine, by engaging you with the people who drive this work. Dinner events with faculty members and doctors from a broad range of disciplines will expose you to their work and ideas and will provide the opportunity for lively debates about the future of healthcare. Outings to local operating rooms, pathology labs, and imaging suites will provide opportunities to see first-hand how doctors use technology to achieve better health outcomes while increasing access.