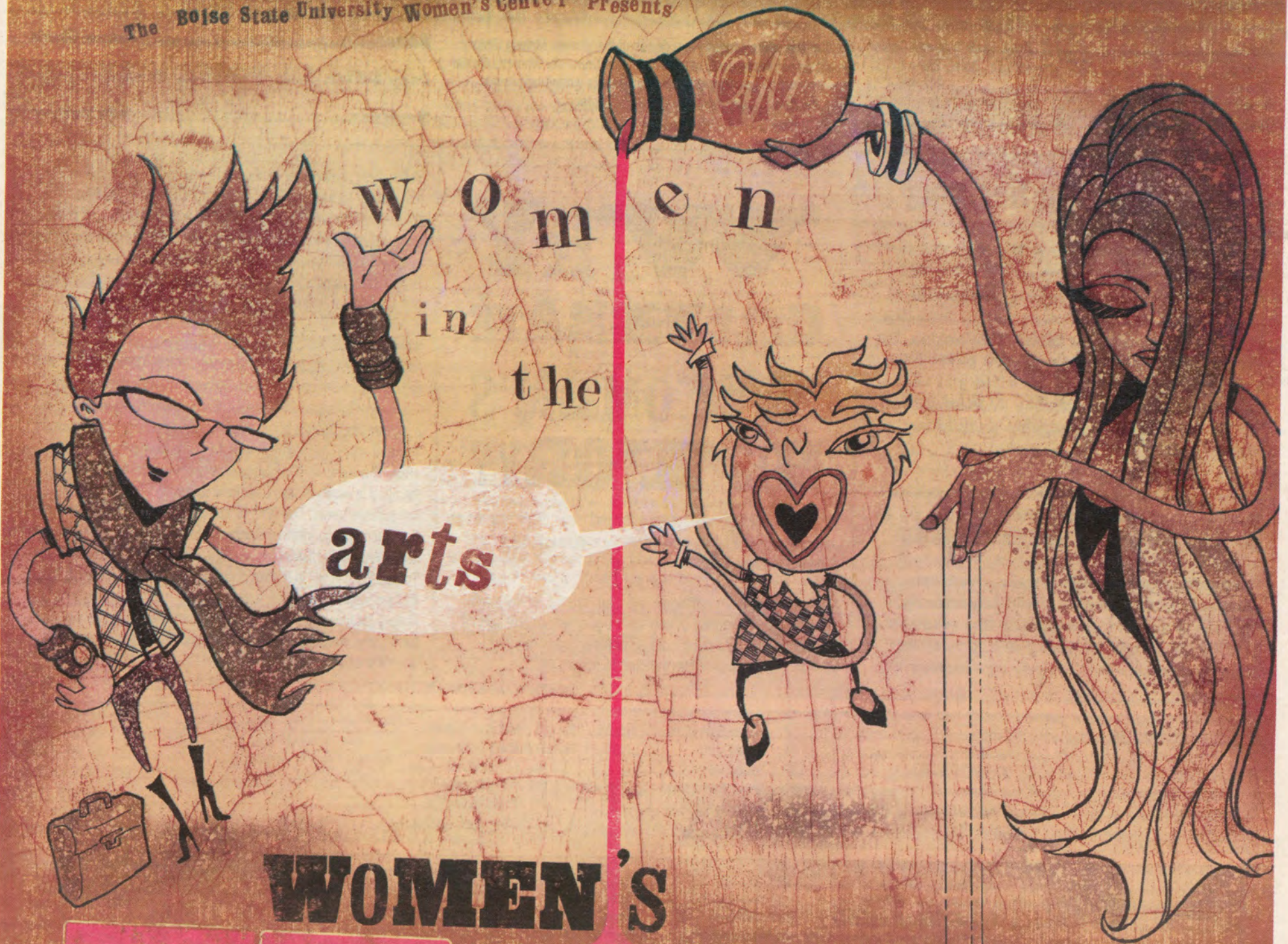


The Boise State University Women's Center Presents



WOMEN'S

FEELER STORY

MONTH

MARCH 07

- Flora Aldazabal • Ilene Bartlett-Hill • Dr. Diane Boothe • Shanna Branham • Dina Brewer • Natalie Camacho-Mendoza • Nancy Caspersen • Melanie Curtis • Christelle Edmo • Nancy Egan • Megan Egbert • Josie Evans • Texie Evans • Noemi Herrera • Janice Johnson • Whitney Johnson • Mary Lou Kinney • Dana Kirkham • Amy Layton • Sonia Martinez • Beverly Miller • Charlotte Mixon Lanier • Barbara Morgan • Maria Rebollozo • Rochelle Smith • Keziah Sullivan

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Women Making Herstory

Since 2001, the Boise State Women's Center has honored 183 local "Women Making History": ordinary women leading extraordinary lives. This publication has become a tradition in our Women's History Month celebration. In the following pages, you will read about 24 women who are changing the history of Idaho. These women were nominated as Women Making History for their admirable work in our community.

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

WHY CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY?

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

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

Yet in 1992, a national study found that history texts devote only two to three percent of their total content to women. Educators are willing, often eager, to introduce women's history. But they lack materials and support. Only three percent of educational materials focus on women's contributions. Yet recently legislatures in three states—Illinois, Florida, and Louisiana—mandated teaching women's history in their K-12 classes. The need for more accurate information about women's historical contributions is further confirmed in a recent poll funded by General Motors (GM). Conducted prior to GM's sponsorship of a Ken Burns film on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, two women "who transformed a nation," the results show that only one percent could identify Stanton as in some way connected with women's rights. In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) was founded in Santa Rosa, California to broadcast women's historical achievements. The NWHF 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 NWHF 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.

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PAST HONOREES

2001 Honorees

Cindy Clark
 Pat Clark
 Sue Coble
 Sally Craven
 Opal Dickson
 Tam Dinh
 Pat Dorman
 Lee Flinn
 Amy Haak
 Alicia Hochhalter
 Jyl Hoyt
 Helen "Binky" Jacoby
 Rocci Johnson
 Gwen Kimball
 Nicole LeFavour
 Maria Lorenzana
 Chris Loucks
 Shelly McDonough
 Tegwin Millard
 Joanne Mitten

Jane Moore
 Angela Newell
 Leslie Owen
 Gaetha Pace
 Katherine Pavesic
 Susan Pedde
 Susan Qualls
 Mary Rohlfing
 Sonya Rosario
 Jo Anne Russell
 Jan Salisbury
 Virginia Sarriugarte
 Megan Sorvaag
 Leah Taala
 Connie Thorngren
 Gay Tisdale

2002 Honorees

Kath'ren Bay
 Sue Billington Wade
 Felicia (Felix) Bogard
 Susan Burkett

Dallas Chase
 Pennie S. Cooper
 Karen Cross
 Sylvia Dana
 Evelyn Ferrari
 Ginger Floerchinger-Franks
 Alma Gomez
 Lesley Goranson
 Ruth Harris
 Becky Hays
 Alexis Higdon
 Monica Hopkins
 Nancy Jacobsen
 Zeda James
 Kara anney
 Kelley Johnson
 Dianna Longoria
 Kay Mack
 Clarisse Maxwell
 Ellie McKinnon
 Dana Miller

Barbara Miller
 Fatime Mohammadi
 Renee Mullen
 Faida Muzaliwa
 Stephanie Neighbors
 Barbara Newell
 Anita Pedraza
 Leacadia Powell
 Lalani Ratnayake
 Lorry Roberts
 Justice Cathy Silak
 Phyllis Smith
 Juandalynn Taylor
 Margie Van Vooren
 Bonnie Vestal
 Marilyn Watts
 Irene Wilcox
 Dr. Stephanie Witt

2003 Honorees

Yasmin Aguilar
 Lolita Anastasio
 Dr. Teresa Boucher
 Janelle Brown
 Kathleen Craven
 Dr. Sue Chew
 Judy Cross

Carole Denise Dawson
 Betsy Dunklin
 Lynn Gabriel
 Maria Gonzalez Mabutt
 Dr. Christine Hahn
 Dr. Ginna Husting
 Vicky Irving
 Lori oyce
 Jane Kinn Buser
 Dr. Suzanne McCorkle
 Pam Parker
 Anne Pasley-Stuart
 Beverly Pressman
 Pat Pyke
 Carolyn Rahn
 Wanda Lynn Riley
 Fatma Slaton
 Maxine Sower Randall
 Kelly Spafford
 Dr. Valerie teffen
 Winnie Tong
 Christina Van Tol

2004 Honorees

Anji Armagost
 Hildegard Ayer
 Zella Bardsley

Evangeline Beaver
 Peg Blake
 Marie Blanchard
 Ingrid Brudenell
 Lorissa Wilfong Holt
 Shirley Christoffersen
 Maureen Clark
 Karry Fischer
 Maria Alicia Garza
 Joanne Habben
 Marla Brattain Hansen
 Dian Hoffpauir
 Maybeth Hogander
 Jeni Jenkins
 Angelina Kearns Blain
 Pamela Magee
 Marcy Newman
 Marie Osborn
 Toni Roberts
 Mary Evelyn Smith
 Marjorie Belle Tucker

2005 Honorees

Maria Andrade
 Laurie Appel
 Deborah Bail
 Leah Barrett

Peggy Bohl
 Rosie Delgadillo Reilly
 Julie De Lorenzo
 Susan Emerson
 Francelle Fritz
 Dr. Heike Henderson
 Mary Carter Hepworth
 Dr. Lois Hine
 Jessica Hinkle
 Sue Holly
 Gene Nora Jessen
 Beverly Ann Kendrick
 Beverly LaChance
 Wendi Story McFarland
 Jennie Myers
 Dr. Linda Pettichkoff
 Liliana Rodriguez
 Dr. Sandra Schackel
 Dr. Cheryl B. Schrader
 Adriana Solis-Black
 Shannel Stinner
 Brooke Tyler

2006 Honorees

Dr. Sonja Andrews
 Jan Bennetts
 Kara Bracia

Jennifer Edwards
 Melody Sky Eisler
 Rebecca Evans
 Marcia Franklin
 Sheri Garmon
 Dr. Jill Gill
 Norma D. Jaeger
 Kali Kurdy
 Pamela Lassiter-Stacy
 Dr. Lynn Lubamersky
 Yolanda Martinez
 Ellie Merrick
 Dr. Amy Moll
 Wendy Morgan
 Dr. Mamie Oliver
 Ro Parker
 Sister Betty Schumacher
 Dr. Sarah Toevs
 Teresa Vazquez
 Melissa Wintrow
 Begone "Sam" Zabala



Amy Layton

Nominated by Melissa Wintrow

Amy Layton was born outside of Seattle and spent most of her childhood moving from city to city across the state of Washington. Eventually, she settled and attended high school in Arizona, in a predominately Native American town. She learned firsthand what it felt like to be a racial minority in the community, and the experience taught her the value of accepting and appreciating diversity among people.

