March :: Women’s History Month

IDaho
Women Making History

produced by the Boise State Women’s Center

Anji Armagost
Hildegarde Ayer
Zella Bardsley
Evangeline Beaver
Peg Blake
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Shirley Christoffersen
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Page 18: A Special Tribute in Memory of Trang Doan

I have met brave women who
are exploring the outer edge
of human possibility, with no
history to guide them, and with
a courage to make themselves
vulnerable that I find moving
-Gloria Steinem

Special thanks to
The Idaho Statesman for
distributing the stories of
these 25 women, in this
special advertising supplement
produced by Boise State.
Women Making History

In March 2001 the Women's Center created a newspaper publication to recognize women in Idaho who had been nominated for ‘making history,’ for working hard to make a positive difference in the lives of others in our community. Boise State interns and volunteers then interviewed these ordinary women living extraordinary lives and documented their stories.

In the first year of print, thirty-seven women were recognized; as of this year a total of 133 Idaho women have been honored. Special thanks to The Idaho Statesman for distributing the stories of these 25 women. The stories of the recipients from the last three years have appeared in this special supplement that introduces Boise State University's annual celebration of National Women's History Month.

Join us for our 2004 celebration of Women's History Month. This newspaper, as well as all the month's events, celebrates women's stories through song, theatre, art, film, and lectures. From the performance of the play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," to the national juried art exhibition in the Student Union Gallery, to lectures by faculty on a variety of topics, you are invited to get involved in the lively stories of women.

See the schedule of events on the back page of this publication to learn how you can participate.

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

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

Yet in 1992, a national study found that history texts devote only two to three percent of their total content to women. Educators are willing, often eager, to introduce women's history. But they lack materials and support. Only three percent of educational materials focus on women's contributions. Yet recently legislatures in three states—Illinois, Florida, and Louisiana—mandated teaching women's history in their K-12 classes. The need for more accurate information about women's historical contributions is further confirmed in a recent poll funded by General Motors (GM). Conducted prior to GM's sponsorship of a Ken Burns film on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, two women "who transformed a nation," the results show that only one percent could identify Stanton as the woman who led the fight for 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.

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

It's very easy to nominate a Woman Making History in Idaho.

Go to http://womenscenter.boisestate.edu and find the awards section on the web toolbar; click on "women making history award," and go to the nomination form that can be submitted on-line or pick up a nomination form at The Women's Center at 1605 University Drive, 426-4259.

Some of the questions to consider for nomination:

Describe how the nominee "makes history," How she challenged sexist stereotypes and norms, worked/advocated for equality within institutions (law, health care, education), role modeled healthy self-esteem and self-worth, broken ground in traditionally male dominated fields (sports, engineering, politics), challenged other forms of oppression—racism, ageism, etc.

Share a story that demonstrates how the nominee is making a difference in the lives of others.

Share some of her greatest achievements and personal qualities.

If you were a news reporter, what quote would sum up the attitude of the nominee? Why?

Categories for nomination and selection: Boise State faculty/staff members /Local community members / Students

http://womenscenter.boisestate.edu
20th Century Dates of Importance to American Women

1900 For the first time, women are allowed to compete in the Olympics. Margaret Abbot wins a gold medal in golf for the U.S.

1909 In the "Uprising of the 20,000" women garment workers strike in New York City for better wages and working conditions. Over 300 shops eventually sign union contracts.

1912 20,000 suffrage supporters parade in New York City, passing a half-million on-lookers. Assaults by spectators hospitalize 40 people.

1916 Jeannette Rankin of Montana, an ardent suffragist and pacifist, is the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

1920 The House of Representatives passes the woman suffrage amendment 304 to 89; the Senate passes it with just two votes to spare. Two-thirds of the states ratify it, making women's vote the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1923 Alice Paul first proposes the Equal Rights Amendment introduced in Congress every year since.

1928 Margaret Mead challenges the biological basis of gender differences in Coming of Age in Samoa, revolutionizing popular thinking.

1936 United States v. One Package declassifies birth control information as obscene. Contraceptive devices can finally be imported into the United States.

1941 Five women are the first women to sign up in the U.S. military.

1945 The Equal Pay for Equal Work bill is again introduced into Congress (first time 1872). It finally passes in 63 years.

1948 Margaret Chase Smith is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right, serving until 1973. In 1964, she runs for the U.S. Presidency in the primaries of a major political party (Republican), a woman's first attempt.

1950 The U.S. Census Bureau recognizes a married woman's right to use her birth name.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested for crossing the color line on a bus, igniting the Black Civil Rights Movement.

1957 Nine black students, six of them young women, face violent protests to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1963 The President's Commission on the Status of Women documents discrimination against women in virtually every area of American life. It makes 24 specific recommendations, some surprisingly far-sighted (example: community property in marriages, 64,000 copies are sold in less than a year and talk of women's rights is again respectable).

1964 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex (a last-minute addition).

1966 National Organization for Women (called NOW) is organized as a civil-rights organization for women, promoting full equality.

1967 The U.N. General Assembly unanimously adopts a declaration calling for "equal rights for women in employment, politics, and cultural life."

1972 The Equal Rights Amendment is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Providing that equality of rights shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex, it ultimately falls by just 11 votes in three states.

1972 The first rape crisis center and hotline opens. By 1976, there are 400 centers offering counseling, self-defense classes, and support groups.

1972 Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all education programs receiving federal support.

1973 At the first National Lesbian Feminist Conference in Los Angeles, lesbians assert their identity within the gay and feminist movements in the United States.

1973 The U.S. Supreme Court outlaws sex-segregated help-wanted ads, First amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court accepts "Ms." as a prefix.

1974 Little League Baseball admits girls to its teams, full integration.

1974 Bunny Taylor pitches the year's first no-hitter.

1976 U.S. military academies open admissions to women.

1977 The First National Women's Conference is held in Houston, Texas. 130,000 women attend preparatory meetings held in every state to draft recommendations for a national Plan of Action and to elect 10,000 delegates to the conference-the most diverse group ever elected in the U.S.


1981 Kirchberg v. Feerstra overturns state laws designating a husband "head and master" with unilateral control of property owned jointly with his wife.

1981 Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1993, she is joined by Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

1982 Ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment falls by a total of 11 votes in 38 states despite a solid majority-63%-of the public supporting it.

1984 Sex discrimination in membership policies of organizations such as the Jaycees is forbidden by the Supreme Court, opening many previously all-male organizations to women.

1986 Supreme Court rules that sexual harassment in the workplace is illegal.

1989 300,000 marchers demonstrate for women's reproductive rights in Washington, D.C.

1993 The Women's Rights National Historical Park is dedicated in Seneca Falls, New York, the first women's history site in the National Park Service.

2000 U.S. Dept. of Labor estimates women comprise half the paid workforce, double the rate in 1900. 8 million women-owned businesses employ one of every 4 U.S. company workers, more than all Fortune 500 companies combined.
Lorissa Wilfong Holt

As I begin my descent in to the quiet valley of Emmett on a blustery November day, I am struck by the imposing, almost off-putting presence of Squaw Butte. She is mammoth relative to the small farming community that is built at her base. Over five decades, Lorissa Wilfong Holt first laid eyes on the butte, too, and her mother reached the Emmett overlook on Christmas day in 1950. She was sixteen years old, a Ukrainian immigrant, and a survivor of the Holocaust. She describes the cinematic vision she felt at that moment. She says that she knew then she would live and die in that valley.

Nearly forty years later, after losing her beloved husband to cancer and subsequently the family farm, raising three happy children, and giving much of her life to the community that accepted her and her mother so many years before, Lorissa graduated from college. The subject of her senior writing project was the same complicated and grandiose icon that welcomed her initially: Squaw Butte.

According to settler lore, the dubiously named butte burst from the landscape in a tearful rage because white trappers massacred a camp of Indian women and their children there. Lorissa shares with me her thesis that reads: "To this day, from the hills and valleys to the south, this outline of Squaw Butte appears as a profile of an Indian woman's face raised heavenward... a mourning mother, and her silent outline stands to this day as a monument to her people who were robbed of their lives and of their land." Today, Lorissa's kitchen window frames the Butte.

Lorissa was born in the Ukraine where she learned to speak Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, and German. Her father, an electrical engineer by trade, was executed before World War II began, because he had been labeled an "enemy of the communist state." She was just a young girl living with her grandparents in Kiev when the Germans began their occupation of her homeland. She soon realized that their so-called "liberators" were anything but. She recounts gruesome memories of being washed to a mass execution of Jews as they were lined up before to what she calls a "baby", or witches, ravine. But, Lorissa wants me to know that it was not only Jews who perished in this holocaust. She adds that of the eleven million who were killed, six million were Jews and five million were Slavic, Gypsies, disabled, or gay.

At eight years old, Lorissa and her mother were captured in an open market and marched to the rail station. She cannot be sure how long it was that she spent in that crowded, frigid cattle car as it rattled through the winter, before she was pulled off and spared certain fate because she was sick. She realizes now that other healthier young women were pulled from the cars and raped. Astonishingly, Lorissa was later thrown back into the same car that carried her mother. Their "destination Doceau, outside of Munich, Germany, one of the most notorious death camps of the war. She was not tattooed upon arrival and guesses that the soldiers didn't know because they thought she would die soon. The war was nearly over and Lorissa credits the liberation for her survival. When she could see the American planes overhead and feel the engine vibrations, she says, "People went insane with joy."

After the liberation, Lorissa and her mother who was now pregnant because she likely was raped in the camp, walked to France. They reached the border only to be sent by train back to Russia. A miserable fate since communism was not the new life they hoped for. Ironically, Lorissa's mother was lucky to bear the red insignia mark that indicated she was ill. As a result they were moved to a displaced persons camp in Germany where they received the last family visa to immigrate to the U.S. before the camp closed.

Lorissa says she was apprehended of her old age when she entered the eighth grade that August. But, she nonetheless graduated from Emmett High in record speed. It was during her junior year that she met her husband, an Emmett native and Korean War veteran John Wilfong. They were married in 1955 and the parents of two sons and one daughter by 1959. She is proud of her legacy as a "super mom, rancher's wife, homemaker, and community volunteer." Indeed, Lorissa has always been and continues to be an active member of her community. She tells me that when she reads the Idaho Statesman, "It Takes A Village", she thought to herself, "It took Emmett to raise me."

At 55, Lorissa, who clearly has an insatiable intellectual curiosity, began college at Boise State. Her husband had recently passed away and she reflects, "Nothing could replace my husband, but college. I just blossomed there. It helped me to overcome my grief." In spite of her fear and insecurity about being a middle-aged student at the university, Lorissa persevered. In recognition of her academic excellence, she was awarded a national scholarship to participate in a college exchange. She spent two semesters at the University of California at Fresno studying Russian language and literature. She lived in a dorm and ate in the cafeteria to save time and money. She jokes that her younger counterparts must have thought, "Somebody left their mother behind." Ultimately, Lorissa graduated from Boise State with a degree in English with an emphasis in linguistics.

The year of Lorissa's graduation, her fifty-eighth in life, also saw the start of a life-changing adventure. Inspired to pay back what she called "her debt to America," she found herself drawn to the international organization that not only has no age limit, but also embodies a credo of social justice close to Lorissa's heart: the Peace Corps. She served just over two years in rural Hungary as a teacher of English to the eight graders and, of course, a dear friend to everyone in town. She was moved by the kindness and humility of the Hungarian people and children, and was profoundly impacted by the Gypsy culture and the alienation and economic disparity that this group faces.

Given Lorissa's tenacity, it's no surprise that she sought out to chronicle her time in Hungary in what has become her first, but surely not last, book, self-published no less. Gift of Life: A Memoir of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Hungary is a fitting and eloquent tribute to all life.

With her first publication under her belt, Lorissa's children are encouraging their mom to write another memoir, this one of her early years, but Lorissa refrains for now as she's not quite emotionally prepared for that. In the meantime, she would like it if people would keep their eyes and ears open for her current speaking tour. If you would like to purchase a copy of her book, please call her at 363-6361.

by Amy Herzfel, A native of Idaho. Amy holds a bachelor's degree from Boise State in history and women's studies. As a longtime political activist, Amy has worked both as volunteer and employee for countless campaigns and organizations, including the Idaho Women's Network, Bob Hysler for Governor, El-Aida Community Action Agency, Take Back the Night, Idaho's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Survey Project and many others.

MaryEvelyn Smith

Imagine being a female police officer, animal control officer or even a dispatcher, and being fired for someone you might think you're a lesbian. This actually happened to several women working for Boise Police Department in 1977. After having a supposedly secure police job taken away, they were fired or resigned because they threatened to lose their job. It was a personal attack on their private lives and their careers.

Along with Boise's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, MaryEvelyn organized rallies and petition drives in support of the women, who were most likely targeted by the Police Department simply because they were women. She was not afraid to have her name published in The Idaho Statesman in connection with the story. The women never got their jobs back, but were awarded damages by a federal court, not because they were fired because they suspected of being gay but because the police department improperly wiretapped the phone. Today, any worker in Idaho can still be fired for any reason or no reason at all—you may even be fired because someone thinks you're gay, and you'd never know it.

Twenty-five years later I have the pleasure of talking with MaryEvelyn, who prefers to be called Evie, over coffee in her kitchen. Evie tells me that she came to Boise in 1969 at the age of twenty-seven, to give birth to a son who she gave up for adoption. She knew she was a lesbian while still very young, and describes those early years living in the closet and trying to hide her true identity as a form of "same schizophrenia."

