

## [The 15 presidents of Tulane University](#)

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[fsimon@tulane.edu](mailto:fsimon@tulane.edu)

[Michael A. Fitts](#) will become the 15th president of Tulane University on July 1, as President [Scott Cowen](#) retires from the position after 16 years. When President Cowen dons the academic regalia of his office for commencement, his robe bears 14 embroidered “frogs” (embellishments) on the velvet hem as a historical reference to the 14 presidents who have served the university during its history. On the academic mace carried at commencement, the names and dates of service of the 14 presidents of Tulane University are engraved in a spiral silver band around the mace's wooden shaft. Who were those who came before Cowen and Fitts?

# THE 15 PRESIDENTS *of* TULANE UNIVERSITY

SCOTT S. COWEN  
1998-2014



MICHAEL A. FITTS  
JULY 1, 2014

WILLIAM  
PRESTON JOHNSTON  
1884-1899



EAMON M. KELLY  
1980-1998

WILLIAM OSCAR  
ROGERS  
1899-1900



FRANCIS SHELDON  
HACKNEY  
1975-1980

EDWIN ANDERSON  
ALDERMAN  
1900-1904



HERBERT EUGENE  
LONGENECKER  
1960-1975

EDWIN BOONE  
CRAIGHEAD  
1904-1912



MAXWELL EDWARD  
LAPHAM  
1960

ROBERT SHARP  
1912-1918



Another bit of historical trivia: There were four additional men who served as presidents of the University of Louisiana, before the university was named Tulane University. They were: Francis Lister Hawks (1847-1849), Theodore Howard McCaleb (1850-1862), Thomas Hunt (1865-1867), Randell Hunt (1867-1884).

The official founding date of Tulane University is 1834.

“If you go back to the actual inception of the university, it was the Medical College of Louisiana in 1834,” says university archivist Ann Case. “But rather than having a president, the Medical College of Louisiana had the faculty as its administrative body. After the Medical College of Louisiana became the University of Louisiana in 1847, there were four presidents.”

The university was closed during the Civil War from 1862-1865.