While in high school, Amy served on her student council and was instrumental in bringing the first dance to her school. She remembers the struggle to get administrators and parents to accept the idea. "Kinda like the movie *Footloose*" she says, smiling. She was thankful for all the people in her community who stood up in support of the students. "Stifling others' ways of thought" was unfair.

For two years, while still in high school, Amy volunteered with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Twice a week, she went to a local boarding school for Navajo children to assist them in learning to read. "I loved it," she says, and explains the awe she felt in watching the children gain empowerment as they became more confident readers. For her dedication to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Amy received a citizenship award through her high school. However, if you ask her about the honor, she'll make it seem like it wasn't all that important. She is generally self-effacing when it comes to any kind of recognition of her many talents.

After graduating from high school in 2003, Amy moved with her parents to Boise, where her plan was to pursue either a nursing degree or become a dietician. She was also engaged to be married at the age of 17. Amy and her fiancé continued a long distance relationship while she started college, planning to attend Boise State for only a year and then transferring, but she found the first semester "very defining." She felt enlightened and came to a point where she had to "make a choice about what I was most afraid of"—being alone and seeing what life held for her, or staying in a relationship and not being alone, even though it was an unhappy relationship. Amy decided to continue her education, to change and grow and define herself, to gain the experience she needed to become strong and independent.

Unfortunately, Amy also experienced what it's like to be the victim of a crime—an assault against her person. She reported the crime to all the appropriate sources, but found many roadblocks in seeking justice through different justice systems. Some laws and policies are still antiquated when it comes to the rights of women. She began to realize

just how the undercurrents of injustice affect the lives of women. She learned that life changes fast and that one's sense of security can be taken away in a heartbeat. She also realized that to have a fulfilling life you must do what you believe in and love. Her experiences helped her find her passion.

After changing her academic goals toward earning a degree in sociology with a minor in gender studies, Amy is doing what she loves. She is active on campus, speaking out on behalf of her beliefs and challenging the status quo. Last April, she courageously told her story at a Take Back the Night speak-out, and the experience gave her a stronger desire to speak out even more against injustice. Amy continues to fight for those whose voices aren't heard, and she is motivated by her loved ones and her desire to see people live better lives. Amy recognizes that people can change the world. Giving up or tolerating violence does nothing but perpetuate a cycle of injustice and ignorance. Apathy helps to perpetuate the problems women face.

In the words of her nominator, Melissa Wintrow, "I am proud to know Amy. She is a dedicated student, committed to growing and learning. I have been honored to experience her journey as she comes to know herself, advocate for herself, and advocate for others. Through her courage, she has touched the lives of others and helped them find support as well. She's continued to fight the system that did not provide justice for her. Through her persistence, systems of conduct are being re-explored. She has definitely made an impact on the development of new guidelines to assist students at Boise State University."

Amy will graduate with a bachelor's degree from Boise State University in December of 2007. She'd eventually like to pursue a master's degree in sociology and after that, a Ph.D. She also plans to travel overseas to do humanitarian work while learning from the perspectives and worldviews of others.

Written by Whitney Johnson – Whitney is a senior majoring in Sociology, with a minor in Gender Studies.



Dr. Diane Boothe

Nominated by Debbie Paxton

Dr. Diane Boothe, the Dean of the College of Education at Boise State University, is a woman in constant motion. Although she is fairly new to Boise State, having arrived in July of 2005, her presence has re-

sulted in a great deal of positive change for the University. She brings with her over three decades worth of experience and knowledge, and a firm belief that with excellence in education, the possibilities for Idaho's students are endless.

As a child, Diane was fortunate to have as a role model her grandmother. "She worked in a library," Diane remembers. "She had attended college, which at that time was very rare for a woman, particularly one from a family without a lot of financial resources. Her brother, in fact, waited tables to help put her through school. When I was little I used to visit her and spend lots of time in the library, which I loved. She and my grandfather were both instrumental in supporting me in my academic life. They worked hard to save money so that I could go to school, and just before my grandfather passed away he told me that every penny he had spent on me was worth it." In addition to her considerable family support, Diane was also lucky to have been inspired by great teachers, all of whom she considered to be role models.

Diane came to Boise from the University of West Georgia, where she was the chair of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education. She moved to Boise largely because one of her colleagues at West Georgia was from Idaho, and when the College of Education Dean position opened up, he thought she'd be a perfect fit. "The great opportunity here is that the University is transitioning toward becoming a 'metropolitan research university of distinction,' so it's been exciting to be a part of that change. Idaho's teachers are very dedicated; I've been impressed with their concern and genuine interest in how to best fulfill the needs of their students. The schools and agencies that the College of Education serves have made a tremendous effort to respond to areas that are in need; Math & Science, Special Education, and Bilingual Education."

When asked about the changes in the educational landscape in recent years, Diane is thoughtful. "The biggest and most immediate change is the technology. It's opened up an international emphasis—the idea of a 'global society'—and the realization that we must look at education from a global perspective. The emphasis is still the same, providing quality educational experiences for students, preparing them to participate in society; but the ways in which students need to be prepared has certainly changed a great deal over the last twenty years."

If anyone would know, it would be Diane Boothe. As part of her work as an educator and researcher, she has traveled a great deal. Her research interests include teaching English to speakers of other languages, so her vita lists a staggering number of trips abroad to various conferences. She has visited India, Denmark, Japan, Ireland, Slovenia, Italy, Peru ("They had to move my presentation outdoors and a monkey ran right across the stage, can you imagine?"), Italy, Brazil, Egypt, and dozens of locations across the United States. She has also published over 50 articles, authored a book on diversity in gifted education, served on dozens of committees, and in 2006 won the Professional Service Award from Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The award is given annually to an individual who has performed outstanding service to the profession.

Yet Dr. Boothe is never content to rest on her laurels. Recently, she decided to challenge herself even further by pursuing a private pilot's license. "I'm a little out of my comfort zone," she admits with a smile. "But why not at least try something new? It's certainly an interesting change of pace. It's unbelievable how different it feels to be up there." To quote one of Diane's most recent speeches, referencing Boise State's famous blue and orange color scheme, "The 'blue' we see in our future is the color of success, the color of quality and leadership, the color of competence and professionalism." For Diane, it might also be the color of possibility and of taking flight into a limitless sky.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Dana Kirkham

Nominated by Diane Boothe

Dana Kirkham's life has changed quite a bit since she worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. When asked if she is enjoying what she's doing now more than what she did back then, she laughed. Her life is very different in Ammon, Idaho. While she enjoyed her time with the CIA, she does not regret for a second her decision to leave the workforce so she could be with her children. Although Dana may have left the paid workforce, by no means has she stopped working. On top of raising a family, which involves an incredible number of hours, she is an integral part of her community.

Dana's work is inspired by her hopes and dreams for her daughters. She dreams of a future where gender will not play a role in what opportunities are available to them. She is passionate about the importance of education in their lives. She hopes that by helping them make good decisions today, they will have many options later on in life for their schooling and careers. And, of course, she serves as a strong, empowered role model for them.

Because Dana cares so much about her children's education, she is very active in their school. She is a member of the PTO Board, and she was also responsible for bringing a fine arts program to their school. Before Dana got involved, the school didn't have an arts program, and she saw this as very problematic. She has always been a great believer in the arts and knows that art helps children to develop their interests and explore their world. Art helps children dream of what might be possible. Creating and implementing a program was not an easy process, but with the help of another advocate Dana lobbied and convinced the district to pay for a training seminar.

Dana is also breaking ground for women in the political sphere. She is a role model, not only for her own daughters, but also for many young

girls and women. Dana is currently the only woman serving on the Ammon City Council. At the age of 34, she's also the youngest council member in the history of the city. When Dana started noticing problems in her neighborhood, she became involved with the Homeowners Association. Eventually, she became president. This experience, combined with her degree in political science gave her the background she needed to run for city council. Dana felt she had something to offer the city of Ammon, and she wanted to contribute to the processes that help a city grow and prosper.

Although Dana is the only woman out of the five member governing body, she does not feel that she is treated unfairly. She feels supported by the other council members and believes that they view her as an equal. Occasionally, she might hear a comment that is demeaning to women, but she believes that those instances are part of the process of progression.

While Idaho has made huge strides in providing equal opportunities for women, Dana feels there is still some room for improvement. "We have been a little slow to accept all the capabilities that women have to offer," she says. She sees nothing wrong with women holding traditional roles, but she wants people to realize that women have a lot to offer in other fields as well. She knows that progress often comes slowly and believes that the key to Idaho lies in women who are proactive. "The more women who get involved and become leaders in their fields, the quicker that gender line will be erased."

Along with her job as a mother, her involvement with her children's school, and her position on the city council, Dana also finds time to help out the Museum of Idaho. Her volunteer work with them has varied from writing grants, helping with artifacts, and organizing trips for school kids. She is also a new member of the Boise State University College of Education Advisory Committee. She looks forward to the new experiences that this position will bring.

