Tulane welcomes the 27th Zale-Kimmerling Writer-in-Residence Antonya Nelson

(March 8, 2012)—New Orleans, LA—Carrying on a rich tradition that has brought noted women writers to New Orleans from around the world, Antonya Nelson is this year’s Zale-Kimmerling Writer in Residence. In addition to meeting with students throughout the community, Nelson will do a public reading and take part in a one-on-one interview with Tulane Assistant Professor of English Tom Beller on Monday, March 26.

Antonya Nelson is the author of six short story collections: Nothing Right (2009), Some Fun (2006), Female Trouble (2002), Family Terrorists (1994), In the Land of Men (1992), and The Expendables (1990). She is also the author of four novels: Bound (2010), Living to Tell (2000), Nobody's Girl (1998), and Talking in Bed (1996). Her work has appeared in the New Yorker, Esquire, Harpers, Redbook and other magazines, as well as in anthologies such as Prize Stories, the O. Henry Awards, and Best American Short Stories. The Expendables won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction in 1990, and Talking in Bed received the 1996 Heartland Award in fiction. Her books have been New York Times notable books, and she was named by The New Yorker as one of the “twenty young fiction writers for the new millennium.” She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She divides her time between Telluride, Colorado, and Houston, Texas, where she teaches creative writing at the University of Houston.

In addition to his work at Tulane, Thomas Beller is also the author of three books, Seduction Theory: Stories, The Sleep-Over Artist: A Novel, and How To Be a Man: Essays. He is editor of Open City Magazine, creator of the website, mrbellersneighborhood.com, and contributes regularly to Travel and Leisure Magazine, Slate.com, and the New York Times.

Coordinated through the Newcomb College Institute, and facilitated by a committee composed of Newcomb-Tulane College students, faculty, and NCI staff, the Zale Kimmerling Writer-in-Residence program was established by Dana Zale Gerard, NC ‘85, and made possible by an annual gift from the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation of Dallas, Texas. In 2010, the program became fully endowed through a gift from Martha McCarty Kimmerling, NC’63, and known as the Zale-Kimmerling Writer-in-Residence program. Engram Wilkinson, a junior majoring in English, served as a student representative on the committee, and has long admired Nelson’s work. “I first discovered Antonya Nelson through her collection, Nothing Right, in the summer after my freshman year. As a writing student, I'm hungry for Nelson's prose where the ordinary moments of modern life--playing video games, waiting for a table or sitting in an airplane--become both side-achingly funny and epiphanic, sometimes all at once. “

The public event will be held at 7 pm on Monday, March 26 in the Kendall Cram Room of the Lavin-Bernick Center on Tulane University’s Uptown Campus. A reception will follow.

About Newcomb College Institute:
The Newcomb College Institute’s mission is to educate undergraduate women for leadership in the 21st century. We support women students’ research initiatives, advocate for a gender-integrated curriculum, develop community engaged service-learning courses, promote student organizations for women, and bring women leaders to campus. NCI carries on the legacy of Newcomb College by offering a women-centered educational experience in a co-educational institution. To learn more about NCI and their contributions to Tulane and the community, visit tulane.edu/newcomb.

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