Evie emerged from that dark closet in the mid-1970s, a time of great feminist activity, Evie initially worked on creating a women's political caucus in the State of Idaho, but soon realized she needed to work on issues that impacted her on a more personal level. The result was the development of the Community Center, where lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals could feel safe—no easy task in a world where people not only lose their jobs, but are murdered because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, like Matthew Shepard and Gavin Araujo. In addition to a safe haven, the Community Center provides meeting and office space, a library, and an informal drop-in center for members of the LGBT community.

Evie has also helped numerous young gay people prepare for life in the straight world by contributing to the creation of Youth Alliance for Diversity (YAD), a youth-run group sponsored by Your Family, Friends & Neighbors that helps gay youth cope with the many issues they face. Other educational outreach activities include the "Lessons" Project, which is involved in the "Lessons" Project, which is a newsletter that Boise Police Department in 1977.
I ask Evie if she thinks it is any easier to live in Boise since its explosive growth during the last few years. She says that she doesn't think Boise has changed much because so many people are leaving places like California and coming to Boise to "get away from all that stuff." Evie does believe, however, that coming out is getting easier for young people because there are more positive gay role models, and society in general is becoming more accepting of diversity. Even in ultra-conservative Boise, people are beginning to understand that if you denigrate one group of people, it becomes easier to denigrate another.

Evie recently retired from the Idaho Commission for the Blind where she spent 30 years helping blind people learn to navigate with a cane and use a computer, and otherwise find their way in the sighted world. She shows me a plaque given to her for her years of service with the Idaho Commission for the Blind. She is especially proud of the numerous LGBT community and ELM awards, including the Brian Bergquist Award, displayed on the wall of her kitchen. I ask Evie what she wants to do now that she is retired. "Oh, maybe travel around the world and enjoy life," she replies. But then again, it's hard to retire from volunteer work when you still need funded, and still enjoy the work so much.

by Elizabeth Stubbs. Elizabeth is a senior majoring in English with an emphasis in technical communication. Her interests include women's history and the art of memoirs.

Jeni Jenkins

Jeni Jenkins is a small-town girl with big plans to help kids who grew up like she did. Born and raised in Meridian, Jeni grew up poor but determined to make something of herself. She will graduate from Boise State in May with a bachelor's of arts degree, and four years of hard work, part-time jobs, and financial aid.

Jeni plans to earn her master's in public policy, and then work to change laws and policies, perhaps as a legislator. Jeni wants to understand the needs of children and he can figure out how to change those laws that he views as unfair to children, and other disadvantaged individuals.

The legal, educational, and criminal justice systems are flawed, Jeni says, and changes are needed in order to make the world a better, more equitable place. She says that laws are different for the poor, who lack influence and don't know how or can't afford to navigate these systems. Jeni is full of ideas, and she believes that it costs more to house a prison inmate for a year than it does to pay for one person to earn a college degree. Then she asks, "Why not put the money toward education? Why not give them an education?"

Jeni's story is one of determination and hard work. She has had a tough life, but she doesn't resent it. "It's good for building character," she says. Jeni has had to struggle as much as she did. She says, "I want them to have opportunities I never had. Like participating in the arts, theater, and sports. When I was growing up, we didn't have the money for the fees." Her children, Caleb, 9, and Krahl, 7, are beautiful and confident. As president of the Boise State Single Parents' Club, Jeni and her children spend a lot of time with other young families.

At only 23 years of age, Jeni has her future ahead of her and it is full of plans and dreams for herself, her family, and society. She hopes to improve the society has encouraged her mother to go back to school, who is now a freshman majoring in business at Boise State. Jeni wants to see more programs that help low-income individuals attend school and advance. She has helped to promote federal programs along with her parents, and plans to give back to the community in a way she's been, much more.

A talented painter, Jeni's art adorns her bedroom walls, and her "Leaves of Love" painting served as the on-stage focal point of the 2003 production of The Vagina Monologues at Boise State. Jeni's co-worker at the Women's Center, Pete Carlson, calls her "a ray of light in this overcast world... always a source of courage and happiness." Courageous, happy, a creator of beauty, and a champion of justice, Jeni can't help but contribute to a better, more equitable, and more beautiful world.

by Anna Fitz. Anna is a freelance writer. She works for Boise State Radio.

Jeni also sees herself as a role model for women leaving abusive relationships. She's been there. Jeni left an abusive boyfriend after three years. At the Women's Center, she has the opportunity to help other women. "I want to help women in similar situations to break free. I understand them."

Jeni, who is bi-racial, is interested in discovering more about African-American culture. Her mother, who is white, never spoke about the fact that Jeni was different from others until during her childhood. Jeni wasn't aware of her race until roughly the fifth grade, when other kids began making racial remarks to her. It was hard, she said, but she made it through okay, and it helped her to realize things about the world.

Jeni is a feminist, a title that she defines as any person, man or woman, who feels everyone should be treated equally, with differences accepted. She adds that feminism combats stereotypes that make women feel less than human, and those same stereotypes are often overplayed by the media, and that feminists just want to level the playing field.

Jeni's quick to de-mystify stereotypes that she thinks are false, like those gender stereotypes that portray women as weak and men as tough and in-control. Jeni also adds that the reason people may feel animosity toward feminism is because they see feminists stereotypically portrayed as bra-burning man-haters. According to Jeni, these stereotypes only serve to alienate people from each other.

Boise State University Women's Center :: March 2004

Women Making Herstory

Past Women Making History Recipients

2004 Recipients

Yasmin Aguilar
Lalita Anastos
Dr. Teresa Boucher
Janelle Brown
Jone Kin Buena
Kathleen Craven
Dr. Sue Chew
Judy Cross
Carol Dennis Dawson
Betsy Dunkin
Lynn Gabriner
Maria Gonzalez-Mabbett
Dr. Christine Hahn
Dr. Ginnia Husting
Vicky Irving

2004 Recipients

Becky Hays
Leacacia Powell
Phyllis Smith
Margie Van Veenen
Ginger Florentine-Franks
Lara Janney
Alex Hadison and Kathleen By
Penny S. Cooper
Jadalynn Taylor
Justice Cathy Stahl
Marline Watts
Dallas Chafe
Sue Billington Wade
Stephanie Neighbors
Monica Hopkins
Barbara Newell
Kay Mack
Ruth Harvis
Lesly Johnson
Dr. Stephanie Witt
Evelyn Ferry

2005 Recipients

Carrie Thompson
Cindy Clark
Melanie White
Jacoby
Gray Tisdale
Lesleigh Owen
Gracie Fosse
foi Ann Russell
Leah Talola
Amy Haak
Alisa Heberholte
Susan Tedde
Maria Lorenzen
Joanne Mitten
Owen Kimball
Jane Moore
Jan Salsbery
Lee Finn
Katherine Pavesich

Bonnie Vastal
Anta Pedrazza
Renee B. Mullin
Lesley Geran
Karen Cross
Dana Miller
Susan Barkett
Zeda James
Felix Bogard
Diana Logrona
Barbara Miller
Fatima Mohammad
Larry Roberts
Lalita Ranathayde
Elle McCaffrey
Irene Wilcox
Clarese M. Maxwell
Penda Muzalwa
Alma Gortrez
Sylvia Dani
Nancy Jacobson

See inside cover for nomination details
Zella Bardsley

Steel is a cold, hard, unyielding, and dark metal. In fact, all of the metals that artist Zella Bardsley uses to weld her craft can be described as such. That is, until she applies her torches and welder to them. Zella brings form, light, and life to her metals. Each piece blends its own theme, story, and personal statement.

Born and raised in Boise, Zella had a fascination with her father's shop tools when she was younger. When other girls were busying themselves with common interests, like boys and fashion, Zella stole away to her father's shop to toy around with the equipment she found there. Later, she began illustrating. Through checking out library books on graphic design, Zella taught herself how to use art as her primary mode of self-expression. Note the absence of formal training.

Zella's work almost always reveals a penchant for the female form, the actual, realistic, female form. She was not always comfortable with this muse, though. When Zella was 10 years old, she lived in Finland for a brief period. It was there, amongst the generally more liberal Europeans, that she was exposed to a culture that defined and even celebrated nudity. At first uncomfortable, she soon began to view nudity in such a way that inspired her and realized the waste that is incurred. Zella doesn't just conjure up the memory of these healthy images, she invokes a sense of freedom and acceptance of a natural feminine form.

Zella recently sculpted Zoë, a Greek Goddess who boasts copper-plated breasts, white hair with sharpened ends, and a steel mesh body that is shapely and warrior-like. Zoë is winged and kneels with her staff clutched. While examining this figure, one is captivated back to ancient times, before recorded civilization, when women were universally revered, beloved, and feared as wise and strong protectors of the human race. Relics of this forgotten era, desecrated over the centuries, are resurrected through Zella's sculptures.

Her work stands as a visual translation of the timeless power of women, which mainstream images so obtusely ignore. Zella torches and bangs out metal women, with breasts that have surrendered to gravity, thighs that curve without apology, and waistlines that transcend procreation. Her work counters any narrow visions of femininity. She asserts, “I just don't like unrealistic expectations of what women are supposed to be, and I don't like how our culture looks at women who don't fit that.” Zella's artwork is her activism. Her welder and torches promote a healthy culture for women to live in.

When asked what the worst and most urgent hardship facing women today is, Zella doesn't hesitate. “Violence against women, absolutely. I think statistics show that it has not changed in the last thirty years. It's still something that we don't talk enough about. It's still something that women hide.” Zella was one of the original members of the Treasure Valley Chapter of the National Organization for Women. She also co-chairs the annual Celebration of Women in the Arts fundraiser, from which all proceeds are donated to the Boise Women's and Children's Alliance Crisis Center.

Zella has witnessed the struggle of women in our community, and it has only served to bolster her feminist convictions. On the subject of backlash, Zella imparts, “I called myself an eco-feminist before that was a real term. People are worried about saying something inflammatory, that it's going to inflame and cause controversy. I really don't understand it. Making sure we are on top of legislation and being aware of women's issues is not inflammatory. We are losing our freedom of speech.”

Richard Hooper was Zella's first love. Hooper was working for the United Nations in Baghdad when a truck bomb was detonated nearby his office in August of 2003. He was among the casualties. Zella recently created a memorial, Robert. She says, “It was the hardest piece I ever did. Zella planned to visit Hooper in New York last year after putting the trip off for several years. Zella was devastated by Hooper's death and it intensified her sentiments against the war in Iraq. "The horror of our president taking us into a war that we have no business being in, and then my friend gets killed because of it. I don't believe in this war ... and anyone who doesn't support this war is labelled unpatriotic." Zella draws parallels between her anti-war stance and her feminist sensibilities.

For her, public resentment of those who criticize the war is not dissimilar from media antagonism toward feminism. Zella will continue to use art to advance her vision of social justice and peace. Zella's favorite vekette is called Dining Deep. It is based on a Margaret Atwood poem. Zella describes her emotions behind Dining Deep with a sage wisdom amassed only through self-reflection. “It is plunging into the total unknown, where it's scary and there are not a lot of things that you think.”

by Aubrey Salazar. Aubrey recently graduated from Boise State with a degree in international business and a minor in economics. As a student, she also served as a writing assistant for The Arbiter newspaper. Next year, she will be attending law school to study international law and human rights.

Maureen Clark

Alaskan-born Maureen Clark doesn't watch Saturday Night Live, ever. In fact, she doesn't watch television at all. But it seems as if we all have to watch television, we just don't get informed entertainers and tuned in, don't we? Maybe, but Maureen who prefers to be called Mo, is informed, and entertained, and incidentally, she happens to be the one tuning us in these days.

As a Boise State Radio producer and disc jockey, Mo keeps us entertained for an hour each Monday evening at 8 p.m. at call station 730 on the AM dial. Her show, Girl Valence, is a highly fluid mix of music, poetry, politics, and news, combined in a pop-art style. Mo insists that despite the suggestive title of her previous airtime, she is not longer erupting.

"The pendulum swings both ways you know... you can't transgress your woman's gender studies and she describes the classes within this academic concentration as "all-consuming." Gender studies is also the field where Mo likely acquired her social consciousness. And it helps that she has lived in both Portland and Seattle often, cities she describes as the Northwest region's epicenter of progressive social movement. Mo even detects a style of dress in these two urban areas that seems to capture the movement's "It's not just like a post-Pulp Fiction," she jokes.

Mo may not be a fashion expert, but she doesn't want to be one. Although she often talks about fashion as portrayed by mainstream publications for women, she charges, "They should outlaw beauty magazines... they make you feel like crap." On her show Girl Valence, Mo speaks frankly about how she processes the world and she is thankful for that opportunity.

All student DJ positions at Boise State Student Radio are unpaid and can't currently be offered up as an internship. Nonetheless. Mo's passion for the airwaves endures. The music that she plays has to inspire both herself and her listeners, and includes artists like

Bikini Kill, Pat Benatar, Ani DiFranco, and Blondie. Mo has a great level of respect for those female musicians who have remained independent like Canada's Emmylou Harris and Boise's own Rebecca Scott and Chris Duty.

Mo champions these underground divas on Girl Valence and cites her biggest influence as "Anyone who can think outside the box." She loves to interview grassroots artists and feel compelled to offer her radio slot to indie musicians with the hope that their music will reach a larger audience. Since Mo not only produces her own show but also is the Boise State Student Radio program coordinator, she is in a unique position to challenge stereotypes and promote what she calls, "conscious, forward-thinking." Mo says, "Around here, the mindset is DJs are guys." She is right that there are more male DJs than female on the Boise airwaves, and that the few women who are lucky enough to make it on corporate radio risk being reduced to "sidekick" status. Never mind that the play-list and programming content is pre-set.

