Tulane University’s Newcomb Alumnae Association Honors Karoun Bagamian with the Young Alumna Award

(New Orleans, LA)—May 1, 2012

The Newcomb Alumnae Association is proud to announce the recipient of the 2012 Young Alumna Award as Karoun Bagamian, a 2001 graduate of Newcomb College. Karoun recently completed her doctoral work at Emory University as a student affiliated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Special Pathogens Branch, under the mentorship of Dr. James N. Mills, a foremost expert in the field of disease ecology. During her graduate education, she was awarded a CDC Public Health Dissertation grant and a CDC ORISE Fellowship. Her dissertation just received the 2012 Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award.

Born in Los Angeles, Karoun grew up in the Armenian community there. She showed an interest in biology quite early—as a child, she would dig for dinosaur fossils in the backyard and memorize field guides of mammals. Karoun’s interest in the evolution and ecology of diseases emerged in her Darwinian Medicine course during her undergraduate education at Tulane University. Karoun’s first research endeavor was in Prof. David Heins’ lab, where she wrote an honors thesis about the effects of parasitism on the threespine stickleback fish. She graduated with a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In fact, Prof. Heins, Chair of Tulane’s Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, nominated Karoun for the award as a result of her progress in their field, “She has made a number of important advances in the study of infectious diseases. Her research on an emerging infectious disease contributes in important ways to theoretical ecology and to applied science affecting the wellbeing of many people.”

The Young Alumna Award will be presented at the Newcomb College Institute’s Under the Oaks ceremony at 2pm on May 18 at an event that honors Tulane’s graduating senior women, student and faculty award recipients, and the Newcomb College Class of 1962, who will gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

About the Newcomb Alumnae Association:
The Newcomb Alumnae Association has over 23,000 members worldwide. The mission of the NAA is to strengthen personal, collegiate and professional connections among its members. The Association honors the legacy of the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College by supporting undergraduate women’s education at the Newcomb College Institute and Tulane University. For more information about the NAA and the Newcomb College Institute, visit us online at tulane.edu/newcomb.

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