March is Women’s History Month

THE Boise State Women’s Center PRESENTS

IDAHO WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

two thousand and five

Maria Andrade    Rosie Delgadillo Reilly    Mary Carter Hepworth    Beverly Ann Kendrick
Laurie Appel    Julie De Lorenzo    Dr. Lois Hine    Beverly LaChance
Deborah Bail    Susan Emerson    Jessica Hinkle    Wendi Story McFarland
Leah Barrett    Francelle Fritz    Sue Holly    Jennie Myers
Peggy Bohl    Dr. Heike Henderson    Gene Nora Jessen    Dr. Linda Petlichkoff

Liliana Rodriguez    Dr. Sandra Schackel
Dr. Cheryl B. Schrader    Adriana Solis-Black
Shannel Stinner    Brooke Tyler
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 textbooks 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.

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, 208-426-4259.

Criteria for selection:

Nominations are selected based on how they are “making history” challenging sexist stereotypes and norms, working/advocating for equity 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 (race, gender, 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 in more formal ways to pursue a degree in nursing.

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 women's rights and equal opportunity. In the early 1990's, she began to shape her goal of building her own business. Her inspiration not only created her growing businesses, "Angel Essence" and "International Treasures," but 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 funding 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 "most important 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. Beverly "taught me that no matter what 'handicap' someone may be born with, they have very special things to offer."

"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. 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."

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

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.
Adriana Solis-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 Solis-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, and fall. She left behind a Spanish-speaking culture for an English-speaking one. She gave up volcanoes for flatlands. 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 in her mother’s and aunt’s home. 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. They taught me the work I do, I do in honor of their tradition.

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, Zad, later moved to Chico, 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. “I did do it, they knew 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 aided Spanish-speaking clients about debt cases, translated documents to Spanish and interpreted for refugees. She is a board member of the Women of Color Alliance, a member of the Progressive Student Alliance, and the Organization 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 assimilated and achieved 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

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, Ill. As a young member of the Civil Air Patrol, she learned all she could about airplanes and took the first step toward aviator life. When she got her license, she said, she knew she wanted to do something different.

Gene Nora Jessen realized that if she was going to become a private pilot, she’d have to make sacrifices. She’d have to take aviation classes and go to college, so she worked at a job to fund her education and save money. She also saved money by working at a flight school. She worked 16 hours and a day and a half each day to afford her education.

In 1961, she heard about a research project at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, researching women pilots. She was interested in the project but didn’t think she could afford it. Women pilots were respected because they had experience as fighter pilots, but women were not allowed to hold that title. She submitted her application and was accepted into the program.

Since the university was far away from her home, she quit her job only to have the project scuttled by NASA at the eleventh hour. She was given a leave of absence, and she quit her job. She ended up getting a job with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington, D.C. She was given a leave of absence and was sent to the program in New Mexico. She became one of the 13 women who passed the tests and was thrilled to learn that she would participate in the second phase of the program.

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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 cardboard 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," interweaving 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 photographic 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 lynching 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 student's 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 Afghan woman in 'Under the Bonnet', 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 vagina. "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, mentor, 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 Wintro: 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
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 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 Jaycees' booth, selling fresh corn-on-the-cob with her family. "We went to events all the time, raising money—maybe that was 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.

Julie established her career as a Realtor and became a new mom, and she and her husband wanted to donate their time to good causes. "We felt like we had 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 the community. Each year, ACAP holds events to raise money, particularly for housing projects for homeless people. Julie co-founded a golf tournament fundraiser benefiting Habitat for Humanity, and participated in 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 received 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 standing, like a building or a monument, Julie was intrigued with the idea of the memorial. She succeeded in getting a grant of $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 also a compassionate advocate for human rights. The center is dedicated to promoting education, and Julie contributed artwork on posters last year with the logo "Helping Hands" which is never been sold. Julie believes this program is instrumental in educating young people about the possible consequences of harassment, and she feels especially since someone who has contemplated suicide in junior high school due to excessive bullying.

Another project they are involved in is the development of a manual for Spanish-speaking educators 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 complete, 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. The center is dedicated to promoting education, and Julie contributed artwork on posters last year with the logo "Helping Hands" which is never been sold. Julie believes this program is instrumental in educating young people about the possible consequences of harassment, and she feels especially since someone who has contemplated suicide in junior high school due to excessive bullying.

During her tenure at the center, Julie has also worked on a campaign called "Helping Hands," which aims to provide assistance to those in need. She has been involved in various fundraising events and has helped to raise funds for the center's programs. Julie believes that by working together and sharing resources, we can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

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 he's doing, and what his dreams are," Laurie said. "When I join onboard with them, they say, '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 clinics; she visits their homes. She works weekly with clients and their entire family for two 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.

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 capsize 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 it, I've been seeing some great results: emotional releases, people recalling memories of injury, of accidents; I've had children in my lap untwisted into what feels like almost a birthing process, rebirth, if they had a traumatic birth. I've had adults do that as well," Laurie said.

