



March is Women's History Month

THE Boise State Women's Center PRESENTS

IDAHO WOMEN MAKING HISTORY two thousand and five



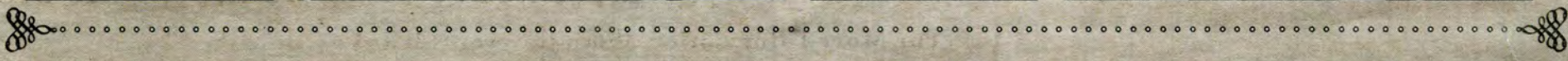
Maria Andrade
Laurie Appel
Deborah Bail
Leah Barrett
Peggy Bohl

Rosie Delgadillo Reilly
Julie De Lorenzo
Susan Emerson
Francelle Fritz
Dr. Heike Henderson

Mary Carter Hepworth
Dr. Lois Hine
Jessica Hinkle
Sue Holly
Gene Nora Jessen

Beverly Ann Kendrick
Beverly LaChance
Wendi Story McFarland
Jennie Myers
Dr. Linda Petlichkoff

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Dr. Sandra Schackel
Dr. Cheryl B. Schrader
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Why Celebrate Women's History?

(The following excerpt was taken from the National Women's History Project Website)

By walking history's pathways, we learn to step forward with confidence. The legacy of how others shaped society sparks our own longings to contribute. Everyone needs role models—footsteps enough like our own to inspire us.

Yet in 1992, a national study found that history texts devote only two to three percent of their total content to women. Educators are willing, often eager, to introduce women's history. But they lack materials and support. Only three percent of educational materials focus on women's contributions. Yet recently legislatures in three states—Illinois, Florida, and Louisiana—mandated teaching women's history in their K-12 classes. The need for more accurate information about women's historical contributions is further confirmed in a recent poll funded by General Motors (GM). Conducted prior to GM's sponsorship of a Ken Burns film on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, two women "who transformed a nation," the results show that only one percent could identify Stanton as in some way connected with women's rights. In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California to broadcast women's historical achievements. The NWHP started by leading a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women's History Month, now celebrated across the land. Today, the NWHP is known nationally as the only clearinghouse that provides information and training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, parents and for anyone wanting to expand their understanding of women's contributions to U. S. history.

Women Making Herstory

Since 2001, the Boise State Women's Center has honored 159 local "Women Making History": ordinary women leading extraordinary lives. This publication has become a tradition in our Women's History Month celebration. In the following pages, you will read about 26 women who are changing the history of Idaho. These women were nominated as Women Making History for their admirable work in our community.

Often the word "history" connotes images and thoughts of the past, but history is what we do every day. We hope to recognize women who have been influential in our community and to educate you about their work, programs, concerns, and successes. Most importantly, we hope to inspire each person who reads this publication to become involved and to make their own impact—make their own history.

Nominate a woman you know for next year's publication!

<http://womenscenter.boisestate.edu>

Click on "Women Making History Award" to submit on-line or pick up a nomination form at the Women's Center at 1605 University Drive, 426-4259.

Criteria for selection:

Nominees are selected based on how they are "making history": challenging sexist stereotypes and norms, working/advocating for equality within institutions (law, health care, education...), role modeling healthy self-esteem and self-worth, breaking ground in traditionally male dominated fields (sports, engineering, politics...), and/or challenging other forms of oppression—racism, ageism, homophobia, etc.

Categories for nomination and selection:

.....Boise State faculty/staff members
Local community members
Students

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Beverly Ann Kendrick

There is, perhaps, no greater feeling that a mother can experience than the feeling that comes from the respect she has earned from a daughter. Beverly Ann Kendrick has touched many lives, but most significantly the lives of her children. According to her daughter, Angela, who nominated her for this award, "This remarkable woman has challenged societal norms through her leadership, broken through the professional glass ceiling, and continually pursued high standards in serving others. Her strength, enthusiasm and passion are the essence of what she does and who she is."

Beverly's passion for life has never been silenced even in the face of significant challenges and adversity. As her daughter noted, "My mother has taught me that circumstances, alone, do not define who you are... She suffered the loss of her first child, Lisa, at age 12, the loss of her mother, and the loss of a significant job, yet she has never given up."

Inspired by life circumstances, Beverly made a significant decision in the late 1980s to pursue a degree in nursing at Boise State University. Her daughter, Lisa, had been diagnosed with a developmentally degenerative condition when she was born; Beverly worked long hours with Lisa on motor skills training and communication. The practical skills she developed while working with her daughter along with the inspiration she drew from Lisa, motivated her to apply her talents later in more formal ways to pursue a degree in nursing. Beverly's eyes shine as she talks about Lisa and the special ways she touched other people: "It taught me that no matter what 'handicap' someone may be born with, they have very special things to offer."

Driven by her desire to enrich the lives of others, Beverly earned her Associate of Science Degree in 1989, and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1993. "Society is rarely supportive and encouraging to women who dream big, yet my mother, with support of family, realized her potential and prepared herself for an incredible experience in the professional world," Angela noted.

Beverly's education and goals led her to many jobs that required her to assertively represent her expertise and women professionally. In 1989 she became a staff nurse, providing care to post-operative patients as a team member on the General Surgical Unit at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center. In 1992 Beverly became an official mentor and role model as a nurse educator. Later Beverly's work included compiling a curriculum for workshops called the "10 Greatest Gifts I Give My Children" with internationally recognized author Steven Vannoy.

As her experience in the nursing field increased, Beverly took on the role as risk manager in 1998. She managed risk issues for the St. Alphonsus staff, physicians, patients, and visitors. Beverly skillfully served as a liaison between the legal professionals, medical professionals, administration, and staff, standing firm when others stereotyped her ability in the profession because of gender. "Her

duties as risk manager were never short of high-stress and low appreciation," her daughter stated. Yet, Beverly's patience and persistence enabled her to utilize a team approach in supervising the risk management staff to promote loss prevention, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce costs.

Her role as a female leader at St. Alphonsus accurately explains her exemplary devotion to achieving goals no matter the boundaries. Beverly has continually strived to advocate for woman's rights and equal opportunity. In the early 1990's, she began to shape her goals of building her own business. Her inspiration not only created her growing businesses, "Angel Essence" and "International Treasures," it also inspired her to give other women the tools and motivations to succeed in a male-dominated business world.

Beverly was the facilitator of Women's Network of Entrepreneurial Training (WNET) in 1996 and 1997. She became Vice President of the Board of Directors of Women's Entrepreneurial Mentoring Systems, Inc. in 1996, advancing to President Elect in 1997 and a presidential term in 1998-1999. While leading this group, Beverly worked with a devoted team that wrote a grant to provide fundraising for the implementation and development of the local Women's Business Center.

As a hospice nurse with Four Rivers Hospice, Beverly enjoyed sharing the journeys with many acquired friends and their families during their special times. She now works with the Idaho State Board of Medicine as a Quality Assurance Specialist combining diplomacy with fact gathering.

As her daughter notes, Beverly's "modest descriptions of her work never seem to accurately portray her devoted service to others. My mother's past experiences in the community genuinely reflect how she has made a difference in the lives of others." In 1974-78, Beverly was the Coordinator of an Infant Stimulation and Education Program at the Adult and Child Development Center. She not only used her leadership and knowledge of being a strong parent to raise her family, but also developed a local program for high-risk infants and their parents, expanding it statewide.

"My mother reached out to teen moms, foster parents, as well as many non-traditional families," Angela noted. Her patients knew Beverly as a nurse with a warm touch and sincere heart. "Throughout my life, I have a clear memory of blue and pink silk flowers displayed on my mother's bed stand. A particular family was so encouraged with my mother's care; they presented her with the flowers as a memorable token of their appreciation. These flowers are still a part of the décor in her room, and I am quite sure that I am still not allowed to touch them," Angela said with laughter.

Despite all the help she has offered others in her professional history, she feels her greatest "legacy" is her children. "Passing on what I have learned to my daughters in a gentle way, in an environment free from pressure is very important to me." She values empowerment, integrity, and resourcefulness. "I want to instill a sense of self-worth and self-reliance in my daughters."

Beverly has faced many difficulties, both privately and professionally, yet she has found strength to persevere. Beverly defines "problems as challenges." In that way, "you can empower yourself to take charge and make changes." Beverly has proved to be a strong role model for many people. Both her daughters are grateful for their mother's example: "She taught us that women have the knowledge and strength to balance a loving home, build a successful career, as well as donate time and energy to making other's lives better."

Interviewed by Jennifer Rice: Jennifer is a student attending Boise State University. She is majoring in biology with an emphasis in cell and molecular biology and plans to pursue a career in medicine. She is from Pocatello, ID.

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"

—Maya Angelou

Boise State Women's Center



The Boise State Women's Center empowers students to achieve their goals and promotes social change by providing educational outreach, support services, and a safe place.

The Women's Center exists because...

"Even if we can't see something we're in the middle of, it doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

—Minnie Bruce Pratt



Historically people have experienced discrimination based on gender, race, class, and sexual orientation, to name a few. Unfair barriers, whether observable or not, prevent people from achieving success and fulfilling their dreams. The Boise State Women's Center promotes social change and empowers students to achieve their goals by providing educational programs, support services and a safe place where we challenge oppressive and unfair practices that limit a person's potential.



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Adriana Solís-Black

The heat and humidity of the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica are far removed from a cold winter day on the high desert of southern Idaho, but Adriana Solís-Black doesn't mind. When she left her home in San Isidro for a new life in Idaho, she traded a dry and rainy season for winter, summer, spring and fall. She left behind a Spanish-speaking culture for an English-speaking one. She gave up volcanoes for foothills. But more important than what she left behind is what she brought with her: a tradition of strong, independent women.

Adriana was raised in a matriarchal group made up of her mother and aunts. "There was nothing they couldn't do," she said. "They could fix anything and they were economically independent. And they raised me to be the same. The work I do, I do in their honor."

That work includes her college career at Boise State University, where she studies Spanish language and literature and multi-ethnic studies - a curriculum that will aid Adriana in her work with migrant and refugee communities and her activism for social justice.

Adriana married a homegrown Idaho boy and made the journey from her homeland to his in 1997. She learned English while working at her mother-in-law's child care center in New Plymouth. "I learned English from the kids," she said. "It was the best way to learn because they were so open."

Adriana and her husband, Zack, later moved to Glenns Ferry, where she was a bilingual teacher assistant working with migrant children and teaching English as a second language. She taught night school and summer school, went out on home visits and interpreted during parent-teacher conferences. She didn't realize it at the time, but she was a role model for her students, especially the girls. She met with a group of them last fall at Boise State, now high school juniors in town for a campus visit. They told her she made a difference in their lives, and they wanted to be like her. "All I did was let them know that if I can do it, so can they. I'm just like they are: female, a person of color, an immigrant. I'm no better than they are. So what's to stop them?"

Adriana has spent her career as a voice for those who aren't heard because of language barriers. Besides teaching English, she has advised Spanish-speaking clients about debt issues, translated documents to Spanish and interpreted for refugees. She is a board member of the Women of Color Alliance, is a member of the Progressive Student Alliance, and the Organización de Estudiantes Latino-Americanos.

A McNair scholar, Adriana will use her fellowship to conduct research on the Cuban-American community in southern Idaho, studying how they assimilate and achieve the "American dream." Then she'll head off to graduate school for a degree in social work or American studies. Ultimately, she wants to work with migrant populations.

She was particularly inspired by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a human rights organization of farm workers whose members

were on campus last fall to protest the name change that turned the Boise State Pavilion into the Taco Bell Arena. Protestors opposed the renaming amid allegations of unjust labor practices for farm workers harvesting tomatoes, particularly in Florida, for various Taco Bell restaurants. "The cause of the CIW - ending slavery - and the impact of the CIW people who came to Boise State, just seven of them, made such an impression. Their passion really moved me."

As an activist, Adriana is willing to play any part in a group she believes in and to perform any level of work to get the message across, whether she's an organizer, a "go-fer" or the "face" of the group. She feels a passionate need to be involved and enjoys the accomplishments of activism. She is stubborn, she says, and once she steps on a path she always forges ahead. "I do what I do without thinking of my role or how I am," she said. "I just act."

Her life is interwoven with human rights. Whether she's out with friends or walking with Zack, talk always turns to politics, human rights and justice. "Adriana is constantly furthering the cause of equality among men and women of all races," said Heather Strempe-Durgin, who works with Adriana at the Boise State Women's Center. "She always voices her beliefs when presented with the opportunity. Anytime she is asked about things going on, she has the answer... in English or Spanish."

Although Adriana lives far from Costa Rica, she continues the legacy of those independent women in San Isidro, living her life with passion and commitment.

By Anna Fritz: Anna works for Boise State's office of University Relations. She enjoys spending time with her charming children, her glamorous boyfriend and her noisy extended family.

Gene Nora Jessen

Gene Nora Jessen was never one to keep her feet on the ground. In fact, the Boise aviator started finding ways to hitch a ride in an airplane when she was still a young girl in Evanston, Illinois. As a young member of the Civil Air Patrol, she learned all she could about airplanes and looked forward to weekends when senior members would take youngsters for Saturday afternoon rides. When her pilot gave her some "stick time" and told her she was a natural, she knew what she wanted to do with her life.

However, times were hard, and she and her brother came from a modest home. "I didn't think I'd ever be able to learn to fly," she said. But dreams die hard, and Gene Nora hatched a plan - she would choose a college that had a flight school and maybe find a way to take classes. She chose the University of Oklahoma and in 1956 scraped up \$285 for lessons. "That was a lot of money back then," she said.

Gene Nora realized that if she was going to become a private pilot, she'd have to make sacrifices. "I couldn't afford to take aviation classes and go to college, so I'd work and save money, then go to school, then drop out and work some more." Her perseverance paid off. She became a flight instructor and a commercial pilot and was hired by the flight school. Now a university employee, she could also take classes for free and by taking a few classes at a time, Gene Nora eventually earned her English degree.

In 1961, she heard about a research program at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, researching whether women pilots could pass the same rigorous physical and psychological testing given to the original Mercury 7 astronauts. She became one of 13 out of 25 women who passed the tests and was thrilled to learn that she would participate in phase II of the project in Pensacola, Florida.

Since the university wouldn't give her a leave of absence, she quit her job only to have the project scuttled by NASA at the eleventh hour. A subsequent Congressional investigation determined there was no prejudice against women in the cancellation of the project. They were rejected because they did not have experience as fighter jet pilots, although women were not allowed to hold that job either. The story of the Mercury 13 is chronicled in the book *Promised the Moon*, by Stephanie Nolen, as well as in stories filmed for *Dateline* and the *History Channel*.

