I hope that you will enjoy this issue of *Under the Oaks*. You’ll be able to meet our incredible 2007 alumnae award winners, catch up with what’s happening with friends and classmates in the “Class Notes” section, and also read about the wide range of interesting things happening on campus today for young women students.

While on campus in April, I was fortunate to attend a “Fridays at Newcomb” program at the Newcomb College Institute (NCI) where Jessie Poesch, professor emerita of art history, gave a fascinating lecture on Newcomb Pottery to an overflow crowd of students. You can hear this presentation live on the NCI website – go to http://newcomb.tulane.edu.

Your alumnae board of directors continues to work diligently to make certain that undergraduate women attending Tulane today are made aware of the proud history of Newcomb College and benefit from many of the traditions and opportunities we enjoyed at Newcomb College. I urge you to visit campus and see for yourself the amazing young women who take advantage of the academic and enrichment activities at the NCI.

We encourage alumnae living in the greater New Orleans area to give of their time and talents to the young women at Tulane who will one day also be part of our alumnae family. Programs such as Newcomb Town Moms, Newcomb Networking, Newcomb Alumnae Speaker Series, and Newcomb Career Advising are but a few of the initiatives we are continuing or have begun in the past two years. We also hope that alumnae living in other areas will choose to participate in Tulane Alumni Association activities, and also consider hosting an event for Newcomb alumnae as well. Please e-mail the alumnae office if you are interested in helping: undertheoaks@tulane.edu.

Newcomb class reunions for graduating years ending in three and eight will be celebrated this fall October 2 – 4. I hope that you are planning to attend and enjoy the many activities planned for that time, as well as your Newcomb class reunion. The Newcomb Alumnae Association will present its awards and hold its annual meeting during this weekend.

As the cost of printing and mailing continues to increase, our website will increasingly be your link to classmates, the alumnae association, and to the university at large. Please visit our site and use it to keep current with alumnae activities and opportunities. The online address is: http://newcomb.tulane.edu/alumnae.

The Newcomb Alumnae Association represents over 23,000 women worldwide. Your alumnae board is proud to represent you, and we look forward to continued growth and progress.

*Carter D. Flemming*
*Carter Dudley Flemming ’70*
*President*
*Newcomb Alumnae Association*
Though many people see airports as cavernous places in which one can get lost easily, Jane Davis Doggett sees airports as human canvases. Using circles, squares, rectangles and other geometric shapes to create graphic directional systems, she helps millions of passengers find their way through 40 international airports every day.

“I have always wanted to humanize large spaces,” she said. “I use graphics to humanize the experience and take care of people to keep them from getting lost.”

Not only has Doggett created a graphic identity for more international airports than any other designer in the world, but the 1952 Newcomb College graduate also has published an art and literature book, “Talking Graphics.” In the 182-page book, she expresses philosophical and biblical messages in color and geometric designs.

To acknowledge her accomplishments, the Newcomb Alumnae Association named Doggett the Outstanding Alumna for 2007.

“I felt like Newcomb had been my beginning and it was wonderful to have this recognition in my later years,” Doggett said during a recent telephone interview. “It meant a great deal.”

After graduating from Newcomb College, Doggett received a master of fine arts degree with top honors in 1956 from the Yale School of Art and Architecture, where she pioneered the field of architectural and environmental graphics design. Her designs have won such honors as the American Institute of Architects’ National Award of Merit, Progressive Architecture Design Award, and two Transportation Design Awards.

Of the airports she has designed, her two favorites are the Tampa International Airport and the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. “I believe they reach a high point in my career,” she said. “They show my graphic systems and color-coded identity.”

“Gateway to Florida” is the thematic identity that Doggett created for the Tampa airport. “I color-coded it with a good sun red and a sea blue,” she said. At Baltimore-Washington, she used symbols and terminology from the shipping industry to identify the airport as the “gateway to a great port city.” For example, the concourses are called piers and she used Nautical Signal Flag letters, such as Alpha and Beta, to label them.

“The world of design today is wonderful,” she said when asked what advice she would give to aspiring architecture design students. “It’s a job to work with circles and squares and triangles, but Adobe Illustrator (a computer design program) can make perfect ones. You don’t have to draw them. Computer technology has made the job a lot easier.