Mo wants to make sure that young girls do whatever they want, even if they are outnumbered. She recognizes the importance of helping the next generation of women voice the rights and content of their world. Girl Valence is edgy in this way, but Mo is careful to prevent any accusations that her show is "sweating" at its audience. She does not want the show to be boring. Instead, she wants it to bridge the gap between tolerance and entertainment. This is her vision for the future of Boise State Student Radio.

"We (student radio staff) want our own station, we can get representation, we can raise awareness and raise listenership," explains Mo. Currently, Boise State Radio deducts a mere two hours per night to student programming on the AM signal on an unscheduled time-slot when the signal is weakest. Changing the time-slot is not possible because of stringent programming, so Clark turned to Boise State students for help. With ASBSU senator Lea Sweat, Clark proposed a student station independent of Boise State Radio. The proposal passed, and if approved by President Kustra and the State Board of Education, Student Radio will receive $2,000 from student fees. This will enable the students to plan and build a separate station.

Mo would like Student Radio to wholly reflect the entertainment tastes of Boise State students. She has even assigned herself a mandate of five years to complete the transition. Most of Mo's peers will have graduated by the time her efforts are realized, but that doesn't mean it can't be imagined.

Certainly one day, the students of BSU's campus will be able to tune to their radios to listen to programming that features the music, politics, events, artists, and news that defines their academic culture. Until then, though, students and the community will still be able to hear Mo harkening a different perspective and delighting our sense of individuality on her show Girl Valence.

by Aubrey Salazar
Evangeline Beaver

Couple Evangeline Beaver's enthusiasm with her unflagging energy and the result is excellence. When Vangie, as her friends know her, sees a need that she can meet, she responds. That is how the Filipino Student Organization, FILAMO, came into being. Always concerned about diversity and cultural issues and their impact on individuals, Vangie wanted to create a sense of community for other Filipino students at Boise State University.

A student herself, Vangie is aware of how intimidating and confusing a university can be. Both aware of this verity and proud of her culture, she wanted to help new Filipino students find their way and step forward on the path to their academic goals. Because she learned how to succeed as a student, she wanted to reach out to guide others to success.

Vangie has helped numerous students connect with appropriate resources at the beginning of their academic careers. Academic success is important to Vangie, from her perspective, "Learning is for gaining economic prosperity and happiness." But Vangie includes others in her vision of success. As she climbs toward success she reaches back to help others who are just beginning their climb to their own dreams. Vangie first came to the United States in 1989 and began her own academic journey in Palm Springs, California. She later moved to Lewiston, Idaho where she completed a two-year degree, but that was not enough for Vangie. With an entrepreneurial spirit, she envisioned herself as a business owner, perhaps the owner of an export/import company. To realize that dream more training was needed. She then moved to Boise with her husband, Mark, and enrolled at Boise State to begin working toward a degree in business management.

Vangie and Mark found an active Filipino community in Boise, but soon noticed that there was no support or social organization for Filipino students on campus. She found support from the staff of the Student Success Program as she began her academic work. She still sought a sense of belonging on Boise State's campus. With the encouragement of her husband, Mark, she began to dream of change. Ideas circled and flourished in Vangie's mind. She says of herself, "When I'm looking at something, I combine all the ideas in my mind and create something new that people have never done before." She wanted to create a sense of community while inspiring a sense of pride in identity among Filipino students, so Vangie approached the Student Union Activities office and learned how to establish a student organization.

Today, Vangie is president of FILAMO, the Filipino student organization that serves the campus community and connects with the greater community as well. Three hundred people attended the Galing Galing Filipino Dinner and Dance Festival in September, for which Ro Parker of Boise State's Cultural Center helped Vangie to secure national sponsors. Kevin Nadal of New York. Nadal addressed significant racial issues and raised awareness about identity struggles of Filipinos and all minority groups. The event, according to Vangie, was an opportunity for the club to get further exposure in the community and for both the campus and the community at large to come to BSU for the show.

Dr. Ingrid Brudennell

Ingrid Brudennell is out to change the world, not through anarchy or mass revolt but by touching one life at a time. Her philosophy is based on that of Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Ingrid, who has a Ph.D. in nursing research from Oregon Health Sciences University, is many things: a researcher, a mentor, a Boise State University professor, and a nurse. But most of all, she's a doer. Not content to simply train a new generation of nurses, Ingrid has dedicated herself to causes that make a difference.

With that goal in mind, Ingrid has been a partner with several community agencies involved in improving health care, including Terry Reilly Health Services, Head Start and the Meridian school district. Currently, she is a board member of the Open Arms Baby Boutique, which promotes healthier pregnancies for limited income women, and a planning committee member of the Friendship Clinic, a community effort to provide health care to people without insurance. Ingrid also chairs the Institutional Review Board at Boise State, which oversees the rights of individuals who participate in human research. And both this year and last, she fulfilled a joint appointment as a nurse researcher at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, where she works to put the latest research ideas into practice.

Working with professional and student nurses, Ingrid is currently implementing the newest theories of evidence-based practice. One application is how to prevent pressure ulcers, more commonly known as bed sores. "One indicator of quality nursing care is the absence of pressure ulcers," she says. "It's not a glamorous subject, but it's extremely important for patients' safety and comfort." Her involvement with the hospital is also a good way to assure that her students get...
Women Making Herstory

(2004)

the hands-on training they need to succeed in their chosen profession. Health care isn’t just about doing things the right way, Ingrid believes, it’s about finding a better way. In March, Ingrid is planning to travel to South Africa to share this research with practitioners from the World Health Organization (WHO).

“Nothing of importance was ever done that didn’t involve people working together,” Ingrid says. “You can’t be thinking you’ve already solved the problem.”

One of the benefits of being in education, she believes, is that what you do, the more you do, the more you realize how much you have left to learn. She’s also a firm believer that quality nursing involves an open collaboration between patients, health care providers and the community.

Only by working together, she says, can change occur. “A big part of what nursing is about is promoting and implementing change to improve situations for the patient on a community or international level,” she says. “If you could get nurses, service workers and other people who are committed to the community working together, you could get all kinds of things done. I’ve always believed in prevention and health promotion. I’m interested in how people can come together and generate change.”

Ingrid’s interest in the health care field began as a teenager in Oak Park, Illinois, where she volunteered as a candy striper for the local hospital. Always a good student, she found herself attracted to nursing because it was people-oriented and offered so many opportunities to be an activist. Over the years, Ingrid has had plenty of experience with this concept. Her mother is a community leader and active in the theater and arts; her sister is a reading specialist and drama coach in Denver.

Ingrid’s doctoral studies focused on substance abuse recovery during pregnancy and the first post-partum year. Many substance abuse counselors won’t treat pregnant women, she says, because there are so many risks involved—all the more reason to become involved.

“They’re the most demanding time in any woman’s life,” she says, “especially when you’re trying to get clean and sober.”

And Ingrid has done just that. At a recent conference, she was intrigued by a presentation that incorporated research findings into a reading theatre, aimed at young people. That concept has opened up a whole new world of possibilities for future presentations. She’s done lots of research articles, but she never thought how effective art can be in encouraging involvement in youth. “I’d like to do more with art.”

Karry Fischer

When you think of Girl Scouts, several things may come to mind. For example, cookies, badges, arts and crafts, those last arts of domesticity like sewing throw pillows, and decorating hope chests. While such endeavors may have been characteristic of the organization Girl Scouts of America fifty years ago, Girl Scouts today are embracing change and have significantly broadened the scope of activities that they sponsor for their troops. This is due in part to the ever-changing roles of women in our society. For instance, women today are generally less limited by exploring opportunities to study, build skills, and earn qualifications in different professional and leisure fields previously—or in some cases, presently monopolized by men.

These expanded roles and opportunities are paving the way for a new cross-section of women leaders in Girl Scouts. In turn, Girl Scout troops are empowered by these unique leaders who sidestep traditional career paths and transcend gender lines in order to reach their full potential. In both her personal and professional life, Karry Fischer seems to have reached her full potential. Now, as a mother, educator, and through her involvement with the Girl Scouts of America, Karry helps young women and girls to reach their full potential.

Karry grew up on her father’s farm in Mountain Home, Idaho. She spent most of her youth working late at night to help milk the cows, and recounts fond memories of accompanying her father on his route to deliver dairy products to local grocery stores. “Kiddos don’t have those experiences anymore,” she points out. Karry’s childhood on the farm fostered closeness with nature and perhaps even reverence for things which life holds constant. The experience likely sparked her fascination with the sciences and mathematics. After leaving home, this same fascination translated into a civil engineering degree from the University of Boulder at Colorado. While at Boulder, Karry met her husband, also an engineering student. Eighteen years have now passed since they were married. Today, they raise two daughters, Ida 13, and Hanna 10.

For the past few years, Karry has shared her experiences and education as a leader and trainer for the Girl Scouts. Back in college, her decision to pursue engineering was shared by a number of other women seeking the same degree, but she soon discovered that the industry’s workplaces were not as egalitarian as her classes.

As an engineer, I started 20 years ago... About a quarter of my peers in class were women, a pretty large section, she indicated. “It was not until I got into the workplace that it became the goodole boy system. Civil Engineering is definitely still a male-dominated field, but you’ve got to break these stereotypes,” Karry exclaims. She encourages her troops to be vigilant in their challenge of similar gender stereotypes.

Karry’s role in the project is small, but powerful. Her brand of inspiration contains messages like: “You dream it, you can make it happen.” and “Nothing is beyond your grasp if you work hard.” With the constant stream of motivation and reasoned instruction that Karry provides, her troops, as both team and individual, are hard-pressed to find something they cannot accomplish. The goal is to build up the girls’ self-esteem and nurture in them a sort of indestructible spirit that will develop into a life-long pattern.

Troup activities are not the only aspect of the Girl Scouts that has evolved; too do have the traditional tokens of achievements that Girl Scouts are so well known for the badges. In describing this organizational shift, Karry explains, “They [Girl Scouts] promote a lot more investigation and self-direction... they get to choose the activities and it’s not so narrowly structured. The way the badges are written, and a lot of the work, wants the kids to look at the social point of view, the scientific point of view, and the humanitarian point of view. So how does it affect them? How does it affect the community?”

The fundamental principles of the Girl Scouts seem surprisingly aligned with the mission statements of more political organizations like Amnesty International and the American Civil Liberties Union. In a way, all of these organizations help to preserve democratic society, yet there remains a light-hearted stigma attached to the Girl Scouts. Karry knows that her troops are in fact, very serious about their work. Last spring, Karry joined a Girl Scout group on a trip to London, England. The troops also have opportunities to rock climb, participate in outdoor retreats, craft science experiments, and they have even been known to engage in a sewing activity now and then. Karry insists that this is simply “one skill” and admits that she actually spends very little time doing crafts with the troops.

Karry maintains that the group is very “girl-driven,” explaining that the troops plan activities according to their interest. Her motivation is sincere, “We are building tomorrow’s leaders.” Karry Fischer clearly understands what it takes to build leaders, as she is certainly one herself.

by Aubrey Salazar

Marie Blanchard

There have been countless remarkable women nurses throughout world history. Florence Nightingale paved the way for female nurses in the mid-1800s when she introduced the profession to British military hospitals during the Crimean War. The soldiers dubbed her “Lady in Chief.” Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity, committed itself to caring for the poor in India. The mother of good will, Missionaries eventually grew from one member to over 100,000 volunteers working in 123 countries. She later won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. During the First World War, Edith Cavell, a nurse working in the then German-occupied city of Belgium, bravely treated and helped more than 200 allied soldiers escape the Germans. When the Germans discovered Cavell, they tried her for treason and put her to death. Mary Seacole was a Jamaican-born nurse who actually fundraised money to travel to Crimea and help the British soldiers during the same era as Nightingale. In fact, she was often referred to as the “Black Florence Nightingale.” Marie
Blanchard may not be as famous as the aforementioned nurses, but her life does bear a certain resemblance to her foremothers and she is quite remarkable in her own right.

While attending nursing school in Denver in the 1950s, Marie was one of three students sent to Washington to study psychiatry and public health. She began working in a tuberculosis sanatorium, and it was there that she met a Chilean patient who worked for the Chilean Consulate in Seattle. This patient was so outspoken in his disapproval of women in the nursing profession that he offered to secure Marie a job as a flight attendant for Pan American Airlines. Marie accepted his offer, not because she agreed with his sentiments, but because she was young and the prospect held excitement.

As a flight attendant with Pan Am, Marie frequently flew back and forth to Alaska. On one special trip to Nome, the passengers were not typical airline customers. About thirty-five indigenous people with advanced tuberculosis were on transport to a sanitarium in Seattle. Plane seats were removed in order to accommodate stretchers. The experience for Marie was more intense than starting. After three years with Pan Am, Marie met her husband. At the time, company regulations did not permit flight attendants to be married. So she gave up flying and settled into family life.

The couple moved back to Boise after their second child was born, and Marie began her nursing career again. She worked sporadically for different doctors, large clinics, and in the immunization department of the Central District Health Department. When asked about Idaho’s poor record of childhood immunizations, Marie answers, “I think we’ve fallen short. Seems like people are very aware when the baby is small... and then they don’t follow through as the child grows.”