Now unemployed, Gene Nora took a temporary job at Oklahoma State University and sent her résumé around the country. It eventually crossed the desk of Beechcraft as it prepared to launch a new aircraft, the Musketeer. Gene Nora became part of a threesome hired to demonstrate the new aircraft in a cross-country tour of the "Three Musketeers." Dressed in skirts, hose and heels, she and her fellow pilots spent 90 days showing potential buyers the ropes and reassuring their wives that the plane was safe. She then checked out in the entire Beech line and flew demo in a 48-state territory.

During her five years as a representative for Beechcraft, Gene Nora met and married her husband, Bob. The pair eventually migrated west to set up a Beechcraft dealership in Boise in 1967. They now own and operate Boise Air Service.

On the side, Gene Nora is active in the 99s, an aviation club founded in 1929 and named for the 99 charter members who elected Amelia Earhart as their first president. Today the 99s consist of 6,000 pilots from 35 countries. Gene Nora served as president for two years and chartered a 99 section in Israel. She also helped create a 99s museum in Oklahoma City and has been active in the local Idaho Aviation Hall of Fame, which consists of a row of framed photos at all Idaho airports. The group's next project is a general Idaho aviation museum.

When Gene Nora isn't flying, she's often writing. In 2002, Gene Nora published *The Powder Puff Derby of 1929*, an account of the first women's cross-country air race in 1929. The book, which she spent years researching, is now making the rounds in Hollywood. Although she's had some offers, she's holding out for a filmmaker who will portray the story accurately.

Gene Nora has participated in her own transcontinental air races and is the recipient of several awards, including the International Northwest Aviation Council Achievement Award, inclusion in the International Women in Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame and designation as an Idaho Statesman Distinguished Citizen. She's currently working on another book, but won't disclose the topic. Whatever the subject matter, it will likely have something to do with flying.

When you fly, she said, "you meet the most interesting people in the world. And flying is [a unique] opportunity to see the countryside from above. It's fascinating. Racing from San Diego to Cleveland you see the mountains, then the desert, then the farmland and the cities. It's a real privilege to see the country from the air."

These days, you can see Gene Nora riding high in the couple's 1976 white Beech Bonanza with blue trim. She and her husband have two children, Taylor Jessen and Briana LeClaire with husband, Tom, and two "perfect" grandchildren.

By Kathleen Craven: Kathleen is a communications specialist with Boise State University. In her previous life, she was a newspaper reporter/columnist following a hectic stint as a community theatre actress/director. Kathleen enjoys spending time with her husband and children, exploring nature and the arts. When she grows up, she wants to be an archaeologist.





Wendi Story McFarland

Each morning begins the same way for Wendi Story McFarland, given there isn't a sick child or other unplanned emergency: a flick of the bathroom light, a quick change into running clothes, and a glance down at a small piece of cardstock paper glued inside one of her vanity drawers, upon which is written her personal mission statement. Wendi is one of those rare individuals who "lives out loud," intertwining her emotional, physical, and spiritual goals into a seamless approach to life.

Serve Humanity – Speak out against injustice – Work to stop injustice

It is no surprise that her mission statement begins in such a powerful way; Wendi whole-heartedly participates in life, takes risks and serves as an advocate for those around her. According to one of her nominators, "Wendi has always been involved with great community projects that promote equality and challenge stereotypes."

In her volunteer position as Women's Center Advisory Board Chair (2001-2002), she led the board through many difficult decisions and helped create a concerted educational campaign to promote the Women's Center. In April 2002, Wendi faced a huge challenge as chair: a religious group on campus hosted a divisive photomural display on the quad, which depicted graphic pictures of aborted fetuses. Hosts of the event were crowded behind steel dividers holding signs that equated women who chose abortion with terrorists and lynch mobs. In the face of such hatred, Wendi helped the board to craft a respectful and meaningful response to the display, one that let women on campus know that they were not to be judged in such a cold and unfair way.

While Wendi serves as an advocate of human rights in a public way, she also advocates quietly and patiently for individuals behind the scenes. In her position as Activities Coordinator for the Boise State Honors College, she is well known to her students as someone who will stand up for herself and others. As one of her nominators notes, "she is an amazing woman who works daily with students to educate them about issues, to advocate for them in times of need, and to challenge them to think."

Challenging students to think comes naturally to her in her position as an adjunct instructor of a gender communication class. She teaches students to examine the media, for example, and how it constructs our notions of gender. "She challenges students to honestly discuss how they are impacted by gender stereotypes daily," one of her students notes. Wendi's mission to "serve humanity" is lived out through her honest interactions with people and her courage to name injustice.

Honor – Family, self, friends, and the common good of humanity – Seek strong character first

"One has only to look as far as her family to see an amazing woman helping to make a difference in the lives around her," noted one of

her five nominators. Wendi's sense of honor is lived through her family. "What has impacted me most about Wendi is her dedication to her children," said another of her nominators. "While her job is important, they are always foremost in her mind." Again, Wendi models a fluid approach to life where family, work, friends, and community fit seamlessly together.

Wendi and her husband, Andy, adopted twin babies in 2003. "I love being a mom; toddlers are hysterical," Wendi said, smiling. Wendi and Andy discussed adoption for over a year before becoming parents. As Wendi and Andy began to explore the responsibilities of parenthood, they also began to revive an educational support group for multi-ethnic families. Once known as M.A.C. (Families of Multicultural & Adopted Children), "embRACE" consists of about thirty families who come together to "develop friendships and to provide social and educational opportunities for multiracial families." Along with a friend, Pamela Harris, they worked hard to recruit new members, develop leaders and create new committees. As the current president of "embRACE," Wendi believes the new title is fitting due to the "connotation of love and acceptance."

Family, whether immediate or extended, is a vital part of Wendi's mission statement and life. Wendi actively supports an extended family and has been a steadfast supporter of a brother-in-law who lives with a debilitating illness. Wendi's motivation to nurture others does not come from a sense of duty, but rather a sense of herself. As hard as it may sometimes be, she accepts situations as they are, adopting a zen philosophy similar to that in a poem by Gary Snyder she has posted on her wall: "the path is whatever passes—no end in itself." Wendi embraces the notion that it is more important to focus on "who we are" in any given moment, rather than focusing on a desired outcome or forcing a solution.

Spirituality – Seek peace – Do more love – Mind – Get uncomfortable – Get educated

As far as getting uncomfortable and educating herself, Wendi became involved in the 2002 production of *The Vagina Monologues*, where she was cast in several roles. She did an outstanding job representing the voice of an Afghanistan woman in "Under the Burqa" and shared "Vagina Happy Facts" with the audience. Along with the rest of the cast, Wendi got comfortable with the language and the notions that surround vaginas. "The Vagina Monologues taught me the importance of plain talk and the power of naming... it empowered people in our community to say 'vagina' and has elevated the discussion 'about women and sexist oppression in our world.'"

Body – Fear no adventure – Take it – Run – Feed your physical being

Wendi understands the connection between mental, spiritual, and physical health; that's why she starts each day with a morning jog. This past fall she completed her first marathon. The 26.2 miles reminded her of the importance of daily commitments and the small steps that accomplish large goals.

Wendi is highly respected as a faculty member, an activities coordinator, a mother, and mentor; she has been described as having an "aura" about her that is inspirational. One of her students identified her as a "ground breaking woman in this state... empowering women and men as she combats stereotypes and injustices... She is a mother, a friend, and a woman making her-story."

By Melissa Wintrow: Melissa is the Women's Center Coordinator at Boise State University.

"We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach."

— Gloria Steinem



"We're in the same cause, we share the same future." — Cesar Chavez

SUBSTANCE

The Boise State Student Union serves as the center for campus life providing educational, cultural, social, recreational, and leadership programs and services that are integral to the academic experience.

<http://sub.boisestate.edu>



Julie (right) is pictured here with her closest friend and business partner, Sheral Evans (left)

Julie De Lorenzo

Commitment, perseverance and diligence have made Julie De Lorenzo an outstanding Realtor and successful fundraiser. The flexibility that comes with a career as a Realtor allows Julie time to contribute to a variety of causes, and for Julie, volunteering and fundraising are integral parts of family life.

She grew up in Gold Beach, a small fishing and logging town on the Oregon Coast. Her mother and father were both involved in the Shriners and the Masons, organizations dedicated to developing community projects and creating hospital programs. In addition, Julie's father was involved in the Jaycees, an organization that helps young people between the ages of 21 and 39 to develop leadership skills through service to others. "I don't think I realized at the time that they were inspiring me, but clearly they did," Julie said.

Julie remembers going to the county fair every year to work at the Jaycee's booth, selling fresh corn-on-the-cob with her family. "We went to events all the time, raising money—maybe that's the best way to learn... it's just a way of life and you don't realize that it's anything unusual... it's just what you do," Julie said.

After Julie established her career as a Realtor and became a new mom, she and her husband sought to donate their time to good causes. "We felt like we had such a blessed life that we ought to be doing something to make a difference for other people and to give back something," Julie said.

Julie excelled at her first fundraising experience with Ballet Idaho. Her success in fundraising led her to pursue leadership roles within her career through the Ada County Association of Realtors Foundation (ACAR), an organization that encourages leadership and community service among Realtors and contributes nearly \$100,000 to the community each year. ACAR holds events to raise money, particularly for housing projects for homeless people. Julie co-chaired a golf tournament fundraiser benefiting Habitat for Humanity and participated the following year by raising \$33,000 supporting the City Light Home for homeless women and children in Boise.

Julie became involved with the Idaho Human Rights Education Center when she visited the site after they requested a grant from the foundation. At the time, the center was proposing the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. Since one of the requirements for receiving the grant involved something long-standing, like a building or a monument, Julie was intrigued with the idea for the memorial. She succeeded in getting a grant for \$25,000 to be paid over three years for the center, which prompted them to ask her to serve on their board. Julie accepted a position on the executive committee, and she's been involved for nearly six years.

Since the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial was built, the focus for the center turned to human rights education programs in schools and communities throughout the state. One such program is the "Anti-bullying/Anti-harassment" campaign, which discourages children from bullying, launched in 2003 at North Junior High in

Boise. "We know that program really works because we get so many comments from the teachers, the counselors, parents, and students," Julie said.

The center is currently working to get the program into school districts statewide. Hewlett Packard is a partner in this program and they provide posters and printing. Students from Boise State University contributed artwork on posters last year with the logo, "Bullying has never been cool." Julie believes this program is instrumental in educating young people about the possible consequences of harassment, especially since someone she knows contemplated suicide in junior high school due to excessive bullying.

Another project they are involved in is the development of a manual for Spanish-speakers that explains social services and rights, including how to keep a driver's license current and the process of registering to vote. This project is in collaboration with the Hispanic Cultural Center in Canyon County. Once the manual is completely translated from English, the center plans to have copies available in places where Spanish-speaking people may populate.

Based on her efforts in fundraising for causes she believes are worthy, Julie envisions a better nation. "We're all immigrants, except for the Native Americans—and I think that in the troubled times we're going through right now, that a lot of people forget that. We all came from somewhere else, and there are a lot of people who want to live here for the very same reasons that we enjoy living here," she said.

While Julie is a distinguished Realtor who was awarded the Idaho Association of Realtors Realtor of the Year Award in 2003, she is also a compassionate advocate for human rights who is dedicated to giving back to her community. Josie Evans, Julie's nominator said, "Many successful business people become so involved in their money-making that they ignore the privileges they have and forget to donate time to their community, or save time for their families, and I think Julie's dedication to these serves as an example to all working women and men."

By Tammy Sands: Tammy is a graduate student and instructor in the Department of Communication at Boise State University.

Laurie Appel

As an occupational therapist and cranial-sacral therapist, Laurie Appel focuses on the human spirit rather than physical limitations. Laurie works with children ages zero to three. "I don't see the disability, I just don't see it. All I see is where the child is, and what is next. And what the family's dreams are for the child. Then I jump onboard with them," she said. "Everybody has potential, and optimizing that potential is what I'm all about."

Her approach is non-traditional and unconventional. Laurie doesn't treat children in a clinic; she visits their homes. She works weekly with clients and their entire family for three years, initiating therapy through what she calls "play and purposeful activities" with toys in tow. During that time, Laurie watches parents go through stages of grief, acceptance, and finally growth. "Parents accept their children. They learn that their child is different and is going to struggle, perhaps for the rest of their life. Parents allow me to be a part of that," she said, "it is such a gift."

Laurie describes a recent experience with a 2-year-old patient to further illustrate the importance of this gift. "We've been working and working with the little guy on crawling. And one day he just started crawling... the whole family was there. It brings tears to my eyes. My work is so fulfilling. Like I say, human spirit is stronger than we can even imagine."

Laurie utilizes cranial-sacral therapy with the children, and some adults she treats. Cranial-sacral therapy is a gentle and safe pressure massage that promotes whole body health. "Parents often ask me, 'are you praying?' I usually close my eyes, because it's so gentle and so subtle that if I have my eyes open and I realize my hands aren't moving, I stop feeling the rhythm of the body and the movement of the skull and the brain. So often times I'll close my eyes, because I can feel better. My hands and my fingers work better."



During cranial-sacral therapy, Laurie said, the body unwinds underneath her fingertips; it starts to move, and thus enables the brain and body to communicate better. She explains that the body will capsule trauma, for example a car accident, and hide it somewhere in the body so a person can function day to day. Cranial-sacral releases that trauma. "I've been on the table, I know. I've also seen some great results: emotional releases, people recalling memories of injury, or accident; I've had children in my lap unwind into what feels like almost a birthing process, rebirthing... if they had a traumatic birth. I've had adults do that as well," Laurie said.

Nominator and partner Jessi Winn supports Laurie and knows Laurie's impact on those she helps. "Laurie is received by the community, her clients, and friends whole-heartedly. Laurie stands up for who she is, hides nothing, and receives everything. She puts everything she has into her work, family, and the community, and believes that each individual can create change in this world."

Laurie grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. Her parents were giving and accepting people, which influenced Laurie's perspective, personality, and passion to help others. Diagnosed with a learning disability as a child, Laurie was embarrassed and ashamed of herself, but she persevered. During elementary and secondary schooling, Laurie acted out because "it was cooler to be bad than stupid," she laughed.

As a last resort, Laurie was sent to a Vocational-Technical school. VoTech's curriculum required Laurie to volunteer at a school for disabled children. "That was when I really found myself, because I was good at it. It was the first thing that I was ever good at in my life." This realization motivated her to finish high school and to obtain an Applied Human Sciences degree with honors from Colorado State University.

Recently, one of Laurie's clients told her that she often feels judged because of her illness; however, she has never felt judged by Laurie. For Laurie, judgment ceases to exist when people realize their commonalities with others. "I know I'm just a breath away from disease. We all are," she said.