Currently, Doggett is creating a graphic identity for the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. When she completes that project, she plans to take on what she calls “a visiting-nurse role,” serving as a consult on various airport designs.

“I don’t need to do another airport, but I can tell them when they’re heading for a collision,” she said. “I feel like I did my job and have left enough of a legacy there. Now I have creative projects.”

One such creative project is her book series of proverbs and quotations from various cultures. Her next installment is a book on Chinese proverbs, which she hopes to publish this year. She also is preparing a “Talking Graphics” slide presentation, featuring her graphics set to narration and music. In addition, a traveling exhibition of “Talking Graphics” opened in Florida in March.

So how did Doggett transition from designing airports to publishing a book? It all started when she designed a Christmas card using a Bible verse from

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2007 Alumnae Award Winners

Each year, the Newcomb Alumnae Association solicits nominations for four awards: Outstanding Alumna, Alumna of the Year, Service and Loyalty Alumna, and Young Alumna. The stories that follow in this section provide a brief look into the lives and accomplishments of wonderful Newcomb alumnae.

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Ecclesiastes (Chapter 3, Verses 1-8). “It came out so well that people said I should do a book,” she explained. “Truly, I was doing this for my own pleasure. I have always had an interest in art and literature. I was inspired to do the Ecclesiastes Christmas card and my friends inspired me to do the book.”

Though Doggett’s plate appears to be full, she still finds time to serve her community. She is in her third term as a town commissioner in Jupiter Island, Fla., and she serves on two committees: the advisory board of the Nature Conservancy at Blowing Rocks and the executive committee of the Jupiter Island Garden Club.

Looking back on her days in New Orleans after growing up in Nashville, Tenn., Doggett has fond memories. “It was a beautiful campus and a great city. We had a wonderful art school. Robert Scott, a Newcomb professor, studied at Yale,” which provided a great connection to the Ivy League school, she said. “I felt completely prepared for Yale. At Newcomb, we got hands-on design experience. Each school in sequence prepared me for what I worked for.”

And can be credited for her outstanding success.
From Thanksgiving to Christmas, the idea would not leave Anne McDonald Milling’s head.

The idea? A group of women could go to Capitol Hill to personally invite all U.S. Congress members to south Louisiana to see the devastation. If Congress members saw it block-by-block and mile-by-mile, Milling reasoned, they might be more willing to release money for Louisiana’s Road Home program.

What on the surface seemed like a simple idea was really a difficult task, especially when you have less than a month to pull it off. Milling, however, knew just what to do to get it done.

“I asked about eight of the most proven volunteers in town; ladies who had a track record for getting things done in a variety of areas,” Milling said. “These were not my close personal friends. In fact, they are all younger than I but most of them were committed trained volunteers.”

The women gathered in Milling’s living room on Jan. 20, 2006 to make a plan. Twenty days later, 140 women were in Washington, D.C., issuing personal invitations to every member of Congress. As a result, 57 senators and 132 representatives have toured the area.

That simple idea that led to the formation of the grassroots organization Women of the Storm that led to members of Congress visiting south Louisiana, earned Milling the 2007 Alumna of the Year award.

“We never dreamed it would be such a success when we began,” she said. “We assembled a diverse group of women from metropolitan New Orleans and south Louisiana, came up with a name and a logo, raised the necessary dollars to charter a plane and made appointments with members of the U.S. Congress.

“As anyone who looks at this will see,” she continued, “it was the collective effort and dedication of the leadership that made it happen. We have come a long way from January 2006.”

Since then, Women of the Storm members have learned “that passionate, committed women, whose only agenda was to see their communities, homes and businesses rebuilt, were the most effective advocates for New Orleans and south Louisiana,” Milling said.

The organization is working on several different initiatives this year, such as trying to convene a code of the Sportsmen’s Caucus in Congress to discuss the state’s disappearing wetlands. The women also hope to host a summit with the state’s “energy coast” partners: Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

“Our message today, of course, is to first thank Congress for the dollars allocated to the region but continue to hone in on coastal restoration and the need for infrastructure improvements,” Milling said. “Never a dull moment.”