Another issue that Marie feels is urgent is the rising number of uninsured in Idaho. She describes scenarios common during her days as a school nurse when students would fall sick over the weekend, but their parents were forced to wait until Monday morning for medical treatment at school because they had no health care coverage. Marie has witnessed many epidemics first hand and the experience fuels her drive for change.

Marie has been a Parish nurse for just under a decade and assisted in bringing the first Parish nursing program to Boise State University. In 1997, the first preparatory course for Parish nursing was brought to BSU from Marquette University. Today, there are 52 Parish nurses in the Treasure Valley. Parish nurses are registered nurses who devote special attention to healing the mind and spirit of patients. They do not participate in invasive care. For example, they do not administer shots or change dressings; rather, they counsel and educate to manage an illness. Parish nurses usually practice healing in churches, Marie works out of All Saints Episcopal Church on the Boise Bench.

A Bench-area resident, Marie’s neighborhood has become inspiration for her next pioneering endeavor. While walking near her home one afternoon, Marie says she was profoundly moved by what she viewed as the large economic gaps of residents. This neighborhood is a very diverse, goes from extensively wealthy people on Crescent Ridge to extremely poor people.” At the “Friendship” dinners that her church sponsors, she also noticed that many of her neighbors needed not only a meal, but health care too. Confounded by this reality, Marie decided to begin a free health care clinic.

The first call that Marie made was to Pam Gehrike at Boise State who then sent her to ten students who could survey the need for a free clinic on the Bench. Once her suspicions were confirmed, Marie began looking for resources. “The thing is, I’ve lived in this community for 40 years, and in that amount of time you meet a lot of people, and you network, and you learn who does what. I used to be very timid about asking people to do things for nothing... but I’m not now,” she chuckles.

Marie has now commissioned a Board of Directors from the community, a group of nurses to brainstorm the operation, an architect to design the clinic, and Habitat for Humanity has offered to do the framing. The clinic’s nameake is the dinner series that Marie’s church has always sponsored, the Friendship Clinic. It will be the third of its kind in Boise. Marie still has a long way to go to realize her vision and is busy herself with writing grants and applying for building permits. Recently, she had to scale back plans in favor of opening the clinic’s doors sooner, but this has not diminished her vision. “The architect said we had room for two exam rooms, a bathroom, and a little waiting room. We will have to forgo the office space, but we can begin to start serving the working poor.”

In her spare time, Marie is an avid golfer, an actor in community theatre—she was the first woman president of Boise Little Theatre in fact—and a devoted fan of Opera Idaho. Her favorite opera is “Carmen.” When asked to draw parallels with Carmen’s life to her own, she hesitates for a while and replies, “Once we decide to do something, we do it.” Residents of Boise will surely be grateful for Marie’s determination for a long time to come.

by Aubrey Salazar

Toni Roberts

Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting.” — Gottfried Leibniz

In a quiet Northend neighborhood sits a neat brick home where Toni Roberts greets me with a smile. We sit down at a simple wooden table in a room filled with paintings, and photographs of her family. Toni is a woman whose life seems like classical music—thoughtful and complex. Toni attended college at Idaho State University and eventually earned her degree in mathematics from Boise State University. Toni says that she was usually one of the only females in her math classes throughout her college career. She later worked for Micron at the height of the computer boom, and then was one of a team of three who created the Healthwise Handbook, a publication designed to give rural Idaho families the ability to make informed decisions regarding their healthcare.

When I asked Toni how she ended up in the traditionally male field of mathematics, she answers, “I have always been interested in math. When I was in seventh grade, we had fractions and I couldn’t do them. That frustrated me, I remember I didn’t do very well in that class and I said to myself, I can do better.” And that is what she did.

Toni is especially proud of her work at Healthwise. Toni, Don Kemper and Kathy Machtosh started Healthwise when the funding for their previous employer, Health Systems, ended. According to Toni, Health Systems was a very progressive company that initiated the first emergency medical technician program in Idaho. She comments that it was a great experience, “... that a vision of a few people could affect so many. Just three of us, and a secretary; it was a collaborative and team all the time. It was a wonderful experience.”

At Healthwise, Toni’s role evolved from statistical work to technical writing. “Would you like to see the original? I still use it all the time.”

The Idaho Women’s Network
419 S. 13th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 344-5738
www.idahowomensnetwork.org
Toni brings the table the first Heathwise Handbook, type-written and compiled in a three ring binder, bound this way so families could add their personal information. The book is worn and filled with notes and information.

"Before Healthwise, people didn’t have the sense of personal responsibility, the doctors were in charge." After the completion of the handbook, Kathy McIntosh and Toni developed the corresponding PBS television production. "Kathy was the primary producer, while Toni and Kathy wrote the scripts. They then used the video to introduce Healthwise to rural Idaho. A nurse practitioner would hold classes for families in Idaho’s small towns, and Toni would often transport the equipment. Toni laughs when she recalls lugging a large TV and video machine to the car to go on the road.

After Heathwise, Toni worked for five years at Boise State University as a systems analyst and supervisor at the Data Center, then moved to Micron to end her career as a finance business systems manager. While at Micron, she implemented the installation of third-party software called SAP at local and international sites. The software allowed Micron to produce financial reports in a timely manner despite the different currencies and languages used in their newly acquired locations.

Toni traveled to countries like Italy and Singapore to introduce SAP to finance teams and make sure things ran smoothly. "It was exciting to be a part of because there was so much growth and excitement. It was wonderful to be a part of a company that had that kind of attitude towards education. Micron gives their money to education. On the technology side they were always ready to bring the company forward."

Toni works today with the same intensity as a family advocate, helping families and children who have been removed from their homes. Toni has also been involved with the Ten Thousand Villages organization and the Wake-Up Boise program. Toni is equally proud of both her community and professional contributions.

Toni credits role models along the way. A picture painted by her younger sister hangs on the wall by the door. "My older sister was my hero, especially on how to treat family. She took care of us at a young age and was a gracious hostess when I visited her often in my twenties. My mom was role model regarding the workplace. I got much of my work ethic from her. I had a physics teacher in high school who modeled successful women in science and math."

Toni has made room for the influence of these people in her home, which you can feel in its warmth. As she sits in her living room, I find that her most emotional comments are about her family, her husband (whom she calls her best friend), her children, and her parents. In her eyes, there is a subtle sense of recognition of how lucky she is.

by Michal Lloyd  Michal received her undergraduate degree in fine arts from the University of Idaho and has returned to Boise State University this year to acquire a second degree in computer information systems, with a minor in technical communications. She is currently working as a real estate agent and, more importantly, is raising a 12 year-old daughter.

Dian Hoffpaur

Once upon a time, Dian Hoffpaur wanted to grow up to be another Dian Fossey. Only instead of studying gorillas like Fossey did, as chronicled in the movie Gorillas in the Mist, Dian was fascinated by baboons, known for their almost humanlike ability to think intelligently.

Unfortunately, the realities of a divorce while still a young mother forced Dian to take a more realistic look at her dreams. "I wanted to study animal behavior, but I had a 4-year-old son and couldn’t figure out how to do that," she says. But just as Fossey waged a fierce resistance against poachers to protect the gorillas she had grown to love, Dian would one day wage her own personal war against something she perceived to be just as threatening—the attempt to remove materials and services from public libraries. More specifically, her battle was with those who threatened her library, the Ada Community Library in West Boise, where Dian served as director from its founding in the early 1980s until her recent retirement.

During her two decades of leadership Dian faced a number of challenges, but she prides herself on never backing down from providing the best tools and information possible to her patrons. "The library is a place that's involved in people's lives. It's a place to work, a place to study, a place to read, a place to relax. And it's a place where people can find information they need."

One battle that stands out in her mind involves a protest in the early '90s over a new building. "The Idaho Family Forum attacked us over our Internet access," she says. "They were using the slogan, 'If it's illegal, it's immoral.' We were not illegal, but we were immoral in their eyes."

Like a lions protecting her young, Dian refused to back down, pointing out to the patrons the wealth of information available at their fingertips. She prevailed, and the library kept its online access. "Going after us was the wrong thing to do," she says, with satisfaction.

There were many other battles through the years as well, including the much publicized ballyhoo a few years ago over two books on same-sex parenting. "We have two Mississippians and our kids' room," she says. "We don't want to hide the fact that there are gay people in our community, but we don't want to promote it."

As library director, Dian was not only responsible for day-to-day operations, she also helped to get the building erected, amassed a book collection, and made sure the library offered the very best tools to its patrons. "Because the library resides in an independent taxing district, its board does not have to answer to the city or county. Instead, its direct chain of command runs straight to the taxpayers, and Dian was determined not to let them down during her tenure. "I had a smart board and wonderful staff," she says. "I brought in a vision and the gumption of creativity. Add that and you can do wonders."

Dian recalls, "We had the first on-line catalog in the state with dial-in access, and were among the first to offer free Internet classes."

"And we were the first library to use self-checkout in the state." In a way, Ada Community Library patrons owe all their gratitude for such cutting-edge services to a whiz. Not only had Dian not originally planned on a career as a librarian, she certainly never imagined herself living in Idaho. Having lived in 20 different states, she thought she'd be content to live back East for the rest of her life.

Following Dian's graduation from Vanderbilt University with a master's of library science, she took a job at George Washington University as a reference librarian. But far from being content, she found herself infected with wanderlust. With no idea where she would land, she packed her VW Bug inside a U-Haul truck, loaded up her son and headed west for new adventures.

Once in Boise, Dian found herself working with the Boise Public Library, consulting with 30 small libraries in 10 counties. "I thought I had landed on the moon," she remembers. "But I saw how much it meant to them, and their enthusiasm and courage inflected me. Libraries became my passion."

A remarriage and two more children kept Dian busy, but didn't slow her down. Once the library was going strong, she moved on to branch libraries, establishing locations in Star and in the Hidden Springs area of Boise. She still dreams of a regional consortium linking libraries throughout the region, including the Albertsons Library at Boise State University, and making Southwest Idaho's resources available to everybody. "We will grow," she says. "The time will come that we will grow."

Through it all, Dian experienced her own personal growth and the development of a strength she never dreamt that she had. "I've been through divorce, a house fire, bankruptcy. I didn't think I was tough, but I am. My philosophy of life is this: Live it! First dream it, then sleep on it, and then do it. If I had rationalized all I've done, I probably wouldn't have taken the first step. But people are anxious to help. I brought a vision to that library, and others made it happen."

by Kathleen Craven

Marjorie Belle Tucker

With four sons to raise, Marjorie Belle Tucker decides early on that if she wanted to spend time with her children she had better "get [her] hands in the dirt." So, twenty-five years ago Marjie volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America, and since then she has helped to raise thousands of boys. Marjorie started as a den leader, where she loved meeting people and learning new skills. Because of her enthusiasm and approachability, the Boy Scout council soon asked her to train other adults so that they too could help pass on the Scout skills and values to the boys in the program.

Working in the "men's world" of Boy Scouts with both adults and children, Marjie has always seized the opportunity to plant the seeds of awareness that "pink is a color too, that there is a place for compassion and sensitivity in a man's world." Whether teaching girls how to camp or tying a sheet boat, she imparts to her mentees how to be a man. "A man can be rugged, yet at the same time gentle and kind. Marjie is thrilled to watch a little boy develop into an Eagle Scout and says, "It's not the Eagle badge that makes them the Eagle. It's the person within. It's not anything tangible, but what it goes away with. I have actually had my Scouts come back to me years later and, in their own ways, let me know that I made a difference."

Marjie explains that the whole merit badge and Boy Scout program is about bringing awareness to kids. The Boy Scout Oath is to help other people and you can't do that if you are tearing them down. Scouts have a song called 'Run the Twelve' [Points of Scout Law]. What that means is that whenever you have question, doubt, or perplexity in your life and you don't know what to do, you just start asking yourself the questions: Is my choice a trustworthy choice, a helpful choice, a friendly choice? You run it through the twelve points … and figure out what is the right thing to do. Marjie helps the boys live by these twelve points and uses them as a guide for making her own choices.

Having observed life's quickening pace throughout the past twenty-five years, Marjie hopes that people can slow down and realize the value of the Scout program, and not be so task-oriented. Her mission is to other Scout leaders: "Let's spend some time with this person, let's develop this person rather than just develop the badge or the event."

Even though her own children are grown, Marjie continues with the Boy Scouts because, as she explains, "I have the time to give. What a terrible waste of this fortune (of time and commitment) that I have, that I don't pass it on to others." Marjie adds, "My kids have
Marla Brattain Hansen

For Marla Hansen, following our strongest creative instinct is not simply the only possible choice but also the most ethical, most fulfilling, and most satisfying one. By following that instinct, Marla has created a legacy of dance by not only co-founding the Idaho Dance Theatre, but also teaching dance at Boise State University, and developing an educational outreach program for Boise public schools.

Of all the things that Marla does—teaching, performing, choreographing, developing outreach programs, grant writing, parenting—the passion of her professional life is choreographing. It started, she says, when she was a kid. “I would listen to music but I always was seeing movement and physically feeling movement. I started making up dances, and making my parents watch me. In junior high, I was actually asked by the choir teacher to choreograph, I think it was Fiddler on the Roof. And then in the eighth grade I choreographed for the musical, so I got opportunities at a young age, probably because I said I wanted to do it.” Practice in Marla’s early years served her well in preparation for difficult challenges to come.

