FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Newcomb Archives Announces the Donation of the Katherine Caffery Baker Papers

(July 16, 2013, New Orleans, LA) The Newcomb Archives is proud to announce the acceptance of a collection of letters, business records, and photographs long cared for by a woman from one of Louisiana's most prestigious families. Katherine Caffery Baker (1896-1982, Newcomb Class of 1918) lived in a large house in the Garden District of New Orleans. All her life, she prized the correspondence and memorabilia of cousins from the country as well as of her own immediate family. Her papers span the years 1800 to 1990 and complement another collection focused on plantation life of the family at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The donation to Newcomb now ensures that one full picture of family activities and the networks of relationships that made up both rural and urban areas of the American South can be explored.

Photographs in the collection show vivid depictions of St. Mary Parish where Katherine's family owned three plantations: a sugar plantation called Bayside, another called Haighfley, and Martha's Vineyard. Only Haighfley is still standing and is called, in 2013, Grevemberg House.

Also included are richly evocative letters about, and photographs of, the city of New Orleans, where Katherine's father moved the family so that he might have a law office in the city and so his children might be better educated. Donelson Caffery II served in the state legislature and was considered a progressive. Other men in the family also became politicians and lawyers; the women in the family became teachers, mothers, and activists. They were all interested in family history and the connections they wanted to maintain between the past, present, and future.

Katherine (Kit) Baker Senter (Newcomb Class of 1947), daughter of Katherine Caffery Baker, was particularly crucial to many progressive causes in the city of New Orleans in the latter half of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first. Some of the materials concern this daughter's life, especially in contact prints of photographs from the late 1940s by American photographer Toni Frissell (1907-1988). Frisell was known for work with Vogue and other women's fashion magazines, as well as war and sports photography, and she visited New Orleans on a special assignment.

Another important person whose life can be glimpsed in the Archives new addition is Katherine's older cousin, Caroline Richardson, Newcomb Class of 1895, and later, first Counselor-to-Women and English professor at the College. The Archives is housed in a building named Caroline Richardson, and so in many ways, there is a sense of a still living home for these materials, continuing connections with future generations.

The exhibit will be up through September of 2013, and will welcome archivists visiting for the Society of American Archivists meeting as well as new and returning members of the Tulane communities for the fall semester.

About Newcomb Archives, part of Newcomb College Institute:
The Newcomb Archives seeks to collect, preserve, and make available records and manuscript materials that document the lives of women, particularly those that relate to women's education, the history of women at Newcomb College and Tulane University, the American South, culinary history, and the work of women in general. The legacy of women-focused undergraduate education continues at Tulane University through the Newcomb College Institute. NCI consistently provides vibrant, intellectually rigorous programming on women’s issues for the university community, while funding faculty and student research grants. Alumnae are invited to participate in their Alumnae Association through a variety of events and volunteer opportunities. To learn more about NCI and their contributions to Tulane and the community, visit tulane.edu/newcomb.