Women's Herstory Month 2008

Women through the life cycle

holly hayman
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denise wingett
amie herzfeld
lisa brassay
marta grooms-ramer
jennifer williams
audra green
jane gesser
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robbie sonder
amy jalman
susan smith
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lindsey rhodes
jenna clark
kim baharani
arya kristen
sandra leader
mary ann
mike smith
lead grace moving
happy pride being
bring pride
lead grace moving
happy pride being
produced by the Boise State University Women's Center

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why celebrate women's history?

The following excerpt was taken from the National Women's History Project Web site:

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

Yet in 1992, a national study found that history texts devote only two to three percent of their total content to women. Educators are willing, often eager, to introduce women's history. But they lack materials and support. Only three percent of educational materials focus on women's contributions. Yet recently, legislatures in three states—Illinois, Florida, and Louisiana—mandated teaching women's history in their K-12 classes. The need for more accurate information about women's historical contributions is further confirmed in a recent poll funded by General Motors (GM). Conducted prior to GM's sponsorship of 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 183 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 24 women who are changing the history of Idaho. These women were nominated as Women Making History for their admirable work in our community.

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

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2001 Honorees
Cindy Clark
Pat Clark
Sue Cobley
Sally Craven
Sally Dobbs
Tim Dinh
Pat Dorman
Lee Flinn
Amy Haak
Alicia Hochhalter
Jyl Huy
Helen "Binkie" Jacoby
Rocco Johnson
Gwen Kimball
Nico LaFavre
Maria Lorenzana
Chris Louches
Sheila McDonough
Tegwin Millard
Joanne Mitten
Jane Moore
Angela Newell
Leslie Owen
Gaetae Pace
Katherine Pavesic
Susan Pedde
Susan Qualls
Mary Rohlfing
Sonya Rosario
Jo Anne Russell
Jan Salisbury
Virginia Sarickgarte
Megan Sorvaag
Leah Teal
Connie Thompren
Gay Tisdale

2002 Honorees
Kathryn Bay
Sue Billington Wade
Felicia "Felix" Bogard
Susan Burgett
Dallas Chase
Pennie S. Cooper
Karen Cross
Sylvia Dana
Evelyn Ferranti
Ginger Floechinger-Franks
Alma Gomez
Lesley Goranson
Ruth Harris
Becky Hays
Alexis Higdon
Monica Hopkins
Nancy Jacobsen
Zeda James
Kara Anney
Kelley Johnson
Dianna Longoria
Kaye Mack
Clarisse Maxwell
Ellie McKinnon
Dana Miller
Barbara Miller

2003 Honorees
Yasmin Aguilar
Lolita Anastasio
Dr. Teresa Boucher
Janelle Brown
Kathleen Craven
Dr. Sue Chew
Judy Cross
Carole Denise Dawson
Betsy Dunklin
Gabrielle Engel
Lori Wilder
Shirley Chisholm-Dyer
Marleen Christen
Zella Hardy
Evangelina Beaver
Peg Black
Marie Blanchard
Ingrid Brudernell
Lorissa Wilfong Holt
Shirley Christofferson
Ann McArthur
Dr. Lois Hine
Jessica Hinkle
Sue Holly
Gene Nora Jessen
Beverly Ann Kendrick
Dr. Linda Ketcham
Jenne Myers
Dr. Linda Pettishek
Diane Powell
Maybeth Hogander
Jeni Jenkins
Angeline Kearns Blain
Pamelia Magee
Marie Newman
Esther Osborn
Andrew Orleans
Mary Evelyn Smith
Marjorie Belle Tucker

2004 Honorees
Lon Oye
Jane Kinn Buser
Dr. Suzanne McCorkle
Pam Fisher
Anne Pasley-Stuart
Bevery Pressman
Pat Pyle
Carolyn Rain
Wanda Lynn Riley
Fatma Slaton
Maxine Sower
Randall
Kelly Spafford
Dr. Valerie Teffen
Winnie Tong
Christina Van Tol

2005 Honorees
Dr. Maria Andreida
Laurie Appel
Deborah Bail
Leah Barrett
Peggy Bohl
Rosie Delgado Reilly
Julie De Lorenzo
Susan Emerson
Francelle Fritz
Dr. Heike Henderson
Mary Carter Hepworth
Dr. Lois Hine
Jessica Hinkle
Sue Holly
Gene Nora Jessen
Beverly Ann Kendrick
Dr. Linda Ketcham
Jenne Myers
Dr. Linda Pettishek
Diane Powell
Maybeth Hogander
Jeni Jenkins
Angeline Kearns Blain
Pamelia Magee
Marie Newman
Esther Osborn
Andrew Orleans
Mary Evelyn Smith
Marjorie Belle Tucker

2006 Honorees
Dr. Sona Andrews
Jan Bennett
Kara Bracia
Jennifer Edwards
Melody Sky Eilmer
Rebecca Evans
Marcia Franklin
Sheri Garmon
Dr. Jill Gill
Norma D. Jeager
Kali Kord
Pamela Laseter-Stacy
Dr. Lynn Lubansky
Dr. Yolanda Martinez
Ellie Merrick
Dr. Amy Moll
Wendy Morgan
Dr. Mamie Oliver
Ro Parker
Sister Betty
Schumacher
Dr. Sarah Toews
Teresa Vazquez
Melissa Wintrow
Begone "Sam" Zabala

2007 Honorees
Flora Aldazabal
Irene Bartlett-Hill
Diane Booth
Shanna Brannham
Dina Brewer
Natalie Camacho
Medora
Nancy Casperson
Melanie Curtis
Christelle Edmo
Nancy Egan
Megan Egbert
Josie Evans
Tesse Evans
Noemi Herera
Janice Johnson
Whitney Johnson
Mary Lou Kinney
Dana Kirkham
Charlee Landreth
Amy Layton
Sonia Martinez
Beverly Miller
Barbara Morgan
Maria Rebolloso
Rochelle Smith
Kehiah Sullivan

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on the cover

The cover features an adaptation of a Native American symbol for women. The x with a small circle represents womanhood, female power, fertility, and compassion. When placed side by side, the symbol represents sisters, two women bonded in a relationship of the soul. The symbols above and below represent a mother or grandmother relationship, bridging generations.

The circle unifying all of the female symbols signifies family—family ties, family closeness and protection. The circle never breaks and holds that which can never be broken, the bond of women through the life cycle.
Amy Herzfeld
by Sandy Friedly
Photo by Brad Talbut

At the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial, engraved in the smooth stone, are Nancy Taylor’s words of dedication. The last line reads, “May this memorial inspire each of us to contemplate the moral implications of our civic responsibilities.” Amy Herzfeld, Executive Director of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center (IHREC), is more familiar with those words. She is inspired to contemplate her civic responsibility every day, and she inspires others to do the same just as often.

As a leader of a well-respected nonprofit organization recognized for the building of the Anne Frank Memorial, Amy is a role model for Idaho women. She has been instrumental to the growth of the Center, responsible for the recruitment and hiring of staff members, and she continues to work towards Idaho Legislation associated with human dignity. She was only 25 when she was offered the director’s position three years ago.

In his nomination, IHREC Board President Santiago Rodriguez wrote, “Amy has lead the organization with dynamism, and has influenced the community through her leadership, kindness and humanity.” After Rodriguez and the executive board interviewed Amy for the job, they described her level of energy as “taking off at a very high rate of speed.” They trust her leadership and give her autonomy to be innovative and to find new direction.

That direction includes teaching Idaho’s schoolchildren through the K-12 Human Rights Curriculum. “Scope & Sequence,” a comprehensive program designed to integrate human rights into social studies, language arts, and history, is widely used in public schools throughout the Gem State. Written by Idaho educators, it is the only program of its kind in the nation.

Working in human rights is “a dreamy field” for Amy. “Education is a good fit,” she says. “With children, there is less that you have to unpack. They have fewer prejudices than adults. They also have a keen sense of the human condition and tend to see things in a more transparent way. They understand the need for basic respect for everyone, and they recognize who doesn’t have basic protections. I especially love working with high school students because they are hungry to have conversation about power structures, and they are sensitive to who is left out.”

In addition to teaching young people the importance of human rights and the difference between human and civil rights, Amy also helps provide numerous other programs — training for teachers, support for student clubs and student leaders, and hosting internationally recognized speakers like Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein.

During time off, Amy spends at least three nights a week involved in activities much like her job. “I’m a glutton for this kind of work,” she says. “I’m lucky to be paid as an activist and that my career path has taken the direction I want. I remain being weary of my career options in the social justice field, and concerned that I’d have to leave Boise to pursue my goals and do this kind of work. Such positions are rare in a small town.”

Long before accepting the position of executive director for the IHREC, Amy had built an impressive history and reputation as a human rights activist. Confidence in standing up for her beliefs began over a decade ago when she was a 14-year-old student at North Junior High. “It was my first experience as an activist,” she says. “I became involved in ‘No on One,’ a campaign to defeat a statewide anti-gay initiative that mobilized a lot of progressive people and got a lot of students talking.”

After the countless hours of phone calling and door knocking of that initial experience as an activist, Amy went on to champion many other causes such as fighting against the closure of a soup kitchen, and supporting the Minimum Wage for Farm Workers Campaign. She has been an organizer for the Idaho State Democratic Party and the Idaho Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Survey Project. She is also a founder of Boise’s annual Queer as Film Festival. The festival “provides the gay community and the community at large an opportunity to see positive and multi-faceted representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in film.”

Her strong roots for social responsibility can actually be traced back to the family dinner table, a place where discussion materialized about organized labor and economic justice, because her father is union attorney Alan Herzfeld. Growing up in her house meant children were heard just as much as they were seen.

“I give all the credit to my parents for nurturing my intellectual curiosity,” she says. “We were always taken seriously for our own ideas. There was no ‘little kid table’ at our house. Always a wise one beyond her years, Amy was once described by her grandmother as ‘eight years old going on 30.’”

Amy is a 2001 Boise State graduate and earned her bachelor’s in American history, with a minor in gender studies and emphasis in social movements and constitutional law. In 2004, after a year-long, intensive training program for emerging social justice leaders, she also graduated from the Western Institute for Organizing and Leadership Development in Portland, Oregon. In addition, she currently serves on the Western States Center Board of Directors and the BSU Cultural Center Advisory Board.

Amy Herzfeld will always embrace the steady pursuit of defending the rights of others and building the belief that all people are truly created equal. “It’s a lifestyle,” she says, smiling. “It feels good.”

April Hoy
by Sandy Friedly

When April Hoy married last year, she and her husband, Kristof, wrote their own vows, which included the words “to help end oppression wherever it may be.” For her to say anything otherwise would be out of character. Just ask anyone who knows her. Wherever she goes, whatever she does, she makes it a point to somehow rally for human rights.

James Rodriguez, who nominated April for Women Making History, wrote that since he met her three years ago, he “has yet to see her do something involving some kind of civic activity.” In 2005, when Idaho State Representative, Nicole LeFavour (Dist: 19) helped assemble a citizen lobby group to promote gay rights, April was one of the organizers and spoke out against the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. “I believe everyone should have the right to marry their partner,” she says, matter of factly. “Whether same sex or opposite.”

Even while living abroad, April made efforts to help people she had never met. A student at Boise State University, majoring in history with emphases in sociology and secondary education, she interned last spring at the American International School in Budapest, Hungary, Kristof’s homeland. Her spare time included getting to know her in-laws, seeing the sights and making contacts. With Kristof serving as translator, she met with local organizations such as Pocok, the equivalent of BGLAD (Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity) in the United States. Pocok seeks to “advance human development, well-being and social mobilization and provides a place of fellowship.”