Early in her career, Marla was asked to step into the role of Acting Artistic Director of the American Festival Ballet (now Ballet Idaho). The company had hired a new artistic director who only lasted two weeks. Marla, who was planning to dance with the company, was asked instead to be Acting Artistic Director, which meant having to choreograph a full-length Cinderella in three weeks. Despite the enormity of the task, which included planning, teaching, rehearsing, and presenting the dance, Marla took advantage of the opportunity. She says of the experience, “That was the point where if all the tiniest groundwork hadn’t been laid then I couldn’t have taken that chance. I would have been afraid, but as it was it was an extremely exciting and fun challenge.”

Marla prepares first and then takes risks. In 1989, she and her husband, Alfred Hansen, founded Idaho Dance Theatre. This was a difficult decision, as they were both working as full-time dancers at the time—a position as rare in 1989 as it is today. The two did not, however, start with a huge plan. Since they were prepared to take advantage of any opportunities that arrived, they built the company gradually, waiting to see what made sense, and trusting their creativity. Around the same time, Marla and Alfred began to teach as adjunct faculty at Boise State University. And that, too, over time, fell together.

Marla is now an associate professor of dance. While the Idaho Dance Theatre is independent of Boise State, Marla’s work at the school has allowed her to encourage crossover between the university and the performing arts scene in Boise. In addition, her work at the Idaho Dance Theatre has provided her with the opportunity to build an educational outreach program that exposes school kids to the types of dance that they won’t find on MTV2. On television, she says, kids are “given the idea that everything is about sex and rock-n-roll...” but that’s not the only way to communicate with dance. We try to really get kids to realize that

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History, despite its wrenching pain; cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.

-Maya Angelou
expresses their identity through the human body in something that people
do all over the world and have for thousands of years and you
should feel comfortable doing it.”

The Idaho Dance Theatre is now in its fifteenth season, complete
with studio space off-campus, both part-time and full-time dancers,
and a board of directors, as well as the educational outreach program. When asked what it feels like to be a woman making
history, Marla answers that she now realizes that she has “always
been creating stuff, and teaching and working with a lot of up-and
coming dancers who are now professional dancers. She adds, “In forty-eight now, and for the longest time I couldn’t
relate to being age that I was until I had students that came
back, whose students are being taught because I taught their
students. I see this legacy that’s developed in terms of training
and in terms of philosophy on dance and the performing arts and why
we do it.”

M. in Idaho that she should not have a dance degree. It’s got
the clientele, the market is here for it.”

Marla will no doubt continue to make history. How? Clearly, she
has laid the groundwork and is prepared to take advantage of
opportunities which come her way, as well as create new opportunities.
Perhaps Marla will continue to choreograph her life as she has
danced. For me, music evokes a lot of imagery and emotional
sensation, and it’s just a matter of coming back to the body. So
many times, to do choreography is not thinking, it’s just responding,
and getting into, inside of the music. A lot of times I just feel like
music tells me what to do. If you start trying to tell it or thinking too
hard, then the choreography becomes contrived.

by Thomas Poole. Tom is an assistant professor of English at Boise State
University, where he teaches rhetoric and composition.

Maybeth Hogander

“Your hair begins to know life, until you are a senior citizen.” Maybeth
Hogander

Maybeth Hogander is a physically strong-looking woman with a
head full of white hair. At 86 years old, she is not one to sit in a
rocking chair and watch life pass her by—she is a woman of action
and an inspiration to us all. Theresa Bouchet, a professor at Boise
State says, “Maybeth is a role model for aging actively.”

Maybeth has volunteered to help others for many years, and she
has traveled extensively exploring other cultures. She has a passion
for learning and adventure, something that she says she inherited
from her maternal grandmother. She is moved by the people she
meets everyday while volunteering at the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation
Hospital, a facility dedicated to serving the needs of people with
disabilities in Idaho. She says, “I want to have the same courage
as the people I see at the Elks.” She describes these
people by raising two fingers and reciting, “Two words, patience
and perseverance.”

Maybeth married Sam Hogander in 1944. Sam was a bomber
navigator with the United States Air Force. It was the Air Force that
brought them to Idaho in the early fifties. They were based at
Mountain Home, and many of the squadron lived in Boise's Northend.
Then, they bought a house in Boise and moved to their home in
Colorado and subsequently moved to Boise. “I thought the military
was good for us,” Maybeth says.

In 1963 Maybeth was divorced while she was working for Safeco
Insurance. Later, she went to work for the Idaho First National Bank,
where she retired in 1983. Since then, she has calculated that she
does more volunteer work post-retirement than paid work pre-retirement.

Maybeth was born and raised in Connecticut, but it is her life in the
West that has been most special to her. She found herself at home in
Boise. “Idaho is my type of culture, I love everything about Idaho.”

Maybeth’s relationships with members of Idaho’s large Basque population
inspired her to visit the Basque Country. In preparation for her
trip, she took Basque language and culture classes. This would prove
to be the beginning of her adventures in education.

Between 1965 and 2000 she audited eleven classes at Boise State
College, now Boise State University, including geology, archeology,
anthropology, paleontology, international relations, and introduction
to literary studies among others. Her education prompted her to
take several other trips including one to Cyprus. She made a
trip to Greece, where she “went standing on the Acropolis.” She
was compelled to Cyprus to see Dr. Pascas’s archeology course and as a member of an Earthwatch expedition.

In addition to her children, Hildgare Ayer says the most memorable thing that her mother
ever said to her is, “It should be noted that Hildgare, who prefers
Hild, is a northeastern broth, the correct phonetic pronunciation
of her full name is Hild-gah Ayer.” Pride and love for her two
grown sons manifests in Hildy’s eyes when she thinks of them,
and it is clearly visible in her smile when she mentions their names.
Her love for her own family is one of just many factors that has contributed
to her legacy of nurturing and creating wonderful opportunities for
hundreds of families and children in Idaho.

Maybeth also had further opportunity to travel because of her
membership in Earthwatch, which, according to their website, is “an
organization that involves the public in scientific field research.
Members are under science’s instruction and work at full-fledged
expedition members, sharing the costs of the research among them.”

Her adventures with Earthwatch took Maybeth to the Amazon
Basin to collect insects, which were sent back to Washington, D.C.
to the Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian. The Quechas
left for the departing expedition members to which
members of the indigenous Quecha tribe were invited. (The Quechas
are some of the few remaining hunters with six-foot blowguns.)
Maybeth was privileged to dance with the tribe’s chief. From the
Amazon, she took time to visit Lima and Cuzco and journey to
Machu Picchu. Her last trip was to New Zealand and Australia.

Although Maybeth had many wonderful experiences in her travels,
she is quick to note, “You don’t have to go very far from home
to find different cultures and some of the world’s most magnificent
scenery and wildlife. We’ve got much right here in the Northwest,”
she adds. “Floating down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River will
always be one of my favorite memories.”

When Maybeth wasn’t traveling, she volunteered at local soup kitchens, the Veteran’s Administration
Hospital, and with special education children at local elementary
schools. For the past twenty years, she has also worked between
12 and 20 hours per week at the Elks Rehabilitation Hospital.

Maybeth takes the work that she does at the Elks very seriously.
Her responsibilities have increased as she has earned the trust
of the staff, now she is an important part of daily operations there.
Mary Hegg, her supervisor, praises Maybeth, “She holds herself
up to high standards. She has great follow-up. She gets things done.
She’s assertive. She’s more conscientious than anyone about saving
the hospital money. She really is a valued volunteer.”

Maybeth’s home is decorated with photos of Africa and artifacts
brought back from her many trips. Her family lives close by and is thankful for that. She has three children,
Geoff, Linea, and Ted, as well as six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Theresa Bouchet says that their own children
may call Maybeth their “Idaho grandmother.”

Maybeth is clearly a very generous woman who has valuable advice on
life. I won’t forget when she told me, “Don’t stop, there’s too much to see.” Then she handed me a bundle of suckers for my
daughter and a plate of cookies.

by Michel Lloyd

Hildgare Ayer

“I do love you. And you are still grounded.” According to Hildgare
Ayer’s son Brad, this is the most memorable thing that his mother
ever said to him. It should be noted that Hildgare, who prefers
Hild, is a northeastern broth, the correct phonetic pronunciation
of her full name is Hild-gah Ayer.” Pride and love for her two
grown sons manifests in Hildy’s eyes when she thinks of them,
and it is clearly visible in her smile when she mentions their names.
Her love for her own family is one of just many factors that has contributed
to her legacy of nurturing and creating wonderful opportunities for
hundreds of families and children in Idaho.

In addition to her children, Hildgare Ayer describes another family
member as tremendously significant to her life. Hildy’s grandmother, Anna
Johanna Petersen Ross, was a Danish immigrant, town librarian, and
caretaker of Hildy for 13 years. Anna is remembered as an incredible
listener and confidant to nearly everyone in her hometown. Hildy
loves her grandmother to a woman like Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary
Clinton—two more women in Hildy’s life whom she admires and
respects. Hildy explains this affinity: Eleanor Roosevelt because she
knew fear, loss, grief, humiliation yet still found excitement and zest
in life and Hillary Clinton because, in light of all her public
struggles, she has managed to live with grace, dignity, and purpose.

A native of Maine, Hildy arrived in Idaho in 1967, via a small
caravan of Volkswagens. After initially landing in Moscow, and
leaving again for graduate school in Iowa, she returned to Idaho
to make Boise home for herself and her two boys. Hildy has always
been active in academia, social work, education and human rights
work. Always with dignity and respect, she has worked closely with
families at employers like the Casey Family Programs.

A strong personality and unlimited organizational skills has lent Hildy
the opportunity to work with respected individuals in the planning
of a series of professional conferences, which grew into the Peaceful
Settlements Foundation. The Peaceful Settlements Foundation (PSF)
was originally the concept of two of Hildy’s colleagues who wanted
to bring mediation and negotiation to Idaho courts. Hildy naturally
became involved because of her compassion and understanding
for families and children, and she eventually chaired the fourth of five
Women Making Herstory

Boise State University Women’s Center :: March 2004

conferences that were held over a period of ten years. The PES
fulfilled its mission in ten years, and showed profits, which were in
turn invested in a foundation to help families and children in Idaho.

Presently, Hildy can be found at the Lee Pesky Learning Center,
managing a staff team that brings supplemental learning curricula
and innovative education approaches to children who have different
needs, otherwise not fulfilled in their everyday classroom. She has
earned the respect of her staff. In fact, the Center’s founder says
that the most meaningful thing Hildy ever said to him was “Yes,”
when he asked her to take the Executive Director job at the Center.

“I feel you want to be responsible and accountable in what you do,
teach and train regularly to keep yourself honest and as a reminder of
why you are involved in the work.” With this philosophy, Hildy
takes teaching and academia seriously. She began teaching college
classes when her boys were still small. With all the arrogance of a
recently graduated Master of Social Work, she proposed to teach an
adjunct Parents and Children social work class at Boise State
University. Although that idea was tossed out the window, Irene
Wilcox, then Director of Social Work at Boise State, invited Hildy
to teach her Social Casework class a class Hildy managed to escape
from during her own academic career.

Since then, Hildy has taught a variety of classes as an adjunct
professor. Whether casework or social policy, Hildy brings real
professional experience to her students, and every lesson is filled
with inspiring ways to work with and for Idaho families. Hildy pushes
her students to be thoughtful and professional in all personal
and professional interactions. She also encourages her students to discover
their passions, their skills, and their limits in everything from writing
a paper and advocating for policy change, to communicating with
clients and colleagues.

What do “human rights” mean to Hildy? Hildy responds with a
barage of explanations that include an anecdot about a previous
job as a monitor of mental health clients who were released from
long-term institutional care. But all her answers culminate in two
themes: dignity for all people and the willingness to learn about how
other people live. “If the way people live may not be the same as
we, but there is perspective, reason, and value, we all have to
live together, and this is a very small world, and there are huge
differences that are otherwise inhuman to us if we let them be.

by Wendy Morgan. Wendy graduated from Boise State University with a
Masters of Social Work in 2002. Upon completing her masters, Wendy was
awarded a New Voices Fellowship that has allowed her to work as a human
rights activist and organizer with the Idaho Women’s Network for nearly
two years.

Dr. Peg Blake

As vice-president for Student Affairs, Peg Blake is the first to
say that she is far more than just a VP at Boise State University, and one of the few in
the nation. Peg oversees a department of approximately 200
employees with an annual budget of over $22 million, a department
that comprises the Recreation Center, Career Services, Enrollment
Services (including Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Registrar),
Student Housing, the Student Union, the University Bookstore, the
Women’s Center, the Cultural Center, and Health, Wellness,
and Counseling Services. This fact alone makes her a pioneer in the
history of the university, but factor in that Peg is also raising two
young children, and she becomes extraordinary.

Women with young children rarely make it to the top administrative
levels, according to Margie Van Yssen, Dean of Student Services
at Boise State. Margie says that Peg Blake is a role model
for women throughout the campus community and in her profession.
I have seen her, time and time again, mentor young professional
women and students who want to know how to manage a career
and family so successfully.

Peg is quick to point out that her kids are her top priority. They
have to come first. As long as I keep my priorities in place, I don’t
have to be perfect or do it all.” That, she believes, is the key to
doing her job well. “I have to be able to walk out that door at five
o’clock with work still on my desk and know that it’s okay.”

It is clear that Peg has support from the powers that be: new Boise
State president, Bob Kustra, and former president, Charles Ruch,
agreed with her that family comes first. She also credits her husband,
Kevin Blake, executive director of Facilities Administration at Boise
State.