A 1962 Newcomb College graduate who received a master’s degree from Yale in 1963, Milling is no stranger to service. She has served as president pro tem of the Sewerage and Water Board; chair of the Bureau of Governmental Research; chair of Loyola University’s Board of Trustees; chair of the Archbishop’s Community Appeal; vice-chair of the Louisiana Superdome Commission; president of Longue Vue House and Gardens; and president of the Junior League of New Orleans – just to name a few.

The wife of R. King Milling, mother of three sons and grandmother of four, Milling also has received several honors, including
“...I feel there is much to be done by each of us as we rebuild our city. I’m grateful that I am able to participate in a small way.”

— Milling

The Times-Picayune Loving Cup in 1995, the Young Leadership Council Role Model in 1993, the Catholic Foundation’s Pope John Paul II Award and the Angel Award from Project Lazarus.

“My adult life has been devoted to my community after taking care of my husband and three boys. However, I came from a family where my parents set such an example, always contributing and ‘giving back’ in time, resources and expertise,” Milling said. “You share your gifts with others. So it was very natural for me, especially since I did not have to work professionally.

“My life has been totally enriched through my diverse volunteer activities, giving me opportunities to work with men and women across the city, and men and women from totally different backgrounds from my own,” she continued. “What a blessing!”

So what’s next for this woman of the storm? “What’s next for me is hard to say,” Milling replied. “However, I feel there is much to be done by each of us as we rebuild our city. I’m grateful that I am able to participate in a small way.”

Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and the New Orleans levees failed, Ruthie Jones Frierson has learned a valuable lesson: “That citizen activism has been the engine in our recovery.”

And Frierson is in a position to know. The New Orleans native founded Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans in December 2005. It’s first order of business was to persuade the governor to call a special session on levee board consolidation in southeast Louisiana, and then to persuade the State Legislature to make the change. Given Louisiana’s political history, many would consider those to be difficult tasks.

“When 120 concerned, enraged and engaged women met at my house, I sensed we could accomplish our goal,” Frierson said. “What surprised me is that this was the beginning of a reform movement that would mobilize citizens from around our region from every walk of life to demand reform – first for levee board consolidation and reform and then to consolidate the office of property assessors in New Orleans from seven assessors to one.”

For leading these successful statewide reform campaigns, Frierson was named the 2007 Alumna of the Year.

Frierson said the organization’s initial effort required a wide range of activities: A successful petition drive, the governor’s call for a second special session, successfully pushing both levee and assessor bills through the State Legislature, and then leading the statewide efforts to pass the constitutional amendments.

How did Citizens for 1 do it? “We had a Web site up and running in three days,” she said. “We had a petition drive and in three weeks had 53,000 signatures. As a result, the governor called another special session on levee board reform.”

Then the group had a rally with 1,200 citizens on the steps of the Capitol the first day of the session. “We mobilized and trained 100 citizen supporters,” Frierson said. “We hosted educational

http://newcomb.tulane.edu/alumnae
“Good citizenship is both a privilege and a responsibility. You must be informed and engaged. Good government and democracy require our constant vigilance.”

—Frierson

forums, testified and attended all committee meetings and general sessions of the House and Senate.”

Citizens for 1 also met with legislators and community leaders, conducted media interviews, worked with various editorial boards, built partnerships with local and statewide organizations, and created a speakers bureau in order to accommodate speaking engagements around the state.

When the time came to put the amendments to a public vote, the organization raised more than $850,000 for public awareness and get-out-the-vote campaigns for the elections in September 2006 and November 2006. Those efforts resulted in overwhelming support for both amendments.

“It really was a history-making citizen reform movement,” Frierson told a group of students at the Newcomb College Institute recently. “What they saw in Baton Rouge was a new breed of citizen lobbyists. We lived at the Capitol. We never went away.

“...organized and stay focused,” she added. “That really is the key.”

Now the organization is taking on criminal justice and ethics reform in both the city and the state. It also plans to stay abreast of the local public educational system, which is undergoing an overhaul.