April, the current secretary of BGLAD on the BSU campus, is interested in what’s going on everywhere because it’s difficult to bear social injustice. “I want to find out if I could help them and if we could help each other,” she says. “I want to motivate people to change their everyday actions because I want to see oppression end in all situations, whether racial, gender or sexual orientation.”
Just as she had participated in campaigning against the amendment to ban same-sex marriage, April also assisted in the campaign for seeking ASBSU (Associated Student Body of Boise State University) approval for GLBT Diversity Recognition Week. Now, every year during the week of Coming Out Day on October 11, men and women gather for workshops and presentations that address subjects such as diversity in the workplace, hate crimes and heterosexism. Its passing came because of a large show of support,” she says. “It was an important step.”

As part of the Boise Community Radio Project, April—a writer and a volunteer—helped launch the “Sagebrush Variety Show.” The program, a cooperative project between a non-profit community radio station and a local group of friends, promoted “liberal ideals of free expression, love and racial sensitivity.” It aired for over a year. “We wanted to reach a local community radio station with progressive programming and be a voice for the public,” she says. “We monitored original music, stories, serial dramas and conducted interviews with local activists, and covered a wide scope of topics—all from sustainability to backyard chicken farming.”

April is also a feminist with strong convictions to take on issues concerning gender equality. At a young age, she started noticing that boys and girls were treated differently, and she did not understand that behavior. Although she recognizes the ground that’s been gained toward gender equality through the years, she believes there’s much left to do to change people’s attitudes. “Women and men doing the same job but earning different salaries, for example, has been a concern for decades. She says, “There is an increasing expectation that women can be strong, capable and independent. That’s good. People at least pay lip service these days when women can be just as competent as men.”

Getting The Uniting American Families Act (UAFU) passed is yet another campaign on April’s agenda. Currently, the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act allows U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their spouses and other members of their immediate family for immigration to the U.S., but the gay community does not have those rights. If passed, UAFU would enable American citizens and legal permanent residents involved in same-sex relationships to sponsor their foreign-born partners for immigration into this country. April knows that the passing of this bill is important to keeping families together.

Audra Green
by Megan Egbert

Until moving to Idaho, Audra Green wasn’t fond of staying in one place for too long. She marvels at the fact that her four-year residence in Boise has been her longest. “I had to renew my driver’s license for the first time,” she says. Her nomadic lifestyle has helped shape who she is, and her perspective on just about everything has been affected by her exposure to different cultures and living environments.

Raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Audra attended Catholic school, and she explains how those schools were different than the Catholic schools we see around Idaho. It was more common for children in the area to attend Catholic schools because they outnumbered public schools. “They’re much more blue-collar,” she says. “There are five Catholic schools closer to my parents’ house than the public school.” She credits her education for allowing her to formulate her own ideals involving justice and citizenship.

Before graduating from high school, Audra worked at a Girl Scout backcountry troop leader, one of her favorite jobs because she was paid for doing something that most people do for fun and recreation—backpacking, camping, canoeing, and rock climbing. It was a job she kept all through college. Working in an all-female environment also became an opportunity for Audra to empower young girls by teaching them valuable life skills and lessons through the experiences she helped foster. Eventually, she decided to get her college degree in recreation and planning, so she could continue to devote her time and energy to this type of work.

For 12 years, Audra enjoyed working in the field of recreation and planning in Kentucky, Arizona, Texas, and Alaska, and she planned to pursue this line of work as a lifelong career. But over the years, low-income and publicly-funded programs were being phased out in favor of privately-funded programs that catered to wealthier participants. As the money dwindled, jobs became scarcer and scarcer and salaries started to decrease. She was forced to make changes career-wise.

While living in Alaska, Audra started traveling to avoid the cold, harsh winters. She went to Central and South America, where she volunteered as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher, and helped families in need of resettlement as a result of war. She also started researching historical resettlement, focusing on the global and geopolitical context. The experiences set her on a different course. Traveling may have started as an adventure for “fun,” but working with so many people opened her eyes to injustice, and helped her in her decision to return to school.

Eventually, Audra relocated to Boise to pursue a second degree in history. After researching the Latino presence in Idaho at Boise State University, she became deeply entrenched in the study of Latin America, especially the history of its social movements. Audra has been at the University for almost four years now, and is also an ESL instructor. She plans to pursue her doctorate degree so she can continue to research and teach in the areas of Latin American history and gender issues.

In addition to teaching classes at Boise State University, Audra also works as a counselor for the Marion Pritchett School for pregnant and parenting teens. She says her students put her life into perspective. “They teach me more than I ever teach them. I teach them English...but I learn about my place of privilege, geography, religion, food, perspective and history.” She is amazed at her students’ perseverance. “They are in class for a reason. Many of them work full-time jobs and all of them have families, yet they are dedicated.” Whenever Audra gets tired, she thinks about her students, and what their lives must be like. Her devotion to them is unfulfilling.

She is an ambassador of goodwill. Once, during a school dinner, two of her African students were standing off to the side, seeming scolded. Audra immediately walked over to them and started making them feel comfortable by introducing them to people, offering to make them plates of food to take home, holding their babies, and most importantly she offered them a friendly, welcoming presence. She is appreciated as a teacher, but even more, she’s appreciated and recognized as a thoughtful and giving person.

One challenge Audra has faced since arriving in Idaho is that she feels the majority of Boiseans don’t realize the diversity within their city. She describes Boise as the most Anglo city she’s ever lived in.”Thirty-six hundred refugees from over thirty different countries have arrived in Boise since the year 2000,” she explains. “Only those people who need to be aware of them are aware.” Audra thinks the Boise City Council and the state legislature have a ways to go when it comes to meeting the needs of these new Idahoans who have so much to offer.

Through tireless efforts and dedication in assisting immigrants and refugees, Audra also continues to make a difference by helping to shape a positive future in all sorts of ways for so many. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Snake River Alliance—working to keep Idaho safe from any more nuclear testing, and fighting for the Downwinders who have suffered from radiation fallout that contaminated parts of Idaho in the fifties and sixties.

Audra can be found cooking dinners for people, creating flyers to promote good causes, organizing meetings, making phone calls, doing any number of other behind-the-scenes tasks. At countless protests, rallies, and other public gatherings, she speaks out for what she believes. She doesn’t often get proper credit for the many hours of hard work, but that doesn’t matter. She just keeps going.
Dr. Cynthia Sanders
by Samantha Struman

We often hear about how abuse affects women physically and emotionally, but one area we don't hear about as readily is how abuse affects women economically. This is where Dr. Cynthia Sanders has dedicated her efforts. She is working hard for change by addressing macro-level issues of economic abuse both in the classroom and through practice and writing. She says of her role in the realm of social work, "I chose to go more into the economic policy side of things instead of the micro-counseling side of things, which of course is also important, but I think in order to really impact things in a bigger sort of way you have to look at structural level stuff." By working toward change on a larger scale, Dr. Sanders is paving the way for economic security for future generations of women.

A Salt Lake City native, Dr. Sanders has been at Boise State for just over three years. She teaches classes in macro-practice, social welfare, and research methods and program evaluation. Before coming to Boise, she spent nine years in St. Louis, where she earned her Ph.D. in social work from Washington University, one of the nation's two leading graduate schools of social work. Prior to that, she earned her undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Utah.

Dr. Sanders' hard work and dedication at Boise State has led to her recent recognition for tenure in the School of Social Work.

Outside of her busy schedule as an educator, Dr. Sanders is involved in numerous community and campus organizations. For example, she has done extensive research on the role of economics in intimate partner abuse. She has published a number of peer-reviewed journal articles on the topic and is currently working on several additional articles. Her research deals with issues such as government assistance programs for women in domestic abuse situations, economic education for women and economic development through community-based asset ownership programs.

Dr. Sanders is also co-author of the book *Kitchen Capitalism: Microenterprise in Low-Income Households*. The book specifically addresses microenterprise in the United States, and the effects it can have for people in low-income situations. The book examines both economic outcomes of microenterprise and some of the positive psycho-social outcomes of microenterprise initiatives, such as greater autonomy for women, flexibility in work schedules in order to care for small children or family members, and avoidance of discrimination in the traditional labor market.

With her contributions in research and in the classroom, Dr. Sanders encourages policy changes that will make positive differences for the lives of many women. But she also understands the importance of community-level work as a basis for affecting change in larger arenas. She says of her work, "It's difficult to think that I could somehow just do something that's going to change some federal policy with any immediacy, but I think doing things at the community level that make an impact and are politically feasible potentially have much wider implications." Community-based initiatives may later translate into wider social policy changes.

As part of her substantial contributions in her field, Dr. Sanders also conducted qualitative interviews with survivors of domestic violence in a St. Louis program, describing it as "a community-based economic enhancement program that looks specifically at trying to promote the economic well-being of low-income women who experience domestic violence."

The program consists of a longer-term development approach that provides services in three areas. First, the program deals with economic education: teaching women who are recovering from intimate partner abuse how to perform tasks such as budgeting money or maintaining a checking account. The second area deals with an Individual Development Account (IDA) program, which is a matched savings plan: women save a small amount of money each month and it is matched at two to three times the amount. Over a short period of time, they can save a substantial amount of money to invest in asset purchases such as microenterprises, homes, education, or even vehicles. The final portion of the program is one-on-one financial and economic case management.

The program in St. Louis is funded through various foundations and the United Way, and minimally through the Federal Assets for Independence Act. This is one of many types of programs that are not yet available locally and which Dr. Sanders would like to see in Idaho. Though there is now an IDA program started through the United Way in Idaho, it is rather new and it is targeted toward low-income individuals, not specifically women.

This program, and programs like it, are examples of how macro-level systems affect women on a more individual or personal level. When asked what she would like to see for Idaho's future, Dr. Sanders said she would like to see more asset development initiatives in Boise, and hopes that the people who provide services for victims of domestic violence will begin to work more with economic education. As she continues her work both in the Boise community and the larger national arena, she will continue to raise awareness for women's economic, safety, and equality issues, and bring about potential policy reform.

Dr. Cynthia Sanders is not only making history, but working to change it by encouraging policy changes that will better the lives of women everywhere.
Dalyann Kuster
by Jenna Clark

Dalyann Kuster can tell hundreds of stories that would break your heart. As a longtime activist working on issues related to poverty, homelessness, fair housing, and substance abuse, she has seen firsthand the effects that Idaho's policy decisions have had on families and communities. It's a position that's made her uniquely qualified to speak to possibilities for improving the quality of life in Idaho.

The list of organizations and groups that Dalyann has been involved with over the last twenty years is quite extensive. As a Boise State student, she was the first recipient of the Larry Selland Humanitarian Award. In the late 1990s, she and Dana Hardy co-founded Idaho Sisters In Solidarity, the first Idaho organization to form solely in response to the welfare reform legislation during the Clinton administration. She also served for over 10 years on the Board of Directors at the Idaho Women's Network, where she co-chaired their legislative committee, and testified at the Statehouse on dozens of bills pertaining to a variety of issues affecting women and families. She helped to provide feedback on the 2004 Status of Women in Idaho report, which analyzed the state's progress in securing equality and opportunity for women. In addition, she helped to found an annual Garden City event called Mama Jam, a free festival celebrating mothers and their children. She was instrumental in securing Boise's participation in the National Homeless Person's Memorial Vigil, a yearly event each December.

Dalyann also serves on the planning committee of Mayor Bieter's 10-year plan to reduce and prevent chronic homelessness, the advisory committee of the CATCH (Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless) program, the Community Detox Coalition, and the Corpus Christi board of directors. Currently, she not only works as the Multi-Programs Manager for El-Ada Community Action Partnership, but serves on both the Family Studies Program Advisory Board and the Service Learning Advisory Board at Boise State University.

