

This tribute to Bea Field appeared in Pie Dufour's "a la mode" column in The States-Item, November 1976.

The remarkable Bea

To paraphrase Rupert Brooke, there'll always be a part of Bea Field "forever Tulane," and, by the same token, there'll always be a part of Tulane "forever Bea Field."

Beatrice Field has been Miss Tulane ever since 1942, when as a graduate student she became director of alumni activities.

For 34 years Bea Field administered alumni affairs at Tulane with such distinction as to make her the best known Tulanian from coast to coast among alumni groups for nearly three and a half decades.

And all the while Bea Field was winning honors for herself and for Tulane in activities of the American Alumni Council and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Bea's resignation, announced last summer, will become effective on Dec. 31. It is fitting that the end of her remarkable career should be made a memorable event, and so it will be. . . . Tulane President Sheldon Hackney is sponsoring the gala cocktail party and dinner for Bea, and he will be joined by two of his presidential successors under whom she also served, Dr. Rufus C. Harris and Dr. Herbert E. Longenecker, in bestowing top honors on the retiring alumni executive.

Bea Field was graduated from Newcomb College in 1928 and returned to her native Lake Charles, where she taught Latin for more than 10 years before entering Tulane's graduate school. After receiving her master's degree in 1942, Bea was appointed director of alumni activities.

No one person, of any rank in the university, has done more for Tulane than did Bea Field in the 34 years since she began her alumni duties. Her significance in alumni work was recognized by her colleagues at the national level, and she served in many important committee capacities in the American Alumni Council, both district and national. In 1964-65, Bea was elected national president of the American Alumni Council, being one of two women to hold the office.

Bea Field was innovative as well as energetic and efficient and the Tulane Alumni Association won many awards and honors for her enthusiastic leadership. One of her major projects, conceived in conjunction with Horace Renegar, was the Tulane Educational Conference. First held in 1954, these "educational road shows" featuring Tulane faculty members made not only a hit with alumni, but won high awards in 1967 and again in 1973 from the American Alumni Council. During the 22 years the program has been in existence, 146 conferences were held in 24 cities in 10 states and in Mexico City.

Another big feather in Bea Field's blonde braids was the establishment of the Tulane Alumni Fund in 1946. This year, the Tulane Alumni Fund was chosen as the winner of the U.S. Steel Sustained Performance Grand Award.

In stepping down as alumni director, Bea will still retain her active Tulane ties. She will serve as a part-time special assistant to President Hackney.

We opened this tribute to Bea Field with a paraphrase of a great English poet, Rupert Brooke. Let's close it with a paraphrase of a great British architect, Christopher Wren: "If you require a monument for Bea Field, look at the Tulane Alumni Association."

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P.S. (by Pie Dufour, March 1989)

Since the above column was written, Bea Field, a legend in her lifetime, died (June 2, 1986). But she lives on in the hearts and minds of all who knew her. And the memory of her enthusiasm for Tulane will live on in the Bea Field Alumni Scholarship Fund.

After retirement in 1976, Bea continued as a consultant to Presidents Sheldon Hackney and Eamon Kelly. In 1983, Bea produced a publication entitled *Potpourri: An Assortment of Tulane's People and Places*. She then began work on a history of the university.

Her devotion to Tulane — and Newcomb — was recognized when she received Newcomb's Lifetime Service Award, shortly before her death in 1986.



Detail from the portrait of Bea Field by Sandra Garrard (Newcomb BFA '74). The portrait hangs in the Tulane Alumni House on Willow Street.