

Tulane University

# Does your mortarboard measure up?

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Members of the Class of 2017 used a wide variety of materials — ranging from battery-powered lights to multicolored quinoa — to transform their plain mortarboards into memorable keepsakes. To see their handiwork, check out the nine boards in the infographic below, designed by Tulane University graphic designer Kim Rainey, for a preview of some of the unique designs that will be on display during the [Tulane University Unified Commencement Ceremony](#).

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**AMANDA WHITMAN, A. B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
 "Choosing New Orleans after graduation will be hard, but this quote perfectly captures the impact it will continue to have on my life. I'll take pieces of Tulane and New Orleans with me wherever I go!"



**MATT NELSON-ABELL, A. B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
 "For my mortarboard, I decided to make a Tulane Wave out of felt. I included interlocked rings to recognize my wife Leslie, whose generosity, patience and joy have been instrumental over these past three years."



**JORDAN FIGUEROA, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**  
 "My best friend decided to surprise me and decorate my graduation cap as a present, since we graduate the day before my birthday. It encapsulates my time at Tulane and what lies beyond in the best possible way by not only including a quote and an iconic scene from The Great Gatsby but by using my articles from the Tulane Herald to create the border."



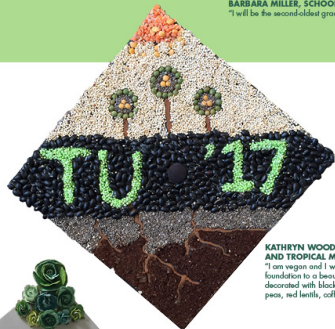
**ZOE ALBERT, SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**  
 "I was able to study abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland, so that is represented on the felt. I was also able to go on Brightline travel, so that is represented on the right. Louisiana, and New Orleans, the city that will forever have my heart, is on the bottom. The world is my oyster, and there are so many incredible adventures ahead of me."



**JESSICA WITCHER, SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES**  
 "I have been working towards my degree for the last 12 years while I raised my daughter and worked fulltime, the last five and a half years of which I've worked in the biosecurity department at Tulane. The beads in represents my New Orleans roots, and the TU shield symbolizes my loyalty to my alma mater and place of employment. The rainbow represents the uphill battle to marry the love of my life last year. The quote "Nevertheless, she persisted" defines every aspect of my life and the obstacles I had to overcome to earn my degree."



**BARBARA MILLER, SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES**  
 "I will be the second-oldest graduate this year of 66 years old! Roll Waver!"



**KATHRYN WOODWARD, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE**  
 "I am vegan and I wanted to show how plant foods are the foundation to a beautiful and healthy world. My mortarboard is decorated with black beans, chia seeds, green and yellow split peas, and lentils, coffee, cinnamon and multicolored quinoa."



**MELISSA GREENBERG, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**  
 "The band Doves got me through the past four years, and the lyrics "Through each stumble, shift and swoony" have always really spoken to me."



**MADDIE MCGEE, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**  
 "Stranger Things was one of my favorite new shows this year, and I'm moving to Los Angeles after graduation to pursue a career in entertainment. I loved the idea of having battery-powered lights on my cap, so I would stand out at graduation!"