Laurie's vision for the future is not to "spread some message," she said. She simply cares for every living being, and wants to show that through her actions. "I've been blessed with people in my life who believe in me, who can see through the brat, the punk, the druggie, and see me. And believe in me. That light that shines in all of us, I want to give that back to as many people as I can, to see that light and to believe in them."

Through her practice of therapy, empathy, acceptance and belief in the human spirit, Laurie Appel is making history. "We're always making history," she said. Laurie believes that we can choose the type of history we make. She feels that we can either "hurt people or help people" and that we each have an impact. As for her choice, Laurie wants to make "history that supports people and the human spirit. That's what I choose."

By Yasmine Romero: Yasmine is a senior at Boise State University, majoring in linguistics and minoring in Japanese. She works as a writing consultant in the Boise State Writing Center.



Dr. Heike Henderson

Heike Henderson, a dynamic and creative professor, has made her mark on the Boise State German Program by placing emphasis on the integration of cultural understanding within language and literature courses. She originally came to the United States on a one-year college exchange program. Heike, an avid traveler, was hooked. The exchange had one requirement: she would have to work as a teaching assistant, something she had never done before. She attended training and prepared for hours and hours. Heike Henderson didn't realize it at the time, but she would not stop teaching there. She discovered a passion for teaching, earned a master's and Ph.D. in German literature, and accepted a job as a German program faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Boise State University.

Dr. Heike Henderson's nominator and the head of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Teresa Boucher, emphasized Heike's important role in creating a strong, solid German program. "Heike came to Boise State with a can-do attitude. She radically overhauled the curriculum to bring a contemporary, cultural studies focus to the program. She made it relevant." Heike designed thirteen new courses and personally advised all German majors and minors.

Heike was excited to take the challenge of developing what would become an excellent German program. "I like to be able to build up things, to change things. Building the German program gave me a lot of opportunity," Heike wanted to break the traditional approach to studying German and focus on creating a connection between German culture and her students' own cultures. "I think a lot has changed in the teaching of foreign languages in recent years. For example, a traditional German program would only have you look at German literature historically. I introduced more contemporary culture classes, business German classes and the like. I feel like people should be able to make connections between what they study in German classes and what's going on in the rest of their lives," she said.

In the classroom as well as in her life, Heike makes these cultural connections. What has influenced Heike to take such an approach was, most likely, her coming to America. "When I came to the U.S., I learned a lot not only about America, but about Germany as well. Going abroad really makes you realize a lot about your own perspective, and your own culture. There isn't only one way of looking at things."

Heike has been in the United States since 1989. While she was earning her Ph.D. in German literature at the University of California, she met her husband. After Heike accepted the job at Boise State in 1997, they moved to Boise. It was a perfect place for them; they could enjoy the outdoor activities they loved.

Soon thereafter, Heike began the journey of motherhood. While pregnant, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. "I was very surprised. I never expected anything like that. It's not like I thought I was immune. It was just that I was in my early thirties, and I had always been healthy before." Immediately after her son, Christopher, was born, Heike went through surgery and chemotherapy. "On the one hand being pregnant, and then having a child, gives you a lot



of reason to live. But on the other hand it makes you even more afraid. People just assume that when you're done with your treatment, you should move on, but it's not like that. The fear of dying is something that never really leaves you," she said.

A few years later, Heike ventured on another fantastic journey—adopting her second child, Maya, from China. The process was long, lasting for about a year and a half. Still, the experience, especially the trip to China, was unforgettable. It was also something that Heike had always wanted to do. "I'm very thankful to have had the experience to have one child biologically, to experience pregnancy, and then one child through adoption, which is a very different experience, but just as wonderful," she said.

Having a child, adopting a child, battling cancer, gaining a different cultural perspective, cultivating Boise State University's German program: Dr. Heike Henderson's personal and professional accomplishments are numerous. In addition, she has published several articles on Turkish women writers in Germany. "I look at multicultural literature, and how it has changed the definition of what is German. Germany used to have this self-definition of a very homogenous society, but that has changed. Turkish women writers are a part of today's Germany," she explained.

Currently, Heike is working on a new project concerning food and literature: "I just find it really interesting. The topic of food is so central to our lives. It says so much about who we are, it is connected to history, memory, identity, to every cultural aspect of life you can think of."

"As this project suggests, Heike focuses her life on her interests, and integrating those interests into every aspect of her life, making it enjoyable and meaningful. "It's a lot of juggling... just trying to deal with those different aspects of professional life, family life, and also a history of cancer. But I enjoy the juggling, and I'm very glad to have my family. Even though it's sometimes busy, my family gives me balance."

By Yasmine Romero: Yasmine is a senior at Boise State University, majoring in linguistics and minoring in Japanese. She works as a writing consultant in the Boise State Writing Center.

Susan Emerson

"While others may see an obstacle, Susan Emerson sees an opportunity to create a solution," said Lynn Lubamersky, nominator and friend. This theme echoes throughout her nomination and her life. "Susan is the most giving person I know – of her time, of her financial resources, and her love. Through her generosity, she has touched the lives of scores of people in Boise and beyond."

Though Susan is busy earning a master's degree in public administration (MPA) at Boise State, managing a computer lab, and raising two teenage girls alone while her husband serves in the military in Iraq, she still finds time to volunteer at Treasure Valley Public Access Television (TVTV), to serve on the Faith Relations committee for Habitat for Humanity and to support the creation and establishment of The Murray School of Irish dance. The instructor for this school flies into Boise once a week and sleeps at Susan's house when she visits. Susan says, "Irish Dance is a wonderful, beautiful, athletic, cultural dance that is not body type specific – and this is particularly great for girls (as well as boys)."

Though she never thought she would be living in Idaho, she certainly has become a vital member of the community. Raised in Boulder, Colorado, Susan worked to help support her family from the time she was 10 years old. After a divorce from her natural father, her mother was left alone to raise four children who she moved to Caldwell, Idaho. The change of environment was a major shock, and Susan missed the progressive education system in Boulder: "The students were very active [in Boulder]. We were always having protests – the Vietnam protests, the feminist movement." Susan thrived in the environment of activism.

When the family moved to Caldwell, while Susan was in her senior year of high school, that environment changed. School was less challenging, and she began to lose herself in the new crowd. "The

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thing I most regret about my life is that somebody couldn't have just grabbed me and tracked me into a career," she said. Without a significant mentor, Susan had to rely on herself to find her way.

Susan went to the Link School of Business after graduating from high school, earned her secretarial degree, worked at Idaho First National Bank and eventually went on to Boise State. She battled alcoholism in college, and two close friends, Malcolm and Linda Emory, reached out to her and offered to pay for her to go to college. Alcoholism hindered her life, but the experience opened Susan's eyes to the value of education.

When a drunk driver killed her brother in 1982, she began to think about getting help. Susan quit drinking in 1983, and the following year began to earn her undergraduate degree in history at Boise State University. She has been sober for more than twenty years and "has mentored many other women and men through her work as a sponsor in AA," stated Lynn. "She has made Herculean efforts to show her love, compassion, and caring for those in the community who are less fortunate than she is."

After graduating from Boise State, Susan became a contract worker for several organizations, including Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity. The experience began a relationship with the organization that remains strong to this day. According to her nominator, she "combined her feminist beliefs with her commitment to Habitat by participating in and promoting the Women's Build," which entailed an all female building crew. Providing an opportunity for women to gain skills and expertise in building a home "shows women that they can do it," exclaims Lynn. "How much more empowering can you be!"

Susan was sponsored by All Saints Episcopal Church to volunteer with Habitat in Northern Ireland to build duplexes to replace the homes devastated by the war in that area. Her experience in Ireland provided her with an understanding of the consequences of war. She befriended many locals, some who were members of the Irish Republic Army and some who were Irish Protestants. Though these two groups have long been bitter enemies, Belfast Habitat for Humanity, in addition to providing affordable housing, is using the organization to build a bridge between the two groups. "What they're doing there is using [Habitat for Humanity] to build peace," Susan said.

Unfortunately, the peace they tried to build was not enjoyed for long. The summer after Susan returned from Ireland, a terrible bombing took place and killed many people. When she saw the news in a paper, she sat down and cried. "They're trying and this stuff's still going on, and in spite of that, they keep pursuing the vision of peace ... that's just incredible to me."

Susan is dedicated to doing everything in her power to improve the world. As her nominator notes, Susan "believes that only through grassroots activism can we re-invigorate democracy and community connections." TVTV is a way for her to help provide a way for all voices to be heard. As a board member and former chair at TVTV, Susan is a major advocate for public access. "I really like the idea of having this place where you can go and be able to say your views and keep this door open for public dialogue," she said.

With a basic distrust of the current media, she feels it is very important to keep and use public access. "I have a core belief that people really need to turn their TVs off; that that's part of our problem," she said, but in the end she feels that the power of the media warrants a need for individuals to use it for better purposes.

Susan makes history as the first woman in her family to graduate from college ("though it took me some thirteen years"), and as a mother raising two young women to value education and activism. And as a member of All Saints Episcopal Church her nominator stresses that Susan "lives as the early Christians did: selflessly, compassionately, and with an urgent desire to do the work of God on earth."

By Rachel Bonilla: Rachel Bonilla is currently earning her degree at Boise State University in English with an emphasis in writing. She lives in Boise with husband, Marcus, and Chihuahua, Oreo.



Shannel Stinner

Shannel Stinner makes history everyday. She is a positive, active and outspoken woman, always passionate about her endeavors, whether they are academic, social, or personal. "Shannel never fails to leave a lasting impression on the people she meets. She has memorable charm and an honest character," nominator and friend Jennifer Hartnoll said.

Shannel grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Her parents divorced when Shannel was young. She vaguely remembers her alcoholic father, but she does remember her stepfather, an alcoholic as well. "I have seen so many people in my life have their lives ruined. So that made me a stronger person, I think. It helped me be more determined about doing something different with my life, getting the grades in school, wanting to go to college and do something," she said.

Shannel majored in biology at Boise State University. She even had her graduate school picked out, but one year later she knew she was no longer passionate about the subject. At that point in her life, she took a chance and applied for a teaching opportunity in France. Accepted, she flew to France and discovered that she enjoyed teaching. Ultimately, Shannel changed her degree focus to bilingual education: "It was challenging, but I like teaching and working with the kids. I like trying to think of things to get them engaged, learning."

In Paris, Shannel met her husband and became pregnant with her son, Aziz. Because her teaching contract was going to end soon, and having a baby in a foreign country would have been difficult, Shannel moved back to Boise and lived with her mother for a year. She gave birth to Aziz and raised him alone for three years. During that time, Shannel attended Boise State University, and constantly worked on paperwork so that Aziz's father, Maruf, could join them in the United States.

Shannel realizes that her growth as a person comes largely from raising Aziz. She promotes self-respect and confidence in her parenting, and she questions the widespread gender socialization that has become so ingrained in our culture. As a parent, Shannel focuses on giving Aziz choices rather than controlling him. "I think I'm just more open. I've given up trying to control him, and am teaching him about making choices and how to make good choices," she said.

Shannel recognizes that as a parent, she is a role model for her son, who is always watching and learning from her actions. Shannel ensures that she is modeling their family values. One unique way she does this is by not having a television at home. "I just don't think TV is good for kids at all. There are so many commercials targeted at kids, and the last thing kids need is advertising aimed at them. Another reason is that I find it to be extremely inappropriate. It doesn't have the values I want it to have."

Shannel has sacrificed many things in her life for her son. Despite how busy parenting keeps her, she remains active in many student organizations: Single Parents Club, Returning Women's Discussion Group, Black Student Alliance, the Women's Center and the Cultural

Center. "For a long time, I just stayed home with my son. However, when I started going to Single Parents Club activities, I met all these women. We could trade babysitters, talk, and relax. It actually built strong friendships for me. Four of my best friends right now are from that club."

In addition, Shannel is a recipient of the McNair Scholarship and the Frances Wood Education Scholarship. Shannel plans on graduate school and hopes to work as a junior high school teacher. "I just feel like I don't have time to waste, now that I know where I'm going and what I want. Now that I have things that I'm excited about, I just want to do them." Shannel continues to exercise her powers to improve the world, both privately, with her parenting, and publicly, with her community involvement. She is a role model and an inspiration, not just for her son, but for all who know her.

By Yasmine Romero: Yasmine is a senior at Boise State University, majoring in linguistics and minoring in Japanese. She works as a writing consultant in the Boise State Writing Center.

Dr. Linda Petlichkoff

Dr. Linda Petlichkoff is changing the way sports function in our society. She often says in class, "Sport builds character -- but let's try and make sports build only good characters." The field of sports has a long history of perpetuating sexism, elitism, racism and homophobia. It often supports narrow, stereotypical presentations of ideal masculinity as violent and aggressive. Women are often excluded from the world of sports, and professional female athletes are often underpaid and undervalued. Linda is working to change these ideologies of sport. She works to create sports programs that value inclusiveness, respect and diversity.

Since 1987, Linda has worked as a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Boise State University. During her career at Boise State, Linda has helped develop meaningful projects including the Life Skills program for The First Tee, a golf program for youth founded by the World Golf Foundation. The First Tee program brings golf to youth who would not typically be exposed to the sport while teaching them about the inherent values in the game. Petlichkoff, along with several colleagues, developed the Life Skills curriculum. The program focuses on values that help foster qualities of honesty, integrity, and respect.

The program, which currently can be found nearest to Boise in Portland or Seattle, stretches to corners of the world like Melbourne and Singapore. Linda wanted a more thorough and inclusive curriculum, so she also developed a coach training program to ensure that everyone benefited from the program. "Impacting kids' lives," is Linda's favorite part of the program. For Linda, witnessing the changes in a child involved in the program is the motivation for her work. She enjoys "seeing the light go on with kids. Seeing them get their first ball airborne ... seeing them shake somebody's hand and be very positive when they interact."

According to her nominator, Dr. Shelley Lucas, Petlichkoff is fully aware of the negative impact that sports can have on participants,

and that, too often, organized sport reinforces oppressive attitudes and behaviors such as racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, and ableism. "The work she is doing with The First Tee is an excellent illustration of how she is trying to construct sport in a way to dismantle those ideologies," said Lucas. "As an educator who has long worked to promote and create a positive and healthy environment for kids to play and enjoy sports, Petlichkoff's work with The First Tee must be considered a pinnacle achievement that epitomizes putting research into practice."

Petlichkoff is also active on a local level, working with the Coalition for Youth Sports, an organization that identifies unique opportunities in Boise and makes sport meaningful to kids. This year she is developing a survey for parents and coaches about why kids should be involved.