Though Frierson considers her work with Citizens for 1 to be her greatest accomplishment thus far, she is no stranger to service. She has served on the boards of the Isidore Newman School and the Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, and was a member of the Board of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

As one of the top residential real estate agents in the city, she also was chair of school volunteer services for the New Orleans Public School System and served on its finance task force. She has served as board chair for the Louisiana Nature and Science Center and as president of the Junior League of New Orleans.

The Alliance for Good Government honored Frierson with the 2006 Civic Award. She also received The Times-Picayune Loving Cup for community service.

“I have been involved in community service for most of my life,” Frierson said. “There is a great sense of joy and fulfillment from helping others.”

Having graduated from Newcomb College with a degree in history, Frierson taught history at a local high school before marrying another New Orleans native, Louis Frierson. She credits her parents, McGehee School and Newcomb College for giving her a sense of community.

“Good citizenship is both a privilege and a responsibility. You must be informed and engaged,” Frierson said. “Good government and democracy require our constant vigilance.”

As the agent of her class for 10 years, Cynthia Ann Roosth Wolf had become an expert at communication. The Class of 1968 often had large attendance numbers for Newcomb events because Wolf not only got the word out but she also actively encouraged her classmates to get involved.

When Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flood hit New Orleans in 2005, Wolf had to kick her communication skills up a notch. Prior to the storm, Wolf used the Tulane University list-serve to communicate with her classmates. When the server went down in the flood, Wolf had to rebuild her class e-mail list. Before Tulane could restore its server, Wolf had located most of the Class of 1968 and was sending daily updates on those who had lost their homes and needed help.

Then Hurricane Rita hit Wolf’s home in Beaumont, Texas. She suffered losses of her own but continued to send updates to her classmates.

“Through her efforts, we were able to help many of our classmates and their extended families during this very difficult time,” Wolf’s classmate Sue Simpson Schwartz wrote in a nomination letter. “She never spoke of her own losses. She just kept working to ensure that those with bigger losses were served.”

That high level of service and dedication earned Wolf the 2007 Award of Service and Loyalty to Newcomb.
“Ever since becoming computer literate and becoming Newcomb 1968 Class Agent, I have been corresponding with my classmates and collecting e-mail addresses. I didn’t have them all but I had many,” Wolf said. “When Katrina hit, I knew that the town girls had been displaced. I wanted to make certain that they were OK, and so did the rest of Newcomb ’68.

“Everyone shared e-mail addresses with me to update and rebuild, so that I could become Newcomb ’68 central,” she continued. “I knew the main computer was down at Newcomb/Tulane, so I felt responsible for recreating what I could. And then came Rita and I was displaced and yet so very connected to my many sisters. We have remained connected!”

Born in Galveston, Texas, Wolf grew up in a five-member family devoted to community service. Her father, Harold Roosth, was a doctor who volunteered on his days off. Her mother, RosaLee Roosth, also served many organizations.

“She was involved in social service clubs and worked on behalf of the arts. Whenever she volunteered at the synagogue, we went with her to decorate, to set up for receptions, to work on the bulletin,” Wolf said. “My parents left a legacy of service and I’m doing my part to leave a legacy of service for my children and grandchildren. And so does Michael [her husband of 37 years]. We both are involved in our community and we serve in state and national leadership roles.”

Wolf graduated from Newcomb College in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in English. She taught junior and high school English and Spanish for many years, serving as department chair at two schools. While recuperating from a car accident in the late 1990s, Wolf turned to another love: music. She began practicing piano and by the spring of 1997, she was auditioning to attend Lamar University as a music major.

She earned her music degree in 2000 and began to teach piano. Today, she runs her own business, Expressions by Cynthia Wolf, which provides editorial services, Spanish tutoring and piano lessons. “These are all of the skills that I’ve honed over the years,” she said. “Everything I do relates to expressing oneself.”

In addition to keeping her classmates informed, Wolf is involved in many other service projects. She is Southeast Texas Greene Family Camp Capital Campaign Chair, responsible for coordinating local efforts to raise money to expand the camp in Bruceville, Texas. She also serves as Social Justice Chair at Temple Emmanuel in Beaumont, Texas, and as Southwest Vice President of Programming and Advocacy for the Women of Reform Judaism.