“He does his full share,” she says. “Our commitment to each other
and our trust in each other are strong. We coordinate schedules
and we balance the load. We are also generous with giving each
other space and time alone. We both have stressful jobs, and know
that we need that ‘me’ time. However, one of our great stress
relievers is spending time with our kids. Just holding and talking to
our children is a great relief.”

Peg, who has a PhD in Education Administration from the University
of Nebraska, grew up near the little farming town of Hastings,
Nebraska, where she graduated from the eighth grade in a class
of two students. “I was valedictorian,” she jokes. Her first job after
earning a Masters of Business Administration was on the Yankton-
Sicou Reservation in Lake Andes, South Dakota, where she worked
on a study to determine the feasibility of a Health Management
Organization (HMO) for the tribe. She earned $13,500 a year.
“I’ve never cared that much about income or job stability,” Peg says.
“Only that I have a job where I can make a difference.” And what
a difference she’s made at Boise State. In her five years on the job,
Peg has led Student Affairs through a restructing that made it a
more effective, efficient, and collaborative department. She and
her staff are currently focusing on three areas: leadership skills,
continuity and diversity, in an attempt to transform a hodge-podge
of programs and activities into a seamless system of programs that
connect and build on each other.

The main goal of student services, she says, is very basic: give
students the support they need to achieve their educational goals,
whatever they may be. She tells students to follow their passions,
even though it is sometimes easier to take the path of least resistance,
to settle for that income, stability, or safety. But if they do what they
love, they will be successful. “This job is fun, interesting, and stressful,”
she says, “and I can look back on how we’ve made things better
for students.”

Although Peg is VP of Student Affairs and now the president-elect
of the 9,000-member National Association of Student Personnel
Administrators, she feels her biggest legacy involves her children.
“If we all do our best to raise our children well,” she says, “we’d
go a long way towards solving the world’s problems.”

Peg calls herself a feminist and a hopeless idealist, as she quotes
Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defense League:
“Service to others is simply the rent we pay for living.” She works
hard to help her children understand that the only limits they have
are those they put on themselves, that they can be whoever they
want, and that they have a responsibility to contribute to the global
community.

SUNDAY APRIL 25

Assemble........................10 AM on the National Mall
Step-off..............................12 Noon
Rally.................................1 – 6 PM

To be part of the Idaho delegation
to the March in Washington,
contact Planned Parenthood of Idaho
at 376.9300 ext. 19
Women Making Herstory

by Anna Fritz

Pam Magee (not pictured)

Dreams and goals are important. Pam Magee knows through experience that dreams can become reality if a person does not abandon hope. Pam explains, "I've had some situations in my life that left me feeling that there was no hope. I felt some of the things that I did in my past were unforgivable. I had to reach deep inside me and try to make a change."

Pam is currently a leader at Boise State University serving as an Associated Student Body senator. She is a non-traditional student, a mother, and a veteran of the Gulf War. She is powerful and passionate and caring. But her path to success has been filled with difficult experiences and hard-learned lessons.

Pam served in the US Marine Corps in the '80s. Making it through boot camp was an achievement she rates among her greatest accomplishments. Pam shares that when she entered boot camp, she was much like Goldie Hawn's character in Private Benjamin, looking for the condos and the yachts. She never found either, but she did serve six years with the Corp before joining the Army Reserve. She was on inactive status when she was called up to serve again—this time in the Gulf War.

When the call came, she had to leave her children behind, the youngest of whom were 18-month-old twin sons. The war was a dreadful experience for Pam and like many of her soldier peers, she was left to deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome. She was also serving divorce papers upon her return to the States. Discouraged and traumatized, Pam spiraled into a depression fueled by not only her memory of the war, but also a severe and previously undetected bi-polar disorder. Her situation deteriorated and she found herself jailed for writing bad checks as she tried to feed her children.

At this point, Pam says she felt as though she had fallen to the bottom in life and nearly gave up hope. But, as she looked around, she began to see others in the same situation, and then she began to wonder about what causes good people to veer into bad situations that are destructive to their lives. She began to wonder about what could be done to help people find a way out and then a way up toward productivity.

All of Pam's questions led her to take action. With the help of supportive friends and two little boys who never gave up on her, she began to pull herself upward. Lessons were learned, powerful lessons about living. Pam feels that one of the biggest lessons was that she was able to recognize her mistakes. She says, "I think this is a really important thing. It is really important to know that you have been wrong and admit to that." Pam feels that once an individual determines what his or her true values are, staying true to those values gives them strength. She also learned humility and adopted a non-judgmental attitude based on the timeless adage that tells us one should never judge another until they have had the opportunity to walk in that individual's shoes.

After some soul searching, Pam acquired a job with the State of Idaho and soon felt a desire to improve her life through education. At first, that road was difficult, but she found much needed support with Boise State's Student Success program. Pam began to stand firmly in the world of academia. By her third year, she became a Boise State Student Ambassador, which led to new friendships and new opportunities. But, she soon noticed that non-traditional students were underrepresented in student government and resolved to run for student office in order to lend a voice to her peers.

Pam's voice is strong now. She is working toward a bachelor of science in psychology along with an associate degree in criminal justice. She carries a 3.5 GPA and still finds time to serve in numerous organizations, including the Women's Marines Association and the American Legion. Pam continues to work as a student ambassador and is currently the president of the Student Success Club.

Future plans for Pam include completing a book and possibly even law school. Pam will surely continue to advocate for women in crisis—especially those who are in abusive relationships, or those who are experiencing negative behaviors and demeaning circumstances. She knows that, "Within themselves, women can find what they need to get through crisis and change their lives." Pam understands. Her life is a testimony of resilience and change.

by Ellie McKinnon

Marie Osborn

Standing about five feet tall with graying hair, Marie Osborn is a powerhouse of quiet determination, committed to helping others since graduating from college with a degree in nursing in 1953. In the early 1960s, Marie and her family began vacationing in central Idaho's remote Stanley Basin country where there were no medical services, not even an ambulance. Residents routinely drove the one and one-half hour trip to Ketchum, Sun Valley, or Hailey for their medical needs. As a result, Marie soon found herself called upon to help her neighbors in routine medical needs as well as in emergency situations. In one car accident that involved four seriously injured teenagers, it took two and one-half hours for an ambulance to respond from Hailey. This was the galvanizing incident for Marie felt that it could have been her kids or at least some of their friends.

Marie was determined that the area should have a clinic and an ambulance. Although the mayor of Stanley had been a wartime medic, he did not want to be the main part of the program Marie proposed, but did support the concept. At that time, Stanley and the surrounding area had a year-round population of about one hundred residents. In the summer, this small population base would swell to over one million visitors, workers, and seasonal residents. With the help of the Idaho Hospital Association, Marie was finally able to team up with two doctors in Hailey who agreed to be her proponents.

Initially, Marie was re-oriented into various areas of nursing through the cooperation of St. Luke's Hospital. In the winter of 1972, she attended a program at the University of Washington, Harborview, in Seattle, Washington, to obtain certification as an emergency nurse practitioner. This was followed by an extensive preceptorship at Alphonsus, which recently opened regional medical center. By June of 1972, the clinic was opened with Marie as its nurse practitioner.

the first practicing nurse practitioner in the State of Idaho. Her number was, and remains to this day, NP2.

It became apparent to the Board of Nursing and to Marie that to really provide the care needed by the valley residents she needed more training. In the fall of 1974, she began the family nurse practitioner program at the University of Utah. Although the clinic quickly became a reality, many of the local residents initially felt that it existed for tourists only. It was but a short time until she was asked to provide care on a year-round basis.

Initially, the clinic was housed in an old, three-room house, donated for use by the chairman of the newly elected Board of Directors. In the winter, it was shared with the local schoolteacher, the kitchen serving as the exam room by day. This arrangement proved especially interesting for the teachers when the kitchen had to become a temporary morgue.

Legislation was later enacted creating hospital districts, allowing the clinic to operate using money collected through property taxes. Marie also worked to have Stanley declared a "manpower shortage area," since the mountain town was unable to attract a doctor willing to live there year-round. This would give the clinic the ability to bill Medicare, which normally didn't recognize the value of nurse practitioners working independently of doctors.

As the need for the clinic was realized in the community, more people came forward with help. One man donated a CB radio for Marie's car, the local Amish Hotel had an emergency contact system installed, and an anonymous donor paid to have a phone line installed in Marie's home. She trained local residents to be volunteer emergency medical technicians, with the help of Boise State University. And a medical support outfit at Mountain Home Air Force Base was used to fly injured patients to St. Alphonsus hospital in Boise in the years before Life Flight. A women's health center was established and patients received preventative care and attended childbirth education classes. Marie's humor was evident in the exam room where a poster hanging above the exam table proudly exclaimed, "I'm so happy here I could just SHIT!" Even the "Bluebirds" returned year after year for the caring and personal service Marie provided. The Robert Wood Foundation helped fund the current EMS radio system.

Marie "retired" in 1999. As one of Marie's volunteer EMTs, Teresa Lipus, describes, "Hundreds of people came from all over the state, and beyond, to wish her well and to express their gratitude." Marie would like to be remembered for proving that a nurse practitioner can do what she did, and do it well. However, she also makes it clear that she could not have done it alone and is grateful for the community support and the volunteers who also acted on "the obligation to respond when an emergency happens."

Marie has a daughter who is a nurse and who also hopes to return to Stanley to continue her mother's work. With few retirement benefits of her own, Marie was unable to retire full time and is currently working part time as a nurse practitioner at Boise's Red Flag Clinic, which serves low-income people without health insurance.

by Elizabeth Stubbs

I never did anything alone.
Whatever was accomplished
in this country was
accomplished collectively.
(1977—Gilda Meir)
Dr. Maria Alicia Garza

If ever there was a woman who both epitomized self-awareness and personified compassion, it is Alicia Garza. She is a woman who has found her niche in life and shares her glory with those around her, most especially her students. As a professor in the Modern Languages and Literature department, Alicia centers her lectures and her teaching style around her students. She encourages her students to watch Spanish soap operas to accustom themselves to better Spanish speaking habits, and she confesses having watched a few episodes of El Manantial herself. A professor who admits to enjoying the many entertainment values that television offers, what’s not to be admired?

Alicia’s appreciation of television stems from her early English lessons, it was from television commercials that Alicia gleaned her second language at a young age. Also, she would sit around the kitchen table with her parents and brother and listen to English language records. Alicia is the daughter of migrant farm workers and has only one other sibling. She was born and raised in Arizona and shares many compelling childhood stories. She remembers, “My brother worked in the fields since the age of five with my parents.” Alicia also remembers her mom talking about the family’s first home. They moved into the small house without knowing that the previous tenant had shot his girlfriend in the head, killing her. The blood stained mattress was flipped over in order to accommodate the family. Decades later, Alicia now shares care-taking responsibilities of her mother, Margarita, with her brother who lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Alicia’s older brother, Sigfredo, often reminded her that their “father didn’t cross the border to raise screw-ups.” Although the caution hardly seems necessary given Alicia’s achievements, Alicia graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Arizona in 1989. Later, she found herself swept up by the world of literature after realizing that she had read nearly all of the material required for a particular literature class. She eventually received a full fellowship in her field, which paid for her master’s degree at the University of Arizona where she also received her Doctorate in Hispanic American Literature in December of 1996. That same year Alicia moved to Boise and began her teaching career, where she continues to profoundly impact the lives of her students.

Alicia’s father used to tell her, “My luck changed when you were born.” No doubt her students share in the good fortune. Alicia has the ability to reach out to her students on a personal level and empower them with knowledge. According to Janell Browne of Boise State’s news service department, one of Alicia’s former students, Irene Rocha, wrote of her beloved professor, “Her mastery of the subject matter and constant enthusiasm has encouraged many students to get involved in the community.” Another student says poignant, “For Chicanos and Chicanas, she [Alicia] is soul food because she shares her experiences and they are similar to those of her students. Her 2002 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award cited: “Alicia is a dedicated, highly collaborative, knowledgeable, dynamic teaching professional, who obviously enjoys being in the classroom. Her students know this and they keep coming back for more.”

With so much support from her current and former students it should come as no surprise that Alicia was recently named “Idaho Professor of the Year” in 2003 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support for Education. Only 42 other professors nationwide were honored with the title out of a pool of over 400 nominations. Alicia is both the first Chicana from Boise State University and the first Chicana from the state of Idaho to win this award. Alicia calls the award, “One of the most important events of my life and of my teaching career. My receiving this award also means that I will have to dedicate myself to my work and teaching even more to live up to this honor.”

Alicia certainly embodies the very adage that she loves so much, “Shoot for the moon and if you miss, you’ll still land among the stars.” With that call to action in mind, Alicia speaks out against the dubious disappearance of 454 young Mexican women, maquiladora workers in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. At the same time, Alicia also speaks up for migrant farm workers. Alicia is currently working on her first book, which takes critical aim at the many representations of the Chicana body within cultural, social and political contexts.

Between a teaching career and family responsibilities, Alicia understands the need for personal time and satisfies that necessity through reading, gardening, and drawing. An avid gardener, Alicia grows vegetables, flowers and enjoys the view her desert landscape affords. Alicia offers a great example of a woman who manages to attain that elusive balance in life. At the end of the day she is a woman truly dedicated to her students and to her family. It is that dedication that is precisely what makes Alicia the epitome of every woman making history.

by Judy Torres

Judy is a senior majoring in political science with a minor in English. She is active in student activities and enjoys all water sports. Judy contributes her academic success to her parents and family for their love and support.