Petlichkoff primarily teaches sport psychology, specializing in youth sport at Boise State. She always intended to teach, but had not planned on being involved with sports. She graduated college with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Resolute to teaching math, she encountered new opportunities because of the implementation of Title IX, a statute employed in the 1970s to prohibit gender discrimination in public schools. Title IX caused Michigan schools to seek out more female teachers willing to take on the dual role of coach. Interested in coaching, but not thinking it was her life passion, she accepted a job teaching junior high school mathematics and coaching track and field eventually adding softball and volleyball. "I knew that I could contribute," Petlichkoff said.

Petlichkoff pursued a master's degree in sport psychology at Michigan State University. In graduate school, she decided to listen to the encouragement of her advisor, and pursue her doctorate. After graduating with her master's, she began working on her Ph.D. in sport psychology at the University of Illinois. Soon after receiving her doctorate she accepted a position at Boise State in 1987.

Petlichkoff has consistently rejected stereotypes associating gender with occupation. She was the first female lifeguard at a local pool in Michigan during her teenage years. It was this courageous attitude that led her to pursue her master's and doctorate degrees. "Be open to opportunities. Never look back," said Petlichkoff. She subscribes to the philosophy that it is better to regret what you have done, rather than what you have not done: "Never be the person that says, 'what if I would have done that?' If you're willing to sacrifice a little bit... doors will be opened to you."

On the wall of Dr. Linda Petlichkoff's office in the Boise State Kinesiology building hangs a canvas from The First Tee, which is signed by dozens of kids, thanking her for the enormous contribution she has made in developing the Life Skills curriculum. Petlichkoff had the opportunity to see her influence on a previous participant of The First Tee program. This young woman was on stage as a speaker at The First Tee National meeting. Her experience in The First Tee program gave her the confidence to stand and speak before a large audience where she recounted the impact the program had on her life. The work of art on her wall is a tribute to Dr. Petlichkoff's hard work and continuing dedication to these children.

Petlichkoff will not look back on her life with regret; she has opened

many doors for the participants in various programs and her legacy is the increased confidence that her students will take from their experiences with her.

By Tara Farmer: Tara is currently a political science major in her senior year. After graduating in May, she intends to save and simultaneously travel the world. She will start by serving a mission for her church.



Brooke Tyler

When Brooke and I meet, she is standing at the counter at the Flying M, with Interpol's "Turn on the Bright Lights" playing loud in the background. She is a tall, striking woman with shoulder-length brunette hair and a graceful figure, who seems as though she would be quite at home in the boardrooms of corporate America. She wears tailored slacks, a white shirt with ruffles, and a smart-looking cropped jacket. Although currently in mourning over the recent loss of her husband, she describes herself as a very contented woman. Brooke is perhaps more aware of contentment than many of us, since as a boy she rarely experienced it. The surgery that Brooke underwent to go from being biologically male to now anatomically female was, she says, the most exciting thing she's ever done, as well as the event that put a happy life in her grasp. The only problem she has now is that everything else she does will be "boring as hell."

Although she never intended to be an activist, Brooke changes the way we think of gender and identity. At 4, she loudly demanded at her extended family's Christmas gathering that everyone stop making such a fuss over her being the only grandson. She was a girl, she insisted, just like all the other grandchildren. Then and now, Brooke sees no relationship between a person's body and their gender identity. We feel ourselves to be women or men, boys or girls; the body is merely the package. Why then should we, I asked Brooke, go to the trouble and expense of altering our package. Because, she said, "that's how the world judges you." Our bodies are the malleable tools we use to express our inner-selves, but they do not define our inner-selves.

Brooke has made history privately; she has not, until recently, been a transgender activist or public advocate. She was the first transgender employee at Sears (which treated her "flawlessly"). Several others followed in her wake. In the world of entertainment, still breaking boundaries, she went from the relatively finite universe of men who perform in drag to that of women exotic dancers, a world that she says is "a straight woman's world of drag." As far as she knows, she was the only transgender woman on the staff. She blended seamlessly with the other performers, who eventually learned her history. However, because of Brooke's engaging personality, the others were not defensive. In this private way, at work and in her relationships, Brooke has moved against generic ideas of what it means to be transgender.

Brooke left the field of entertainment and returned to corporate work. She also works professionally with show horses. As a transgender woman on the show horse circuit, she has once again found herself



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unique. "It seems like wherever I go there's no one like me, but people accept me easily and well." Now that she finds herself in the role of trailblazer, she takes a certain pleasure in breaking stereotypes. She especially enjoys challenging the idea that transgender people are unattractive. "I break their stereotypes all to hell. I don't have the hands of a man, or the legs of man. I don't have an Adam's apple. I like breaking that ugly stereotype. It's scary enough without people thinking we're abominations."

Keeping her day job but also returning to show business, Brooke is currently the reigning empress (president) of the Gem Court of Idaho, a philanthropic organization that sponsors fund-raising events, including drag shows. The Gem Court welcomed Brooke to Boise when she was twenty; they became her new high school and her new family. As a member of the Gem Court, she began to find acceptance and to transform, she said with a slight smile, "from Nellie Oleson to Laura Ingalls." Living in a boy's body made her unhappy; living as a woman has been liberating. Her parents initially resisted the change, but they all get along much better now. She found some of the support she needed to make that change as a member of Idaho's Gem Court. Having faced the tragic loss of her husband to liver cancer, she has decided to use her imperial powers to raise funds for St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute. In this way, Brooke is giving back to the community that has given her so much.

Brooke does not think of herself as a woman making history, not yet. "First transgender empress, big wow. Now, when I'm the first transgender mayor of Boise, then ... lookout Hillary."

By Tom Peele. Tom Peele is an Assistant Professor of English, with an emphasis in rhetoric and composition, at Boise State University.



Dr. Sandra Schackel

Dr. Sandra Schackel is setting history straight. A professor of women's history and the American West at Boise State University, she is passionate about giving women credit in their historical roles. "If we understand women's place in the nation and family then we will better understand history," she said. "After all, those literate white men couldn't have written history if they didn't have mothers."

Born in Villa Grove, Illinois, Sandra met and married her former husband in high school. They had their first child while Sandra was in her senior year. Determined, she graduated with her class in 1960 before moving with her family to Chicago to support her husband's ambitions of attending dental school. After his graduation, Sandra's husband enlisted in the army. They spent three years in Germany, where she had her third child. Her travels and exposure to places she had only read about inspired her to pursue a college education.

Upon their return to the United States in 1968, she started college classes. With three children, the youngest aged three, she reported many late nights writing term papers after the kids were tucked in.

English classes soon piqued her curiosity and that interest evolved into a passion for art history. Her husband's military career moved them

around the United States for 13 years, yet she continued taking classes. Sandra discovered New Mexico and Santa Fe during a military tour to the southwest. "I was immediately caught up in the magic of the history there," she said. Enrolling at the University of New Mexico, she graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Her advisor at the University of New Mexico, Donald Cutter, saw her potential and encouraged her to pursue graduate school. Sandra noted that Santa Fe had a great market for museum curators with master's degrees, and she made that her goal. Upon filling out Sandra's graduate school recommendation, Cutter checked the box labeled "potential Ph.D. candidate." "It just took my breath away that someone believed in me as a woman," Sandra said. "Those Ph.D. positions were almost always reserved for men."

She says of her marriage, "I could see the handwriting on the wall. The marriage wasn't going to last and I needed to finish my education." After separating from her husband she immediately began graduate work. Her children were aged 13, 18, and 20 when she began her master's program graduate work.

Sandra continued her education, earning her Ph.D. in Women's History from the University of New Mexico in 1988 and accepted a tenure track position at Boise State in 1989. Early in her tenure at Boise State, she recognized the need for a Women's Center on campus. Hers/West, an organization for female faculty and professional staff, was pushing for the center and Sandra aligned herself with the group. "We finally made the administration listen to our pleas to better serve women students," she said.

The Women's Center opened in 1992. Sandra was also involved in proposing and implementing the Gender Studies program. These undertakings, mused Sandra, mark major high points in her professional life at Boise State.

In the fall of 2004, Sandra enjoyed a sabbatical in Santa Fe where her three children and six grandchildren reside. While there, she completed a draft of her third book, *Close to the Land*, which is based on oral history accounts she has collected over the past ten years. The book focuses on women and their roles in ranching and farming in the Western United States, post-WWII. "A lot of women ride tractors instead of making pies," she said.

Sandra's future projects include studying Elvis Presley's effect on the development of teenage sexuality in the 1950s. An admirer of his music, Sandra has dressed up as Presley for classes—even exposing glued-on chest hair—to prove a point. "We have very fixed ideas about how men and women should appear," she said. However, she commented disappointedly, "Elvis is not exactly what a feminist would want in a man."

She honors her role as an educator. "I hope that students can see how excited I am about history and think about its role in their own lives," Schackel stated. Her efforts in class are focused around exposing men and women to a more gender balanced history and future. "I don't think the reins of power are gender specific," she commented with gusto, once again setting history straight.

By Tara Farmer. Tara is currently a political science major in her senior year. After graduating in May, she intends to save and simultaneously travel the world. She will start by serving a mission for her church.

Liliana Rodríguez

Escrito por Tara Farmer. Tara está cursando su último año universitario en la carrera de ciencias políticas. Después de graduarse en mayo, espera ahorrar suficiente dinero para viajar alrededor del mundo. Comenzará sirviendo una misión para la iglesia a la que asiste.

Liliana Rodríguez podrá ser pequeña en estatura, pero tiene grandes anhelos y una gran determinación. Liliana es una estudiante universitaria de primera generación. Nacida en Blackfoot, Idaho, de padres provenientes de Zacatecas, México, se crió en un hogar bilingüe, donde a menudo ella hacía de intérprete para sus padres. Después de emigrar a los Estados Unidos, sus padres se dedicaron a trabajar en los campos. Ellos siempre quisieron que sus hijos tuvieran acceso a oportunidades educativas, lo que les ayudaría a tener éxito en el futuro. La familia de Liliana la apoya en su meta



de obtener su diploma en estudios multiétnicos en Boise State University y, algún día, su doctorado. Su prima, Teresa, quien cursó sus estudios en negocios internacionales, es su inspiración. Liliana espera poder ser un buen ejemplo para su hermana menor, Bianca, quien cursa su tercer año en la preparatoria. "Ella ha aprendido la importancia de obtener buenas notas y de mantenerse involucrada," apunta Liliana.

Mientras Liliana cursa sus estudios en Boise State, también forma parte importante de la comunidad estudiantil, participando activamente en diferentes organizaciones y clubes desde su primer semestre en la universidad. Fue elegida como presidenta de OELA (Organización de Estudiantes Latino-Americanos) el año pasado. Además, forma parte de la Organización Filipino-Americana, Hui-O-Aloha, y la Asociación de Estudiantes Internacionales.

La experiencia de sus padres como trabajadores agrícolas impulsó el activismo de Liliana por los derechos de los agricultores. Como miembro de OELA, se opone al renombramiento del pabellón polideportivo de Boise State (the Pavilion) a Taco Bell Arena debido a las acusaciones presentadas en contra de la corporación, la cual, presuntamente, viola los derechos humanos de los agricultores. La ceremonia de graduación históricamente se ha llevado a cabo en ese edificio y ella planea boicotearla, si es necesario. Con fervor en su voz, dice que ella, "se rehúsa a pasar por debajo de ese rótulo cuando le toque recibirse. Optará por graduarse en un edificio distinto o no asistir a la ceremonia."

Liliana atribuye su activismo a sus años pre-universitarios. Después de observar las consecuencias de las decisiones tomadas por sus amigos en la preparatoria, decidió que ella prefería dedicar sus esfuerzos a obtener una educación universitaria e involucrarse en la comunidad estudiantil. En la escuela preparatoria, formó parte de HALO (Hispanic Awareness Leadership Organization), lo que la proveyó con lo necesario para iniciarse en el activismo y trabajar en conjunto con otros estudiantes de su escuela preparatoria. Programas como Upward Bound, diseñado para ayudar y motivar a estudiantes de primera generación o estudiantes preparándose para entrar a la universidad, siempre llamaron la atención de Liliana.

Pasar de HALO en la preparatoria a OELA en la universidad fue algo natural para Liliana. Durante su segundo año en Boise State, sirvió como vicepresidenta de OELA, un puesto que resultó ser desafiante, ya que debía atender las responsabilidades de dicho puesto además de dos trabajos y una carga académica de tiempo completo. "Había días en que pensaba que me iba a volver loca, pero era algo que tenía que hacer," dice. "Alguien tenía que pagar los bills."

Durante el año académico 2003-2004, sirvió como presidenta de OELA. Un trágico suceso marcó el segundo semestre de su presidencia y continúa impactándola física y emocionalmente. En enero de 2004, un grupo de estudiantes de Boise State visitó Pocatello para asistir a unas conferencias en liderazgo. En el viaje de regreso, se vieron involucrados en un accidente de tránsito que dejó a Liliana severamente lesionada. "Eso te hace entender lo rápido que todo puede cambiar," destaca.

Las clases, OELA y su pronta recuperación marcaron el resto del semestre para Liliana. Pero el Freedom Bus Ride, una conferencia en liderazgo, el Cinco de Mayo y otros eventos anuales de OELA no le concedieron ni un minuto de respiro. "A pesar de que comúnmente es difícil persuadir a miembros para que colaboren activamente con la planificación de eventos", dice, "todo el mundo se veía más entusiasmado en participar después del accidente. Lo que de verdad me ayudó fue la contribución de todos los miembros de OELA. Yo no me tuve que preocupar de nada."

Aquellos que asistieron al Festival Internacional de Comida, Canción y Baile, evento anual organizado por la Asociación de Estudiantes Internacionales, seguramente recordarán el collarín que Liliana se vio obligada a usar como resultado del accidente mientras cumplía con su papel de maestra de ceremonias del festival en febrero de 2004. A pesar de que ya no tiene que usar el collarín, continúa visitando al fisioterapeuta y a otros médicos. "Mucha gente no sabe cuánto tiempo se tarda en recuperarse. Ni siquiera yo sabía cuánto duraba la recuperación de un accidente como éste," dice Liliana. Los médicos le han dicho que pueden pasar varios años antes de que se recupere por completo.

Siguiendo las recomendaciones de los médicos, Liliana está llevando un horario mucho menos exigente este año. A pesar de que el accidente la forzó a limitar sus actividades académicas y extracurriculares, ella rehúsa detenerse por completo. En el verano de 2004, trabajó en el Instituto de Liderazgo Estudiantil y con Upward Bound, dedicando tiempo a los programas que la motivaron tanto en sus años de escuela preparatoria.

Liliana se augura un gran futuro. Motivada por la doctora Alicia Garza, profesora del Departamento de Lenguas Modernas y Literatura de Boise State, espera graduarse en mayo de 2006. Su meta después de la graduación es un programa de postgrado en literatura chicana, proyecto que ya ha puesto en marcha buscando programas de postgrado en California y Arizona. "Ayudar a la comunidad latina a ser exitosa sería mi trabajo ideal," dice Liliana.