Dalyann has faced numerous obstacles in her life. For example, at various times, she has been homeless, had to live on public assistance, and worked as a single mom. Such hardships have helped to shape her career choices. As an advocate for people who need help and who live on public assistance—just as she once did—Dalyann can clearly relate to the experiences and the struggles of others as she learns about them through her job.

"It's really difficult for people living in poverty, or who might be homeless, to be their own advocates," she explains. "When you are worried about how to feed your kids, or where you are going to sleep, you seldom have the luxury of time to go to the legislature to discuss policy issues. So it's important that organizations and individuals who have an interest in economic justice are willing to work together at all levels, whether that means service providers, grassroots consumer groups, or organizations that deal solely with lobbying and education."

Despite the many obstacles, Dalyann was able to eventually work toward a better future. In 1992, she enrolled as a student at Boise State University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work in 1999. However, she is quick to qualify this achievement. She says, "That didn't happen in a vacuum, though. Part of my ability to get that education, to get a job that would support me and my family and help us to gain a stable life, relied on assistance programs that are no longer available since 'welfare reform' went through. There's been a big shift in perspective away from investing in supports for low-income women...it's almost become an 'Us-versus-Them' mentality. And it's troubling, because it's really changed the landscape in terms of women being able to access training, education, and jobs that pay a living wage. Without that, it's impossible to move out of poverty long-term."

"Families work full-time, and yet are still unable to make ends meet. I'm reminded of what my social work mentor, Dan Huff, used to say: that we're all so busy pulling the bodies out of the river, no one's able to go and deal with what's going on upstream." She goes on to add that welfare reform, intended to decrease perceived dependence on the state, has actually translated into an awkward and cumbersome system that wastes the resources designed to move families out of poverty. "At what point are we going to start investing in people and really ending poverty?" she asks.

What keeps Dalyann grounded in the face of an often-overwhelming career is her dedicated circle of family and friends. "I'm lucky to be surrounded by awesome women in my life; they help me process the issues and they inspire me with their ideas. Ideas developed in a community of women are the things that I get to do now." Dalyann's friends call her "tireless" and "unbelievably perceptive" in her efforts to end poverty in Idaho. She is, truly, an inspiration and another Idaho Woman Making History.

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.
- Maya Angelou

Dr. Denise Wingett
by Beth Gee

While most little girls were having tea parties with friends or playing dress-up, Denise Wingett was busy conducting experiments with her chemistry set and looking at the world through her microscope. If she couldn't be found doing one of these things, she was at the local drug store attempting to get the pharmacists to sell her some chemicals, because the chemistry set she had just didn't have enough chemicals to keep her occupied.

Dr. Wingett's love of science continued to grow throughout her years of schooling. She started her college career at Boise State University and graduated in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. She continued her education at Washington State University, where she earned a master of science degree in biochemistry in 1989, and then a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1991.

As a post-doctoral fellow at Washington State University, Dr. Wingett's longstanding dream to teach became a reality when she was given the opportunity to instruct her first class, Immunology, which consisted of both undergraduate and graduate students. Although she was initially nervous at the prospect of teaching a large class of more than 70 students, she quickly discovered how much she enjoyed teaching.

Knowing that she'd someday return to Boise, Dr. Wingett eventually moved back in 1995. She started working at the Boise VA Medical Center, where she was a full-time research scientist. In 2003, Dr. Wingett became a faculty member at Boise State University, and not only does she teach in the classroom, but she also teaches and mentors in her research laboratory.

The groundbreaking research that Dr. Wingett conducts possesses, by its nature, an incredible learning curve for her, which she says finds very frustrating at times. In the field of research, although a person may have a viable idea or theory, it may not turn out as expected, thus demanding that the researcher work through many setbacks or even start from scratch. Dr. Wingett loves to work with
her students in the lab and teach them how to manage and work through their frustration and disappointments—she teaches her students how to think like scientists.

One project Dr. Wingett and her student research team are currently working on explores the field of nanotechnology and its biomedical applications. She and her students are investigating the potential applications of nanomaterials in nanomedicine applications in conjunction with her scientific collaborators, Drs. Punnoose and Feris of Boise State.

Dr. Wingett explains that nanoparticles are comparable in size to naturally occurring biological molecules and are great materials for manipulating biological structures and systems. By controlling nanoparticle selectivity to specific cell types, Dr. Wingett and her students, and colleagues are currently exploring novel biomedical applications, including drug delivery, cancer therapy, and treatment of immune disorders such as autoimmune diseases.

Another of Dr. Wingett's passions has been to determine the underlying basis for the negative side effects of a commonly used class of asthma medications in subsets of asthma patients. She explains that although these medications are effective in relieving the symptoms of asthma, concerns in the scientific and medical community regarding the safety of these medications have persisted for more than 20 years.

The goal of Dr. Wingett's research in this area is to determine the molecular and cellular mechanisms leading to inappropriate and heightened immune response in certain patient populations that could lead to the worsening of their symptoms over time. Dr. Wingett hopes her findings will further the scientific understanding of mechanisms of asthma progression and lead to the identification of at-risk patients likely to experience adverse effects from particular asthma medications.

On a more personal note, when asked what she most wants people to know about her, Dr. Wingett answers, "That I am incredibly honored by this [Women Making History nomination]," coming from someone who has accomplished so much in the teaching and research fields, her answer is a refreshingly humble one.

Dr. Wingett's considerable influence extends beyond the scientific community and into the realm of social equality for women. She likes to quote her favorite scientist, Carl Sagan, who said, "If we can't think for ourselves, if we're unwilling to question authority, then we're just p within the hands of those in power."

To Dr. Wingett, knowledge is power, and she says she would like women to know that they can be whatever they want to be. She encourages women not to allow gender stereotypes to get in the way of doing what they want to do, and to be independent and take advantage of all the possibilities at their fingertips. She tells women to experience what is out there, and to be sure to find their passion.

It is clear Dr. Wingett has not only found her passion, but lives it every day. She researches a wide variety of topics while at the same time helping her students learn about science, and also about themselves and what they are capable of. Denise Wingett molds future scientists, who will one day make history in their own way.

Gail Hartnett, a Realtor with Keller Williams Realty, believes that leaders are made, not born, and she has proven that leadership is trainable and heavily influenced by environment and role models. As a product of the baby boom, her early leadership models were quite traditional, yet highly valued, and had a great impact on her.

Gail's father held leadership positions in his corporate and military career, and even though they were male leadership roles, they greatly influenced Gail's future. She believes her close, nurturing relationship with her mother, a homemaker, formed the base of support for Gail's professional life. From a young age, Gail began developing her leadership skills. As a child, she held both club leadership and school class officer positions. Without realizing it, and before the terms "goals" and "leadership" were in style, Gail was practicing these very skills.

Gail's passion for success and innovation helped expand her sales career from selling plastic containers to selling houses—first she worked through the ranks of Tupperware sales to Tupperware franchise owner, and then eventually to real estate. Gail says the real estate profession suits her well because it is always changing and never boring. Through her leadership, she has helped redefine the real estate profession for women, challenging the myth that women may not make good Realtors merely because they love home decorating and interior design. She has shown by example that women Realtors can become highly respected business professionals.

As a result of good decisions and smart management, Gail's real estate business has evolved and reached a point where she can now concentrate on her volunteer leadership roles. She has accepted challenges that few other women have taken, setting precedent for future women leaders. Gail has been honored and has served in highly respected positions, including 2006 National President of the Women's Council of Realtors, the 12th largest Women's organization in the United States; the 2000 Idaho State Women's Council of Realtors Member of the Year; a 2001 TWIN Award recipient (Women & Children's Alliance Tribute to Women in Industry); and 2007 State President of the Idaho Association of Realtors. Gail's talents reach far beyond her formal roles—she thrives on helping other real estate professionals develop their own leadership potential by empowering them with opportunity.

"There is still much work to be done," says Gail. "In the last 100 years, there have been only five female presidents of the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Women make up the majority of the membership of the NAR, yet a glass ceiling still exists because men hold more leadership positions than women. More than 50% of Realtors nationwide are women, and in many professional real estate associations, women make up the membership majority, but men still hold most management positions. Gail is inspired to challenge that statistic by encouraging female colleagues to pursue higher management responsibilities right along with her.

Gail says a good leader is "honest, enthusiastic, optimistic, a good listener, realistic, and has the ability to be a visionary seeing a better world out there." Although she encounters people who don't believe that optimism and realism can exist together, Gail is successful at balancing both. She empowers the people around her because of her infectious personality. Warm, intelligent, and gracious, she's a true mentor, always ready to share her "secrets" of success. Gail is not threatened by her colleagues and is always open to new opportunities. She is a lifelong learner and an avid reader of anything that will help her personal and professional growth.

Gail's numerous certificates and titles are not a means to an end, but steps to a better journey through life. While embracing resistance and challenge, she takes risks that often end up being wise decisions. Gail finds it amazing, and sometimes frustrating, that women won't listen to advice that might further their business success. Not happy with the status quo, she encourages her colleagues to occasionally shake up the comfort and safety of known and regular routines.

Energized by working with others, Gail's mission is to make positive differences for those who follow. She says, "I love watching people do better than I did. I love to see other people succeed." She finds networking, sharing ideas, and mentoring other Realtors the most rewarding and motivating aspects of her many leadership roles. As a public speaker, she is thorough and articulate in explaining and breaking down information into usable units. Gail says she knows her message is getting through to young women when she hears, "I want to be just like you when I grow up."

In real estate, Gail has become good at cultivating relationships, understanding her clients' needs, making sense of cultural and personality differences, and even recognizing when she isn't a good match for a particular home buyer. Working with her clients is inspirational, especially when she helps them get what they want. As a visionary, she finds most discouraging things few times when she isn't able to help a client, but her discouragement only forces her to find other solutions.

Gail knows first-hand how accomplishments build on themselves, and remembers the first little steps that empowered her. "When you do well, people will seek you out to speak, to take on bigger responsibilities," she says. "Gail is an expert at relationship building, offering encouragement and positive feedback, and recognizing other people's efforts. She sees herself as "a star searcher of women who constantly attains the level of vanguard."
Gail was accepted into the University of Arizona, where she earned a master's degree in English language and linguistics. Another opportunity arose when UA started a Ph.D. program in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching. Gail slipped right into the program once she completed her master's degree. After she finished her dissertation in 2001, she moved to Boise, where she began teaching at Boise State University and became the coordinator of English Language Support Programs.

As a strong advocate for student rights of non-native English speakers, Gail came to Boise to make a difference. She explains the difference between students coming to the United States from a foreign country as international students who spoke English in the classroom versus those who lived here speaking English as a second language: “It is a big problem in the world,” she says. “[The idea] that every country has one language, and that one language is associated with only one country, is a myth.”

In 2002 and 2003, one of Gail’s students, an Afghanistan refugee, gave her the idea for a program that helped non-native English speakers with tutoring, language, and community support. As a result, the Multilingual Student Advisory Board (MSAB) commenced with Gail as their advisor. There is an International Students Association, Gail explains, but they focus on the non-native students with visas who are here for a short time. “We have lots of non-native speakers who live here, but the International Students Association didn’t seem to fit for them,” she says.

Gail explains that it’s not just students who need help; it’s the faculty, both native and non-native. “I’m trying to teach teachers that you can’t mark someone’s paper down significantly because of their grammar,” she says. “People write with an accent; you can’t expect the non-native speakers to write English perfectly.”