Receiving the Newcomb Alumnae Association award surprised Wolf. “I couldn’t believe that I was being recognized,” she said. “I never felt like what I had done was the quality of service that would ever lead to any recognition nor did I ever really seek that recognition. I was humbled.”

When she received the award at the Newcomb/Tulane awards luncheon, Wolf says she could not help herself. “I invited all Newcomb alumnae to stand and was proud that so many were in attendance,” she said. “I accepted on behalf of all Newcomb alumnae. It was at that moment that I felt like I truly was worthy of the 2007 Award for Service and Loyalty to Newcomb!”

http://newcomb.tulane.edu/alumnae
Melissa Ekin Kizildemir was the first of the psychosocial team to arrive. An earthquake had just devastated Bingol, a city in eastern Turkey. She ran into the chaos at the Bingol State Hospital and asked: “Where is a psychologist needed?”

She learned from the hospital’s chief of staff that few victims were making it to the hospital alive. However, there were many families waiting to collect their relatives’ bodies. Kizildemir knew exactly what to do.

She set up a tent next to the morgue and hung a sign that read: “Family Support Unit.”

“There are times in life when words are insufficient,” she wrote recently. “What can one say to a woman whose two sons’ corpses were just removed from the debris of a collapsed building and who is now waiting for news of her third son? Still, I realized how important it could be just to hold someone’s hand and make her feel less alone.”

So that’s what Kizildemir did that day, held hands and said, “Don’t be scared. I am with you.” Her simple gestures and words provided much comfort to those facing tragedy.

To honor Kizildemir for her dedication to serving others, the Newcomb Alumnae Association gave her the 2007 Young Alumna Award.

The disaster work in Bingol is just one example of Kizildemir’s compassion for others. In 2004, she worked 11 months in Turkey as a Field Focal Point for the Advocacy Campaign for Girls Education under the UNICEF Child and Adolescent Development Program. This job took her to the most remote and poorest areas of the country, where she helped tens of thousands of girls register for school for the first time.

“Melissa Ekin Kizildemir was assigned to Siirt province, which was under my governance, by United Nations to design, structure and implement the schooling of girls. Her organizational and interpersonal skills proved to be a lot more developed than her age offers,” wrote Gov. Nuri Okutan of Sakarya, Turkey. “A truly global person as she is with the travels she has made to so many places and so many languages she speaks, it was a nice gift for our region to have her work with us in this far away part of Turkey.”

When Kizildemir came to the United States at 16, she did not speak English, but was fluent in Turkish and French. She learned English while attending Cushing Academy in Massachusetts, where she received a high school diploma in 1998. She graduated from Newcomb College in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

With her degree in hand, she set out to change the world, helping one person at a time in various capacities. As an intern at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, she served as a public relations officer in Ankara, Turkey. While earning her 2007 master’s degree in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University, she worked at Oxfam America’s Humanitarian Response Department in Boston. She helped shape the organization’s post-Katrina disaster preparedness strategies to better serve the vulnerable populations along the Gulf Coast.

At 23, she became the first female psychologist to work for the Turkish Red Crescent Society. She was deployed to the Iraqi border
“Personally, I realized … I could make my most significant contributions … by being an effective leader and innovator on the institutional scale, developing and implementing programs and policies that directly impact large numbers of people.”

— Kizildemir

To submit a nomination for Newcomb Alumnae Awards, please visit our website (http://newcomb.tulane.edu/alumnae) or contact the alumnae office, 1.800.504.5565.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The articles in this issue of Under the Oaks were written by Tammy C. Carter, external affairs officer for the Newcomb College Institute. Tammy joined the Institute staff in September 2007 after working as a columnist and editor at the Orlando Sentinel for 10 years. Before moving to Florida in 1997, Tammy was an editor at the Times-Picayune for six years. She started her journalism career as a reporter at the Daily Comet in Thibodaux, La., where she worked her way up to managing editor. A 1984 Loyola University graduate, Tammy received her MBA from Tulane in 1995.
Newcomb College Institute: A year in review

During the 2007-2008 academic year at Tulane University, the Institute hosted more than 100 events and speakers, funded more than 40 student research projects and more than 40 faculty initiatives, participated in community rebuilding, and planned and hosted a symposium.