After her children get a little older, Dana would like to further pursue her political career. In 10 years, she will likely consider running for a state office. She believes that she can help make Idaho stronger, a model for the rest of the nation. She already has some thoughts on where she might start implementing change. "Idaho isn't setting great achievements with our education system," she explains. Re-evaluating the ways in which the state can support school districts, along with some discussion about state educational standards would be the first step toward taking Idaho's educational system to the next level. This would allow more opportunities for Idaho's school children, and eventually provide Idaho with the educated, knowledgeable workforce it requires.

Dana describes herself as an idealist. She believes that things can be improved upon, and she is always working towards that goal. She doesn't complain about the need for change, but instead gets involved and tries to make those changes happen. She is not afraid to speak up. Dana has already made quite a name for herself, and Idahoans will continue to hear about ways in which she's helped shape Idaho's history.

Written by Megan Egbert – Megan is a senior majoring in Multiethnic Studies at Boise State. She is also being honored as a "Woman Making History" in this publication.



Sonia Martinez

Nominated by the Women of Color Alliance Staff

Speaking with Sonia Martinez, it's difficult not to get caught up in her energy and enthusiasm. She is dedicated to the idea that all people are talented; the form that talent takes may be as individual as a snowflake, but finding ways to utilize raw talent is what she does. She says, "I'm constantly asking people 'Could you make a living doing that?' And then my job is to figure out what we can do to help."

As part of her job with Partners for Prosperity, Sonia works with the Latino community through grassroots organizing. She also helped create the Mercado Project. The Mercado project consists of committed Latino community members who work collectively to address barriers to employment for low-income Latinos in Eastern Idaho. The goal of the Mercado project is to increase skills in small business training and development for low-income Latino members and begin to develop a co-op business incubation model in which low-income community members can increase job opportunities and small business ownership.

Sonia believes that many Latino community members have the willingness and desire to become small business owners and entrepreneurs. "Community members often see a need in the community and get into business." Sonia noted, "While many Latinos are eager and willing to start a business, some just haven't had the opportunity or experience to gain training in starting a small business. Lack of business 'know-how' is often the problem. Community members have a lot of questions. How do I get an EIN number? How should business records be kept? These are the kinds of questions people are asking." Sonia says that one of the key values of the Mercado project will be to help fulfill an economic niche in the Latino community.

In much of rural Idaho, Latino stores and businesses have not been located close to the people they serve. That is beginning to change. "We've seen people who opened up a small store just so their neighbors can pick up some tortillas or a phone card without having to travel a long way. And these places are really tiny, maybe a room or two that's used as a shop. The biggest obstacle isn't lack of motivation" said Sonia.

To address many of these issues, Sonia worked on a grant that would help fund high-quality business training specific to the Latino community. She is careful to tailor her plans to the needs of participants; most of the business owners work at least one job and are

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

-Patricia Schroeder

thus unavailable during the daytime. Due to some of the barriers that community members face, a grant was written to provide one-on-one support and assistance with technical questions related to owning and running a business. Sonia also recognizes that the programs must be bilingual as many of the group members speak limited English. After participating in this training, 20 local entrepreneurs are now prepared to formalize their businesses.

"Sonia is a great asset to the Latino community. She is passionately dedicated to the community and many times uses her personal time to help out. For her this isn't a 40 hour a week job, she is much more involved than that," said Jessica Sotelo, Director of Partners for Prosperity.

Through her involvement with Women of Color Alliance (WOCA), Sonia has worked with co-nominee, Christelle Edmo, Native community activist, to bring together Hispanic and Native Women to discuss common issues and ways their communities can work together. "As a board member of Women of Color Alliance, I am trying to change the perception of how women of color are viewed in rural Idaho," she said.

When asked what frustrates her as an activist, Sonia commented, "I get frustrated sometimes that the process doesn't move faster. It's not easy to do this kind of work in rural areas with limited resources. But what keeps me going is this idea that there is an incredible amount of talent out here. People have all kinds of skills, but they don't always have ways to overcome obstacles like language barriers, lack of information and mentors, or access to resources that might help. I hate to see that talent go to waste, so when we are able to really help someone to change their own life it's an amazing feeling."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Beverly Miller

Nominated by Jaime Hansen

Beverly Miller's advice to women in the feminist movement is to "Hang in there! We have to be able to ride the waves," she said. "At times, it seems we're making progress, and at others, the tide seems to be going out forever, and we may feel like it will never come back. But it will return, bringing fresh inspiration and energy. Meanwhile, we need to be able to support one another, and try to learn from the past."

As a longtime member of Boise's feminist community, Beverly has watched the ebb and flow of social movements for decades. As a historian and librarian, she has taken great care to document and retain as much information about how those movements have affected the Boise community.

Beverly has earned several degrees. Her first, at Thiel College in Greenville, PA, was a Bachelor of Arts in English with minors in history and art history. She graduated in 1964. Two years later, she graduated from the University of Denver with her master's in library science. In the fall of 1968, she was hired as a reference librarian at Boise State where she earned a second master's in history in 1998. She taught classes in library science at Minot State and Boise State University, then switched to Research Methods in Gender/Women's Studies. After 38 years at BSU, she retired in the fall of 2006.

In the 70s and 80s, Beverly was active with the National Organization for Women (NOW). After her experiences with NOW advocating for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment at the local, state, and national levels, she decided to focus on concerns closer to home. She chaired the "Save the City Hall Fountain" project in 1980, which focused on the restoration of the historic fountain near Boise City Hall. The fountain was, to the best of her knowledge, the only public monument to commemorate the achievements of a woman or of women. It was dedicated to a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1910 and to this day sits on the corner of Capitol and Idaho.

Beverly also served on the board of the Idaho Women's Network in its early years and also served for many years on the board of HERS/West at BSU. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Women's Center and the Women's (now Gender) Studies program and since has served on the advisory boards of both. She says, "These efforts are a lot more rewarding to me than the national political struggles, although I did get to have lunch with Ellie Smeal once."

When asked what she is most proud of, Beverly said, "I'm probably proudest of my students. Many have gone on to graduate school, and have accrued an impressive list of achievements. Most of them have been a joy to teach, and I love hearing about the things they're doing. I'm sure I've learned as much from them as they have from me." Many of her students feel lucky to have been in her classes. She inspires them to get excited about research. She's also witty, and has a wicked sense of humor. Ask her where she sees Boise in ten years, and she will say: "I hope I can see Boise in ten years: the air pollution here is getting pretty bad, and I don't see enough efforts to change that."

If Beverly was given a magic wand so she could change the world, she would ask, "Do you think a magic wand could make a few politicians vanish into the ether? I didn't think so. In that case, I'd use it to make big piles of money for the Idaho Bird Observatory, the BSU Women's Center, and the University's Women's Studies Program. Oh, and as long as I'm wishing, I'd like to see a Ph.D. degree in history available at Boise State."

Not one to slow down, and always something of an overachiever, Beverly is now focused on training and competing her dogs in agility and obedience trials. She likes to garden and go hiking in the Boise hills. "A few years back, I bought an older house and I have great plans for all the work I'm going to get done on it. I'd like to continue teaching for a while. And if the right volunteer job comes along, I might be interested." She's still involved with campus life and is a frequent guest at the luncheons held by the Women's Center Returning Women's Discussion Group.

Written by Jaime Hansen – Jaime graduated from Boise State in December 2006 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Gender Studies. She was an active member of several campus student organizations focusing on a range of feminist issues.



SUBSTANCE

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

<http://sub.boisestate.edu>



Josie Evans

Nominated by J. Carter

The first thing most people notice about Josie Evans is an incredibly high energy level. She is an uncommonly dedicated woman who devotes a great deal of that energy to finding ways to make Boise a better place to live. She is an amazing role model for young women who want to make a difference in the world.

Josie is a lifelong Idahoan. She and her twin sister, Texie, were born in the Ketchum area, then moved to Boise when they were small. As Josie recalled her childhood, the conversation repeatedly turned to her mother, Sheral Evans. "Although my Dad is the one with all the education, who inspired my sisters and I to be vocal about our opinions, I think my sisters and I inherited our work ethic from my mom. She didn't have a degree, but in her own way worked to make a difference in the lives of the people around her. So she was a big inspiration in that respect."

Sheral was a fixture in Boise's restaurant community for decades. A bright, funny woman, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2004. Josie and her sisters, both of whom were college students, focused their energies on assisting her through chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and an endless number of medical appointments—all the while attending classes at Boise State. Sadly, Sheral passed away in April 2005. As a testament to her beloved standing in the community, her memorial service drew so many people that the crowd stretched around the block in front of the funeral home.

That experience, caretaking through the last months of her mother's life, was life-altering for Josie. When asked what she thinks is the biggest problem facing women, she said, "I think at one point in my life, I would have said 'reproductive rights'; I still think that's important. But now I think I'd have to say the issue of care-giving as unpaid labor. Whether women are raising a family or caring for a sick or aging relative, there should be more respect and support for that work. Because it is work. Just because it's not recognized with an actual wage doesn't mean it's not vitally important. I have a lot more insight into the lives of women who are raising families, in a way I didn't before my mom got sick." For Josie, building communities that support families of all economic levels is particularly important, whether that's through affordable housing, increasing mass transit options, or public policy.

Although she's humble about all that she's accomplished, her list of

achievements is impressive. While at Boise State, Josie helped to establish a feminist student organization called OGEE (Organization for Gender Equality and Education). She also worked at the campus Women's Center as a program assistant and was one of the women who helped to bring Gloria Steinem to campus. Later, she was hired to work in the International Programs Office to market and organize study abroad and student exchange programs. She believes strongly in study abroad programs as a way to enhance the educational experience of college students, and has herself studied in Costa Rica, Chile, and Spain. Josie also initiated a resolution to allow international students and students who have studied abroad to be recognized at graduation with a sash worn over their graduation gowns.

