## **The 15 presidents of Tulane University**

February 06, 2014 12:00 PM Fran Simon 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regalia of his office for commencement, his robe bears 14 embroidered "frogs" (embellishments) on the velvet hem as a historical reference to the 14 presidents who have served the university during its history.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?

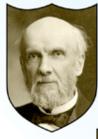
## THE 15 PRESIDENTS of TULANE UNIVERSITY

SCOTT S. COWEN 1998-2014

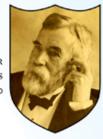


MICHAEL A. FITTS JULY 1, 2014

William Preston Johnston 1884-1899



WILLIAM OSCAR Rogers 1899-1900





EAMON M. KELLY 1980-1998



Francis Sheldon HACKNEY 1975-1980



HERBERT EUGENE Longenecker 1960-1975



EDWIN ANDERSON Alderman 1900-1904

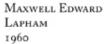


EDWIN BOONE Craighead 1904-1912





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.