Gail says she would like to set up programs and workshops offering support in teaching non-native speaking faculty how to teach in American classrooms with their “accents.” She says, “I’d love to start a class like that in the summer to help teachers not get bad reports.”

During rare downtime, Gail enjoys spending time with her 10-year-old son Noah, whom she uses as an example in language development. She also cooks, and watches bald eagles “in the wee hours of the morning.”

She says, “I want to acknowledge that I am able to do what I am able to do because there are so many other people out there helping me, supporting me, or doing similar things that I can model myself after.” Her friend, Petya Stoyanova, nominated Gail for this award. Petya says that Gail is “dedicated, understanding, loyal, and absolutely amazing.” Her students agree—she is a joy to be around and makes the daunting task of learning linguistics easy and fun.

I have a brain and a uterus, and I use both.

- Patricia Schroeder
Munro explains that it can be an adjustment for an all-male battalion to work alongside female soldiers for the first time. Men must learn that the battlefield is not "too rough" a place for anyone who is trained to be there. Before deployment, she took the time to discuss men's concerns about women in war. She found out that more than anything, they feel protective of their female comrades like they would feel protective of their sisters.

Captain Leslie Wolf, who nominated Munro, wrote: "Major Munro treats everyone, regardless of rank and gender, with respect and dignity, and she is not intimidated by the male-dominated military leadership. ... Her number-one priority has always been caring for soldiers and uplifting their morale."

Boosting morale is extremely important to Munro, and she is resourceful in providing out-of-the-ordinary training. Last fall, for example, her medics attended the Saint Alphonsus Trauma Conference in Sun Valley. Because military and civilian personnel training side-by-side is far from standard procedure, Munro had to push hard to get approval. "Training at St. Al's benefits soldiers in the field," she says. "The results are enhanced training, which means better medical care."

Munro has also given her soldiers the freedom to design their own "Platoon Olympics," an obstacle course requiring teams to perform various tasks such as dismantling a weapon, putting in an IV, or towing a disabled Humvee. Wolf says, "Maj. Munro makes people want to come to drill."

According to Wolf, recruiting and reenlistments have increased since Munro took over command of Charlie Med in 2007. She has retained experienced combat veterans and recruited quality soldiers and officers, results that can be directly attributed to her training philosophy—treat all soldiers with respect. Because of her leadership, Charlie Med is better prepared to perform its state and wartime missions.

Despite the constant threat of danger, the most difficult aspect of deploying to Iraq was leaving her husband, Kelly, and her daughters, Vanessa and Camille, who were 10 and eight at the time. "How do you keep a family together?" she asks. She missed birthdays and holidays. And when she came home for two weeks, it was hard to explain why she had to go back. She believes, however, the separation has created stronger bonds between them. Maj. Blagburn is impressed by her ability to "pull together her military and civilian life."

When Munro returned home after 18 months, people kept asking, "When are you getting out?" Her quick response was, "I'm not." She says, "I'm very proud of what I do. This is who I am. My job is to make sure everyone is physically and mentally fit. It's not about politics. It doesn't matter why we're in Iraq. Those soldiers need medical care."

Another side to Munro is her sense of humor. She knows how to keep it up. On a nerve-racking four-day drive in Iraq, she posted a cardboard sign in the window of the truck that said, "Roadtrip." Blagburn says of her, "She's also someone you just want to hang out with, a nice person, quick with a joke or a smile, but serious when she needs to be."

Munro has served with the Idaho Army National Guard since 2002. She is a graduate of Boise State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in health sciences, and earned her PA certificate from the University of Washington School of Medicine. Currently, she is pursuing her master's degree through the University of Nebraska. Her previous military career also includes a six-year enlistment in the Air Force.

Holly Hayman
by Jenna Clark

There's a famous Buddhist proverb that says, "The thicker and deeper the mud, the more beautiful the lotus blooms." Like the lotus, the strongest and most powerful political and social justice activists are created in much the same way, often from within hostile environments.

Holly Hayman is a spectacular example of a native Idahoan who has learned to find strength within herself, and use that strength to create change in a state that does not always value the needs of its women. Holly's eloquence, drive, and poise make her a well-respected figure among Boise State's student leaders.

A graduate of Eagle High School, Holly was strongly influenced as a young woman by her aunt. "My Aunt Annie has a strong background in feminism, and eventually became a reverend in the Presbyterian church. She has worked for years in a transitional program in Los Angeles for women who were trying to redirect their lives. Many of the women came from devastating situations—domestic violence, substance abuse. Some had families, and she worked incredibly hard to provide support. I was in Idaho, so I didn't see her for most of the year, but she had a cabin in Payette and in the summer would sometimes come up. She'd bring the children of the women she worked with so they could see what life was like in rural Idaho. I'd go along to help with the children, and I got a first-hand view of what kind of change might be possible in the lives of others. There's a lot that can happen, even if there aren't a lot of financial resources. It was an amazing experience."

After Holly enrolled at Boise State, she took a feminist theory class from Dr. Virginia Hustig. Holly credits that course with pushing her on the path to activism. "That class turned out to be so important. It helped me to get past the idea that 'the personal is only personal,' which says 'it's not important to examine my story and your story and be able to place that into the larger perspective—that is completely wrong. The personal is almost never just personal. To think like that fosters apathy. I feel morally obligated as a feminist to work toward everyone's human rights. I have to say, it's not always easy; the backlash against feminists can be hard. Sometimes just to identify as a feminist can mean that people will stop listening to what you have to say. But often I find people are just as angry as I am about what they see around them; they just don't always frame it the same way. So even if they're mad, sometimes that's productive too, because it gets people talking to each other."

Due to graduate in May, Holly is double-majoring in multi-ethnic studies and political science with an emphasis in international relations. She typically carries the maximum number of credits allowed, and works two part-time jobs. In addition, she is an officer in three campus organizations: she's the current president of OGEES (Organization for Gender Equality and Education), the vice-president of the Pre-Law Society, and secretary for Students for a Democratic Society. "I really don't have any hobbies," she says with a grin. "Activism is the hobby."

Her friend and nominator, Lindsey Rhodes, says, "Holly is one of those rare people who will take on 20 different projects, and follow through with each and every single one. She does so much, and still somehow remains sincere, positive, and productive. Her energy level is unbelievable. Holly is the person who holds a group together and picks up the motivation when everyone else's fuel has run out. Her leadership skills are terrific. In meetings, she's efficient and sees that tasks are fairly and swiftly delegated. Where most people would give up on a cause or a movement, Holly stays and works her way through. She is a very special and vital part of Boise's feminist community, and will surely make a tremendous impact on the status of women, no matter where she may move."

After she graduates, Holly plans to attend law school to earn her J.D. Afterwards, she'll seek employment in the nonprofit sector, likely in an agency with a human rights focus. She'll continue to work toward creating social and political change, and leave a lasting legacy as one of feminism's most dedicated activists.
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**Jenna Clark**
by Wanda L.E. Viesto

Virginia Clark, known to all as Jenna, epitomizes tenacity. Born in Boise, Jenna grew up in Alaska, and spent one year as a high school exchange student in New Zealand. She first entered college at Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu for one year, and then transferred to Boise State University at the age of 19.

As a new student, she faced many of the traditional challenges—being apart from family, managing her new freedom, living in a new environment, and making decisions about her own life. Jenna related that it was overwhelming and she didn’t do very well academically. She dropped out and entered the world of retail sales. Then at the age of 21, she married someone she had met in Alaska and started back to school at Boise State in 1997. This time she was more serious.

Jenna decided to take Introduction to Women’s Studies with Professor Phoebe Lundy and found her world view bursting open. Encouraged by a classmate, she joined the advisory board for the Idaho Women’s Network. Working on behalf of Idaho women, Jenna’s commitments to changing the world started to take shape.

At the same time, strains in her marriage began to surface. She and her husband decided to separate, and not having enough money to continue school, Jenna “stopped out” again. She became depressed and unsure about the future.

It was during this time that Jenna discovered she was pregnant, and welcomed daughter Kalia to the world in March, 2002. It was a difficult birth and her recuperation took longer than anticipated, but she made plans to return to school later that same year.

During the second week of classes, Jenna’s mother, a nurse, was concerned about Kalia’s vision. Jenna dutifully took her daughter to a doctor only to be told it was “no big deal.” Jenna’s mother insisted that something was not right and the next physician responded to the concerns of a reflection showing in Kalia’s eyes in flash pictures—a little known symptom of retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer. Indeed, with complete testing, Kalia was diagnosed with retinoblastoma and needed to undergo chemotherapy as an infant. Jenna’s school plans were put on hold once again as her five-month-old daughter spent three months on chemo with a year of follow-up treatment.

After Kalia’s health improved, Jenna returned to BSU in 2004, joined the Returning Women’s Mentoring Program and attended the March for Women’s Lives in Washington, DC. Finding support and encouragement, she was able to persist and later became a program assistant at the Women’s Center for the 2005-06 school year. She then joined the campus Organization for Gender Equality in Education (OGEE) and worked actively on gender issues.

But tragedy struck again—Kalia’s cancer returned. This time, she lost an eye, endured seven months of chemotherapy, was fitted with a prosthetic eye, and traveled back and forth with Jenna to Oregon and California for specialized treatment.

With the help of community support—her “village”—Jenna stayed in school and Kalia underwent treatment and recovered; the Lions Club helped raise funds for Kalia’s prosthesis; Make-A-Wish donated a trip to Disney World; the Associated Students of BSU provided help with emergency funds; the Women’s Center led a fund drive on campus and in the community to help pay other expenses; and OGEE kept her refrigerator stocked.

Jenna continued to work at the Women’s Center for the following year, edited the 2007 Women’s Making History publication, caught up on her classes, and kept Kalia on her checkup schedule. This year, she’s returned to the board of the Idaho Women’s Network, helping to raise awareness about socio-economic issues for women and heading up the Board on Research and Education Fund. She currently works at the BSU Cultural Center as a program assistant, raising awareness about multicultural issues and supporting marginalized students in their education.

In the meantime, Jenna won the local and regional Women’s Opportunity Award through the Soroptimist Club, which included a scholarship to help with school. She also received the BSU Mari Billings Award, which recognizes a student who is always ready to assist others, even in the midst of her own turmoil; who does not seek reward for her work; who is of high moral character, and who looks out for others above her own interest.

What’s amazing about Jenna is how she persisted through many obstacles to reach her academic dreams. Her nominators rave about this quality. “Without a doubt, Jenna’s greatest personal quality is the ability to stay positive despite adversity. Jenna has been through more in her life than most folks could expect in a lifetime, yet she remains energetic and outgoing.”

Jenna’s daughter’s struggle with cancer was a wake-up call. She says it makes life more immediate, including her politics, and she believes Idaho has a lot of potential for change. “I have to believe we can do better than what we’re doing,” she says.

Jenna will graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in social science, and longs to pursue her master’s degree, but much is dependent on Kalia’s health and Jenna’s ability to fund further education. She says her dream job would be to run a women’s center on a campus or to teach at the university level. This much is sure: Jenna will bring passion and commitment to whatever she does.
Jennifer Williams
by Sandy Friedly

In the Treasure Valley, you’ll find art in many forms. We have, for example, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Log Cabin’s Readings and Conversations, and the Gene Harris Jazz Festival. And we are lucky, too, to have our own “Van Go.”

Van Go is an art outreach project created by teacher Jennifer Williams. For over thirty years, she has packed her van with paint, plaster and paper-mâché materials to teach art in rural Idaho communities. Bumping along desert roads, creeping around twisty mountain passages, even slugging along in the rain or snow, Jennifer and her students venture to places like Jarbidge, Cavendish and Yellowpine. She makes 12-hour round trips to teach six-hour workshops. Getting lost or breaking down never stops her. And unless she has received grant or award monies, Jennifer finances the project herself. If she has to, she’ll sleep on the hardwood of a schoolhouse floor.