Additionally, Josie is the recipient of several prestigious scholarships, including the 2005-2006 Hewlett Packard Award for Distinguished Leadership in Human Rights. In 2006, she was inducted into the Founder's Leadership Society and, along with Texie, delivered the commencement address at Boise State's spring graduation ceremony. After receiving her social science degree with emphases in sociology and gender studies, Josie remains active on campus in her role as a member of the Women's Center Advisory Board. She is also a board director for Idaho Women's Network and is working toward a real estate license. She'd eventually like to attend graduate school to study city planning, which is one of many subjects about which she is passionate.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

Texie Evans

Nominated by J. Carter

In contrast to her twin sister's extroverted energy, Texie has a coolly reserved manner that some might mistake for shyness. This is not so. Texie is uncommonly confident. While speaking to her, one gets the impression that she never says anything that she hasn't carefully deliberated first. Although she is still considering her career options, she has known all her life that she would eventually like to serve the public in some capacity.

Growing up, Texie and Josie were always active in extracurricular activities. For Texie, this took the form of student government. Texie's first political experience was being elected to serve on the student council. When asked about her early interest and how she got started, she said, "I know my dad always tried to make sure we were 'involved.' He's always been big on participatory democracy. I've always been attracted to leadership positions. I like to help other people feel comfortable in new places (school, work) and to know that their voices matter, because they do."

At Boise State University, Texie ran for a seat in the student senate and was the only candidate to run on the "Elect a Feminist Candidate" platform. Her commitment to diversity was unparalleled; she was one of the sponsors for a controversial resolution that sought to introduce

a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Recognition Week. The resolution was hotly debated in the senate, but Texie never wavered in her belief that the campus should be a place where *all* students should be allowed free expression.

When the elected vice president of the Associated Students of Boise State University (ASBSU) graduated in December 2005, Texie was appointed as a replacement. Her role as vice president came with a great deal of responsibility, including the privilege of introducing Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, and Seymour Hersh, an investigative journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for his reporting on the Vietnam War. Most people would be intimidated at the prospect of speaking in front of such large audiences; Texie, however, was thrilled.

"I kind of fell into the opportunity and didn't really even consider how big the crowd was going to be," she said. "I feel comfortable speaking in front of people when it's a topic I'm knowledgeable about. I was so honored to be able to introduce these men to the community." People who know Texie have commented on her natural aptitude for public speaking. She and Josie gave the 2006 commencement address at Boise State to an audience of 10,000 people.

When asked about her proudest moment as an activist, Texie didn't mention public speaking. For her, the work that matters most happens on a more personal level. "I think I felt like I had made the biggest difference when I helped register people to vote as part of a service learning program. I love volunteering and showing up to rallies to show my support for a cause I care about, but in this instance I actually felt like I made a difference by helping people participate themselves."

It's also worth noting that during her senior year, Texie was not only busy with her VP duties, but she also served as the ASBSU liaison to the Women's Center Advisory Board and the Internationalization Task Force. She completed an internship as a lobbyist with the Idaho Human Rights Education Center and in that capacity attended a number of progressive advocacy trainings. Upon graduating in May 2006 with a social science degree (emphases in sociology and gender studies), Texie was inducted into the Founder's Leadership Society. After graduation she joined the Society's Advisory Board, which works to keep distinguished alumni involved with the university. Texie plans to attend law school and sees public service as part of her future plans. She said, "I don't know if I would say that I aspire to be a career politician, but at some point in my life I do envision holding office on at least the local level. I've known since elementary school that I wanted to be a public servant. My idea of how I would do that has certainly evolved (for a long time I thought I wanted to be a teacher), but I have always known that I want service to my community to be a big part of my life. I think great improvements could be made for women as far as representation in public office...it's a necessary step in order to actually improve the status of women in terms of health, safety, equality, everything."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

**There is no greater agony than bearing
an untold story inside you.**

-Maya Angelou



Keziah Sullivan

Nominated by Laurie Lund

Imagine for a minute you live in a war-torn country. You live in a place where you are not sure if you and your family will live to see tomorrow. Out of fear, you decide to gather a few of your belongings and your family to flee—to leave your house, your homeland, and everything you have ever known to take refuge in a neighboring country. There, you live in a camp with many other refugees. With hope, you begin the daunting process of applying for asylum in the United States. However, a year, five years, maybe even ten years go by while you wait. You fight to stay positive. You fight not to lose hope for a better life. Then at last the day comes: you are granted asylum as a refugee in the United States.

With mixed emotions of excitement and fear, you begin the journey to a place called Boise, Idaho. But what do you do once you get there? How do you find a home, a job, a school for your children? Who can help? The answer is Keziah Sullivan, who has worked at the International Rescue Center (IRC) since it opened its Boise office in January 2006.

The IRC is dedicated to providing relief, rehabilitation, protection, post-conflict development, resettlement services, and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict or oppression. Keziah, one of the shining faces of hope and help to Boise's refugee population, is a woman dedicated to helping others. Involved in all aspects of getting refugees settled in their new surroundings, she finds resources that are available within the community to help refugees succeed. If resources aren't available, she works to establish new ones. She is a voice that advocates acceptance and promotes the rich assets that refugees bring to Boise.

Though not a refugee herself, Keziah, originally from Kenya, understands some of the struggles facing those people who are relocating to Boise. As a strong proponent of women's rights, Keziah is a living example of what she believes. As a woman of Kenya, she was blessed to have parents who believed that education was important and paid for her to continue her education past the eighth grade. In Kenya, it's mandatory and free for children to attend school for the first eight years; after that, parents must pay to send their children to school. Historically, higher education was reserved for only boys, but that is gradually changing.

In 1999, Keziah met her husband while he was working in Kenya with the Peace Corp. She struggled with the internal conflict of what she

wanted and what her culture wanted of her. To marry a foreigner was viewed as betraying one's culture, yet Keziah wanted something more for herself. Moving to Boise, Keziah faced the challenge of adjusting culturally and socially. Since coming here five years ago, she is proud to say that no one has ever said anything racially or ethnically derogatory to her. She is proud to call Boise home and the people her neighbors.

"The work I do is just who I am," she said. "How can you not help people you see who need it? I'm from a third world country, so when I see these people I know some of what they are going through. I also feel that they [refugees] are the embodiment of courage and tenacity. I just love it. A lot of them are teaching us to be courageous, what it is to be forbearing, and we get so much from them."

With a smile on her face and joy in her voice, Keziah is easily approachable, always willing to listen and help. Her door is never closed. For the past two years, she has invited refugees into her home to share Thanksgiving dinner with her family. Laurie Lund, who nominated Keziah for the Women Making History award, wrote, "She is one of those women who lights up the room when she walks in. She has so much positive energy it is a joy to be in her presence. She believes in what she is doing and it shows. Even with so much exposure to the negative side of our world, she remains optimistic and hopeful."

Written by Katrina Kelly – Katrina is an Elementary Education major at Boise State.



Shanna Branham

Nominated by Adriane Wright

"Life isn't fair," is an age-old adage that most of us have probably discovered to be as accurate as it is simple. For Shanna Branham, however, it is the reason she became a social worker, and she vows to continue her work as an advocate to disprove this proverb.

It all started when she was just seven years old. Shanna grew up in Idaho Falls in "a neighborhood with no fences," where "all of the kids hung out together," and one event in particular remains a vivid memory. Shanna recalls that one family "allowed the son to play without completing chores, but his younger sister had to stay in until her chores were done." This injustice did not sit well with Shanna. "I made everyone sit down in the yard and wait for the sister. I guess I have an inherent need for fairness," she declared.

Shanna Branham could be described as an optimistic individual despite having worked with victims of sexual and domestic violence for over ten years. Shanna worked as a case manager and the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator before becoming the Education Outreach Manager at the Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA) in Boise. Each year that Shanna was with the WCA, the center increased its service outreach, and she was instrumental in the addition of a new safe house for victims. She also developed and coordinated the Sexual Assault Response Advocate team for the WCA prior to her departure from the organization.

In addition to her daytime position at the WCA, Shanna volunteered countless hours as an advocate on the other end of the Sexual Assault Response hotline at BSU. In all her work, she used her social work background and her community connections to build important collaborations with services around the valley and in Idaho, including local hospitals, the Boise Police, the university, the Victim Compensation Program, and the Victim Witness Coordinator.

When asked why she decided to work with volunteers, Shanna says, "There are a lot of reasons that people decide to volunteer. Some of them need class credit, some of them are seeking self-satisfaction or boosting their résumés, and others volunteer out of altruism. Even the volunteers who came to the WCA as a class-requirement got to choose the agency they worked with, and I found it intriguing that people would choose an agency that deals with such challenging issues."

Her "inherent need for fairness" gave rise to Shanna's passion for change, led her into a career in social work, and was her guiding force for over five years at the Women's and Children's Alliance. In addition to this drive for justice, Shanna credits a few role models with helping her along the way. She says, "My mom had the perseverance and passion I strive for, and she was always a kind and compassionate person." She adds that Melissa Wintrow, the past coordinator at the Boise State Women's Center, is another person she hopes to emulate, pointing out that "Melissa is a great advocate, she understands the importance of education, and she is a graceful feminist."

While working toward her bachelor's degree in social work at Boise State University, Shanna volunteered with the Organization of Student Social Workers and was a member of the VOX student organization, a feminist group dedicated to raising awareness about issues affecting reproductive rights for all. Shanna is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and a member of NOW, the National Organization for Women. Shanna is also involved with the Ada County Democrats for whom she spent many hours canvassing before the elections last fall. Recently, she has also dedicated some of her time to a.i.p.h.a., or Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS, a local nonprofit that provides testing and prevention services.

Most recently, Shanna has devoted herself to her new job as Victim Services Coordinator at the Idaho Commission on Pardons and Parole. She helps to provide services to crime victims after defendants are sentenced, and works to offer opportunities for crime victims to participate during the parole consideration process. It's a job tailor-made for someone with an interest in helping empower others. Adriane Wright, who nominated Shanna for this award, said it best when she wrote in her nomination, "Shanna has incredibly inspiring, optimistic attitudes about others, life, and herself. She has been in the human services field, working with victims of trauma, for over ten years. She continues to be passionate, hopeful, empathetic, and a highly effective advocate."

