Tulane University’s Newcomb Alumnae Association Honors Suzy McDaniel for her Community Service Initiatives

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The Newcomb Alumnae Association at Tulane University is proud to announce the recipient of the 2012 Community Service Award as Suzy Guichard McDaniel, a 1983 graduate of Newcomb College. Chosen from among a group of highly motivated and dedicated women, her devotion to the service of others truly evokes the spirit of the university’s motto “Not for one’s self, but for one’s own.”

Suzy has a passion for helping those in need and has formed three non-profit foundations. The Quality of Life Foundation was formed to help maintain orphanages for HIV-positive children in Honduras. Suzy’s fundraising efforts assisted in the maintenance of Hogar Amor y Vida and Corazon de las Misericordias in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. In 2002 following a horseback riding accident, Suzy sustained closed brain, neck and shoulder injuries. While in physical therapy, Suzy met and was touched by the sacrifice of Carl Sampson, who sustained severe brain and head injuries in a roadside bombing in Iraq. Suzy founded Support Our War Heroes, a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, which assists military members who sustain life-altering injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan, with any unmet need which may arise. A Board of Directors governs the non-partisan organization and Suzy now serves as Chairman of the Board and Founder.

In 2010, Suzy’s husband and the father of their three children Dr. Kelvin McDaniel was stricken with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS; Lou Gehrig’s disease). After a valiant nine-month battle, Dr. McDaniel passed away. Suzy and her children formed the Dr. Kelvin McDaniel ALS Foundation, with the mission to award an annual medical school scholarship in the name of Dr. McDaniel, to assist others in the community with ALS through the use of an equipment loaner closet, and to support and fund treatment and cure for ALS.

Her work has touched many throughout the community, and Suzy says we all have the same obligation. “Helping another human being in need is the ultimate gift we can give. Teaching this through example to our next generation provides hope for our world in the future.”

The award for community service 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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