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 young adult, Laurie was sent to a Vocational-Technical school. Her teacher'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," Laurie said. "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. "Laurie is understanding," the client said. "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 more messages, 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 drug, 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 "help 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."
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 fifteen new courses and personally advised all German majors and minors.

Heike was excited to take on the challenge of developing programs that 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 a very self-definition of a very homogenous society, but that has changed. Turkish women writers are a part of today’s Germany," he 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 Lubomirski, 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, to fundraise for the creation and establishment of the Murray School of Irish Dance. The instructor for the school lives in 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 wanted 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
Susan is a major advocate for having voices to be heard. As a board member and former chair at TVT, 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 have that one 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 Besilla

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 Hartnell said.

Shannel grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Her parents divorced when Shannel was young. She vaguely remembers her alcoholic father but 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 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 from 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 met the kids there. "I just think that time, Shannel attended Boise State University, and constantly worked on paperwork so that Aziz's father, Manu, 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 doesn't think of 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 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. Unique way, she does this 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 public, with her community involvement. She is a role model and an inspiration, not just for her son, but for all who know her.

By Yamme Romero

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 underestimated. 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, 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 benefitted 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.
Brooke Tyler

When Brooke and I meet, she is standing at the counter of 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 self-care 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 changed the way we think of gender and identity. At 41, 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, she asked, go to the trouble and expense of altering our package? Because, she said, “that’s just 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 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...
Women Making History

March 2005

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'll better understand history," she said. "After all, thoseiterate 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 their 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 long nights writing term papers while 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 Cutler, 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 her goal. Upon filling out Sandra's graduate school recommendation, Cutler 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 was accepted into graduate school and began classes in Fall 1980.

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. Her West, an organization for female faculty and professional staff, was pushing for the center and Sandra aligned herself with the group. "They finally made the administration listen to our plea 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, mixed Sandra's 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 that they can do any subject and think about their 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 Rodriguez

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

Liliana Rodriguez podría ser pequeña en estatura, pero tiene grandes anhelos y una gran determinación. Liliana es una estudiante universitaria de primera generación. Nacida en Black-foot, Idaho, Liliana pasó 15 años de su vida en las campiñas de Ecuador. Durante su estancia en el extranjero, se crio en un hogar bilingüe, donde aprendió español, que siempre quiso para sus padres. Después de emigrar a los Estados Unidos, sus padres se dedicaron a trabajar en los campos. Liliana siempre quiso 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 multietnicos en Boise State University y, algún día, su doctorado. Su prima, Teresa, quien cursó sus estudios en negocios internacionales, en su inspiración. Liliana espera poder ser un buen ejemplo para su hermana menor, Blanca, 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 y participa en diferentes organizaciones, como Upward Bound, una organización que promueve la educación y el desarrollo de estudiantes de bajos ingresos. Liliana es también parte de la Asociación de Estudiantes Multiétnicos (ASME), donde trabajan para garantizar que todos los estudiantes tengan igual oportunidad de éxito académico.

La experiencia de Liliana como trabajadora agrícola impulsó el activismo de Liliana por los derechos de los trabajadores. Como miembro de ASME, se opone al racismo y al énfasis en el trabajo agrícola, y busca involucrarse en la comunidad estudiantil y en diferentes organizaciones, y en sus actividades en las que participa desde su primer semestre en la universidad. Liliana está comprometida con la lucha por los derechos humanos de los trabajadores y ha sido una voz fuerte en la lucha por la igualdad de género. En su tiempo libre, Liliana practica el activismo político, y ha participado en varias campañas y movimientos sociales, incluyendo el Movimiento de Estudiantes de Boise State (MABS), donde ha sido una voz fuerte para defender la educación y los derechos de los estudiantes.
Bev La Chance

"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 revolution 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, 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 individual 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. Bev excels at grant writing and has received an abundance of funding for the WCA over the past ten years.

La 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 Serenitas House, an affiliate 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. Bev's close relationship with her children makes it even more difficult to see destruction in families.

She remembers a six-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, neither will our families, nor our 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.
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 striper. The hospital was often overcrowded and understaffed, 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 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 persuade 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 1980 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 North, 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 MAEd 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 dealt 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 many 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 of Boise State University in English with an emphasis in writing. She lives in Boise with her 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 22-year-old mother of three young girls is not only juggling 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's 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 being a woman," said her 20-year-old daughter, Jennifer. "She looks for a day when she can buy the things she needs without worrying. Although she is grateful her other 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 she 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 12-hour-per-week pizza restaurant job. She enrolled in a medical assistant course, challenged the Certified Nursing Assistant exam and got her medical 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 France, said Jessica is the "strongest person" she knows and has 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 Crowns 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, noted by Ingrid Bruedell and Pat Ryke.

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. Peggys 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-cent-pieces of 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 teaching 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.