Written by Josie Evans – Josie graduated in May 2006 from Boise State University. She also serves on the Advisory Board at the Boise State University Women's Center.



Dina Brewer

Nominated by Noemi Herrera

From a very young age, Dina Brewer knew she wanted to study law. Born and raised in Idaho, she dreamed of one day achieving that goal. During her childhood, Dina's mom worked as a legal secretary. "That might be where the original idea came from," she muses. "But from as early as I can remember, I knew where I wanted to go." She was fortunate to be supported by parents who valued her educational aspirations. "I expected it to be quite difficult, but I was fortunate to have the parents that supported me. They knew the value of education. My dad had to quit school very early in life so he could find work and help support his family, but the expectation was that I would be able to go to college somehow."

Dina currently works as an attorney for Comprehensive Advocacy (Co-Ad), Inc. Co-Ad is the only legal rights organization in Idaho dedicated to Idahoans with disabilities. When asked if providing these kinds of legal services was a part of her childhood dream, she laughs. "No, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but I kind of fell into my work with Co-Ad." After attending college in Portland, Oregon and then law school at Willamette University in Salem, Dina moved back to Idaho to be closer to family. She answered a advertisement at Co-Ad. She's been there ever since. "It's an interesting job," she says. "I do a variety of work around special education, Medicaid, you name it...and I am really fortunate to be working with a group of attorneys who have decades of experience between them. As the newest member of the team, it's great to be able to learn from all that they have to offer. So much of my work doesn't necessarily involve legal issues; I spend just as much time trying to change people's misconceptions around folks with disabilities." Dina also serves on the board of the Intermountain Fair Housing Council, which seeks to assist people experiencing housing discrimination, and she chairs the Special Education Advisory Panel for the Idaho Department of Education.

Just as notable as her position at Co-Ad, however, is the work Dina does on a volunteer basis. She is an active board member at the Women of Color Alliance (WOCA), and dedicates a great deal of time to working toward the advancement of women of color in Idaho. She says, "I got involved a little over four years ago, and WOCA has been a big part of my life. It's a very unique organization, not like any other I've been involved with."

Noemi Herrera, who nominated Dina and is herself one of this year's

Women Making History, describes Dina as "a great asset to our organization...she's a powerhouse that hasn't yet been fully tapped." Dina sees her involvement in WOCA as integral to her personal mission of increasing opportunities for other women in Idaho. "For every woman like me, who was able to go to college and enter a profession, there are hundreds who never get that chance. Even in my family, with parents who supported me, I had cousins for whom college just wasn't ever an option. I'd like to see that change, that lack of access to education. In many small high schools like mine, academic counseling isn't available. And parents who have never been to college can't help with college applications or answer questions about how to find financial aid, because they don't have that experience. One of the things I love about WOCA is that they believe, as I do, that there is power in the collective, and by drawing that power together we can make changes happen."

When asked about her plans for the future, Dina thinks she might someday entertain the idea of being a judge. "But I'm still getting my nerve up for that," she laughs. "Still, it's troubling that there's only one Latino judge in the state." Also, she'd like to see WOCA continue to find ways to enhance opportunities for women of color in Idaho in terms of education, economic development, and social justice. Last but certainly not least, she and her husband are raising a son. "I feel very supported in the work that I do by my husband. He's become a great deal more aware of the issues surrounding communities of color, and in his own way works to fight bigotry when he sees it around him." She grins. "So big props to him, too." For now, Dina will continue to advocate for people and educate as many Idahoans as she can to help create positive changes wherever she goes.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Ilene Bartlett-Hill

Nominated by Beth Collier

"Take out the garbage everyday, act like a man, and walk behind the men at all times and you have the job." Today, women getting this as career advice would have images of class action lawsuits. How quickly we forget that it was only a few generations ago that such advice was common. Ilene Bartlett-Hill had to live up to those very expectations just to be allowed to have her first job as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Employers simply did not allow women to work in the field. When she first became employed in Idaho, women could

not own property if they were single, had to pay double the deposits for rentals and utilities, and could only hold jobs that were "befitting" for a female. These injustices encouraged her to get involved in local politics and help change the future for other women.

Now in her 80s, Ilene looks back at a lifetime of achievement and while she does receive accolades (not only from the women she has helped, but also from their children), she knows it is not the accolades that inspired her to get involved. It was her belief that women are every bit as professional, intelligent, and capable as any man. Ilene was working toward equality long before the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Born into a farming family during the Depression, the financial struggles of her childhood strengthened Ilene's resolve to become a "professional." She still vividly remembers the day a CPA came to her high school to audit the books. Ilene had always been a natural with numbers, and she became determined to claim one day the title of CPA for herself. Working her way through her education was difficult; often she was forced to work two jobs while attending school full-time. After two years of college, her career was postponed when a visiting diplomat from Argentina failed to stop at a red light. The accident resulted in three fractured vertebrae in her neck and other life-threatening injuries. After two years of intensive care and rehabilitation, Ilene returned to college while trying to repay the medical bills.

While at the College of Idaho, Ilene met her first husband, Ralph Bartlett. But a year and a half later he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and Ilene put her dreams on hold to care for her dying husband. Newly widowed after only five years of marriage, she returned to her family in Caldwell and again began the long journey towards her CPA certificate. Unlike many CPAs, Ilene passed the rigorous three-day test on her first try, but now she had to find a company willing to risk having a woman as an intern. At the time, internships had to be held for two years to receive the final certificate.

Ilene became the seventh woman in Idaho to obtain the certificate, and no woman who had received the certificate prior to her had ever held a position in the accounting field. Faced with the humiliation of having to walk behind the men and take out the trash, she accepted her first job. The arrival of the Civil Rights Act helped her to join a large corporation where she received the same pay as a man three positions below hers. Because of her professionalism, she soon became a respected member of the accounting field and opened an office of her own. In 1968 she married Lloyd E. Hill, and hyphenated her name to "Bartlett-Hill".

The success of her own business allowed Ilene the time to become involved in community service. She joined many organizations. Some of them directly related to her line of work, but the one closest to her heart was Zonta International. "Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta members volunteer their time, talents and money to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship and award programs aimed at furthering women's education, leadership and youth development."

Ilene served two terms as president, two terms as vice president, and enthusiastically volunteered for many other positions within the organization. The quality of leadership Ilene projected caught the attention of then-Governor Cecil Andrus, who eventually appointed her to the Idaho Commission on Women's Programs. The Commission, part of the Governor's office, works to advocate on behalf of Idaho's women and families.

Ilene changed the lives of women in Idaho. Through her work on the Commission, she saw firsthand how the state could help to ensure equality for woman in the future. One case Ilene particularly remem-

bers involved a woman whose home life was filled with violence. When she finally tried to move out, she was unable to do so because the rentals and utilities required nearly double the deposit they would ask of a man. The Commission changed the law. Ilene is still in contact with the woman's daughter, now grown, who never fails to thank Ilene for helping to make it possible for women to live independently.

Ilene's activism was not limited to business and politics; she would lecture at Idaho colleges to recruit new female students to the financial field, and she served as a mentor to many students. One memorable student, a nun, was responsible for the financial direction of several hospitals. With encouragement, the woman was convinced to come to Boise and work for her certification as a CPA. Along with many others who have been inspired by Ilene, this woman has to this day continued a true friendship and been a supporter for countless years. True heroes do not act for the purpose of themselves, but show courage in the face of impossibility, and blaze trails into the unknown.

Written by Cynthia Blue – Cyndi is a Political Science major and is active in her role as an elected Senator for the Associated Students of Boise State University.



Barbara Morgan

Nominated anonymously

Barbara Morgan is about to make history. While all of this year's nominees are being recognized for the work they do in Idaho, Barbara will be the focus of a great deal of international media attention this summer. She will be a Mission Specialist on the shuttle Endeavour, as well as an Educator Astronaut. It's a journey that Barbara has been waiting to make for over 21 years.

Barbara has very strong ties to Idaho. She began her teaching career in Montana in 1974, then she moved to the Gem State the following year to teach at the McCall-Donnelly Elementary School. In 1978, she took a year off to teach in Ecuador, but for two decades she lived and worked in McCall. Her husband, author Clay Morgan, was at one time a member of the adjunct faculty at Boise State's English department. The couple also has two sons, both born in Idaho.

In 1985, Barbara was selected as the backup candidate for NASA's Teacher in Space Program. When asked why she had applied to the program, she said, "I was sitting at home, it was after school. . . . It

was the five o'clock news, and the President came on and announced that they were going to send a teacher in space. I shot straight up and said, 'Wow!' As you know, teachers all across the country did. Because as teachers, we're always looking for opportunities to bring the world to our classroom, to gain more experiences, gain more knowledge about our world so that we can make our classroom a better place for our kids. It was a tremendous opportunity."

As the backup candidate, Barbara trained with Christa McAuliffe and the Challenger crew at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Over the six-month training period, she became close to Challenger's crew. She was watching on January 28, 1986, when the Challenger exploded shortly after launching from the Kennedy Space Center. As the nation grieved for the loss of seven astronauts, Barbara worked to provide support to the families they left behind. Assuming the role of the Teacher in Space designee, she continued to provide educational consulting, curriculum design, and public speaking services for NASA. Later that year, she returned to teaching in McCall.

In 1998, Barbara was selected as the first Educator Astronaut. The new position meant that she would not only be using her spaceflight experience to teach, but that she would be a fully-trained member of the shuttle's crew. The training would be much more intensive the second time around. The family moved to Texas, near the Johnson Space Center. She trained for four years before being assigned to a mission aboard the shuttle Columbia. She was scheduled for a mission to the International Space Station that was due to launch in November 2003. Unfortunately, NASA suffered another setback in February 2003 when Columbia disintegrated just before landing. Once again, Barbara found herself mourning the loss of seven friends and co-workers. NASA also faced major scrutiny, and the agency tried to use the disaster to make shuttle travel safer. After bearing witness to two major tragedies, many people would have had doubts about future shuttle launches. Barbara, however, became more resolute in her belief in the space program.