“I like to get out of my comfort zone,” she says. “I like a challenge and I want to show my students that they can take art out of the classroom to share with the community. Art makes us think and talk. It inspires us and moves us.”

Marilyn Boss, who teaches in a one-room schoolhouse in Three Creek, Idaho—a place with no gas station, no grocery store and no cell phone coverage—says Jennifer has been making visits since the ’80s. One year she told Jennifer that she might only have two students and it wouldn’t be worth driving all those miles. Jennifer’s response was that she’d come “even if there was only one student who could benefit.” In her nomination, Marilyn wrote, “Jennifer has given of her time … in order to bring art to the most disenfranchised among us isolated rural schools who have little exposure to art supplies and art expertise.”

According to Marilyn, if it wasn’t for the Van Go crew, some children wouldn’t get any exposure to the outside world. They make posters, write stories and create oil pastels that stir the imagination and spark new interests. Because of Jennifer’s influence, one of Marilyn’s students is now planning to pursue a career in art.

Jennifer officially retired from teaching at Skyview High School in 2004, but that doesn’t mean anything. Also an adjunct professor at Boise State since 1977, she continues to travel the distance with her students to make sure art is out there. “I’m supposed to teach,” she says. “It exhausts me, but it energizes me, I’ll do it forever.”

The hundreds of students who have assisted Jennifer throughout the years have also reaped many benefits from the Van Go experience. Annemarie Caldwell is one of those students. An undergrad at Boise State, majoring in secondary art education, she had heard of Jennifer long before meeting her. “When I realized Jennifer was going to be my teacher, I was so excited because of her experience and her reputation.”

Annemarie’s adventure took her to a one-room schoolhouse in Prairie, a small town in the mountains of Elmore County. “I didn’t know a school like that existed,” she says. “Those students were hungry to do art. They could not get enough.” She spent the day teaching grades K-8 how to create Shibori banners, traditionally a process of dying, folding and shaping textiles, but Jennifer transformed the project into paper art, a more economical canvas on which to work. At the end of the day, the parents held a potluck in gratitude for the “house call.” Annemarie says, “When I came back to Boise, I had to tell everyone. It was art that brought the whole community together. It was a life-changing experience.”

Van Go doesn’t just reach out to places off the beaten path. During the fall of 2007, Annemarie and eleven of her fellow students participated in a project for the Boise City Arts Commission. Under Jennifer’s direction, they painted 36 plywood panels that circle “the pit” on 6th and Main.

“As a lifelong art educator, I try to incorporate lessons about life in everything I teach,” Jennifer explains. “We chose to use Chinese calligraphic symbols because they represent things about the Earth. We are caretakers of the Earth, but we are also caretakers of each other. In this beautiful calligraphy is expressed multiculturalism, promoting acceptance and tolerance.” The message, in graceful black characters stretching across a wall of white, reads: “The simple beauty of Chinese calligraphy reminds us, poignantly, that we must be diligent as the caretakers of our Earth.”

Last fall, the Idaho Special Olympians who traveled to Shanghai, China, for the 2007 summer games, added their handprints—“the finishing touch”—to the mural. “They are our ambassadors for world peace,” says Jennifer. “Their tender handprints remind us that caring for the Earth is an individual and worldwide endeavor that we must do together.”

As a result of her groundbreaking outreach program, Jennifer has received many national awards, including the National Unsung Heroes Award, US West Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and the National Education Association Teaching Excellence Award. In addition to countless statewide and local awards, she has also been named Idaho Art Teacher of the Year numerous times, and was the recipient of the 2000 Governor’s Award in Art Education. The author of two textbooks and articles for School Arts Magazine, among others, Jennifer is currently considering writing and illustrating two children’s books.

Kaye Gussenhoven
by Lindsey Rhodes

Kaye Gussenhoven describes his wife, Kaye, as a “selfless patriot and community leader who, behind the scenes, quietly and humbly helps others without deference to color, creed, race or religion.”

They have been married since 1989 and have two daughters, Sarah, 15, and Mackenzie, 11. Kaye grew up in Buhl, Idaho, on a dairy farm, and after graduating from high school, she went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in range resources at the University of Idaho.

Before Kaye settled into family life and began raising two children, she was a range aide and firefighter during the summers in Humboldt National Forest, Nevada. But after realizing it would be impossible to maintain a forestry career while Eugene was busy traveling (he’s employed by the National Guard), she quit her job to become a military wife and mother—the Gussenhovens moved 15 times in their first year of marriage. They have been settled in Boise for the past six years, where Kaye has been involved in several volunteer programs, including a military youth group.

According to Kaye, the group is “kind of a support system for kids.” She says, “We work on team building, as well as issues including reunion and deployment.” The group, for children 10-18, has been in existence for roughly the past 10 years. Kaye is very passionate about the program and sees it as a necessary branch of support for the families of people in the armed forces. “I think the military is getting wise to the fact that there are other people affected besides the soldiers,” she says.

Besides volunteering, Kaye is also a behavioral interventionist for elementary-aged children in the Boise School District. Her job involves taking care of children with emotional and behavioral issues that make it difficult for them to perform well in a regular classroom. She helps students develop coping strategies in order to achieve academic success. The program is held in a self-contained classroom, but also involves mainstreaming the children. “Right now all of our students are included in a general ed classroom, which is nice,” she says.
Kaye is also working on a master's degree in elementary education, which she expects to complete in December of 2008. Her degree will allow her the opportunity to have her own elementary classroom. "I come from a family of teachers. My mom was a kindergarten teacher, my dad taught high school and junior high, I have two sisters that are elementary teachers, and a sister-in-law as well." Kaye is drawn to children, and says she's in her comfort zone when working with them.

Another passion of Kaye's is her family. She held it all together when Eugene, who has been with the National Guard for 24 years, was deployed to Iraq from 2004-2005. It helped that during his deployment, she received a phone call or an e-mail from him almost daily. Sometimes, however, when Eugene had to be away, he couldn't reveal how long he would be unable to communicate, but he always let her know whenever possible that he was doing okay.

During Eugene's deployment to the Middle East, Kaye used the military youth group and contact with other military wives as another means of community and support, she says she ran a very organized and schedule-conscious family during his absence.

"The joke in our family is that I'm called the Sergeant Major. It was very important that everything was in order. (That) took a lot of communication between all of us."

Consequently, Kaye's two daughters are very independent and self-sufficient. This self-sufficiency helps when they combat political debates at school. "When Sarah was in 7th grade and her dad was first deployed, her class was talking about the Middle East and said something about the war. A girl...started talking about how she felt that Americans shouldn't be over there," Kaye explains. "Sarah had raised her hand and explained the humanitarian side of the war. Sarah's teacher asked if she knew anybody over there, and she said, 'Yes I do, my dad.'"

Kaye's daughter continues to actively defend the honor and work that their father performs for the National Guard. Although Kaye isn't sure if either of her daughters will pursue a career in the military, she wouldn't discourage them from choosing that kind of lifestyle if that's what they wanted.

Kaye's modest disposition and passionate spirit reflect on her abilities to raise two wonderful, independent daughters, as well as pursue her own goals and ambitions. When reflecting about her Women Making History nomination, Kaye remarks, "I guess that I'm the type of person that is pretty humble. I don't feel like I do anything different than anybody else."

Kelly Miller
by Nyea CM Jensen

As the legal director of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Kelly Miller oversees several statewide initiatives to better meet the needs of Idaho's victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Kelly also facilitates the Idaho Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence, a committee of twenty-five state governmental and non-governmental organizations working together to enhance safety for victims, improve offender accountability, and look for broader systems outcomes. Through the work of the Idaho Coordinated Response, the Office of the Governor issued a Domestic Violence Workplace Executive Order in November 2007, which prohibits discrimination against victims of domestic violence, protects the confidentiality of the victim, and responds to the needs of victims of domestic violence. Kelly is also working with the committee in developing an Idaho Risk of Dangerousness in Domestic Violence tool, which identifies the seven highest danger risks in domestic violence situations.

Colleague Lisa Bostaph, who nominated Kelly for the Woman Making History Award, says, "Kelly is the catalyst for much of the change that is happening in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault in our state."

For two and a half decades, Kelly has been striving toward a more just world. She says, "Twenty-five years ago I was motivated to create change through the judicial system by filing class-action lawsuits on behalf of persons with disabilities or children denied an equal educational opportunity. Now I am more interested in facilitating systemic change through collaborative work."

That collaborative effort is evident in the various projects with which Kelly is involved as she works with state agencies, organizations, and professionals in all fields. She says the most fulfilling part of her job is "making connections between individuals and organizations, moving toward systemic change in our community response to domestic and sexual violence."

Making connections also means being involved with the Idaho Victim Assistance Academy, which is designed for professionals who have contact with crime victims. The goal of the Academy is to enhance and expand the professionalism of crime victim services through an intensive forty-hour theory-based course held on the campus of Boise State University.

Through her work at the Idaho Coalition, Kelly helped develop the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project, which, Kelly says, "involves everyone—teens, youth groups, educational institutions, the medical community, and the legal community—in thinking about fresh approaches to teen dating violence." According to Kelly, as many as one in three teens in dating relationships report being abused; one in two teens in a dating relationship reports compromising their beliefs to please their partners; and one in three teens reports being pressured to have sex. The project focuses on educating parents and teenagers about the warning signs of an abusive relationship, as well as creating and promoting awareness of various resources available for young adults.

"Since we began the project last year," she explains, "the teens have been incredibly successful in creating change and fostering the belief that all teens deserve healthy relationships: dating relationships where girls are not afraid to have opinions different from their boyfriends, where boys can participate in activities they enjoy and have lives separate from their girlfriends, where girls can say no to pressure to engage in sexual activity. We want to change the status quo and offer in its place a healthier, more equal view of dating relationships."

Kelly believes that collaborative efforts involving the whole community are the only way to make situations better for victims of domestic and sexual violence. "We are coming to a greater understanding that we are all connected, that domestic and sexual violence are community issues that require a community solution," she says.

Kelly is a role model for future women making history. She has been a Girl Scout leader for 15 years, for three different troops, two of which were her daughter's troops. She enjoys empowering girls and introducing them to outdoor adventures like cross country skiing, backpacking, rock climbing and snowshoeing. She also finds fulfillment in "helping young girls to create change within themselves and letting girls be inspired by possibility."

With so much going on, including raising a family, how does Kelly get it all done? "I am persistent, creative, and continually seeking balance," she says. "I am responsible for how I respond to what life brings, not the things it brings. I am responsible for focusing on doing right in the present, doing things that matter. Just trying to really understand this and incorporate it into my work and life is one of my greatest gifts and challenges."

"Hope is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

- Vaclav Havel
After her recovery, Kim decided to forgo a safari she had planned, and instead used the money to put two Ugandan AIDS orphans, Michael and Patrick, through school. "I figured I could spend the money on a vacation for myself, or change these children's lives," says Kim, who continued to finance the boys' education through college, with the condition that each boy "pay it forward" and put two other children through school.

But Kim wasn't about to stop there. She says, "Pascal and I both felt that something bigger than us was at work and we needed to respect that. So we decided to put our two worlds together and see how many children we could possibly help."

When deciding where to begin their endeavor, Kim chose early childhood education and reading. "Africans have always been a storytelling society," she says. "They don't write things down, and I think if they want a strong future and to put a lot of these tribal issues to rest and really start to build an amazing continent, they have to start with the children and with early reading, early education, so that when it is time for them to go to school, they're up and running and ready to go, and not learning their ABCs when they're six years old."