Entrevista traducida al español por Adriana Solís-Black y revisada por Enric Figueras.

Bev LaChance

"I don't think that you have to be starving to know what it may feel like to be hungry," Bev La Chance said. She grew up in a non-violent home, yet she works directly with survivors of abuse. As Director of Social Services at the Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA) in Boise, Bev works proactively to make a difference in the lives of those victimized by physical and sexual violence.

Respecting the dignity and integrity of others is the foundation upon which her personal values are established. Having never experienced the cycle of violence in her family provides her with an alternative perspective. "I know what it can be like [to live in a non-violent home]... I'm unwilling to accept violence as a normal part of life."

Her revulsion to violence began during her high school years. She witnessed male classmates barbarically "settling their differences" by engaging in after school physical fights. Gender-specific behavioral norms seemed all too often to encourage this type of violent resolution. "We shouldn't encourage that, and in my studies, and as I grew, I came to understand that this violent response was too often present in families," Bev said.

In her childhood, no one talked about domestic violence. Despite the silence, Bev's vehement opposition to violence, in any form, gave rise to her own voice. When the opportunity arose to contribute to ending violence, she stepped forward to actively participate in seeking a solution. "I believe what led me to where I am is my intense sense of outrage that people would dare to be so unkind to one another and to physically abuse or degrade another individual... unless you have individuals willing to stand up and say that it's not okay, you're going to see the cycle of violence reoccurring thought generations."

A Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling provide her with the background necessary to develop



programs designed to confront the cycle of abuse and to write grants with which to fund them. She excels at grant writing and has received an abundance of funding for the WCA over the past ten years.

Idaho Legal Aid recently acknowledged the WCA as the gold standard of non-profit organizations due to Bev's and her staff's professionalism and dedication to educating others about domestic and sexual violence. Since assuming her position as Director, Bev has expanded the Crisis Center program from six to thirty-six staff members. "The staff is a pleasure to be around. They're just great people," she said.

Each year the Crisis Center has increased its service outreach. In 2003 alone, nearly 700 new women and children were provided counseling services, which is merely one component of the larger program. The WCA has also secured two additional safe houses and opened Serena's House, an off-site facility, under Bev's leadership. A colleague commented, "Bev's ability to take social services into the realm of efficiency and effectiveness through her business savvy has rescued this agency, and thereby assisted in rescuing so many in our community."

"It is exhilarating to watch the positive strides forward that so many of our clients have made," Bev said. She stresses the significance of collaboration with numerous community agencies, educational institutions, businesses and corporations. "These partnerships are of paramount importance and aid in increasing community awareness about physical and sexual violence," she said.

Bev encourages staff to present an educational message, not an adversarial one, because she doesn't believe an antagonistic approach works. "It is important to be collegial at all times" she emphasized. She pointed out that domestic and sexual violence are family, community, national and worldwide issues, not just women's issues. "I don't want to polarize or politicize because then we may lose our ability to be heard... silence has, for too long, reigned on these issues. There may be those who think that's being too politically correct, but I don't think so, not for me," she said.

Integrity, compassion, respect and acceptance of others take priority over politics to Bev. She taught these same virtues to her two children, Chris and Lycee, whom she considers the most important legacies she will leave behind in life. "I think that they're proud that their mom is doing what they consider to be worthy work," she said. Her close relationship with her children makes it even more difficult to see destruction in families.

She remembers a 4-year-old boy who came into the WCA with his mother. He sat at the dining room table and asked Bev as she passed by, "Is this my home?" She answered affirmatively and thought that he and his mother have an opportunity to enrich their lives, even if not in an ideal home. "If we don't take care of our families, and I mean the community of families, then what's it all about?" she asked. After all, Bev considers the success of people who need the WCA the greatest reward.

By Tammy Sands. Tammy is a graduate student and instructor in the Department of Communication at Boise State University.

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Rosie Delgadillo Reilly

Brought up in a traditional Hispanic family in east Los Angeles, the rule at Rosie Delgadillo Reilly's home was "if you see something that needs to be done, just do it." Rosie carried this sentiment throughout her life, exemplified in her lifetime of community service. Rosie has always known what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Rosie attended the Catholic school across the street from her family home for 8 years, went on to an all-girls Catholic high school, and then went on to graduate from California State University, Los Angeles. Although Rosie considered going away to college, she stayed at home at the insistence of her traditional parents.

While in high school, Rosie volunteered at the Los Angeles County General Hospital as a candy stripper. The hospital was often overcrowded and under-staffed, so Rosie performed many tasks that only registered nurses were supposed to do. "There were so many people all the time - really sick people, really poor people - because it was a county hospital." Despite how busy Rosie became, she always took the time to help those in need. She used her bilingual skills to help Spanish-speaking patients feel more at ease in the chaotic surroundings. "It was scary being in that place," she said. "It would be pretty scary if you didn't know the language."

After graduating from college, Rosie worked for Volunteer's in Service to America, or VISTA, a national organization that provides solutions to problems caused by poverty. Rosie was part of a team of five volunteers sent to Vista, California to provide social services for the people in the community. "It's very hard to explain to people I was a VISTA in Vista," she laughed. She worked at a community service center teaching English as a second language, tutoring and working with Hispanic families in the area.

During her time in Vista, she helped investigate local farmers accused of creating unethical working conditions. Rosie's team of VISTA volunteers helped expose the situation and pursue social justice.

Rosie went back to school after VISTA to get her teaching degree. "I decided ... that social work was probably eighty percent teaching," she said, so it was a natural transition. Once Rosie finished her teaching degree, she married Terry Reilly. The couple made a big move from Los Angeles to Idaho.

During her first year of marriage, while also teaching, she supported her husband with his community health service center, Community Health Services Inc., which he ran out of their home. The first patients were seen in May of 1971, but it wasn't until 1972 that they received a grant from the U.S. Public Health Service. When her husband passed away in a 1986 plane crash, the clinic was renamed Terry Reilly Health Services. Rosie continues to serve as vice-chairperson of Terry Reilly Health Services which provides "access to quality health care - particularly those who are uninsured, poor, living in rural areas, non-English-speaking, homeless, or otherwise facing barriers to getting the care they need," according to their mission statement.

Along with her membership on the board of Terry Reilly, she is also on the board of many other organizations: SANE Solutions, Healthy Nampa/Healthy Youth, and Region 3 Mental Health Association. According to her sister, Teresa, "Everywhere we go, she meets someone she knows, someone whose life she has touched." This is not surprising as she has worked with The Idaho Migrant Council, the Democratic Party, the Idaho Education Association, and is a bilingual counselor with Lutheran Social Services. In addition she is the only full-time elementary school counselor at Central Canyon Elementary School in the Vallivue School District.

She has earned two master's degrees, the second being an M.Ed. at Boise State University that she earned while working full time and raising two sons as a single mother.

One of the main issues she deals with, as a counselor, is trying to help Hispanic kids fit in. "There is a lot of racism here," she said. Growing up in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, Rosie didn't run into the same kind of racism. "I was pretty protected from that. My whole world was Catholic and Mexican." She feels the situation can only be improved if steady communication is established between those of different ethnic backgrounds.

Rosie said young Hispanic women have a particular challenge growing up in Idaho. One of the problems is that they aren't included in school activities. However, she notices that more Hispanic kids are getting out into the public eye. At a recent teen-parent event she attended, two Hispanic dance groups provided entertainment. Rosie believes that kind of involvement can give young women confidence to try out for other school activities like student government. "There are lots of ways to bridge that gap. We just have to be creative," she said.

Rosie keeps a positive attitude and does what she can to help this situation. She continues to "pay for her space" in abundance by providing guidance to young children, their parents, and non-profit organizations. Though her life has not always been easy, she is always there to help make her community a better place to live in. As her nominator notes, "Rosie has been a role model for many young Hispanic women who look at her as an example of 'si se puede.'" Indeed, she is always proving that "it can be done."

By Rachel Bonilla: Rachel Bonilla is currently earning her degree at Boise State University in English with an emphasis in writing. She lives in Boise with husband, Marcus, and Chihuahua, Oreo.

Jessica Hinkle

For many young women, going to school full-time and working on the side can be overwhelming. For Jessica Hinkle, it's only the tip of the iceberg. The 23-year-old mother of three young children not only juggles school and a job, she also volunteers in her 5-year-old daughter's kindergarten class and at her 3-year-old daughter's preschool, and she splits her "down" time between homework and caring for her 9-month-old son, Bradley Jaden. Although she is married, she has been doing it all as a single mother since her husband was incarcerated more than a year ago.

When Jessica is criticized by friends for spending too much time at school and work instead of with her children, she squares her shoulders and looks to her mother for inspiration. "I'm doing it for them. I don't want them to have to struggle as hard as I have," she said. "My mother was a single mom and had to work really hard. Now she is well-known on her job and is doing well for herself."

Jessica dreams of being just as successful as her mother and of providing a stable, happy life for her family. She doesn't care about becoming rich, but she does look forward to a day when she can buy the things she needs without worrying. Although she is grateful her mother and other family members are there to help out, she's anxious for a day when she and her husband can take care of their family on their own.

"I'd like to be a normal American family - financially stable, able to take a vacation every year. I don't care if we both have to work. I like the independence of making my own money. I don't want to be a woman who, when her kids are grown up and move out,



doesn't know what to do with herself because all she did was take care of her kids," she said.

Jessica's struggles began when she was a teenager. At age 13 she moved to Idaho with her family from California and decided she didn't like Boise. In typical teenage fashion, she rebelled. That rebellion, she admits, cost her mother "a lot of money and grief." She said her mother wasn't sure during the worst of it if Jessica would even graduate from high school, but her daughter had other ideas. Tired of school and wanting to get done earlier, she enrolled at Mountain Cove High School where she could take extra classes. She graduated at age 17, pregnant with her first child, Felicity.

After her marriage to Bradley Hinkle at age 18 and the birth of their second daughter, Savannah, she began looking for a way out of her 60-hour-per-week pizza restaurant job. She enrolled in a medical assistant course, challenged the Certified Nursing Assistant exam and got her med certification.

Four years later, she's discouraged with the long hours and low wages. But making ends meet is only one incentive for her enrollment in the Criminal Justice Administration program at Boise State University.

"I decided to go to Boise State to better my life and earning capability," she said. "I've had to use a lot of social services raising my family. A lot of probation officers don't know all that stuff. It would be a big help, and people would be less likely to relapse back into criminal activity, if they and their families got the help they needed."

She hopes to one day be the kind of probation and parole officer who really helps people. Because of her husband's experience with addiction, she plans to minor in addiction studies. By learning more about the issue, she knows she can be a strength and support to someone else down the road. "There needs to be more people like that," she said.

Her friend, Jenne Francke, said Jessica is the "strongest person" she knows and an inspiration in many ways. Not only has she persevered despite challenges that would have intimidated others, but "she is proving that no matter how many obstacles you have, you can achieve your goals. She is showing her daughters and her son how to work hard to get what you want."

By Kathleen Craven: Kathleen is a communications specialist with Boise State University. In her previous life, she was a newspaper reporter/columnist following a hectic stint as a community theatre actress/director. Kathleen enjoys spending time with her husband and children, exploring nature and the arts. When she grows up, she wants to be an archaeologist.

"If you are not living on the edge, you are taking up too much room." — Jayne Howard

Peggy Bohl

As the owner of a Great Harvest Bread Company franchise, Peggy Bohl uses her role as businesswoman to promote social activism. Bread, considered a basic necessity in life, sustenance, health, fuel, money and religion, is an apt profession for Peggy, a woman devoted to helping and giving to others. "Peggy practices reverence for human rights in her business and personal life. She is positive, open-minded, and empowering to others," nominators Dr. Ingrid Brudenell and Pat Pyke said.

Peggy and her husband, Paul Bohl, moved from Denver to Montana. While living there they discovered Great Harvest Bread Company and then purchased a franchise and then moved to Boise. "I wonder if, in the beginning, my parents thought we were crazy," Peggy said, "but they ended up helping us with the move, and supporting us." That move would lead them to the Great Harvest Bread Company. The Bohls now own the 9th franchise out of 180 franchises across the country.

For the past 18 years, Peggy has recruited for, donated to and participated in the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP). Organized by the Church World Service, CROP is an annual October walk-a-thon. Proceeds go to fight hunger both locally and internationally. "We do our best to treat everyone well. We believe in generosity and donate a lot of product and excess to food banks and other programs," Peggy said.

In addition to donating food to fight hunger, Peggy's business has also made the effort to support stray dogs by making dog biscuits. "This little project we started on a whim, about five years ago. We decided to make some little fifty-cents-a-piece dog bones, which we put out thinking we might sell a few of them—the proceeds went to the Humane Society. We made over \$5,000, so we now give to Just Strays, and other shelters. It's just been amazing how this project grew, we just didn't realize how much people would support it," Peggy said.

Peggy also uses her position at The Great Harvest Company to support refugee families resettling in Boise. Peggy helps provide families with necessities such as furniture and clothing, helps families find housing, aids families in getting their social security numbers, jobs and more. Peggy has also supported refugee families by teaching them English. "I did some recordings so they could hear what the words sound like. We have a tendency to run words together, so it's fairly difficult when you're learning to speak English," she said.

Peggy's activity within the community doesn't keep her from another important aspect of her life: family. "My husband and I are business partners. It's been a good way for us to share each other's work. Our daughters have worked a little for the business, because if all four of us were on a different schedule we'd never get out of there to go on family vacations," she says. Peggy is proud that she has been an active PTO member, volunteer for schools and a frequent chaperone for school field trips.



Peggy's family, friends and church have had a great influence on her activism. Her mother was a social worker, and her caring nature for others fueled Peggy's compassion. "I don't feel like I do anymore than anybody else I know. I just enjoy helping people," she said.

Peggy's ethical business practices, her kindness and generous nature give her not only the opportunity to help others, but also the opportunity to grow as a person. She is truly a woman who combines her professional career with care, generosity and social activism. "I've raised two good daughters. I've worked along with my husband to establish a business we feel proud of. I feel like I've done some good in the community as far as the schools, churches, and charities. In the future, I hope I will continue to be a worthwhile member in the community and continue contributing to society."

By Yasmine Romero, Yasmine is a senior at Boise State University, majoring in linguistics and minoring in Japanese. She works as a writing consultant in the Boise State Writing Center.

Leah Barrett

As one of the few female Student Union Directors in the country, Leah Barrett not only makes history in what she does on the job, but also in who she is while she's doing it. Tenacious, resilient, and optimistic, Leah sees her role on Boise State's campus as one of community builder and student advocate. "Where there's a will there's a way, and my role is to help students make their way," she says with commitment in her voice.