"Both the Challenger and the Columbia have caused me to think, and they caused all of NASA to think," she explains. "First of all, it caused us to think about what are we doing wrong, and how can we make it better? How can we make spaceflight safer? Because it is risky business, but we want to make it as safe as we can. All the astronauts, all of NASA, have been working really hard and will continue to work hard to try to make spaceflight as safe as we can possibly make it. It also caused me to really think, both Challenger and Columbia, about what's really important. In both situations, we had kids watching adults. Kids learn a lot from watching adults . . . not just what we say, but what we do. And kids were watching to see what the adults do in a terrible, terrible situation. What I thought was really important for kids to see is that we figure out what's wrong, we fix it, and we move on, and we keep the future open for our young people. I'll feel that's important forever." She once told a group of schoolchildren, when asked if she was afraid, "I'll be really, really alert on the launch pad, just as everybody else is. But at least for me, I made those decisions a long time ago, pre- and post-Challenger."

As Barbara prepares for this summer's Endeavour, she is poised to ignite the imaginations of children nationwide. Her persistence and courage, however, are also a big part of why she was chosen as a Woman Making History. For Barbara, it all comes back to her role as a teacher. "It's about perseverance. That's what describes teachers. They have patience and they have perseverance. That's what allows them to do their job so well. I can't think of anything more important to all of us than our kids and their future. And to me, space exploration is all about open-ended, never-ending opportunities for our young people. That's what my motivation has been, to help keep the world of opportunities open for our kids."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

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Melanie Curtis

Nominated by J. Carter

A quote above Melanie Curtis' desk reads: "To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." She said this daily mantra appeared in her horoscope one day.

Melanie is a self described "social entrepreneur" and a successful businesswoman whose grant writing has secured over \$15 million for the Boise community. She is the founder and the executive director of the nonprofit organization Supportive Housing and Innovative Partnerships (SHIP) which includes the Second Chance Building Center. Personal experience long ago helped her realize her potential and achieve the success she now enjoys.

By the time Melanie was 22, she was the single mother of a toddler and an infant. She "felt the brunt of what it meant to be poor," and knew she needed to change her situation. Seeking a way toward a better life for her family, she was able to put a roof over their heads with housing assistance. With that single basic need taken care of, she was able to attend courses at Boise State University, which brought a brighter outlook and hope for the future. Finally, after graduating with a Bachelor's in social work, Melanie became a VISTA volunteer, the predecessor program to AmeriCorps. She went on to graduate school at the University of Denver where she earned her Master's in social work. Today, she credits much of her success to that difficult beginning as a poor single parent. And she will also tell you that one of her greatest joys is "watching people change their lives."

As the current executive director of SHIP, the majority of Melanie's work involves program development and applying for grants. She is quick to point out, however, that "advocacy, activism, and even funding are not enough. We need to meet people where they're at." Her goal is to address the community needs by looking at other models, but meeting people where they're at requires "constant program evaluation and modification."

SHIP provides the housing piece of a "system that serves the whole person," providing employment, case management, housing, and peer support for recovering addicts. Less than six years old, the program has already expanded to include ten houses.

The Second Chance Building Materials Center provides the employment piece of this holistic system, keeps building supplies out of our

landfills, and offers affordable materials for our community members. Proceeds from the Second Chance Building Materials Center are being funneled into substance abuse treatment and recovery support services offered by SHIP. Melanie organized the Community Detox Coalition, a grassroots organization dedicated to making sure people of Ada County and the rest of the state have access to detox services through fundraising and public awareness. With a rising drug problem in the community, adequate treatment facilities are key to the success of those who seek to conquer their addictions.

Before founding SHIP, Melanie spent two and one half years at the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority and five years at Idaho Housing and Finance Association. In addition to her success at SHIP and the Second Chance Building Materials Center, she was recognized with the prestigious Idaho Social Worker of the Year Award in 2004. She served on the Board of Directors of the Idaho Women's Network, the Idaho Nonprofit Development Center Board of Directors, and currently serves on the Executive Council of the Interfaith Sanctuary, the Intermountain Fair Housing Council and the Corpus Christi House.

Melanie has also been featured in Boise State University's Alumni publication, *Focus*, and in multiple articles in *The Idaho Statesman*, often quoted for her insight into Boise's need for detox and rehabilitation services and her belief that providing treatment is the only humane and lasting solution.

Written by Josie Evans – Josie graduated in May 2006 from Boise State University. She currently serves on the Advisory Board at the Boise State University Women's Center.



Nancy Caspersen

Nominated by Diana Stewart, Mitch Keister, and Marsha Vandegrift

Tobacco devastates more lives in Idaho than all other drugs combined. Yet, this particular addiction is often hard to understand. It seems counterintuitive for people to engage in behavior that is self-destructive. Often, bystanders will simply decide that addicts are either unintelligent or should be left to whatever consequences happen as a result of the addiction. Nowhere is this more evident than in society's views on smoking. Nancy Caspersen, RN and Tobacco Cessation Specialist, is working to change the lives of people in her community by helping them to quit successfully.

"It seems like such a small thing," she says over coffee. "And yet I find that there is so much wrapped up in that habit." Indeed, most of the people Nancy meets in her workshops began smoking very young. The average age for a first-time smoker is 10 to 15 years old. Some children start even younger. "I see many people whose parents smoked, and who began even younger than 10. It's not unheard of to see folks who began at seven or eight. And who is thinking of their future at age eight? Kids don't have the cognitive ability to realize what they've started, and by the time they do start to understand, they're addicted."

Nancy began her career as a nurse. Fresh out of high school, she attended a Catholic nursing school in Missouri. "I wanted to be a doctor," she says. "But even with very strong grades and an interest in medicine, I was told that since I was a woman it would be impossible, which shows how much cultural attitudes about women's careers have changed over the last thirty years." Instead of medical school, Nancy went to nursing school. It was there that she began to smoke. "Nearly every health professional smoked at that time; doctors, nurses . . . we all did it. When it came time to graduate I decided I wanted to work in a place that a) wouldn't make me wear that little peaked hat that we were forced to wear as part of our nursing school uniforms, and b) would let nurses smoke at the nursing station desk in the hospital."

In the early 1980s, Nancy moved to the Sun Valley area. She was drawn to Idaho because of the hiking, skiing, and gorgeous scenery. As part of her job, she was required to take a chest x-ray to screen for pneumonia. She didn't have pneumonia, but instead found out that she had emphysema after twelve years of smoking. She was only 33 years old. This was the beginning of a struggle to quit that would last three years. (She was eventually successful; although she still refers to herself as a "tobacco addict", Nancy has not smoked for 17 years.) It was around this time that she grew increasingly disenchanted about trying to function within the traditional medical establishment.

"In Hailey, I was exposed to more alternative therapies," she explains. "I really felt like I wanted a new approach to healing and patient care, which I wasn't going to get in a hospital setting." So, Nancy bravely decided to go back to school, and attended the Heartwood Institute in northern California. "I did coursework in massage and hypnosis techniques and Eastern medicine and acupuncture as part of studying 'Transformational Therapy'; it's not the kind of education you can get in Idaho," she laughs. "But I was really drawn to the school's motto: World Peace Through Healing. I wanted to help people change their lives for the better."

Upon returning to Idaho, Nancy found a job at a local medical clinic that was looking for a massage therapist. The clinic specialized in pain management and rehabilitation, and one day Nancy's supervisor asked if she'd be interested in doing hypnosis for clients who were trying to quit smoking. "That's how I got started with tobacco cessation, with these sessions. Hypnosis only works for a short time; what I found was that folks needed information on how to overcome the physiological changes that accompany quitting."

When the clinic was sold to a local hospital, Nancy started her own business helping people to quit smoking for good. She attended the Mayo Clinic's Conference and Training for the Treatment of Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction, and combined that with her background in nursing and transformational therapy to create a series of tobacco cessation workshops.

Her knowledge of the issues around tobacco is impressive. She can talk about the chemistry involved in the creation of a cigarette, and how a simple dried tobacco leaf rolled in paper has become, thanks to years of research and development by big tobacco corporations, a highly sophisticated drug delivery system. "People don't smoke because they are too stupid to stop or because they don't want to stop," she says. "They smoke because it's a coping mechanism and because

once a person is addicted it physically feels terrible not to smoke. So, in my classes we talk a lot about ways to minimize that physical discomfort. We talk about stress management. And we provide compassion and support for folks who are ready to make that change." Classes are free to participants and are funded through the Tobacco Settlement given to the State of Idaho. They've been so well-received that Nancy recently began her own Web site, www.quitandlive.net, so people can get more information or register for a class.

Nancy will be the first to admit that not everyone who attends her class is successful. "Tobacco addiction is what doctors call a Chronic Relapsing Addictive Disorder. But my view is that we still need to provide treatment. If a certain kind of cancer has a survival rate of 40%, for example, you would still treat 100% of the people who have it. Everyone deserves a chance."

Nancy was the only Women Making History nominee this year to receive three separate nominations. This certainly speaks to the devotion of the people who have found that their lives have changed for the better because of her dedication. They are incredibly grateful.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Janice Johnson

Nominated by Judy Dickson, Susan Kelley, and Robyn Parsons-Paffendorf

The world of business and the world of the nonprofit organization have historically drawn very different kinds of people. The people who worked in nonprofits tended to be those with a philanthropic bent, while business drew those who were trained in the technical aspects of managing to increase profits. There was very little crossover. However, this notion is rapidly changing. The nonprofit organizations are fast realizing that training in management and finance can be useful, and there's been a significant increase in philanthropy on the part of business. Many MBA programs, for instance, are specializing in training nonprofit administrators.

In Boise, the best example of this blending of skill and soul is the success of the Women's and Children's Alliance. Janice Johnson has been key to that success; her skill as a business leader combined with her passion for helping the women and children of Idaho is an integral part of the strength of the WCA. She's won many awards for her work, and last year became the Idaho Business Review's Woman of the Year.