Here are a few highlights:

Gloria Steinem discusses feminism, election

More than 600 people gathered in the Lavin-Bernick Center’s Kendall Cram Lecture Hall on March 6 to hear a lecture by Gloria Steinem. The longtime activist for women’s rights was the Institute’s 2008 Powerhouse Speaker. During her hour-long lecture, Steinem covered a variety of topics, ranging from this year’s election to the women’s health movement to the use of the term “feminism.”

Newcomb College Institute symposium sheds light on sexual assault

A group of Tulane students, faculty and staff stopped business as usual Nov. 8 and 9 to tackle the troubling topic of sexual violence on college campuses. During the symposium, “Unveiling Secrets: Rape Culture on College Campuses,” they took positive steps toward improving the campus climate for all students. “The symposium was an impressive starting point for the Tulane community,” said Rebecca Mark, interim executive director of the Newcomb College Institute.

“We were able to listen to the top scholars and researchers in this field and to hear what they think works. We are ready, as a community, to begin implementing some of these best practices to end rape culture on our campus.”

Financial expert encourages students to do what they love

Tanya Styblo Beder, one of the top 50 women in finance worldwide, visited campus on March 27 as the 2008 Alberto-Culver Lecturer. Beder, chair and founder of SBC Group in New York, described her journey through the world of finance and offered tips to students considering a career on Wall Street. She encouraged them to do what they enjoy, trust their instincts, be open to change, be positive and realize that they can’t have it all. Newcomb Student Programs hosted the event.

Science professor explores new teaching methods

Biochemist and textbook author Judith Voet spoke on campus April 24 as the 2008 Dorothy K. Daspit Lecturer. Her talk focused on the importance of incorporating effective teaching methods in college classrooms and labs, especially with science knowledge expanding at an astounding rate. Voet, who is Swarthmore College’s James Hammons Professor of Chemistry, Emerita, also discussed her experiences as a woman in science. Newcomb Student Programs hosted the event.

Susie Bright, students talk honestly about sex

Talk-show host and performer Susie Bright visited campus on April 8 as the 2008 Adele Ramos Salzer Lecturer. Bright was invited in response to an informal request from students following the Institute’s symposium on sexual assault last fall. Students want more opportunities to talk intelligently and honestly about sex. “I wish we would realize how precious it [sex] is,” she said. “When I started doing these talks, I was the same age as some of the undergraduates I was talking to. I had the fears and concerns they were dealing with.” She’s a little older now but still connects with students, using humor and language that they understand. As a result, she creates an environment where students feel free to ask questions they normally would be too shy to verbalize. The Newcomb College Center for Research on Women sponsored the event.

For details about these events or to learn more about programming at the Newcomb College Institute, please check the Web site at newcomb.tulane.edu.
Share your news....

We want to know what’s new in your life. Please fill out this form and send it to:

**Under the Oaks**
112 Newcomb Hall
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118

This form is also available on our web site.

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Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail address

What’s new?
(*Further education, activities, job, family, children, volunteer work, etc.*)

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Mignon Faget, New Orleans artist, designer and Newcomb alumna, was commissioned to design this exclusive handcrafted jewelry collection for her alma mater. In her words, “The beautiful oak trees that grace the campus and the acorns from which they grow, represent growth and stability. These values symbolize the enduring spirit of Newcomb College.”

Grace Jahncke Newburger Notecards $20

Details of watercolors by Grace Jahncke Newburger ‘58 on the occasion of her 50th graduation year. Boxed set of 20 cards (10 of each image).

Mignon Faget Louisiana Iris Glassware $45

Commissioned by the Newcomb Alumnae Association on the occasion of Mignon Faget’s 50th graduation year. Set of 4 glasses available through the Newcomb Alumnae Office or Mignon Faget galleries.

www.mignonfaget.com
Coming in the next issue…

Newcomb in New York
Newcomb Town Moms
Newcomb Networking Night
Meet An Outstanding Scholar
What Makes Newcomb Special to Me