But where to start? Alexandre, Kim's son, loves going to the library. She says, "We have to go every week and get a stack of books...he just devours these books." Realizing that she would soon be moving her family permanently to Rwanda, Kim wondered, "How can I expect Alexandre to live without a library?" At that moment, she knew: "We're going to build the first children's library in the city. One complete with a Jeep bookmobile to get books to the children in outlying villages," she says, and adds, "I want the bookmobile job. I want to go sit in the dirt in the villages and read books to these kids."

Now that the Rwandan government is changing the official language from French to English, Kim wants both children and their parents to become bilingual in Kinyarwanda, their native language, and English. "I don't want them to forget their native language," she says, "I want to get them literate in both languages so they have a real opportunity for a fabulous future."

Kim plans for the library to have a tutoring center, employing students from the local university as tutors and to work in the library. She also wants an area for parents to read books to their very young children, and says, "Now the parents, too, will have to be learning English, because their children will be learning English in school. Parents can come and learn English in a nurturing environment."

The Bakaraniis have supporters in both the United States and Africa. "Pascal has met with the [African] ministers of education and finance, and they are so excited about this whole thing," says Kim. And in the U.S., she has grant writers, fundraisers, architects, children's librarians, and others who share her passion for the cause.

"My dream of all dreams," says Kim, "is to start in one country and move on to the next. I know it's the right thing and the right time. It's so simple once you know in your heart what you want to accomplish."

Kim is still collecting these items for the children's library: pre-kindergarten readers; picture books, board books; markers; writing paper; tablets; and coloring books. To donate, call Kim at 208-853-0411 or e-mail her at kabakarani@yahoo.com.
Lindsey Rhodes
by Wanda L.E. Viento

Lindsey Rhodes is a developing social activist. Her nominators cited her passion, integrity, loyalty, and intelligence as foundational to the work she has been doing to increase awareness about—and eliminate—oppression in our community. She is a woman making history.

Lindsey started her life in Great Falls, Montana, where her mother worked at the local Air Force base. After a year, her mother transferred to Boise, where two more siblings came along. Lindsey graduated from Meridian High School in 2002 and entered college the next year at the University of Nevada in Reno. It was during this time there that she experienced a life-altering trauma through sexual assault. She returned to Idaho, but began to struggle with many aspects of her life as she tried to heal. She enrolled at Boise State University, then spent a year in a National Student Exchange Program during her junior year at Portland State University. Returning to BSU, she finished her undergraduate degree in August of 2007 with a political science major and gender studies minor.

During her school career, Lindsey's world began to open wide. She noticed the "F" pins around campus, buttons distributed by the BSU Women's Center to educate people about feminism, and though they were not a novelty, she felt intimidated by the ideas of feminism, at least at first. During her exchange year at Portland State, Lindsey took her first class in gender studies and things began to "click." She says the class helped her to be more grounded as she began to identify with a belief system that made sense of her world.

When she returned to BSU, she started to put into action the things she was coming to believe in her heart. Lindsey volunteered at the Women's Center as a mentor in the Returning Women's Mentoring Program, seeking to support other women in their education. The next year, she took a position as a program assistant at the Women's Center and coordinated programs on a wide range of issues to increase awareness about gender issues on campus and in the community. During this time, she was also participating in student organizations such as the Organization for Gender Equality in Education (OGEE) and the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). She was seeking to expand her activism and network with others in the community, putting into action all she had been learning in her classes.

A major turning point in Lindsey's life was when she volunteered to share her story at the 2007 Take Back the Night (TBTN) speak-out in Boise. TBTN is an international event where people gather to denounce the continuation of violence against women in our culture. Often, survivors of violence speak publicly about their traumas to educate everyone, to inspire others to come forward, and to empower themselves.

"I was scared," says Lindsey. "I had no forum to share my experience before. I couldn't have done it if there was no feminist community surrounding me in support." She also says it helped her to connect to people who understood what she had been through, and it helped her to deal with those close to her about the aftereffects of violence. Those present that night were moved by her bravery and eloquence. Her boyfriend (now fiancé) and her father were present to support her, and she says that support made her realize how important men's roles are in the movement to end violence against women.

After her presentation and a subsequent article featured on her in the Idaho Statesman, Lindsey had strangers coming up to her and thanking her. People hugged her, sent her letters and e-mails afterwards, and she even heard from a former teacher who had read the newspaper article. Lindsey was moved by all these responses and felt that acknowledgement meant that she had actually done something of great value. It made her realize how many more people around her shared the same experience. "I really want to make a difference for others," she says. "I have no regrets in speaking out."

Lindsey graduated in August of 2007 with a major in political science and a minor in gender studies. She plans to pursue a second bachelor's degree in communications and eventually complete a master's degree. Currently, she is working as an AmeriCorps Volunteer at the Women's Center as the volunteer coordinator. She is also serving on the Board of Directors for the Idaho Women's Network. In dreaming for the future, she wants to finish her master's degree to be able to work as a crisis counselor at a women's shelter.

One of Lindsey's nominators described Lindsey's speech at the 2007 Take Back the Night event and summed her up this way: "Her speech...was a courageous and admirable action against the kind of casual violence against women that our patriarchal society tries so hard to ignore. Lindsey deserves this honor because she donates so much of her time, energy, and intellectual rigor to the cause of eliminating sexism, heterosexism, and institutionalized violence against women."

Lisa Bostaph
by Nyesa CM Jensen

Dr. Lisa Bostaph's family is full of criminal justice professionals. Her mother works in probation; a cousin is a police officer; other relatives work at ATF and FBI; some are deputies; and her parents' friends were sheriffs and city attorneys. So when she was considering a career field, she wanted nothing to do with "criminal justice, she says, laughing.

She earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and learned American Sign Language. Later, she worked in the Deaf community and then decided to earn her master's degree in linguistics at Gallaudet University, the largest university for deaf people in the world.

After graduate school, Lisa was offered a job with the Pentagon, but she turned it down, opting instead to return to Minnesota where her family lived. However, finding a job, especially in her field, proved harder than she expected. So, she finally got a job with the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP) tracking the progress of perpetrators in a court-ordered program. Here she was, after trying to avoid anything to do with criminal justice, smack in the middle of domestic abuse programs—and she loved it. She says she wondered why she had spent so long avoiding it. "I felt like I was really doing something," Lisa says.

Lisa's voice takes on an excited tone when she begins to talk about her work. She is clearly energized by working in a field with so much potential to help others. At the time, she says, Minnesota was on the leading edge of domestic abuse intervention programs. The DAIP had a specific curriculum to help men change the cycle of violence, including holding men accountable for the violence they committed, working to change beliefs taught to them by society, and addressing the violence they experienced in their own lives.

"It's important that we step back and address the problems of violence earlier in life," Lisa says. She explains that counseling programs at women's shelters for children who have seen
violence are important, and working to help women leave abusive relationships with their children, rather than removing the children from the home, is also important. But even more important, she says, we need to completely rethink how we socialize and culturalize our children, both boys and girls. We need to watch our preconceived acceptance of stereotypes of boys being rambunctious and girls being quiet and submissive. We also need to watch how we think about violence and what is acceptable, especially as children get older and move into adolescence.

For the next several years, Lisa worked in programs for battered women and victims of crimes, but then found herself getting burned out. She considered her options for how to remain in the field while taking a different position to refresh and renew her enthusiasm. She thought about law school, but ruled it out. She finally decided to get a Ph.D. in criminal justice and went back to school.

After receiving her doctorate, Lisa came to Boise to teach in the criminal justice department at BSU, where she educates students about domestic violence and sexual assault. "I love to teach. I love my students," she says. Her teaching approach utilizes her research background; she presents all sides to her students, demonstrating what the research says, and then allows her students to come to their own conclusions.

Lisa says her current inspiration and reason for her work is that "I want a better world for my daughter. If anything could ever happen to her, I want the system to be there to protect her." Lisa believes there has been progress made toward a better criminal justice system, such as the development of domestic violence courts and intervention programs, but in rural communities, those changes don't really matter. "Where are you going to go to be safe when the nearest shelter is a three-hour drive away?" Or when your abuser is related to the sheriff or the town's leading clergyman? Even in the Treasure Valley and in other metropolitan areas, there are "so many issues, so many people in dire circumstances." There's not enough funding, not enough shelter space.

Lisa's work aims to continue the progress. Under a federal grant, she helped implement the Idaho Victim Assistance Academy. The academy involves 40 hours of intensive academic work for professionals who interact with victims, including police officers, nurses, counselors and others. "We want to help people help victims," she says. And the work energizes her. "It gets me riled up. It makes me happy. It makes me angry. It makes me more motivating me. It drives me." She says she's lucky to be able to do the work she loves so much, and credits her husband with supporting her and telling her to go for it.

She firmly believes everyone has a role to play in helping victims by encouraging youth to follow their passions. "You don't want people around you who are going to tell you you can't do something." She also believes attitudes that perpetuate the message to young people that they are not good enough, pretty enough, or smart enough victimize people and diminish their self-worth, allowing further victimization. Lisa says that the message we should pass on to young people is this: "Don't sell yourself short, and don't let anybody else sell you short."

Melissa Wintrow, Lisa's nominator for the Women Making History Award, stated, "Dr. Brady has been steadfast in her commitment to students and the development of this unique community of learners. Through her dedication to learning in and out of the classroom...she and her partner have...recruited new students to the community and planned activities that complement student learning...I joked with Dr. Brady about her tenacity for recruitment and that the department should offer her a 'commission' for the number of new students she recruited into Housing. I was amazed at her energy and her ability to find quality students to live on the floor. She was so successful in her efforts that the community had a waiting list for entrance for the very first time. How appropriate that the historian is making history."

Lisa believes that it is the mission of all educators to "open the world" to their students through a holistic, broad ranging, multidisciplinary approach to education, and she accomplishes this in her field of study through consistent fostering of her students' innate curiosity, whether or not their talent is exhibited through a high GPA.

"We consciously did not put a GPA requirement in place for inclusion into our learning community," Lisa explains. "I believe that that would pose an artificial barrier to student development and learning, because a high GPA is not the only or the best indicator of talent or future success." Her commitment to developing talent in students is evident both in her work and in her philosophy.

"She has sacrificed quite a bit to live in the residence halls and work so closely with students," Melissa adds. "She has gone above and beyond in her role and worked hard to challenge students and introduce them to new ideas and concepts...She does a great job of creating an environment on the floor where people can exchange ideas and engage in discussion about current events. She and her partner truly challenge the status quo and work hard to make people think beyond their comfort zones. She is a strong female role model and has dedicated her life to education. She has truly established a unique, creative, and strong community of students on the floor where she resides."

For Lisa, exposure to arts and culture allows students to explore deeper questions about the nature of knowledge, as well as to create opportunities to apply classroom knowledge, which is a by-product of experience and exploration, rather than an end in and of itself. This, she believes, helps students to understand their place in the world, a goal which undergirds her educational philosophy as well as her approach to learning community.

"If students can't apply what they're learning in the classroom to their lives and their views of the world," she says, "then I would argue that they are not truly learning; they are memorizing, and they will not carry that knowledge with them in the future."

Appropriate indeed, that the historian herself is making history.

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I want all my senses engaged. Let me absorb the world's variety and uniqueness.

- Maya Angelou
When Martha left the military, she utilized her new accounting skills for a number of employers, including Blue Cross and the Boise School District. In each position, she established herself as a hard worker. She brought a sense of vision and purpose to everything she did. Regardless of what type of work she was doing, it was important to her that she felt there was value in doing it.