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 monitors 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 predominately 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 this 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 on pursing 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
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 giving is much more personal level than on an organizational level. If everybody gave at a personal level to one another 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 teaching 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 time and reading endorsement, then I can work with the students. The value 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.

She cut back her hours at work in order to volunteer for Vicki Hendrix’s third grade class at Collister Elementary. Mary helped with Vicki’s class for four years until Vicki retired. However, Vicki influenced Mary to get her reading endorsement to further aid the students. “Teachers have been a wonderful teacher that I haven’t really looked at and seen their gift of giving back. I really believe that each of us if we lived it, then we would do something as a gift. We would do something as a gift, then we would get a gift, and the kids would learn and feel good about it,” 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 Vicki’s class didn’t talk when she began working with him. He was very 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. “You’re comfortable with all age groups, from third graders to college athletes.”

During the last 20 years, she has given much of her time to tutoring students at Boise State, particularly athletes. Mary enjoys tutoring student athletes, especially from the basketball team, because she loves sports and has been around academics all her life. She could not only help them with their studies but “talk sports with them as well.” Many 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, 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,” said Women’s Center employee, Jennifer Hartholl. Many 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 of Daughters of the American Revolution 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 going to be a Carter. And I would never give up my name,” Mary said.

She has been a role model for her children. “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 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 Albertson College.

“They say you’ve had a full life if you’ve found your soulmate, found your passion, and left the world better when you came,” Mary said. “He believed in me more than I thought I believed in myself. He was my biggest supporter, my biggest cheerleader.”

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. “Giving anonymously, avoid distracting from the act of giving itself. It is possible only Mary herself, will ever know how much she has contributed. This is truly charity.”

By Tammy Sand, 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 Fassaden, 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 sophisticated 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 want to be away because they don’t want to be in the workforce, but they want to be able to pay back because they feel like they WCA saved their lives,” she said.

She volunteered with the WCA, then 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, Sue 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.

"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun." — Katherine Hepburn
embrACE is a support group for families and individuals interested in developing friendships and providing social and educational opportunities for multiracial families and their children whether they be adoptive, biological, or foster in origin.

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 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 WAVES—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 concerts."

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 was it up to us 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 dime, 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. "Their 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."

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that makes hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

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Women Making History


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 day, a time when he judged my success based on my attachment to another person," Jennie says. "It struck me as odd that this was 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 honoring 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 portfolio of graphic design that is 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 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, particularly 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 "elaborating 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.

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 older 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 student 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 these mishaps and still thrive 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' 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 lives, 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 the 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 gay daughter, Lois is actively involved in PFLAG (Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians, and Gays, 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 affirmitive 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 can't do it! 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 affirmitive 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 rescue saving abandoned dogs and giving them a safe home, as well as practicing more often at the university for men and women for a period of time. 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 true friend to all who know her.

By Tammy Sanders, 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.

At a young woman, Cheryl considered becoming a math teacher. This seemed an acceptable goal for women at that time, but her 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, but never considered becoming a professor until one of her professors, whom she worked for on her thesis, suggested the option. "I really didn't 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 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 a Dean of a College of Engineering. Little did I know in the late 1980's, 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 magazine 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

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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 (ICANN), 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 worked 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 MesaAmerica, 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, and these foreign nationals legally came 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 to provide people who would otherwise be ignored, a means to make the institutions and the people that 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 this capacity, 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 underprivileged 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 the 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. 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 Sam Al-Hussayen and his wife, Mahal's, immigration case (Maria and co-counsel, Monica Schurman represented Mahal 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 Mahal 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 Mahal Al-Hussayen were, at least in part, designed to put strain on the Al-Hussayen family in general and influence the criminal case against Sam."

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 Perginal 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 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

avoiding 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 sat 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 require her personal sacrifice, Deborah determined that her current position held the best opportunity to balance her career and her daughter. Sacrificing her 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, leaky 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 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 districts' 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 legislatures 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
MARCH
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Women’s History and Women’s Equality
Thursday, March 3, 2005
Noon Hatch CD Ballroom, Student Union
Presented by Lynn Lubomirsky, Associate Professor of History
An examination of the achievements and excellence of our foremothers’ efforts to finally reach the goal of women’s equality.

Coffeehouse Concert Series, Rochelle Smith
Thursday, March 3, 2005
6:00pm-7:00pm, Bravo 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
8:00pm, Boise State Special Events Center
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
An on-campus 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
6:30pm-10:00pm, 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 Manitch at (208) 334-1500.

Beyond The Da Vinci Code: The Historical Mary Magdalene
Wednesday, March 16, 2005
7:00pm, Barnwell Room, Student Union
Presented by 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.

Coffeehouse Concert Series, Paradigm
Thursday, March 17, 2005
5:00pm-7:00pm, Bravo 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 camp system, describing daily life in the camps.

Money WiSE Women Forum
Saturday, March 12, 2005
9:30am-4:00pm, 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.

A Good Uplift (film & workshop)
Saturday, March 12
6:00pm-8:00pm, Jordan D Ballroom, Student Union

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.