Janice began her career at Treasure Valley Community College, where she worked for 18 years. She held several positions, but was eventually promoted a position as Director of Admissions. Her favorite part of the job was the ability to help people succeed. She left Idaho when her husband's work took him to the eastern part of the United States. She created and implemented an office technology program for a large business school in Virginia. Janice then transitioned to a position with a computer company that sold computers for use in the plastics industry. Both were jobs that she was successful at; the office technology program began with a class of thirty students and by the time Janice left three years later there were 600 students each session.

Upon returning to Boise, Janice took a job at a local nonprofit called the YWCA. The YWCA was a long-standing women's organization that focused on women's issues: childcare, domestic violence, education, and leadership development. Janice worked as a computer instructor in the YWCA's career center, and within a year, she became the director. Three years later, she moved into the position of Executive Director. She's been there ever since.

The past 15 years have been a time of major changes at the organization. In the mid 1990s, Janice began to realize that the National YWCA organization might not be fitting the needs of the struggling local organization. "When I came in as ED, things were very different. I started to think about how to best use our resources and focus, and ask what would help us to become stronger and more sustainable in the long run." The biggest issue was the YWCA's insistence on an all-female organization. Under YWCA rules, there could be no male board members and no male volunteers. Janice recognized the need for everyone to be involved in issues that affect women and children and found it troubling that when men were prevented from doing so. In 1996, the Boise YWCA ended their affiliation with the national organization and changed their name to the WCA—Women's and Children's Alliance. It's a decision about which Janice and the leadership of the WCA have never had regrets. "They [YWCA] have a long history of really doing great work. But they were a bad fit for where we wanted to go."

As part of the change, the WCA focused its energies on the issue of domestic violence. It was an issue that had always been at the forefront of their work, but now providing safety for women and children had become the priority. "The hardest part of my work was and continues to be raising awareness about the prevalence of violence in the community. There's not a lot of awareness about these issues in town."

The statistics from 2005 tell the story—that year, Boise Police investigated 1,000 domestic violence complaints. The WCA also took an average of 412 calls a month at the rape and domestic violence crisis lines. The WCA not only staffs a rape crisis hotline and a domestic violence hotline, but provides counseling and shelter to women and children as well as education to the community about violence against women. "And of course, none of this can happen unless the organization is financially stable," explains Janice. Much of her job includes making the WCA stronger "in terms of the money."

Janice doesn't get into specifics, but her nominators do. "Janice personally contacted the Gates Foundation when it became clear that the WCA needed a second shelter. Because of her efforts, the WCA received a half million-dollar gift from the Foundation. Janice was then able to double the impact by securing a matching gift from an anonymous donor. The WCA now operates two secure shelters and two transitional homes, with a total of 106 beds. The waitlist for a safe space has dropped to nearly zero. The grants are the largest in the history of the WCA and a career highlight for Janice. During a recent visit and tour, William Gates Sr. said, "I don't know when we've ever had a more appealing proposal. Janice's achievements are quite extraordinary."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

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Flora Aldazabal

Nominated by Jaime Hansen

Upon arriving in the United States on June 13, 1961, Florentina Aldazabal and her husband, Juan, could claim no automobile nor telephone. They had traveled from their home in a remote Basque village called Andarroa. Theirs was the typical 'American Dream': to start anew and raise a family in relative comfort and prosperity. Not knowing what to expect, the newlyweds emerged from the plane like chicks that had just been hatched. New York was sensory overload: People of all shapes, sizes, colors, and sounds were gliding through congested streets with speedy purpose. She knew at that point that her life would change irrevocably.

Flora, as she is known by family and friends, left a life of grinding toil and poverty behind in Franco-controlled Spain. The oldest of nine siblings, who shared a house with a total of three bedrooms, Flora was, by default, the one who inherited the most responsibility. At age 10, she was dispatched by her family to earn an income in the neighboring town of Itxiar. For paltry wages, she cooked, cleaned, performed strenuous manual labor, and watched after children. It was during this period that Flora would meet Juan, the man with whom she would fall in love and eventually accompany her to America.

Flora and Juan would spend only one month in New York before moving to Boise, Idaho, to live close to her aunt and uncle and the rest of the Basque community—one of the largest in the country. They found residence with another family at State Street and 35th. Later, in 1962, they moved into a boarding house called Letamendi, where at any one time 12 or more Basque immigrants also occupied the house. It was while living at Letamendi that Flora and Juan became the proud parents of a daughter. After working and carefully saving for several years, the couple relocated to Elko, Nevada, where they bought the Star Hotel, and eventually welcomed the arrival of a son.

They spent 18 years of happiness and comfort in Nevada, but in 1982 Juan became quite ill. They sold everything and returned to Boise, and Flora got a job as a cook at the Basque Center downtown. With each year, Juan's health deteriorated. He spent nearly a decade on dialysis, and despite a significant language barrier, Flora learned how to operate all the medical equipment required for his care. In 1986, Juan passed away, leaving Flora and the children facing difficult times, but Flora continued plodding, passionately dedicated to her family and community. Though she no longer cooks professionally, Flora (now 73) can still

be found behind the bar at the Basque Center. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings she pours drinks for satisfied regulars and Basque locals. She is a fountain of knowledge regarding local Basque history and an inspiration for many young people who meet her. Truly, Flora is the glue for and holds the knowledge of her community, a treasure for Boise.

Jaime Hansen, a recent Boise State graduate who nominated Flora, said, "Flora has been like a grandmother to the masses, Basque and non-Basque alike. Her smiling face and words of wisdom make the Basque Center such an accepting place. She's one of those people who, without thinking about it, seeks ways to build community. She is very involved in the lives of those around her, and spends a great deal of time providing support and encouragement to the young people she meets in the course of her work." Flora Aldazabal is herself a large part of a great cultural treasure, whose absence would have represented a grave injustice to the state of Idaho and the City of Boise.

Written by Attila Hurs – Attila is pursuing an undergraduate degree at Boise State. He is majoring in Social Science and Bilingual Education.

A llegar a los Estados Unidos en el 13 de junio de 1961, Florentina Aldazabal y su marido, Juan, no se podía permitir automóvil ni teléfono. Ellos habían salido de su hogar en una aldea vasca remota llamado Andarroa. Tal fue el "Sueño Americano" típico: empezar de nuevo y levantar una familia en comodidad y en prosperidad relativa. Como no tuvieron ni idea de lo que esperar, los recién casados surgieron del avión como polluelos que acaban de haber sido salido del huevo. Nueva York fue una sobrecarga de sensoria: Las personas de todas formas--de diferentes tamaños, colores y sonidos--se trasladaban por calles congestionadas con propósito rápido. De repente, ella supo bien que su vida cambiaría irrevocablemente.

Flora, como ella ya está conocido a su familia, sus amigos y sus clientes, dejó atrás, en la España reinada por el dictador Franco, una vida de dureza y pobreza. La mayor de nueve hermanos, que compartió una casa con un suma de tres dormitorios, Flora fue, por omisión, la que heredó la mayoría de las responsabilidades. A la edad de 10 años, ella fue expedida por su familia para ganar unos ingresos en el pueblo vecino, llamado Itxiar. Para sueldos ínfimos, ella cocinaba, trabajaba en el trabajo manual y arduo, y cuidaba de niños. Fue aquel período en el que Flora encontraría Juan, el hombre con quien ella se iba a enamorar y, finalmente, lo acompañaría a América.

Flora y Juan pasaron sólo un mes en Nueva York antes de mudarse a Boise, Idaho, para vivir cerca a sus tíos y al resto de la comunidad vasca—uno del más grande en el país. Ellos encontraron residencia con otra familia en la Calle del Estado y 35. Más tarde, en 1962, ellos se cambiaron a una pensión llamó Letamendi, donde en cada ocasión 12 o más inmigrantes vascos ocupaban también la casa. Fue Letamendi en el que Flora y Juan llegaron a ser los padres orgullosos de una hija. Después de trabajar y ahorrar con cuidado durante varios años, la pareja se trasladó a Elko, Nevada, donde ellos compraron el Hotel de la Estrella, y dieron la bienvenida finalmente a la llegada de un hijo.

Ellos pasaron 18 años de felicidad y de consuelo en Nevada, pero en 1982 Juan se cayó bastante enfermo. Ellos vendieron todo y regresaron a Boise, y Flora obtuvo un trabajo como cocinera en el centro vasco. Con cada año, la salud de Juan empeoró. El gastó casi una década en el diálisis, y a pesar de una barrera significativa del idioma inglés, Flora aprendió operar todo el equipo médico requerido para su cuidado. En 1986, Juan se murió, dejando a Flora y a los niños a estar de luto, pero Flora siguió caminando pesadamente, apasionadamente dedicado a su familia y la comunidad.

Aunque ella ya no cocinera profesionalmente, ahora 73 se encuentra a Flora todavía detrás de la barra en el Centro vasco. El martes y el

miércoles, ella sirve copas para extranjeros y vascos iguales. Ella es una fuente del conocimiento con respecto a la historia vasca local, y también es una inspiración para muchos jóvenes que la encuentran. Sinceramente, Flora es el pegamento de la comunidad. Así que, Flora es un tesoro para la ciudad entera de Boise.

Jaime Hansen, una graduada reciente y la persona de la universidad de Boise State quien elige Flora, dijo, "Flora ha estado como una abuela a la masa, vasco y no-vasco semejante. Su cara y las palabras sonrientes de la sabiduría hacen el tal lugar Central vasco que acepta. Ella es una de esas personas que, sin el pensamiento acerca de ello, busca las maneras de construir la comunidad. Ella está metida tanto en las vidas de los demas, y gasta mucho tiempo que proporciona apoyo y ánimo a los jóvenes que ella encuentra en el curso de su trabajo". Flora Aldazabal es una parte de un gran tesoro cultural, cuya ausencia habría representado una injusticia grave al estado de Idaho y la Ciudad de Boise.

Escrito por Attila Hurst – Attila sigue un grado no graduado en el Estado de Boise. El majoring en ciencias sociales y Educación Bilingüe.