Angeline Kearns Blain

Before immigrating to the United States, Angeline spent the first twelve years of her life in a Dublin slum, oppressed by the Catholic Church’s refusal to aid the poor. Perhaps because of this history, Angeline has been able to channel her considerable energy into examining how women—individual, ordinary women—have worked successfully toward peace and social justice. Relying on the belief that we are all accountable and we are all responsible, Angeline demonstrates how much one person can do.

In all her creative and scholarly activities, Angeline advocates for peace, social justice, and education. She is committed to studying and documenting the ways that women, individually and collectively, have been peacemakers. In the process, she has become a peacemaker and activist herself. As an activist, Angeline helped establish the public kindergarten program in Idaho, organized other activists to bring attention to the endangered Idaho Wild Salmon, and created with other Boise women the Boise Neighborhood AIDS Quilt.
Women Making Herstory

Among many other accomplishments raising children, earning a G.E.D., B.A., and M.A., Angie was a major participant in the founding of the Boise State Women's Center. She also authored two books, including one book chapter on the lives of ordinary women. Her first book, Tactical Tactile, focuses on a group of women peace activists in Boise, her second, Stealing Sunlight, is a memoir.

Angie was among many women who saw the need for the formation of a Women's Center at Boise State. The impetus for starting the Center began when Angie attended Boise State University in the 1980s and the early '90s as a nontraditional student. She met other nontraditional students who were also older women. Angie says of the experience, "We felt like we were a little out of the norm at the university and wished that we had a little refuge where we could come together and talk about what it's like to be back in school as older women...we needed a place where we could go and feel safe and comfortable."

Angie also had the good fortune to be enrolled in a class taught by Phoebe Lundy that focused on women. It was out of this class that Angie and many other women (and some men) conceived of the project of creating the Women's Center. As she puts it, "A lot of people came together with the same idea and we worked for it, it felt hard and brought it about." And this, to Angie, is a kind of peacemaking inasmuch as they worked to create a place where women could be peaceful, at peace. In Angie's view, peace is not just about international politics, it's also about how we live our lives from one day to the next.

In the 1980s, the Reagan Administration chummed up so much hatred against the Soviet Union and its people that the Boise Peace Quakers, the subject of Angie's Master's thesis, began to make quilts as a message of peace to people who had been designated the enemy. The women displayed the quilts at public schools and on the Capitol steps. Eventually, they gained national media recognition.

Angie's questions, then and now, are: "What do you do then if you're not in political power? How can a woman, ordinary people, get a voice, a public voice? How do you do that?" And she answers: "Well you can't wait for something to drop out of the sky. I believe in the concept of personal empowerment; to really rack your imagination, and to find something that you can use for whatever purpose you want to make a political statement."

This is what the Boise Peace Quakers achieved; they had the perseverance and good luck to earn national recognition for their cause. By writing about this subject, Angie ensures the longevity of the Boise Peace Quakers project and makes it available to future historians and activists.

Angie also wrote about Joanne Habben Hornmache, a Basque woman who lived here in Boise and who taught the first Basque traditional dancing classes in the United States. Angie credits, in part, Hornmache's promotion and dissemination of Basque culture as one reason that Basque people are so well respected in the region. Angie shares her praise of Hornmache's teaching style that combined dance instruction with culture and music, saying, "You could see how the image of the Basque dancers being put on public display was really advantageous to creating this very positive, artistic identity of Basque people." Here Angie studied the life of an ordinary woman, demonstrated how extraordinary that life in fact was, and used her scholarship to record one of the ways that an ordinary woman can make a difference.

Finally, Angie decided to write her own story, Stealing Sunlight: Growing up in Idaho. As Angie says, "If you're a poor female child growing up in the Dublin slums, then you get an extra kick in the head. But mainly she wanted to document the generosity and kindness of poor people and to address their humanity and how respectful she felt regarding them. I wanted to celebrate that "NOならばWAIRED" and the sign that greets you as you approach Angie's front door. In posting this sign, Angie demonstrates the method that has served her so well as an activist and peacemaker: she makes her position clear, then uses creativity, imagination, sensitivity and commitment, to create progressive social change, and emphasizes always, the potential of the individual.

by Tom Paule

Joanne Habben

The library at White Pine Elementary School in East Boise where I am to meet Joanne Habben is a large, light-filled room with gorgeous views of the Boise foothills. There is a Scholastic Book Fair in the sun-drenched room. The theme of the sale is "Hats Off to Reading," so there are baseball caps, straw hats, hard hats, a gold crown and a jester's hat, an Easter bonnet and even a Knapsack Kreme hat, dangling from the ceiling.

The room is also peopled with an assortment of beautiful made dolls created by Joanne Habben, the librarian who made these character dolls come to life like the stories she reads to the children who bask in her love of books and reading. Joanne takes me on a tour of the library, introducing me to each of the dolls she has hand-crafted, including four pirates and a captain, a princess and a cowboy, a beautiful purple wizard and two robots, each imbued with the spirit of the artist who created them.

Joanne first became involved in working with children while employed as a recess aide in Idaho. While her own children were still in elementary school, as a parent, she was instrumental in the installation of new playground equipment at her children's school. Parents and students asked a designer to draw up plans based on their desires, with the caveat that parent volunteers could assemble any design. She then helped others organize fundraisers and media presentations to pay for the project.

Her family later moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where she was also employed as a recess aide. At the age of thirty-nine, Joanne enrolled in the College of Southern Idaho's Library Science program with the goal of one day becoming a school librarian. However, she and her family moved to Boise before she could complete her education. Joanne accepted a job as a recess aide at White Pine Elementary where her education and talents were ultimately rewarded with a position as school librarian.

In September 2000, Joanne was recognized with the Boise Independent School District's "Red Apple" award, which is in honor and recognition of outstanding work by a classified employee. Her son, David, feels that she received this award because "... her work has resulted in thousands of children learning to love books and view reading as a tool to combat illiteracy..."

Joanne backs up her son's assessment when she tells me that "When I share books with children, there is no such thing as a 'girls' book' or 'boys' book.' I encourage children to read what they like and read whatever they like. If a boy wants to read about ballerinas, I will give him a book about ballerinas.

When I ask Joanne about gender stereotypes at this age, she confirms that stereotyping still goes on amongst children, but it is not encouraged by anyone on the staff. She feels that it is important to model behavior that demonstrates acceptance of individual differences, whatever those differences may be. Over the years she has noticed that more boys are admitting that they like to read and that children of both sexes are reading more nonfiction books—specifically books about dinosaurs and travel.

Joanne feels that there is no such thing as an "inappropriate" book. "If a child is old enough to read and understand it, it becomes theirs." However, Joanne is also sensitive to the needs of parents and will not give a child a book that the parent deems inappropriate. Joanne also has a great sense of theatre, which she uses to encourage children to use their imaginations. She gives me a demonstration of how she engages children's imaginations by creating an imaginary story, having a child hold up an imaginary book and turning the imaginary pages as she "reads" the story.

This work is done with the knowledge that the pay will never be great and that there is no chance for a promotion, yet it is obvious that Joanne loves what she does—loves watching "the light go on when a child gets it." There is no doubt that this love is paid back in kind.

One day, as Joanne was walking home from school, a little boy ran up to her, wanting to thank her, saying, "I thought reading was really boring and stupid, but now I really like to read." Then he ran off, just as quickly as he appeared.

Experiences like this make Joanne feel that she would do this work even if she were paid nothing for it. In fact, she often does extra work without pay, like preparing for the school year during the summer and making all of the amazing dolls in her spare time.

Joanne also says, "... it is easy to work with a good principal," referring to White Pine Elementary's top administrator Mr. Bogle, who pops in during our interview. When I ask Mr. Bogle what he would like to say about Joanne, he answers that he feels that Joanne "makes the library an inviting place to be." This is exactly what Joanne has created, an inviting and comfortable place where children come to love reading.

by Elizabeth Stubbs

Dr. Marcy Newman

"Peace in the form of a dream."—Ani DiFranco

Dr. Marcy Newman, a well-known and highly respected English professor at Boise State University, works hard to create open and respectful learning environments. She easily relates some of her own life lessons with sincerity and a genuine hope that she may empower others to examine their lives, beliefs and dreams, just as her own family and role models did for her. She is petite and youthful looking. It becomes obvious listening to her speak that she is a powerful person. It is also apparent that her power comes from her compassion.

Marcy doesn't remember much of her life before the age of thirteen, when she went to live with her father and stepmother. Her parents
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divorced when she was one year old, at which point it was her mother who received custody of her. At thirteen, Marcy’s mother kicked her out of her childhood home. “It was traumatic, but I think that was what I was grieving for unconsciously.” Barely a teen, she left behind an abusive mother to move in with her father, who Marcy describes as a nurturing man. Only rarely did she speak to her biological mother again. Instead, she called her “step” mother “mom.” She explains, “In her I had a mother who actually nurtured and cared for me. That experience taught me that family is not necessarily about blood, but about the actual physical labor of parenting. It was a really powerful lesson.”

Marcy’s step mother was an inspiration to her as a feminist, an activist, and a writer. “She would regale me with stories of protesting the Vietnam War and the early second-wave feminist movement.” Marcy’s grandmother was also an excellent role model. Her grandmother was named “Woman of the Year in California” for her work in the preservation of historical buildings in Los Angeles. “I was fortunate enough to have really fantastic role models,” exclaims Marcy.

Marcy grew up in Los Angeles, where her family worked in the movie industry, a heritage that drove her to choose a different path. So she left California for Ohio and received her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Cincinnati, and her M.A. in English from Miami University. During her youth, Marcy attended Hebrew school. It was there that she first learned about the precarious relationship between American Jews and Israel. She feels that Zionism taught her to unconsciously dislike Arabs and characterized this pressure as one that formed her identity, but adds “All that was challenged when I went to college.”

While at the University of Cincinnati, Marcy was active in Hillel, a Jewish campus organization. She had never questioned her faith until she met a dear friend. “My best friend in college was Egyptian American and all of her friends were Palestinian American. It was the first challenge to my faith, the racism that I grew up with, both scary and powerful.” This new friendship prompted Marcy to doubt many of her previously held beliefs. Simultaneously taking classes in African American Studies and Women’s Studies, she learned to view Jewish history from a different vantage point; for instance, she questioned whether or not Moses was an Israelite or an Egyptian, and was exposed to academic discussions that Israel does not belong to Jews alone. She often visited with her rabbi and allowed her the space to ask questions she never thought to ask before and answered them honestly. These same questions informed her current research project on how Jewish and Arab-American children learn about each other through literary, historical, and popular texts as well as through family stories.

It was also in college—during her first quarter—that Marcy’s step mother discovered she had breast cancer. She died three months before her graduation. During her step mother’s illness, Marcy saw firsthand the level of suffering associated with chemotherapy and radiation treatments. This moved her to write her book due to be released by Rutgers University Press in October 2004 entitled, Beyond Slush, Burn, and Poison. Marcy’s inspiration for the book is clearly her mother, but others, too, like Rachel Carson, a writer and biologist who researched the long-term effects of pesticides on the environment, who is also moved by Audre Lorde, a poet and activist who was outspoken against the medical establishment’s indifference to women’s health issues—especially lesbians and women of color. Marcy says that Carson and Lorde “had a vision that the emphasis needed to be on the long term.” Any substance that goes into the environment needs to be tested before it is introduced into the environment. Marcy’s book traces the history of breast cancer and how it has been largely silenced and relegated to the private sphere. She details how women who look like Lorde and Carson made it public and how their advocacy affected changes in public policy and medical practices.

Currently Marcy, along with others, is working on implementing a diversity requirement at Boise State University. She points out that diversity training can only benefit Boise State students who are most eventually land positions at employers like Micron and Hewlett Packard. She explains, “Those companies are global even though their offices are in Boise. They are the most diverse places in the Treasure Valley. If you don’t have any understanding of cultural differences, then how can you work at these companies?” Marcy adds that Boise State is one of few universities among its peers that do not have a diversity requirement.

Marcy Newman is first and foremost an activist. Her determination to seek out and speak the truth in society has led her in many directions. She carries the lessons that she learned from her step mother through her life today. When asked what she wants to give back most to the child whom she and her partner are raising, she answers, “Compassion and love by modeling, returning what my step family gave to me.”

by Michel Lloyd

Shirley JoAnn Howard Christoffersen

Growing up on a farm in Black’s Canyon, just southeast of New Plymouth, Idaho, Shirley Christoffersen was an only child who learned the meaning of hard work. In addition to milking the cows, driving a tractor and changing the oil in the family car, she also performed all of the domestic duties expected of young girls of that time period—such as sewing and baking bread. Shirley also participated in numerous activities, including the 4-H Club, drill team, the Girls Athletic Association and debate team. She was editor of her high school newspaper and served as Girls State Representative.

Shirley continued to be very active while attending the College of Idaho where she majored in both psychology and physical education and minored in English. Although she had been offered a full scholarship to study home economics at the University of Idaho, she decided to attend the College of Idaho, even though it offered smaller scholarships and meant working part-time; but there she could choose her major.

Shirley became a teacher, coach, and counselor at Homestead High after graduation. She had also married and given birth to her daughter, Jodane, while still in college. Caring for a new baby while simultaneously beginning such a demanding career created a lot of personal conflict; while she wanted to stay home to foster her baby’s development, she also needed the mental stimulation that a career would give her. The solution was to become a resident manager at Boise’s Rim Crest apartment complex, a part-time career that would allow her to be with her daughter while also allowing her to use her education and intellect.