A driven and dedicated campus leader, Leah strives to create a learning environment in the Student Union (better known as the SUB) that reflects student needs and a diversity of voices. Among her numerous responsibilities as director, Leah manages a five million dollar budget and supervises more than 40 full-time staff and 100 students who work in seven departments: Facilities and Operations, Reservations and Catering, Games Center, Campus ID, Student Activities, the Cultural Center, and the Women's Center. She quickly and humbly notes that the success of the SUB and the programs housed there is a direct reflection on the staff she supervises. However, for those who know her, it is her vision and direction that sets a tone where staff and students find pride in their jobs.

She began her career in the SUB as Assistant Director of Student Union and Activities in 1998 when the former director met her at a regional conference and was so impressed by her resume that he quickly hired her. In that position her main responsibilities were in facilities and operations, a field which predominantly consists of males. However, the gender of others in her field did not deter her from accepting the position.

Leah approached her job with enthusiasm, but faced some initial resistance from a few male contractors. During one of her first meetings with a group of contractors, she noticed that the men in the room were addressing a male she supervised instead of her. As a woman raised to believe in herself and not be limited by gender specific roles, Leah was initially surprised by their reaction, but she did not allow their antiquated attitudes to affect her approach to her position. Leah took the opportunity to expose them to a powerful and positive female leader, changing their negative attitudes about women in an historically male-dominated field.

Leah works to see the best in people, her optimistic spirit one more reason students seek her out as a positive role model and mentor. Students frequently drop by her office to talk about their experiences and to ask for her feedback in decisions. A student recently approached her for advice about pursuing a career in college student personnel. She is excited to see others interested in building college communities: "There are so many things a professional can do, from directing women's centers and cultural centers to working in campus housing to serving in student activities to working in orientation... There are so many ways to reach people."

While her job is important to her, she is the first to say that it does not solely define who she is. The daughter of a minister and a teacher, raised by an open and loving family, Leah's commitment to democratic values and diversity takes precedence in her life. She



Molly Gribb
Associate Professor of Civil Engineering

Working on a collaborative grant with Geosciences faculty to investigate the control of soil hydraulic properties of groundwater recharge in the Boise front mountain block



Julie Oxford
Associate Professor of Biology

Studying development and aging of the skeletal system with a focus on the molecular aspects of bone and cartilage structure, and onset and treatment of arthritis



Pamela Springer
Professor and Chair of Nursing

Investigating the trends and issues related to the use of criminal background checks of nursing students

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Mary Carter-Hepworth

The activism that most profoundly touches our lives often occurs outside of the public sphere. Mary Carter-Hepworth isn't an activist you might see holding up a sign in a protest or speaking at a rally. Instead, her activism extends to helping others in more subtle yet memorable ways. "I like to give, but I think I give more on a personal level than on an organizational level. If everybody gave at a personal level to one other person, the world would be a great place," she said.

Mary has worked at Boise State University in Albertson Library's Special Collections since 1984. She has begun working on her reading endorsement, similar to a teaching certificate, but with an emphasis on children's literacy techniques. "I'm not looking for a teaching job, but if I have [the reading endorsement], then I can work with the students. The gift of reading is something you can carry with you all your life," Mary said. Mary has already earned a Master of Education and taught junior high school for three years, but she still enjoys helping teachers in the classroom through volunteering.



highly values community service and takes seriously her responsibility to be fully involved in her community.

One of her most meaningful experiences comes from her involvement in the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. She worked for the Quilt for six years, coming to the project when she was just 24 years old. She was first exposed to the stories and power of the quilt in 1993 when she discovered that Wyoming, her home state, was the only state that had not yet hosted the display. Determined to bring it to Wyoming, she was named Quilt Coordinator and went to San Francisco for training. She remembers her experiences fondly as a "wide-eyed" young woman becoming acquainted with the realities of a large city.

The positive educational effects of the Quilt and the sense of community it fostered for her, fueled her commitment to the project. When she moved to Arizona State University, she continued her involvement in the project. She notes that her time there was initially challenging and she felt isolated on campus. It was her "passion and connection" to the Quilt that "saved [her]." In 1995, she was asked to travel to Washington, D.C., to serve as a coordinator there; in 1996 she helped supervise more than 11,000 volunteers to host the largest display of the Quilt to date on the Mall at D.C.; it consisted of more than 40,000 panels to honor the memories of those who had been infected with HIV and AIDS.

Recounting her experiences moved her; she remembered the hundreds of interactions she had with people milling through the panels laying on the ground. "People stopped, crouched down, and read the stories on the panels," she said. Leah patiently talked with them, providing comfort as they worked through their feelings: "What a beautiful way to deal with grief."

Leah unites her values of service, education, collaboration, and creativity in all she does, while maintaining balance in her life. However, she stressed that she cannot do it alone; Leah greatly values her relationship with her husband, Doug, who keeps her joyful; it is this healthy relationship that "keeps [her] real." She finds inspiration in his humor and credits him for her drive to succeed: "If you can wake up every morning and look in the mirror and feel good about what you're doing everyday, you're successful."

By Melissa Wintrow: Melissa is the Women's Center Coordinator at Boise State University.

"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun." — Katherine Hepburn

She cut back her hours at work in order to volunteer for Vicky Hendrix's third grade class at Collister Elementary. Mary helped with Vicky's class for four years until Vicky retired. However, Vicky influenced Mary to get her reading endorsement to further aid the students. "Teachers always inspire me. I don't think there's ever been a teacher that I haven't really looked at and seen their gift of giving back. I really believe that each of us is blessed with something and if we give back, then we proceed on carrying on those blessings," Mary said.

Mary believes that giving to others is its own reward. Giving of her time and energy, Mary has been extremely influential in the lives of others. One of the students in Vicky's class didn't talk when she began working with him because he was so shy, but by the time he moved out of third grade, "he just rattled his little heart out," Mary said. "Just watching someone change is the most exciting thing," she added.

In addition to volunteering in the classroom, Mary has volunteered with children in the community. She volunteered for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization. "It was very nice—just the interaction with young people is so much fun," Mary said. She is comfortable with all age groups, from third graders to college athletes.

During the past 20 years, she has given much of her time to tutoring students at Boise State, particularly athletes. Mary enjoyed tutoring student athletes, especially from the basketball team, because she loves sports and has been around athletics all her life. She could not only help them with their studies but "talk sports with them as well." Mary continues to assist students by providing them with historical papers to use in their research and showing them how to use library resources.

"I found a way to combine my love of history and my love of teaching because we do work with students so much," Mary said about her position in the library. After all, she has a master's degree in history and education, and the library allows her to use both.

Mary currently serves as the chair of the Women's Advisory Board at Boise State University. "Mary is always the first to volunteer whenever we need anything; she's wonderful!" said Women's Center employee, Jennifer Hartnoll. Mary helps plan many activities and retreats for the Women's Center, including events for Women's History Month.

Women's history is important to Mary because she preserves history as a career, and her grandmother, who was president of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, also conserved women's history. Her grandmother was a member for 64 years and wrote several books, using the journals of pioneer women to make sure their stories were preserved. "I always respected her love of knowledge and her love of history," Mary said.

Mary kept her own surname and added her husband's name, Hepworth, when she married. "I was so proud of my grandmother... that there was no way I was giving up being a Carter. And I would never give up my name," Mary said.

Perhaps, above all, Mary's son, Jamie, has been most inspirational to her. "I couldn't be me without having him," Mary said. She lost

Jamie to cancer after he fought it for 6 years. "He never lost his spirit, and it taught me so much. His gift to me was to really just never give up on anything and always find the positive," Mary said. She said he refused to stop learning even when he was sick and was determined to enroll for courses at Albertsons College.

"They say you've had a full life if you've found your soulmate, found your passion, and left the world better than when you came," Mary said. She believes Jamie did find his soulmate, his passion for learning, and has certainly left the world a better place. Before he passed away, Jamie volunteered at Camp Rainbow Gold, a foundation that is committed to providing a camping experience for seriously ill children at no cost. "I know his friends volunteered at Camp Rainbow Gold because [Jamie] was involved and still do, and you see the trickle down effect," she said.

The "trickle down effect" results from that personal level of giving Mary quietly advocates. Mary's philosophy of giving reflects her value of contributing anonymously to avoid detracting from the act of giving, itself. It is possible that only Mary, herself, will ever know how much she has contributed. This is truly charity.

By Tammy Sands: Tammy is a graduate student and instructor in the Department of Communication at Boise State University.

Sue Holly

Sue Holly is shaping history for those around her. As an advocate for victims of sexual assault, Sue is shaping history on a personal level. As a woman pushing for changes in Idaho law, as it relates to how sexual assault is handled, Sue is shaping the history of Idaho.

Sue was born in Pasadena, California and raised in Arcadia, California, where she graduated from high school. She began college, but after one year, Sue realized that, as she puts it, "school and I did not mix well." The extensive training that Sue has gone through and provided for other volunteers reveals a more scholastic inclination than Sue would, perhaps, claim.

After her divorce, Sue dedicated herself to helping other women in need. She began volunteering at the Women and Children's Alliance (WCA) in 1997. "I've found that a lot of women go back to volunteer because they want some way to be able to pay back because they really feel that the WCA saved their lives," she said.

She volunteered with the WCA, first on the crisis line and then on their Sexual Assault Response Team. This work entailed many hours of training so that Sue would be better equipped to assist those in crisis. In addition to responding to crisis calls, Sue provided crisis intervention, support, information, social service referrals, and guidance to victims of domestic violence and individuals in various crisis situations.

Though this work was challenging, "I soon found that the victims seldom have voices that are heard, or are unaware of their rights. I felt this was very wrong, but I certainly understood their feelings and fears, and decided there needs to be change." She continued

this meaningful work with the WCA for 4 years.

Sue moved back to California and continued her work as a victim's advocate. She began working for an organization called Project Sanctuary in Fort Bragg, California. Her position with this organization was as an Advocate Coordinator; in addition to working the crisis line and running other support services at Project Sanctuary, Sue was in charge of recruiting and maintaining volunteers who would go on to provide service to those in crisis.

In addition to organizing the volunteers at Project Sanctuary, Sue educated the Fort Bragg community by presenting to schools and other organizations in order to educate them on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

Although Sue loved her job in California, her instinct told her she needed to return to Idaho where she has spent the majority of her adult life. Sue began working with the WCA again in August of 2003, this time as a Volunteer Coordinator. In this position, Sue still responded to those in crisis personally, but she also recruited, trained, and scheduled volunteers.

In July of 2004, Sue left her position at the WCA to begin a new job at Hope's Door, a shelter in Caldwell for victims of domestic and sexual violence. At Hope's Door, Sue works as an Advocate Coordinator and an Outreach Coordinator. In this new position, Sue continues to recruit and train advocates and create and present curriculum for community education workshops on sexual assault domestic violence.

Sue believes that people must educate themselves about sexual assault in order to end it. "I believe that domestic violence is looked at as an issue, but sexual assault is something totally different. Well, the two go together. If we fight one, we need to acknowledge the other. Sexual Assault is certainly something most people do not want or like to talk about, but it sits at the core of each family, community, state and country. It needs to be looked at, and we need to talk about it ... so we can find a way to end the violence."

Working as an advocate for so long, Sue has discovered deficiencies in Idaho's system for dealing with victims. She describes her experience as an advocate: "I found myself getting so immersed in that kind of work and liking being an advocate, but I also found that the victims were not being represented in a non-biased way. Law enforcement officers were out to find the perpetrator, medical personnel were there to make sure the victim was physically okay, and the victim witness coordinator was there to see the victim through the court system," Sue explained.

Sue believes that someone who has been victimized or is in trauma needs an advocate who is solely concerned with representing the victim's voice and clearly communicating options and choices available to the victim. While law enforcement agencies work diligently to assist victims in the prosecution process, she still believes advocates separate from law enforcement agencies are valuable assets to victims.

Currently, Sue is working with a group to develop a state certified 40 hour training for advocates of sexual assault. They are also

preparing curriculums that they are trying to get permission to present at "3 Days in June," a conference on serving victims of crime. They hope to be able to get feedback on their curriculum from advocates, law enforcement, and medical personnel before presenting their method to the legislature for approval.

Sue's hope is that, once this legislature is passed, it will pave the way for more legislation regarding victim advocacy in Idaho. Sue is working on legislation that would require that all victims be provided with an advocate as soon as they contact law enforcement or a hospital. She also hopes to get a Privilege Law passed, which would give advocates amnesty from testifying in court cases.

"Sue's heart is so big and she is so passionate about providing quality support to people who have been victimized," said a woman who works closely with her. "She truly makes history on a personal level, but also on an institutional level. She is trying to create systems that change the way we think about women who have been victimized, as well as how we treat them."

By Heather Strempe-Durgin. Heather is an English major at Boise State and expects to graduate next fall.

Francelle Fritz

Some women lead lives of fame and fortune, and their stories play out on the pages of history. Francelle Fritz is not one of those women. But she is making history in her own way, a quiet, behind-the-scenes kind of way. She is also making history by sending caring, compassionate children and grandchildren out into the world.

Francelle is stable and hard working, and people can always count on her to come through for them. She is gentle, humble, compassionate and deeply spiritual. But don't be fooled. Beneath her calm, steady surface, she's as tough as nails, a woman who endured religious discrimination as a child - only to grow more compassionate and tolerant - sailed dangerous seas as a Navy WAVE - only to grow more brave and adventurous - and kept a family of fourteen together - only to grow as a successful and loving wife and mother. Now in her 80s, Francelle remains compassionate and brave and active, happy with the choices she's made. She lives independently with the love and support of her children.

Of course, with twelve children, that's an abundance of support, and they are happy to return the favor. Francelle's daughter, Anna, admires her dedication to family. "I think her greatest achievement is surviving her children," said Anna, a writer and assistant to Boise State's director of marketing and communications. "Even though she must have been tired, she still managed to attend our plays, programs, recitals and games."

Francelle felt it was important to take an interest in her children's activities, but she also believed they needed independence. "They were left to their own decisions," she said. "If they wanted to do something, why, it was up to them to figure out how to do it."

The self-reliance she and her late husband encouraged in their children helped all twelve to graduate from college on their "own dimes" and lead independent, successful lives. They were able to follow their own dreams, whether it was to be a writer, teacher, artist, social worker, counselor or accountant. In addition, all twelve children keep in touch with one another. "Her children are all close and supportive of each other and her," Anna said.

Francelle's own childhood forced her to value independence. She grew up in Cedar City, Utah, during the depression, and her father was often out of work. Her mother was a Catholic from Wisconsin who had moved to Cedar City to teach but ended up staying and marrying Francelle's father, who was from a Mormon family that disapproved of the marriage. "Some rejected him because he had married outside of the church," Francelle said.