Once, Martha was confronted with a situation where she felt she was no longer beneficial to the company that employed her; she had trained other individuals to do what she had been doing, and no longer felt there was a need for her position. She approached the vice president of the company and said, "I don't want to quit, but I don't feel like I'm bringing value to the company." He was shocked by her boldness and honesty.

This was not the only time Martha ever shocked an employer. While working for a cellular company, she was promoted to directorship. She worked diligently to build a team and to train them to be proficient in their job. Unfortunately, due to corporate reorganization, the company had to eliminate positions and told Martha that in order to keep her job she would have to fire someone. She refused, opting instead to leave.

Martha brings these same honorable standards to her work at Boise State University Housing, where she combines her people skills, knack for numbers, and work ethic to benefit the lives of countless students. Martha is often one of the first people at BSU whom students meet, and she utilizes this as a way to lead a positive, lasting impact with every one of them.

As part of her job at the University Apartments, Martha conducts lease signings for new tenants. What others might consider a mundane task, she uses as a chance to get to know the students. By the time the paperwork is finished, the students feel as if they have someone to turn to on campus. Student residents come in with all sorts of problems, and Martha always takes the time to help them out.

Her dedication to students is second only to her devotion to family. Martha feels blessed to have her siblings, and admires them all. Her mother and aunt are her heroes. She says, "If I can become half the human being as my mother then I will achieve something in my life. And if I can achieve the grace that my aunt lives her life with, then I would truly be a blessed woman."

Martha also takes much pride in her own two sons and their accomplishments. "I love their uniqueness and concern for their fellow humankind," But at the end of the day it is her husband, Kelly, who keeps her grounded. He once said to her, "You're so crazy and I'm so sane."

Everybody in University Housing considers it an honor to call Martha Greeson-Barreith a co-worker. She brings so much positive energy and enthusiasm that it is impossible not to notice her as a woman making history. Each day she makes a difference through the kindness and dedication she displays to her colleagues and to her students, helping to create a warm and caring home for everyone at BSU.

Rosalie Sorrels
by Bobbie Cunningham

Rosalie Sorrels has been singing and hanging out with musicians since the early '60s. Her name is familiar to most people around the state, but not everyone realizes this Idaho native is a national folk music icon. In the annals of music history, her name will appear alongside other great singers such as Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds and Utah Phillips.

Her music has taken her on a crisscross journey around this country for half a century, where the friends she has met, the experiences she has shared, and the history she has witnessed have continually inspired her writing. "I don't make things up, I tell the truth," she says. "I return to the same kind of story—not sensational, just reflections of everyone's experience."

Rosalie squeezed in a telephone interview between performances in three cities, one performance with Ramblin' Jack Elliott, her friend for more than 50 years, and traveling to Vancouver, Washington to accept "The Best in the West" award from the Western Folk Alliance. "The Alliance is an organization of singers and producers who want to make the distribution of money more equitable that comes from publishing," she explains. Such awards make it possible for folk musicians to pursue their art, produce records and afford touring. And that's a good thing because, unlike today's country western superstars and instant-millionaire pop singers, wealth has traditionally eluded folk singers.

"You don't make a whole lot of money being a folk singer," she says. "Folk music is people's music. It's not made because people think they can sell it. It's human music, it's about life. I don't write things that are commercially viable."

It was in Salt Lake City, Utah, where Rosalie attended concerts and began her immersion in folk music. "I was married and having my babies then," she says. "I worked for the University of Utah..." A university-sponsored folk music organization was started and I had people over to my house every week. Everybody came through—all the big folk artists."
In 1962, she found herself on stage at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island. "It was the first folk festival I went to—it was like another world. Everybody got $50 per performing day, whether it was me or the Lovin' Spoonful or Bob Dylan. We all got our expenses paid. My roommate was Fannie Lou Hamer." Hamer, who organized the first black voter registration drive in Mississippi, dedicated her life to the struggle for voter registration programs through such organizations as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She played an important role in events that culminated in President Lyndon Johnson's signing of the Civil Rights Act.

"She changed my life," says Rosalie. "I'd been out partying after the festival and I came in about 4 a.m. and the door was locked. I was outside, hollering. 'Why is this door locked? Open up!' She came to the door with a beautiful smile like a sunrise and said, 'Well, I see you're from Idaho and you don't know anything. Come in here and I'll tell you some stuff.' She sat me down and told me about her good friend Medgar Evers...and how she had the living hell beat out of her in jail. Finally she said, 'So you see, where I come from you got to lock the door.' We remained friends until she died."

Many friends along the way have helped Rosalie learn to rise to the challenge of other locked doors. After recording her first album, her marriage broke up. She says, "My husband didn't want me to do anything more." He wanted her at home: cooking, cleaning, raising the children. But Rosalie pursued her dream anyway, even though keeping things together on the road with five children was a real struggle. Malvina Reynolds ("Little Boxes on the Hillside"), offered her some key advice. "Malvina taught me, when I would just feel so discouraged, she would put me to work helping somebody who was way worse off than I was."

Looking back over the decades, at how women have struggled for equal rights, Rosalie says, "I think the world has changed a whole lot...things have turned around. I think poverty is much more the culprit now. I do believe women were discriminated against, but not exclusively by men. It was a social thing. I also think young women have dropped the ball, like, 'We've got it all.' They don't remember that the world is a very complicated place, and just because you have a good job and a lot of money doesn't mean it's all done. Sometimes I think, 'Do I have to go out and march about this again? Isn't it someone else's turn?' It's as though they think they've ended the struggle. I keep harping on the fact that men weren't always the only problem."

She sings about men and women and children, about the craziness and comforts, about the hardships and the wonders of life. "The best thing I've done is stay engaged," she says. "Trying to find out all the information that's available and trying to encourage other people to learn it. I have stayed open. I haven't made up my mind that I know everything. I'm always willing to learn."

Rosalie turns 75 this year, but her plans don't center around a rocking chair on the porch of her Grimes Creek cabin. "I was saying I was retiring, staying home more and more, but I can't make a living doing that. I'm working on an idea for an album," she says. "It's about getting old. Getting to be 75 includes learning quite a lot."

Rosio Gonzalez
by Neya CM Jensen

Growing up poor, female, and Latina gave Rosio Gonzalez a unique insight into oppression. "I knew people often saw us with stereotype eyes. We were all gang bangers and troublemakers. We were watched in stores carefully, sometimes asked how we could afford something we were purchasing. We weren't supported to go to college, because a job was a better solution for our abilities or capabilities."

When Rosio was only two years old, her mother died; she lived in the Gilroy Valley of California with aunts and uncles on her father's side of the family. Eventually, she and four siblings moved in with their grandmother, who raised them to adulthood. Rosio says, "She ran a tight ship and worked really hard to move us out of that struggling neighborhood."

Rosio understood early on that education was going to be important. Watching her father, who did not finish high school, struggle all his life as a farm worker with no opportunities, she knew education was a way out of poverty. But getting there was another matter. Her traditional Latino culture didn't support her goals. "I was expected to help in the home, unlike my brothers. As the youngest female in the home, I was expected to take on the responsibility to care for our grandmother through old age. I was expected to stay in close proximity to my family, which was a struggle when I left home to attend college."

Her high school counselor told her not to go to college or bother taking the SAT. But Rosio was undaunted. She registered for the test, with no clue what it was except that she needed to take it to go to college. "Of course, I flunked my SATs horribly," she says. "But determined as I was, I enrolled in the community college."

Rosio credits her family and some inspirational teachers with supporting her in her goal to achieve a higher education. "My grandmother was an inspiration, always pushing us to do better. She had a sixth-grade education and she saw the struggles we would experience if we did not seek education as a way out of poverty—but she never really knew how to support us to achieve this. I had teachers who were mentors in elementary and high school and I knew they changed my life. I had the support of my family."

There was also the college counselor who was determined not to let Rosio drop out when things were difficult. "Without these individuals, things may have turned out different for me, who knows. This is why giving back to our youth and community is so important to me. I received so much from others in my journey to where I am."

While at college, Rosio became an activist for farm workers' rights and learned that there are ways to make a difference.

Rosio's adult life has been spent working toward a better life for those in need. She started out as a social worker, but today she is the executive director of Catholic Charities of Idaho. In that capacity, she oversees services that include outreach to victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic violence, at-risk youth, immigrants, low-income families, and English language learners. She also advocates for improved health care, child care, education, living wages, and other issues particularly affecting low-income families.

Rosio's friend, Adriane, shares an example of Rosio's commitment to helping others: "During a recent crisis at a local mobile home park, the owner of the park was taking advantage of impoverished families by allowing families to live in the park while it was severely out of compliance with city safety regulations. Rosio responded, along with other community leaders, to help inform families of the serious issue and to coordinate services for families who needed to relocate. Because Rosio is bilingual, she was able to make connections that others were unable to manage. She spent evenings and weekends at the trailer park helping families."

Rosio says, "I was saddened by some of the responses in the community from people who lacked the empathy or understanding of what it is to be努力 to help your friends within a week and move. At the same time, I was touched by the humanity of those who reached out to help these families find shelter and resources to make the transition easier. I was impressed by a law firm that decided to represent these families pro bono. I was mostly touched by the families who showed the courage and strength to endure this huge injustice and maintained the faith to keep their families together and start anew with the little resources they had."

Rosio believes that faith and her world call her to use her "talents and gifts in a way that helps the common good of all." She succeeds at what she does because, as she says, "I have a deep capacity to care for others. I am empathetic. I have time, talent and resources that I share with others as an act of connectivity. I value education, I am collaborative and supportive. My strength as a woman comes from our grandmother who was the matriarch of our family and taught us to be strong women in a culture that was not always accepting of this paradigm. She mentored me, without knowing that a woman could be strong, capable and assertive. I am not making history, but certainly appreciate the opportunity to be part of helping change history."
Amy Ortman
by Jessica Henderson and Sandy Friedly

It’s said that when one door closes, another opens. Amy Ortman can certainly attest to the truth of this statement. Her resilience during hard times and serious setbacks has allowed her to persevere and turn challenges into opportunities.

After earning an athletic scholarship, Amy came to Idaho in the fall of 2002 from Spring, Texas, with dreams of playing goalie on the Boise State women's soccer team. She was driven by a fierce passion for the sport. During the first season she became freshman MVP but her game soon took a sharp downturn. Pain in her right foot lead to the discovery of an extra bone, a rare congenital condition. She had ignored the pain while competing in high school, and believes that the more vigorous training in college exacerbated the existing problem.

The doctor told Amy that she’d be “back and running in two weeks” after the surgery, which took place in January, 2003. She was under the impression it was no big deal and wore a protective boot as part of the process in healing. Two weeks passed, then a month, and before she knew it, spring had arrived. The boot was removed, but she limped onward into summer. By August, she underwent foot reconstruction and was back in crunches the rest of the year. In 2004, she experienced yet another setback—tearing the ACL in her left knee.

“Gradually, I could run, not great, but it was progress,” says Amy. “It was big steps in my heart.... In the fall of 2005 I played some and traveled and it was an amazing experience, but I just knew in my heart my game was done. I will forever cherish those memories on and off the soccer field.”

Although forced to the sidelines, and eventually having to leave the playing field altogether, Amy realized she could be benched physically, but not spiritually. She became the team’s biggest cheerleader and never missed a game. “The experience taught me a lot about myself,” she says. “I learned how to reach out to people. It was an opportunity to give back.”

Community involvement took on more importance to Amy as she recovered from the surgery. She became the president of the Student Athletic Committee and started Blu Crew, a spirit-based club. “Come out and support our fellow athletes,” Amy says to anyone who will listen. “You’re all cheering for the same issues: the blue and orange. Volunteerism became her new passion.