Shirley was “hooked.” Finding that property management provided something new and different every day, and required common sense and psychology and business skills to be successful.” Shirley advanced in property management, eventually becoming vice president of White-Leisure Development Company, where she worked with national clients and large commercial properties like the Eighth Street Marketplace, Boise Medical Arts Center, and the Hoff Building.

The Boise State Student Union:
the center for campus life

We provide educational, cultural, social, recreational and leadership programs and services integral to the academic experience.

SUB

Think opportunity.
Think community.
Think diversity.
Anji Armagost

Throughout her life Anji Armagost has been drawn to people who encounter social injustices or feel slighted in some way in their everyday lives. Anji began to realize why, when she enrolled in women’s studies courses at the State University of New York; she feels a connection with people who are struggling with oppression. One course in particular, “International Perspective on Women,” had a profound effect on Anji.

She says, “As a freshman I could barely handle that class—finding out what goes on in different parts of the world, how women are viewed in other cultures, how women operate within those cultures, and the repercussions of cultural values on those women. That’s really where it started for me. That class was so intense and gut wrenching. But once you open that door, it’s open... How can you ever shut it? You just can’t turn back. How could you, especially if you’re a woman? Anji wanted to know more about oppression and she wanted to do something about it.

Two and a half years later, Anji came to Boise State University, where she earned a bachelor’s of social science with an emphasis in women’s studies and sociology. In her senior year, for the service learning component of one of her courses, she was paired up with the Boise Women’s and Children’s Alliance (WCA), a local social service organization that provides safe shelter, support, and hope to women and children who are victimized by physical and sexual violence. During her service learning at the WCA she staffed the Rape Crisis Hotline, putting women in touch with the many resources that they needed. After Anji’s service learning she interned as a WCA resident manager, and soon was hired permanently.

Anji has now been with the WCA for over a year and manages its newest facility, Serena’s House, which opened in November 2003. Anji interviews potential residents, helps them move in, and orients them to the program, house rules, required meetings, and counseling sessions. She meets with residents for case management and counseling. Residents are encouraged to set goals that they would like to reach while in the program, and follow up with weekly meetings. Anji also helps identify resources in the community for services like housing, childcare, and legal and financial help.

Anji admires the women who come to the house for the 90-day residential program, calling them “amazing.” She says, “Women are the ultimate multi-taskers. They are teachers and do volunteer work and have children and husbands...”Then, if you bring abuse into the relationship when you are juggling all the other things, for somebody to build up that courage to actually leave is huge. Although the women who come to the WCA may not initially recognize their own courage, the WCA goal is that, with the help of counselors, resident managers, and staff, by the end of their stay these women realize what they are capable of and know how to take control of their own lives.

The other women who work at the WCA inspire Anji. Her coworkers are “in the trenches,” she says and deal with all the crises. Her colleagues support women who are looking to get out of the situation they are in and rebuild their lives, and provide them with a comfortable and safe environment. Anji says, “It takes a lot to deal with people in crises all day... the things that you see and the things that you hear are draining. Sometimes you leave and you feel like a shell. It’s inspiring to me that the resident managers come back day after day to help others make it through and deal with their difficult situations.”

Domestic violence and the never-ending wait list for the residential program at the WCA facilities are the kind of things that weigh heavily on Anji’s heart. Fueled by a desire to do more, Anji continues her training in social work. She is currently gaining certification as a crisis worker, working on obtaining her social work license and planning to return to Boise State in the fall of 2004 to earn her master’s of social work degree.

Anji also focuses on other social injustices that she sees all around her. She says, “I would rather die for a cause that I totally believed in than live a life that’s complacent...” In this country we have the poor and we have the money, but we spend money on military... I really believe in allocating resources in more effective ways and getting our priorities straight.”

Anji sometimes questions whether she’s doing enough and asks, “How can I do anything that will make a difference in one lifetime? I wish I could do more. But you open a door and then there’s a much bigger door.” Despite these uncertainties, Anji follows her passion for social justice and continues to dedicate her work, her studies, and her energies to help others overcome the oppression that they face.

By Teresa Lupa, Teresa majored in English, technical communication emphasis, with a minor in Spanish at Boise State University. She interned as the newsletter producer for Boise State Women’s Center during the Fall 2002 semester, and has been editing and free-lance writing since earning her bachelor’s in December 2002.

Whatever you want in life, other people are going to want it too. Believe in yourself enough to accept the idea that you have an equal right to it.
-Diane Sawyer

The sharing of joy, whether physical, emotional, psychic, or intellectual, forms a bridge between the sharers which can be the basis for understanding much of what is not shared between them, and lessens the threat of their difference. -Audre Lorde

If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.
-Maya Angelou

The world cannot do without women...the future lies with us.
-Joan Collins
A month ago in late January, the Boise State community suffered the loss of a fellow student named Trang Doan in a serious car accident while on a university-sponsored trip. I only interacted with Trang a few times; she was a receptionist at the Women's Center and Cultural Center at Boise State where I volunteered. Always cheery, and helpful, this was all I knew about her, but after talking to the few people who knew Trang Doan well, I managed to find out much more about her.

Trang Doan’s life mirrors a great many of the lives of international students who come to study in the United States. She grew up in Vietnam, in the Thua Thien Hue Province, which is located in the central region of the country. The eldest of two children and the only girl of a working middle-class family, she was always very ambitious. Her mother, Ho Thi Duong, is an English teacher and tour guide. Her father, Doan Van Toai, is an electrician. Both parents still live in Vietnam. Trang graduated from high school in Vietnam with the highest of honors.

While guiding an American tour group, Trang’s mother met a woman by the name of Clee McBeek from the American Youth of the United States (AYUSA) organization who offered to set Trang up with a host family in the United States where she could pursue her dreams of a higher education. Trang then left Vietnam in 1998 and began living with Andrea and Barry Lewis of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. After completing her SATs, she began looking to attend a university.

"You could tell she was appreciative and really valued her experience here," said former Boise State Cultural Center Coordinator Tam Dinh, "she was very mature, always upheld Vietnamese traditions, and was extremely respectful."

After living with the Lewis family in Pennsylvania for a short time, she moved in with Geoff Black and Janette Young of Poughkeepsie, New York where she attended Dutchess Community College. Geoff Black received a Professorship to teach economics at Boise State University, and moved the family there in the fall of 2000.

After moving to Boise, Trang started attending Boise State and enrolled in the Computer Information Systems program. She didn’t stop there though, Trang, along with other Vietnamese students at Boise State saw a need to create a club which reflected their culture and traditions, so she became a co-founding member of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) for which she served as Vice President 2001. She was Treasurer at the time of her passing. Tracie Pham, 24, served as President of VSA a couple years ago and had this to say of Trang, "She was always out there to help people."

According to Tam Dinh, Trang also embraced a role not altogether customary in the Vietnamese culture.

"Trang assumed leadership roles very well, it’s more of an American trait which she latched on to, but she never lost her graciousness or respect for the age order."

Trang was President of the International Student Association as well.

Trang completed her first degree in computer information systems, but held off on attending the graduation ceremony in hopes of completing another degree in networking and telecommunications. Posthuminous degrees can be awarded to individuals such as Trang, who pass away just before their completion of their program. Trang’s parents can at the very least be presented with a symbol of her hard work at Boise State.

The last time Trang’s mother saw her, was in the summer of last year, when Trang was involved in another car accident. Her father visited her the year before that. Most of us can’t imagine how difficult it was for Trang’s parents to give up their only daughter to a strange and unknown culture, and then, after building their hopes for her on top of the many accomplishments she fulfilled, watch them crumble. Trang Doan was a testament to how much students should value the educational opportunities they are given.

"Trang was more mature than most, because it takes a lot, costs a lot, and bears a great responsibility to send your Vietnamese child to the United States to be educated. The hope is all in one child," said Dinh. I also asked Dinh about Vietnamese funeral ceremonies.

In a Buddhist ceremony, the deceased is brought into the home for a public viewing in order for the family and friends to pray and give blessings. To mourn, white is worn, with white handbands for family members to distinguish them from others. Sometimes offerings are made for the deceased to use in the next life, as Buddhists believe in reincarnation. The offerings like money, images of houses, and cars are burned as blessings for the next life. Food and fruit are also offered as a sign of condolences. At Boise State, students had their own remembrance ceremony.

The week after Trang’s death, a memorial service was given, and people filled the Jordan Ballroom at Boise State to say their goodbyes. A large photo of Trang was placed at the front of the room, she smiled brightly like she had always done. Heartfelt words from family and friends were spoken tearfully and as I looked around, there was not one person who was immune to the tragic loss. Trang was embodied everything that Americans are taught to value: hard work, leadership, enterprise, and the pursuit of excellence.

You did not have to know Trang to understand what she gave up to be here, and why she should always be remembered.

by Aubrey Selazar
Women's History Month

March 2004 Calendar of Events

Financial Tips for Women: Basic Investment and Budgeting
Monday, March 1, 2004
Noon-1 p.m. Lookout Room SUB

Presented by Jennifer Braun-Blanco from SUBAIG VALIC, a member of world-renowned American International Group, Inc., a publicly traded company on the NYSE. Ticket Symbol: AIG. VALIC is “AAA” rated by Standard & Poor’s and manages retirement plans for more than 150,000 institutions of higher education. With assets under management of nearly $50 billion, AIG VALIC is an industry leader and currently manages long-term investment programs for more than 15,000 educational, healthcare, public sector, and other organizations representing more than 2 million investors.

Women in Idaho and the West
Tuesday, March 2, 2004
7-8:30 p.m. Lookout Room SUB
Presented by Dr. Sandra Schackel, Boise State history professor, featuring an historical re-enactment by performance artist Shannon Steven Comers.

Celebrate Women and Spirituality Film Series
Wednesday, March 3, 2004
All films shown in the Forum Room of the Student Union

An exploration of the history, repression and resurgence of the woman’s spirituality movement

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Film #1 Goddess Remembered...........................................55 minutes
This film offers insights into ancient cultures and explores contemporary women’s spirituality movement inspired by them.

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Film #2 The Burning Times...........................................56 minutes
This film is the second video that speaks deep truth about the insanity of The Inquisition. It explores this dark time in human history, suggesting that this widespread church and state sanctioned torture and killing of “witches” set the stage for modern societies acceptance of violence against women.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Film #3 Full Circle...........................................56 minutes
Advocating a reverence for the earth and all life as sacred, we explore the many manifestations of women’s spirituality and a resurgence of feminine holistic and nurturing attitudes and solutions.

Women’s History Month National Juried Exhibition Reception
Friday, March 5, 2004
5:30-7 p.m. Boise State Student Union Gallery

Exhibition open February 21-March 31.
From 260 entries submitted by 87 women artists, the jurors selected 50 works by 31 artists for the final exhibition.

International Women’s Day Luncheon
Saturday, March 6, 2004
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Cafe de Paris: 204 N. Capitol Boulevard

The Agency for New Americans announces its 4th Annual International Women’s Day Celebration. Late Lunch and Silent Auction. Fee: $15.00

For more information contact: Maggie at 338-0332 ext. 27

Senorita Extraviada Film
Tuesday, March 9, 2004
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Bishop Barnwell Room SUB

Senorita Extraviada, film and discussion. Presented by Dr. Maria Alicia Garza, Idaho Professor of the Year, Associate Professor of Modern Languages, Boise State University.

A tale of black women’s struggle and triumphs. For Colored Girls...propelled its author, Ntozake Shange, to national and international success in 1975. It has been performed at many colleges and universities throughout the world and is a favorite offering especially during Women’s History Month in March. For Colored Girls...has never been performed in Idaho.

For Colored Girls...
March 10, 11, 12, 13, 2004
7:30 p.m. Boise State Special Events Center

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf. Tickets available through Select-a-Seat at 426-1494. $8.00 students/faculty/staff, $10.00 general.

This documentary film explores the issues women face when they recognize, and then act on, their romantic feelings for other women. Most of the eight participants are from Eastern Idaho, an enclave of LDS culture. The video was first shown in Salt Lake City in October 2003 at a Family Fellowship Forum, a group of Mormon parents and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. This was part of the National Affirmation Conference, a group of GLBT folk raised in the church.

Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion with both members and former members of the LDS Church. Susan Randall, Assistant Director of University Television Productions at Boise State, produced the documentary to stimulate discussion with the hope of healing the pain. For more information, contact Ms. Randall at 426-3468 or at randall@boisestate.edu

Women in World War II: Creating a More Complete Picture
Thursday, March 18, 2004
12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. in the Boise State Women’s Center at 1605 University Dr: 426-4259

Presented by Dr. Troy Reeves. Feel free to bring your own brown bag lunch. Since August 2001, the oral history division of the Idaho State Historical Society has interviewed male WWII veterans. In August 2003, the oral historian branched out in search of women who served in WWII, in the military, and the homefront. This presentation will offer an overview of this project, including the successes and failures.

The Extraordinary Life of Harriet Tubman
Exhibition open during the month of March
Black History Museum located in Julia Davis Park
Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday

As a part of the powerful exhibit, The Myth of Race, the Black History Museum will present a documentary and exhibit of the life of Harriet Tubman, a courageous and determined woman whose story continues to stand out in American History. For more information call 433-0017. Exhibit is free, but donations are welcome.

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