She was the only Catholic her age in Cedar City and she often felt isolated. Some of the Mormon children would not associate with her, but she was not bitter, Anna said. "She became more compassionate ... and grateful for those Mormons who did accept her."



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During the summers of her youth, Francelle and her sisters worked for Union Pacific Railroad in the national parks of the surrounding area: Bryce, Zion and the Grand Canyon. She worked as a cabin maid and a waitress, and she had the chance to make friends outside of the small town of Cedar City. And she had fun.

"They'd have dances every night and they had their own band," she said. "Every day when the buses were going to leave, they had a sing-a-way. All the employees had to come out and there were all these songs we had to learn."

After high school Francelle attended Southern Utah State University, where she joined a Catholic club that provided the religious support she had lacked in Cedar City. Encouragement from her new friends in the club gave her the confidence to join the U.S. Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) at age 20. The WAVES were part of the World War II campaign that recruited women to support the war by working in factories and joining the service while men were overseas.

Francelle's WAVE adventure began when she was shipped off to boot camp at Hunter College in New York City, a far cry from sleepy Cedar City. Also as a WAVE, she went to the Georgia State College for Women, an experience that opened her eyes to the realities of segregation. On a bus ride to Atlanta, three African-American passengers were denied a seat because the back of the bus was full. "One of them was blind," she said. "I just couldn't believe that. I had never been around that."

Francelle's experience as a WAVE also introduced her to the dangers of war. For the last year of her service, she was stationed in Maui, Hawaii, but to get there she had to travel on a large naval vessel, weaving in and out of areas with hostile submarine activity. Looking back on her military experience, she smiles. "It was good discipline," she said. "And it made me more patriotic."

That patriotism carries over to her work today for the Idaho Women Veterans Organization. A long time member, she helped to raise money for a monument at the new veterans' cemetery that pays homage to Idaho's women veterans.

Francelle is still an active woman who believes in giving back to her community. She answers phones and works at the front desk at the Boise Senior Center, she provides church services and companionship to the residents of the Life Care Center, a local nursing home, and she volunteers at her church.

Francelle's life has included a fair share of excitement and adventure, even if they won't be writing about her in the history books. She has never been wealthy, but her memory is rich with experience and her life overflows with love and generosity toward others. She has never been famous, but is a star in the hearts of her family, her friends and the community she serves. As Anna put it, "Every day she touches the lives of others."

By Rachel Bonilla: Rachel Bonilla is currently earning her degree at Boise State University in English with an emphasis in writing. She lives in Boise with husband Marcus and chihuahua, Oreo.

Jennie Myers

"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn." -- Gloria Steinem

Jennie Myers is a 26-year-old graphic designer, instructor, feminist, and social activist. She strives to make positive social change as a graphic designer by creating a "visual voice" for others who may otherwise go unheard. She possesses the true "craft of representation." As well as being visually interesting, her work is thought provoking and influences the way that people may view a particular topic.

The majority of her work is focused on human rights issues, specifically gender equality, which she, herself, is always exploring. She would be the first to say that she is still learning and feminism was not an ideology embraced or taught to her by her family. She came to be a defender of human rights as she came to find and understand her own voice, her own needs as a woman.

Raised in a conservative Mormon family, Jennie was encouraged to pursue her goals and express her creativity, as long as they didn't interfere with the ultimate goal of being a wife and mother. Jennie attempted to fulfill expectations and was married by age 19. "Sadly, one time I remember my father distinctly going out of his way to express his pride in me was on my wedding night, a time where he judged my success based on my attachment to another person" Jennie says. "It struck me as odd that this is what he deemed success, that I was well on my way to fulfill my 'purpose' in life, to procreate." Although Jennie appreciates that working exclusively in the home fulfills some women and men, she believes that this should be a free choice a person makes and not one imposed by family or religion.

Well into three years of marriage Jennie could no longer deny that her husband did not truly support her emotionally or her educational and career goals. He told her that he was "humoring" her by "allowing" her to go to school until after graduation when he expected her to settle down, stay at home and rear his children. Through this difficult time Jennie says, "My family was feeding me with information that I couldn't make it without a man, so it was a really scary thing to get divorced."

Despite the initial fear, Jennie did get a divorce and continued her education in graphic design. She graduated with honors from Boise State University in 2001 and was hired full-time as a graphic designer in the Promotions Department of the Boise State Student Union. In her short time as a student, Jennie created a substantial portfolio, earning national awards and respect in her profession. While she was a highly sought after designer in the field, Jennie consciously chose to stay in a college setting after graduation.

A woman with a deep moral character, valuing honesty and integrity, Jennie puts her skills to work most often for social justice issues, which she models for her students as an adjunct instructor in the Art Department at BSU. She stresses to her students that it is important to be intentional about choosing a part of graphic design that's different from the norm. "Be careful what you do as a graphic designer because you are influencing society. If you choose to work for a corporation that discriminates against people, then you have a hand in that discrimination."

In addition to her work at Boise State, Jennie volunteers her time and talent for numerous non-profit groups in Boise. She creates educational materials and marketing campaigns for such organizations as Planned Parenthood of Idaho, the Idaho Women's Network, the ACLU, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Boise Queer Film Festival, and the Boise State Women's Center.

As a staff member of the Women's Center notes, "Jennie's work significantly contributes to the overall success of the center. She is so creative in her designs that she gets people interested and excited about our educational messages, in particular feminist ideals." She continued to say that art is one of the most effective ways to communicate social justice issues: "Jennie's work makes hard topics approachable and understandable, opening the door for change."

It is very important for Jennie to use her work to "uncover injustice" by "elevating the groups that inspire the human spirit and honor all



human rights." She notes that while she was taught to "love thy neighbor," that sentiment was not equally returned when she came out as a lesbian to her family.

When asked about making history, Jennie noted, "Just being queer in Idaho... from a Mormon family... and becoming who I am today is making history." While she notes that "queer rights" are important, "they are no more important than any other aspect of my identity... but it is a part of me and a part that is most attacked."

Jennie possesses many skills and talents that she intentionally uses to promote human rights and social justice issues. She is a powerful role model and mentor. Jennie transformed her life by combating strict boundaries of womanhood to create her own destiny.

Tanya Allmaras and Monica Hopkins, Jennie's friends and nominators said, "One of her greatest achievements was becoming the woman she is today, not being afraid to stick up for what she believes in." Jennie's story encourages all of us to challenge our expected roles as men and women, rather than blindly accepting our learned gender identities: unlearning is as valuable as learning.

By Melissa Wintrow: Melissa is Coordinator of Boise State Women's Center

Dr. Lois Hine

"Love is that condition in the human spirit so profound that it allows me to survive, and better than that, to thrive with passion, compassion, and style." -- Maya Angelou

For Lois Hine, education is the first step to social change - a philosophy reflected in her career and personal life. According to nominator, Cindy Clark, "she is a true activist and a compassionate change agent in Idaho and beyond.. She is an advocate for age equality as well as gender equality."

As a college professor and a member of Patient Centered Care Advisory Board, Lois promotes initiatives to promote the health of elder Americans. Because of her experience with elderly patients as a young woman, Lois knew geriatric nursing was her calling. "I love the elderly. I walk into a nursing home, and I feel at home," Lois said.

Lois works in the Department of Nursing as faculty and Clinical Coordinator at Boise State University. Her on-going dissertation focuses on confidence levels in nursing students and how the faculty can improve the quality of students' experiences. Lois said students often lose confidence because of personal problems, and the faculty needs to "provide enough tools for students to be able to handle life's mishaps and still take on the day's work." Employing the right methods to balance personal life with work is an essential skill for nursing staff: a nurse's presence and attitude impact patients. Lois's nursing experience also indicates the great impact patients have on nurses.

However, working with the elderly is not often a career goal for her students, so Lois tries to break down old stereotypes of nursing homes.

and encourages her students to see the other side of long-term care. "You get very close to these people, and you have to make the effort to see the big picture. They're at the end of their life, and you don't want them to be alone," Lois said.

Lois is now working on an initiative to help make long-term care facilities better for the patients, as well as for the staff. One method she advocates is the Eden alternative, created by Dr. William Thomas, a physician committed to making long-term care facilities more home-like. The Eden Alternative creates a comfortable environment for elder patients by focusing on eliminating loneliness, helplessness and boredom by exposing patients to such things as plants, animals, and children.

In addition to her dedication to compassionate health care for the elderly, Lois also advocates for gay and lesbian rights. As the mother of a lesbian daughter, Lois is actively involved in PFLAG (Parents Friends and Families of Lesbians, and Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons) and works to "shatter stereotypes, to celebrate diversity, and to create a world that embraces everyone," according to Cindy Clark.

When Fred Phelps, anti-gay pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, came to Boise to spread his hateful message, PFLAG volunteers, along with gay and lesbian groups, protested. Although Lois was apprehensive at first about participating in the protest, especially as a faculty member of Boise State, she did it because she felt it was important to support churches that are affirmative and compassionate toward gays and lesbians.

"I was out there protesting this one rainy, freezing cold day, and people were shouting horrible things at us, and a student came out of the church. I thought 'Oh no! I'm out!' But the student went home, got her partner, came back to the protest and thanked me," she said. In the midst of a judgmental and homophobic crowd, Lois's open attitude combined with her powerful convictions, made the student feel strong enough to face the crowd again in order to express her appreciation for Lois's support and assistance.

Creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone is a priority for Lois, especially when it comes to a person's spiritual life. While some people falsely believe that being gay means you can't be Christian, Lois emphasized that it isn't the case. There are many churches and faiths that are very affirming and supportive, regardless of a person's sexual orientation. "Your kids can go with you and sit in the pews and not feel like they shouldn't be there," Lois said.

The pastor of Lois's family's church united her daughter and her partner in September. Lois described the ceremony as having "all the same things" a wedding between a man and a woman would have, including rings, flowers, music and a three tiered cake. Although gay marriage is not recognized in Idaho, Lois proudly submitted the announcement to the local papers.

"I think our nation's very young, and people need information. It's going to take people going ahead and having the ceremonies and opening the eyes of the community. If one starts and goes forward, then others will follow," Lois said.

Her nominator notes that, "Lois is not only a voice for people, but is also a voice for animals." She volunteers her time as an animal rescuer saving abandoned dachshunds providing a safe home for them until a permanent home can be found. "Her greatest achievements are her work for those who need a voice and an advocate, the gay community, the elderly, and abandoned animals. She is loyal, compassionate, kind, decent, and loving. All of that, along with being very smart and a fine friend to all who know her."

By Tammy Sands: Tammy is a graduate student and instructor in the Department of Communication at Boise State University.

Dr. Cheryl Schrader

Cheryl Schrader proves that a woman can do anything. Though the fields of science, math, and engineering predominantly contain men, Cheryl is blazing trails as an influential woman in the engineering field. Her position as the Dean of the College of Engineering at Boise State University demonstrates to women and other underrepresented people in the field that they, too, can be successful as long as they are determined.

As a young woman, Cheryl considered becoming a math teacher. This seemed an acceptable goal for women at that time, but Cheryl's father had different ideas about her future. He encouraged Cheryl to disregard the gender stereotypes of what were "appropriate" occupations and consider jobs that she would truly be interested in. Cheryl took his advice and decided to pursue engineering.

Her academic career began at Valparaiso University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with high distinction. She planned on attending graduate school after earning her bachelor's degree, but never considered becoming a professor until one of her professors, with whom she worked, suggested the option. "I really know how important it is to plant that seed of an idea because sometimes you underestimate yourself and what you could do," Cheryl said.

Cheryl decided to postpone graduate school for one year to explore being an instructor at Valparaiso. She loved the job and excelled in the instructor role, so she decided to pursue her graduate degrees.

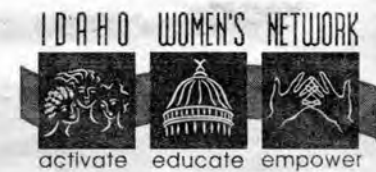
Cheryl applied to the University of Notre Dame and was accepted. Even in graduate school, Cheryl was noticeable. She was the only female from the United States studying Electrical Engineering at Notre Dame. She continued to teach in graduate school, assisting a professor with his lecture of engineering students. It was at Notre Dame that she earned a Master of Science in control systems and went on to earn her Ph. D., also in control systems.

After she finished her Ph.D., Cheryl obtained a faculty position at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She spent twelve years as Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas. Cheryl also earned the position of Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Engineering and the College of Sciences at the same institution.

Cheryl's husband and nominator, Jeff Schrader, put her career into perspective for those outside the engineering field: "Cheryl is one of only a handful of women in the United States who have gone on to become the Dean of a College of Engineering. Little did I know in the late 1980s, while accompanying Cheryl to a lecture given by the only female engineering dean in the country, that in a few short years Cheryl would be serving in such a role herself!"

Cheryl's illustrious career extends beyond her work as a professor and dean. She has published a vast number of articles, many of which appeared in the magazines of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

In addition to her publishing relationship with the IEEE, Cheryl recently concluded her term as president of the IEEE Control Systems Society. Cheryl's husband, Jeff, pointed out that the Society is "an international professional engineering organization of 10,000 members world wide." He, again, put her accomplishments into perspective for those of us outside the engineering field: "In the fifty years of



MISSION

The Idaho Women's Network unites the voices and interests of Idaho women, families and communities. Through community organizing, advocacy and education, we strive to strengthen democracy and promote human rights.



Through multi-issue education and grassroots organizing, we work to improve the policy climate, develop and promote values-based policies and build political power among those who are the most disenfranchised and underrepresented. By working together and sharing power in the political arena, all women will have greater influence on the policies that impact their lives.



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its existence, the IEEE Control Systems Society has elected only two women to that office. Yet Cheryl was able to strengthen the society and expand its influence through a number of innovations." Cheryl continues to serve on the Society's Executive Committee.

Cheryl has been the recipient of many prominent awards. In 2002, she won the Engineering Excellence Award from Steven Myers and Associates and was previously named one of the 40 under 40 Rising Stars by the San Antonio Business Journal. In 2003, Cheryl won the Exemplary Online Course Award from WebCT. Additionally, in 2003, the National Science Foundation held a workshop entitled *After Graduation: Women in Control Taking a Leadership Role* in Cheryl's honor.

Cheryl's achievements motivate her to encourage students who are underrepresented in engineering. She described her philosophy: "There are a lot of people who don't go into science or math because of certain stereotypes ... We have often talked about the 'pipeline' into engineering, which seems to indicate that there's only one way to do it. I would rather view it as 'pathways.' There are many different ways [into these fields], but you often need to go out and just encourage people."