As a member of Alpha Chi Omega, Amy participates in projects such as the Campton Drive, selling flowers to collect money to aid victims of domestic violence. She assists in raising awareness about depression, suicide prevention and sexual assault, and also raises funds for the Women’s and Children’s Alliance.

“Alpha Chi Omega is something that has brought more than memories and moments of laughter,” says Amy. “It has helped me to realize my own potential, my goals, and has reminded me of the importance of caring and the power of a friendship... Joining the sorority has made me thankful. It was a path I did not expect to take at Boise State.”

Through the BSU Athletic Department, Amy discovered another path—the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organization for which she continues to give generously of her time for people like Aubrey Matthews. Before her first birthday, Aubrey was diagnosed with a tumor behind her left eye, a rare condition. Her mother, Elsa, has always called her a hero, telling her how strong and positive she is despite her limited vision. When Aubrey was six years old and undergoing chemotherapy, she made a wish to become a superhero.

Amy met with the family on a regular basis to get to know Aubrey, to know her likes and dislikes, to understand the mind of a superhero wannabe. She coordinated events that involved the Boise Police Department and the Gown Field Fire Department, creating emergency situations that only a superhero named “Star” could remedy. Adam West, the actor from the 1960s Batman television series, played along by making calls throughout the day like a Commissioner Gordon from Gotham headquarters. And because all real superheroes fly, St. Luke’s Hospital provided a helicopter ride. All this, and much more, to make a little girl happy.

“It wasn’t just me,” says Amy. “It was real teamwork. It was incredible. We played all day and Aubrey never lost her spunk and energy. She’s so inspirational. She even made me a superhero.” Aubrey named her Sky Girl.

“I cannot comprehend the hours Amy spent in focusing on what my daughter wanted. Where did she find the time?” asks Elsa. “It wasn’t about granting a wish, it was about really caring,” Although that experience happened two years ago, Amy stays connected. According to Elsa, “She’s a lifelong friend.”

Amy is a senior majoring in health science studies. She plans to attend graduate school to become an occupational therapist and wants to work with children. She will also continue to volunteer and help grant wishes “forever.” She understands the reciprocity of what it means to reach out; seeing the strength in others strengthens her. Giving back keeps her going. When Amy isn’t studying or volunteering, she enjoys the company of friends and sorority sisters. She will always be a Bronco who loves sports, a supporter with the biggest heart. After all, she’s Sky Girl.

Susan Smith
by Kim Neill

Susan Smith’s philanthropy grew from the humble beginnings of putting a hard-earned 25 cents into the collection plate every Sunday, to a full-time, passion-driven career that goes far beyond financial support. For over 30 years, she has modeled and exemplified philanthropy by donating her time, abilities, creativity, problem-solving skills and resources to support athletics, arts and dance. Her list of accomplishments includes advocacy and leadership for a variety of community organizations such as the Boise Art Museum, FUNDST, Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation, and St. Joseph's School.

A commitment to her community and willingness to share resources drives Susan’s incredible work ethic and dedication to the organizations and educational institutions she serves. She is most passionate about children’s programs—she supports not only her own children’s activities, but the community’s children as well. She inspires others with her energy and generosity and is a friend to all.

In 1976, as a newcomer to Boise looking for a way to meet people in an unfamiliar town, Susan joined the Boise Art Museum’s Beaux Arts Société, where she co-chaired the children’s festival. Although she admits to the initial difficulty of making cold calls to recruit volunteers for the event, she persevered, and the rest is history. She became excellent at recruiting and delegating, absolute necessities in the business of philanthropy.

After putting aside her nursing career and balancing her parental duties, she pursued the responsibilities of supporting the nonprofit sector. Including everything from organizing to collaborating, all the while developing and refining new and innate skills that would make her one of the most sought-after philanthropists in the Treasure Valley. Her dedication to philanthropic efforts has brought balance to both her personal life and the people she works with in the community. She feels privileged with the opportunity to meet and work with a variety of women.
Susan was one of the six founders of the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation (WCF), and she models in her own life the vision of WCF: commitment to raising benevolent consciousness and impacting the community. She has great admiration for Colleen Willoughby, the woman who began the Washington Women's Foundation and the model on which WCF is based. WCF is a philanthropic foundation consisting of women who pool their financial resources to create funding opportunities for local community programs. Susan has been a powerhouse in raising WCF's membership—from the original six people to its current 200 members.

Susan embraces the inevitable challenges and personal growth that come from working with the various organizations, for example, learning to have realistic expectations of what can be done, the importance of sharing a vision with others, aligning what she wants to do with what others want to do, willingness to learn new skills and jobs, and realizing that philanthropy can be a gradual process. She highlights "the importance of really studying situations and being aware that people end up in desperate situations due to many different variables and circumstances that are out of their control." She says, "The most rewarding part of philanthropy is helping to support good ideas that affect the community, as well as learning about the work of inspired individuals." She has certainly proven to be a confident and accomplished leader, while remaining humble and resisting the accolades she regularly receives.

Unless you are directly involved in the sport of competitive swimming, you'd never know that Susan has been a guiding force for both the Boise YMCA and the Boise High School swim teams. She began as a parent supporter for her own children and grew into one of the best swim meet directors around. Her very presence on the pool deck is advocacy for the sport of swimming.

While many parents have to be coerced on deck just to be event timers, Susan has worked through the ranks to become Meet Director. She willingly admits the intimidation she first felt at taking on a position so new and so humbling, but after three years the experience gained her the comfort she needed with the organization (and disorganization) that goes into putting on a swim meet; she accomplishes all this through soft-spoken leadership and delegation, without having to be domineering.

In a football town like Boise, swimming still remains nearly invisible, with little recognition outside those directly involved with the sport, and even less from the local media. Susan's advice to fellow swimming advocates who would like to increase recognition for this lifetime sport: "Keep pushing for exposure on the media; support initiatives to make high school swimming a statewide, sanctioned sport; encourage political and community leaders to support facilities and programs that provide the swimming experience; and educate the community about the health benefits of swimming and its beneficial role as a conditioner for other sports."

Susan's many accomplishments have not been for personal acknowledgment. She performs her philanthropic work because it's needed, it's important, and she's willing to accomplish the task, whatever that may be. Her nurturing and motivating leadership style makes others want to be part of the team. According to Aristotle, "The greatest virtues are those which are most useful to other people," and Susan Smith exemplifies those very virtues.

But it was during her tenure at Boise State that Wylla picked up the gauntlet of women's rights and began flexing her muscles.

"When I think of when I came to Boise State versus now, as far as what women are doing, I feel proud," she says, "But you'll notice that all the things I'm proud of were done with other women."

For example, Wylla was a founding member of HERS, West at Boise State. HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) began at Brown University in the early 1970s as a dual mission to improve the status of academic professional women and to aid colleges and universities in complying with Title IX requirements that mandated an end to discrimination based on gender.

"We just took on one little thing at a time," she says, "One of the first things we took on was equality in locker rooms. The locker rooms at BSU were not at all of equal quality, and we got changes. We also took on the fact that the man under the president of the university who was in charge of equal rights wasn't doing his job. We told [then university president] Kaiser we wanted to help with the policy on sexual harassment and he said, 'Oh, that's already been taken care of, and we said 'no, it hasn't,' and we addressed that. We discovered that the old girls network does work. And it's pretty neat when the goings on are discussed in women's rooms, not men's rooms."

"Men were fond of making fun of women libbers in that time, but it was also a point in time [the late 70's] when studies about women, with research, study, theory were on the rise and we formed an idea to team-teach a class titled The Social Psychology of Sex Roles as a special topics course. Two hundred people signed up, and we had to move from a small classroom to a lecture hall. Later, at a psychology conference, I found everybody teaching these kinds of classes was having the same experience. It made me feel good—that it was in the culture."

Wylla retired from her teaching career in 1992. Today, at 83, she is still working for the social betterment of women. Her current efforts are centered on Baby Steps, a cooperative venture coordinated by St. Michael's Episcopal Church's Outreach Committee and staffed by volunteers from the community. House in the old Carnegie Library on Washington Street, Baby Steps seeks to promote health during pregnancy and early infancy.

"Our goal is to start healthy families in every way you think of healthy," she says, "The earlier this happens with children, the better it is for them. There can always be intervention, but early is best. I go once a month and teach child development classes. For example, I try to teach mothers the value of developing sense of self with an emphasis on if you respect yourself, you can talk to your kids so they can learn they are valuable."

For members of the Boise community, it is a very good thing that Wylla Barness learned early on that she herself was valuable and that she had a lot to offer. Her efforts to educate and to teach by example that one woman can really make a difference has been a benefit to all.

**Wylla Barness**

by Bobbie Cunningham

Dr. Wylla Barness is a woman of small stature, twinkling eyes, and there is a hint of laughter in her voice. But beneath her rather traditional appearance lies a fighter. The good old boys at Boise State College who let her through the gates back in the late sixties had no way of knowing they had a tiger by the tail.

"I came to BSU in 1968, when BSU was Boise College," she says, "It was a transition time—the school was moving to the future—and they hired a flock of Ph.D.s. They hired my husband (Jack Barness) as chair of the English Department, and my position was half education and half psychology. I crossed the lines of education and psychology teaching the exceptional child and so on. But eventually there were more courses in psychology."

The only woman on the staff of Boise State's psychology department for many years, Wylla's child psychology courses were extremely popular and well attended. She also taught some of the school's first gender-specific classes, including assertiveness training and courses about aging. In the early 1970s, she served as faculty advisor for the first student women's organization, Boise State Women's Alliance, which focused its energies on women's rights, curriculum issues, gender rights, and daycare services. And despite such a busy schedule, she still had time to play a major role in establishing the university's Women's Center.

Wylla met her husband while attending William Jewell College, a small Baptist school in Missouri. They later married and had four children, "Two girls and two boys—my ideal family," she says. The family lived on a farm deep in scholarly pursuits.

Wylla did not spend much time dwelling on the prevailing wisdom of the 1930s and 1940s, which dictated that women should be wives and mothers, teachers or nurses. She simply went about her work, keeping her professional goals in sight. There were some challenges along the way—like being stripped of a graduate school fellowship when she became pregnant.
March 1 - Women Making Herstory Awards Reception
By Invitation Only

March 4 - Lunchtime Movie
Lila: Eight to Thirteen
12pm, SPEC, FREE
Produced and Directed by Diane Brown

March 7 - International Women's Day
International Women's Day is March 8th

March 10 - Movie Night
Women On Fire: Menopause Stories
5:30pm, SUB - Barnwell Room, FREE
Produced and Directed by Kathleen Laughlin

March 12 - Larry Selland Humanitarian Award Breakfast
By Invitation Only

March 13 - Returning Women's Discussion Group Luncheon
11:30am - 12:30pm
Women's Center Lounge, FREE

March 14 - Keynote Event
"The Heather Gold Show"
6pm, SUB - Jordan D Ballroom, FREE
A funny and provocative "talk show" will look at women through the life cycle as Heather Gold interviews local women about their lives.

March 18 - Movie Night
MLK Event: Diverse Perspectives Film Series
Iron Ladies of Liberia
5:30pm, SUB - Barnwell Room, FREE

March 19 - Lunchtime Movie
Just Mom and Me
12pm, Hatch A Ballroom, FREE
Produced and Directed by Yvette Torell

March 29 - Money Wise Women's Conference
9:00am - 4:30pm
SUB - Jordan Ballroom

For detailed information, please contact the Women's Center at:

womenscenter.boisestate.edu
426 - 4259