Noted Bioethicist Dr. Ruth Faden Discusses “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” as part of Tulane’s First-Year Reading Project

(September 12, 2011)

At an event open to the community, Dr. Ruth Faden, Ph.D., M.P.H, Executive Director of the Berman Bioethics Institute at Johns Hopkins University will bring her insights on biomedical ethics and health policy to Tulane on Tuesday, October 4, at 7pm in the Dixon Hall Auditorium.

Faden’s talk dovetails with the First Year Reading Project’s discussion of Rebecca Skloot’s 2010 best seller, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Henrietta Lacks, also known as HeLa to scientists. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine. Henrietta’s cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown.

Dr. Ruth Faden’s bioethics background and position at Johns Hopkins University give her a unique perspective on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Faden is the Philip Franklin Wagley Professor of Biomedical Ethics and Executive Director of The Phoebe R. Berman Bioethics Institute at Johns Hopkins. She is also a Senior Research Scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, and has co-written and edited numerous books and articles on biomedical ethics and health policy including Social Justice: The Moral Foundations of Public Health and Health Policy; A History and Theory of Informed Consent; AIDS, Women and the Next Generation; and HIV, AIDS and Childbearing: Public Policy, Private Lives.

This event is sponsored by Newcomb College Institute and Newcomb-Tulane College, with support from the Dorothy K. Daspit Fund.

About Newcomb College Institute:
The legacy of women-focused undergraduate education continues at Tulane University through the Newcomb College Institute. Under the leadership of Executive Director Sally L. Kenney, NCI provides vibrant, intellectually rigorous programming on women’s issues and supports research, teaching, and community engagement. Newcomb College 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.

About Newcomb-Tulane College: INSERT BOILERPLATE LANGUAGE

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