Despite all her accomplishments, Cheryl feels most rewarded by the results of her own hard work encouraging other, non-traditional students to enter the field. She related her feelings about the changing face of the science, math, and engineering fields: "It really validates you and it is empowering to enter a room of people who are interested in the same things you are interested in and they look like you." Cheryl is living proof that, as she says, "things can change."

By Heather Strempe-Durgin: Heather is an English major at Boise State and expects to graduate in the fall.

"I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood. That the speaking profits me, beyond any other effect."

—Audre Lorde

Maria Andrade

Maria Andrade's entire life has revolved around striving for human rights, both in her professional life and in her private time. In addition to owning and operating her own law practice, Maria is an active board member of the Idaho Hispanic Caucus and Research Group, Northwest Workers Justice Project, and a former board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho. She has worked on projects with the Idaho Citizen's Action Network (ICANNI), the Idaho Women's Network (IWN), United Vision for Idaho (UVI), and other local civil rights and social justice groups in Idaho.

Shortly after receiving her undergraduate degree from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Maria working in low-income housing development and tenant organizing as a volunteer with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). The JVC sends its volunteers to live and work in the most economically challenged neighborhoods in the country. Participants are given a small stipend and expected to live among the people whom they serve, giving them a unique understanding of life in poor communities.

Her experience with the JVC proved her first-hand knowledge of the economic and societal challenges faced by poor urban communities. As Maria explained, "I didn't feel like I understood enough about what the realities were." She describes her volunteer experience as having a tremendous impact on her life, inspiring her to pursue a career reflecting her value of social justice.

Maria's experience cemented her desire to attend law school. She deferred enrollment at the University of Notre Dame Law School to write for *MesoAmerica*, a small publication in San Jose Costa Rica that analyzed politics in Latin America. Maria remains interested in Latin American politics and currently is working on an international law complaint to be filed in Mexico against the United States government under the North American Free Trade Agreement. The complaint alleges that the U.S. violated the NAFTA Labor Side Agreement by failing to protect foreign nationals from abuse; these foreign nationals legally come to the U.S. to work on a temporary basis. The complaint recounts the story of sixteen working from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras and their mistreatment in Idaho and Montana.

Maria returned to the United States after seven months in Central America determined to make a positive impact in the lives of the underrepresented. She believes that, in order to change the system, one must first learn how it works. Maria explains, "If you're poor, or you speak with a strong accent, or don't speak English at all, the institutions of power typically do not respond to you. As a lawyer, there is a way provide people who would otherwise be ignored, a means to make the institutions and the people that run them, respond. You can be a really effective advocate."

Even in law school, Maria managed to continue her travels and her advocacy efforts: in her second year at law school, Maria worked with Amnesty International in London and later worked in immigration and refugee law at El Rescate in Los Angeles and on civil rights issues at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City. Upon graduation she represented farm workers on employment and immigration law matters in Eastern Oregon. After representing organizations such as the National Council of La Raza and Consumers Union on education, health care and telecommunications issues at the law firm Public Advocates in San Francisco, Maria returned to the Northwest to become the managing attorney at the Oregon Law Center's Eastern Oregon Regional Office in Ontario, Oregon. It was in this capacity that Maria became acquainted with like-minded professionals such as IWN, ICANN, UVI and IPSA who were actively working on the Farm worker Minimum Wage Campaign.

Currently, Maria lives and works in Boise. In her work as an attorney, Maria is still fighting for the underrepresented as she practices primarily immigration, employment and civil rights law. Her nominator, Rose Daniel, describes Maria's dedication: "She donates many hours of her precious time to help the unfortunates caught up in the immigration application process and to help educate the public on their constitutional rights."

When asked what she considered to be the most important issues that she worked on she states plainly, "The lack of procedural



protections for immigrants in deportation proceedings and the influence of politics on immigration law." Maria explains that because immigration proceedings are deemed administrative and civil in nature, there are no court-appointed defense lawyers. Immigrants do not have to be told if they will be deported if they plead guilty to certain criminal charges, and the standard rules of evidence and procedure that apply in other court cases do not apply. "It just isn't fair. Many long time legal permanent residents cannot afford a lawyer to help them navigate through the complexities of immigration law. Yes, sometimes they make mistakes and violate the law, but many have U.S. citizen spouses and children and deserve the chance to put on a solid defense before being separated from their families."

As an example of politicization of immigration law, Maria cites the criminal case of Sami Al-Hussayen and he and his wife, Maha's, immigration case (Maria and co-counsel, Monica Schurtman represented Maha Al-Hussayen in her immigration case). "I remain convinced that somebody at the Department of Justice intentionally issued a press release that was designed to discredit Maha Al-Hussayen and create an environment that made it virtually impossible for her to continue fighting to stay in the United States to be with her husband during his criminal trial. I remain convinced that the harsh tactics used against Maha Al-Hussayen were, at least in part, designed to put strain on the Al-Hussayen family in general and influence the criminal case against Sami."

Whether she is in the courtroom or facilitating a workshop on civil rights, Maria Andrade is working towards a more equitable society. Her nominator describes Maria as "tenacious" and says, "Maria is the model of a young woman full of purpose and determination and she will fight like a lioness" for the civil rights of others.

By Tara Farmer: Tara is currently a political science major in her senior year. After graduating in May, she intends to save and simultaneously travel the world. She will start by serving a mission for her church.

"We inhabit ourselves without valuing ourselves, unable to see that here, now, this very moment is sacred; but once it's gone -- its value is incontestable."

—Joyce Carol Oates



Judge Deborah Bail

Deborah Bail, now a fourth district court judge in the state of Idaho and the first woman to hold this seat, has come a long way since her days working with Boise's Legal Aid office. After attending college and law school in Oregon, Deborah came to Boise on a fellowship for new attorneys. She worked through the Boise Legal Aid Office and slowly began to make a name for herself in the community. Her impact on the lives of those around her was not yet apparent, but it would soon be clear that her future held great things.

Deborah grew up in a large family moving from state to state. Before she went to college at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon, she toyed with the idea of being a doctor but finally settled on law. After attending law school, she accepted a fellowship with the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship program and began her career.

Although Deborah faced challenges as a woman in a male-dominated field, Deborah used her role to help people in need. During her early years in law, Deborah initiated the opening of one of the first shelters for battered women in Boise. Emergency Housing Services aided women and children who were desperate to escape homes filled with violence.

Deborah has made this pattern of compassion and initiative - one that offers hope to the hopeless - a foundation to her life and career. The fellowship prepared Deborah for the career of service she was about to begin.

Twenty-one years have passed since Deborah became the first woman on the bench in Idaho's district court. Today, a handful of female judges join her, though it has not always been an easy position to hold. Typically, once judges are appointed to the district court, they are fairly safe in maintaining their positions. This was not the case for Deborah. In 1986, after only serving a few years on the bench, a male attorney challenged her position and threatened to take her place. The soft-spoken, reserved woman, who claims she is still getting over her shyness, went door-to-door convincing voters that she deserved to keep her position. "Well, I wasn't just going to roll over," she said. Her work paid off, and she retained her position.

Aside from political competition and gender bias, Deborah overcame additional challenges along her chosen path. As a single mother with a demanding career serving the community, she used her creativity and strength to pull her through on many occasions. With a smile she talks about her fifteen-year-old daughter. Deborah relays stories of her little girl at the courthouse playing cards with the bailiffs and entertaining herself as she waited for her mother to finish with work so they could return home.

With an infant, Deborah struggled to work around her demanding schedule as a busy district judge. Deborah can still remember

swaddling her baby daughter and taking her out into the night after she had received a phone call that the jury was back and she needed to go to the courthouse. Mother and baby set off together and went to work. Deborah did her work as her baby daughter slept on the floor in the courtroom wrapped tightly and warmly in her blanket.

Perhaps memories like these caused Deborah to turn down an opportunity to apply for a seat on the Idaho Supreme Court when her daughter was just a baby. Recognizing that taking a Supreme Court seat would call for serious personal sacrifices, Deborah determined that her current position held the best opportunity to balance her career and her daughter. Sacrificing their relationship was not an option.

Clearly, Deborah is irreplaceable in the district court. While her list of tasks can range from marriage ceremonies to criminal proceedings, her unwavering resolve to rule in the right and on behalf of those in need cannot be more apparent than in some of her recent work regarding Idaho's public schools.

As many of Idaho's rural children go each day to a school wrought with hazards such as mold, lead paint, crumbling walls and dangerous chemical fumes, Deborah attempts to make sense of the situation and give the children the education and environment they deserve.

While local tax dollars are legally mandated to build and maintain schools within their district, not all districts are created equal. Deborah has ruled it unconstitutional to force Idaho's communities to rely on local property taxes in order to fund school construction. Many communities simply cannot afford it and continue to have dilapidated schools.

Deborah is up to great scrutiny regarding her rulings in this case, but she does not waver. Many rural schools are not able to raise the funds necessary to make repairs or build new schools. However, the legislature has also refused to take responsibility for the burden these construction costs will levy on the state's budget. The issues continue to go back and forth in this case.

The Idaho Supreme Court ruled this summer in response to the legislature's attempt to allow district judges to force heavier taxes on property owners in order to repair run-down schools. The Supreme Court found it unconstitutional to direct the court to impose this tax on the citizens.

The litigation thus continues before Judge Bail as state and local legislators continue to deny responsibility for crumbling schools and our children's safety is put in jeopardy each school day.

Judge Bail holds firm in the protection of Idaho's small, rural communities and is resolved to have justice prevail and give all of Idaho's children a safe atmosphere in which to learn.

By Rory Williamson: Rory is new to Boise, but she is a veteran of the Women's Center at the University of Virginia. She has spent the past two years working as an investigator on behalf of death row inmates in Idaho and California. In Boise, she works as a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in an ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

- Mother Teresa

WOMEN OF COLOR ALLIANCE



The Women of Color Alliance strives to unite women of color in a strong common bond, so that women can change destructive racial disharmony by actively leading our families and society, honoring our powerful cultural diversity, and responding to humanity's call for love, respect, compassion, and service.

Please visit our website
www.wocaonline.org
for information on our current projects and programs:

- Hosting the Women's Campaign School at Yale in Idaho
- *WOCA Speaks* TVTV program
- Internalized Racist Oppression Workshops
- Annual WOCA Conference in April
- Raising awareness about the impact of the "S" word
- Letter-writing campaign to bring justice to the murdered women of Juárez, Mexico
- Fair trade program



Membership is open to all women.

Membership Dues:
\$250 Organization
\$25 Family
\$20 Friend/Supporter
\$10 Student/Elder



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MARCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Women's History and Women's Equality

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Noon.....Hatch CD Ballroom, Student Union
Presented by Lynn Lubamersky, Associate Professor of History.
Knowing the achievements and excellence of our foremothers empowers all feminists in their efforts to finally reach the goal of women's equality.

Coffeeshouse Concert Series, Rochelle Smith

Thursday, March 3, 2005

5:00pm-7:00pm.....Brava! Stage, Student Union
Rochelle Smith, who performs original acoustic rock music, has a soothing voice with powerful meaning.

Student Union Classic Performance Series:

Featuring Linda Wang

Saturday, March 5, 2005

8:00 pm.....Boise State Special Events Center
At age nine, Linda Wang made her violin solo debut with Zubin Mehta and the New York Philharmonic. Since that time, Ms. Wang has been enchanting audiences with exceptional performances at many concert venues. For Ticket information call: 426-1230

Shelled (film)

Monday, March 7, 2005

7:00 pm.....Lookout Room, Student Union
A documentary of the art created by women who dared to step out of the confines of mass media, unrealistic fashion culture and the very shells that bound them.

The Sisters of '77 (film)

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

5:30pm.....Boise State Women's Center 1605 University Drive
On an historic weekend in November 1977, 20,000 women and men attended the first federally funded National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, where they revolutionized the women's movement.

Current Women's Health Issues

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

7:00pm.....Farnsworth Room, Student Union Building
A panel of BSU nursing professors will present information and lead discussion on women's health needs, political health issues, and political action.

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

Thursday, March 10, 2005

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm.....The Grove Hotel, Boise
The Idaho State Bar will host a special evening and dinner to honor the first 50 women members of the Idaho State Bar. Tickets: \$50 (includes dinner). For info call Diane Minnich at (208) 334-4500.



Women's History Month National Juried

Exhibition Reception

Friday, March 11, 2005

5:30pm - 7pm.....Student Union Gallery
Exhibition runs February 24 through March 30
From 310 entries submitted by 96 women artists nationwide, the jurors selected 36 works by 24 artists, two of which are from Idaho.

Money Wi\$e Women Forum

Saturday, March 12, 2005

9:30 am - 4:00 pm.....The Grove Hotel, Boise
FREE ADMISSION, includes lunch. Workshop topics include financial fitness, debt reduction, estate planning, and much more. Sponsored by State Farm, Angela Webb, Insurance Agency, Inc., Michelle Guth, Mann Mortgage, BSU Women's Center and Northwest Nazarene University. For more info or to register visit <http://www.moneywisewomen.net> or contact Angela Webb at 342-7728.

A Good Uplift (film & workshop)

Saturday, March 12

6:00 pm- 8:00 pm.....Jordan D Ballroom, Student Union
Presented by directors Faye and Eve Lederman from New York.
Followed by a Body Image Workshop for women pre-teens through adult, offering a critical look at body image. Sponsored by: The Boise Co-Op, The Flicks, Boise Weekly, Mountain West Bank, KNIN Channel 9, 107.9 Lite FM & Mix 106.

Beyond The Da Vinci Code:

The Historical Mary Magdalene

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

7:00pm.....Barnwell Room, Student Union
Presenter: Dr. Lisa McClain, Assistant Professor of History, Director of Gender Studies. Who was Mary Magdalene, really? In the midst of competing arguments, we'll separate fact from speculation while discussing a woman portrayed as the apostle to the apostles, the worst of sinners, and the most elevated of saints.

Coffeeshouse Concert Series, Paradigm

Thursday, March 17, 2005

5:00pm-7:00pm.....Brava! Stage, Student Union
Paradigm's melodic alternative rock sound and live shows have caught the attention of the music industry and continue to attract a significant fan base.

Anne Applebaum

— lecture and book signing —

Monday, March 28, 2005

7:00pm.....Jordan Ballroom, Student Union

2004 Pulitzer Prize Winner for non-fiction for her book *Gulag: A History*, Anne Applebaum is a columnist and member of the editorial board of the Washington Post. Her first book, *Between East and West: Across the Borderlands of Europe*, described a journey through Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus, then on the verge of independence. Her most recent book, *Gulag: A History*, was published in April 2003 and narrates the history of the Soviet concentration camps system, describing daily life in the camps.



~ All events are **FREE** to the public unless otherwise noted. ~

For More Information about the events listed on the calendar contact the Boise State Women's Center at (208) 426-4259