

Two 50-year graduates honored with Outstanding Alumni Awards

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From left, Herschel L. Abbott Jr., his wife Anne Hamilton Abbott (Newcomb College class of 1963), Sam A. LeBlanc III, and his wife Noelle Enger LeBlanc (Newcomb 1963) celebrate at a brunch on Thursday (Oct. 3) in honor of Abbott and LeBlanc, who received Outstanding Alumni Awards. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

The Emeritus Club of the [Tulane Alumni Association](#) presented Outstanding Alumni Awards to Herschel L. Abbott Jr. and Sam A. LeBlanc III at a Homecoming brunch on Thursday (Oct. 3).

Abbott earned a BA from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1963 and a JD from Tulane Law School in 1966. He served as Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. In 1970, he joined Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrere & Denegre law firm, where he continues as special counsel. As general counsel to BellSouth, he was elected president of the company's Louisiana operations. Passionate about education, Abbott advocates for Teach for America and Louisiana LEARN. He has served on the Louisiana Board of Regents and is former chair of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority. At Tulane, Abbott is a member of the President's Council and serves on the Law Dean's Advisory Board and the Shakespeare Festival board of directors.

LeBlanc received a JD from Tulane Law School in 1963 and a master of law in energy and environmental law in 1991. A practicing attorney for 40 years, LeBlanc has been a partner in the New Orleans law firms of Adams and Reese and Couhig Partners. He was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1971 and served for eight years. LeBlanc was a commissioner and chair of the Regional Transit Authority and chair of the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce. LeBlanc and his wife served in the Peace Corps in Romania for two years. Returning to New Orleans, he was appointed by the Supreme Court as a temporary judge on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. At Tulane, he has served on the Law Dean's Advisory Board, the Health Sciences Center board of governors and the Tulane Cancer Center Advisory Board.