Rochelle Smith

Nominated by Ro Parker

There is something almost hypnotically soothing about Rochelle Smith, the calming effect she has on people, the intensity behind her soft, brown eyes, and the ability to talk to others with such ease. She also has a crystalline voice; it's her "Maker's Mark."

It began when Rochelle was an impressionable 12-year-old child living with her grandparents in Orofino, Idaho. They played a very important role in her upbringing, instilling all sorts of advice that she still embraces. Self-sufficiency, for example, was an important code the family lived by: "Don't help me, I'm fine," was the sentiment that played in Rochelle's mind as a teen. She enjoyed writing and soon it became an outlet for her, a way of escape. Later, as she practiced playing the guitar, she discovered the craft of writing her own music, writing material that was meaningful to her.

When Rochelle was only 14, her mother passed away, and she knew she needed to be there for her grandparents as long as she could. She learned early on that she had to make good choices to get through life, even if it meant putting others first. When she was old enough to move

on, she did so with gusto.

Rochelle came to Boise in the early 1980s from northern Idaho to pursue a career in communications and to play music. Like so many other young people with a passion for strumming and singing, she joined a band. However, at the heart of the whole band experience, she knew there was more to playing music than what was being offered on the top 40. She wanted to pull from deeper, more prolific wells—the journey of her life. And today, Rochelle is known for her capacity to write and perform from the heart.

Rochelle says the writing process is always different, and she writes songs that share her own experiences and observations, reaching out to others through her music and taking in the powerful moments that music grants her. "Sometimes I'll hear a phrase that jumps out at me and would make a great lyric," she said. "I'll know as soon as I hear it; it's hard to explain. I might try out lyrics in a poetry slam to see what kind of emotional response it elicits." Rochelle is grateful for the connection she makes with listeners, "Music joins people together. I think this passion is wonderful!"

Her song "Maker's Mark" sums up much of what the writing process is like for her. It's about the emotional impression you leave and the imprints that others leave on you; it's the people you connect with, friends, family, and relationships you develop. It's the complexities of people, the hope for a better understanding of the people in our lives and those who are no longer in our lives—it's our human conditioning and how our lives take shape. That is what she wants to convey, whether it's done quietly or aggressively, it's always done intelligently.

You might recognize Rochelle's lilting voice from listening to 94.9 The River, where she is the mid-day announcer from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She is as passionate about her work as she is about her music, encouraging women to be familiar with modern technology, to embrace it, and to keep up with its changes. Because of her gender, some people are quick to assume she doesn't know what she's doing in the high-tech field of radio, so she often feels she must work harder to prove herself. But Rochelle is more than savvy about live stage sound and the intricacies of studio music. When visitors treat her as if she couldn't possibly know a thing, coworkers back her up, explaining just how very capable she is. Rochelle pointed out, however, that the more experienced and professional a group or artist is, the less of a problem those preconceived notions are. She is a role model for many, a good example that a woman can be just as skilled in running a sound board, producing music with digital equipment, or writing and announcing commercials as the person sitting in the next seat, which oftentimes is a man.

"It's important for women to not be intimidated by technology, no matter their age or financial background," she said. "It's a tough field to get into, where experience is mandatory. You really need to show incentive and ask for training. You have to start anywhere, whether it's running baseball games, church programs, or wearing a station costume to get your foot in the door. Challenge yourself. Take chances."

Rochelle continues to encourage women and men of all identities to take chances, to go for the real experience, and to pursue life-long dreams, even if it means challenging one's self or the ideas of others to get there. Being raised by her grandparents gave her "a different outlook on life, concerning the background of a different generation," and such wisdom is reflected in the work and the music she shares everyday.

Written by Crystal Young – Crystal graduated from Boise State in December 2006 with a degree in English. As a student, she worked for the University's Cultural Center.



Maria Rebollozo

Nominated by Yolanda Martinez

It has been said that all social change must begin at the grassroots level; that is, build on a local, person-to-person foundation. Maria Rebollozo is quietly working to change her community in such a fashion. Affectionately referred to as "the Warrior of Burley" by her friends, Maria is less like a warrior and more like a caretaker.

In Idaho's rural communities, women who are in violent relationships don't always have agencies nearby to help. Often, they must rely on informal networks for safety and support. Maria generously assists those who come to her seeking help. She is passionate about helping women who have experienced domestic violence.

While Maria is very modest about her contributions toward making positive changes in people's lives, those who know her are amazed at the time and energy she invests. Yolanda Martinez, who nominated Maria, says, "She's an incredibly dynamic leader. She's committed and focused, and she never fails to take on a challenge. Women know her home is a safe place, and she works very hard to be able to provide people with what they might need, whether that's a safety plan, emotional support, advice, whatever. Her love and devotion for social justice is beyond words."

Although Maria spends a great deal of time addressing the issues of domestic violence, she still fits other kinds of volunteerism into her schedule. "The main focus of my work is serving as a domestic violence victim's advocate, primarily within the Hispanic community," she explains. "Yet, I will help all those who contact me. I am also involved in my community volunteering my time where needed . . . for example, helping as a second grade reading tutor."

Maria has also served as a board member for several progressive social justice nonprofit organizations, like the Idaho Hispanic Caucus and the Intermountain Fair Housing Council. She currently serves as the secretary for WOCA, the Women of Color Alliance. She has also been peripherally involved with the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and Mujeres Unidas. She counts her time volunteering in this manner a "distinct privilege." She was also honored with a "Woman Making Change" award at the WOCA 2006 Annual Conference.

Citing her grandmother as an important role model, Maria says, "I

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learned as a child the importance of giving back and helping those less fortunate by watching my maternal grandmother, my abuelita Cruz. People would come to her seeking advice or cures for simple ailments. My grandmother knew how to use natural herbs and all that Mother Nature provided to help alleviate the symptoms of the common cold, earaches, etc. Today, she would be referred to as an herbalist. Since most could not afford to pay her with money, they would bring her fresh vegetables, eggs, meat, and cloth." Maria's commitment to building a stronger and safer community stems from her grandmother's generous spirit.

Maria was five years old when her family moved to Idaho from Uvalde, Texas. It was here that she married her husband, Domingo, and raised four children, and now she is the proud grandmother of four. She attended college for three years as a psychology major, and plans to someday return to study addiction counseling at the College of Southern Idaho.

Maria hopes her work will inspire others to dream about what changes might be possible. She says, "I truly believe that by giving of my time and offering help that I am planting the seeds of hope for each person who receives my personal efforts. Through the act of extending myself, those who I have come into contact with will remember that simple act of kindness, and then they one day will help another in need."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

**A person's true wealth
is the good he or she
does in the world.**

-Mohammed

Picture not available

Nancy Egan

Nominated by the Women of Color Alliance Staff

Nancy Egan is a woman with leadership in her genes. She is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Chief Egan, who fought and died in the last major war between a Northwestern Native American tribe and the U.S. Government. Described as "a deeply compassionate fighter," Nancy lives her life in a way that inspires others to get involved. She is an incredible role model for Idaho women.

In July of 2004, Nancy was able to attend the Women's Campaign School (WCS) at Yale University. The program trains women who wish to run for elected public office in political leadership. It's a vital step for many women, since historically women haven't had access to this type of information. The WCS also serves an important role in bringing

women together who recognize the need for increased representation in the political arena. "I was able to meet a lot of successful political leaders and educators. It was an important experience, to be mentored by that level of leadership."

Nancy was so inspired by the program that she helped to bring the WCS to Idaho. The Women of Color Alliance partnered with University of Idaho and the campus Women's Center to bring the program to University of Idaho for a three-day session. The event drew 30 women from all over the state. The following year, Nancy became the first Native woman to run for chair of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council. Although the campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, Nancy sees the experience as integral to her growth in politics. "I find myself thinking about what my grandmother used to tell me ...what you go through helps you to prepare. All those experiences and all those challenges will give you skills that will be called upon at the right time. Sooner or later the right opportunity will come along, and you have to be ready."

In 1999, Nancy was featured in an Oregonian article on her family's efforts to repatriate the remains of her famous ancestor. Chief Egan died in an ambush in the Bannock-Paiute Indian War of 1878. He had tried to maintain peace in his community, but after a series of mistreatments by government officials, the tribe fought back. Egan was beheaded, and eventually his skull ended up in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of National History. After a great deal of finagling, the family was able to have his remains taken home to Oregon—121 years after his death. The journey was handled with the appropriate respect and cultural sensitivity. A member of the tribe accompanied the remains as they traveled across the country and according to custom there were prayers and purification ceremonies to honor the deceased. "My grandfather, who was 96, was able to see his grandfather's remains return, which was very important to him. It makes me very happy to know that he was able to be with the family when that happened."

Nancy also contributed a great deal of time and energy to a 2002 documentary called "The Historical Impact of the 'S' Word: From One Generation to the Next." The film is created from a series of interviews with Native American women about the use of the word "squaw" on Idaho maps, because the word is considered highly offensive. Angry with the Idaho legislature's failure to consider eliminating the word from state and federal maps, Idaho filmmaker Sonya Rosario was inspired to do the documentary. "The effect on Native Women is clear," said Nancy. She looks forward to the day when the move to change the names gains enough momentum. The issue continues to be discussed by a number of different Idaho organizations, and will likely come up again in the Legislature at some point.

These days, Nancy is focused on her job as Director of the Food Distribution Program on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, a position she's held for nearly 15 years. She also serves as President of the Western Association, the regional level of the Food Distribution Program, which encompasses 34 tribes over six states. It's a job Nancy finds deeply rewarding. "If you have compassion about helping people in your community and passion for what you do, the returns make all the work worthwhile. This is a job I really enjoy." She also earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in July of 2006, and is researching the possibility of going on to a master's program. "Education is definitely the focus for me right now," she says. "It's important to my community, too. Education doesn't just benefit individuals." She will also get the occasional speaking engagement. Recently, she was invited to speak at Portland State University's Native American Student and Community Center as part of a presentation by the Earth and Spirit Council. Nancy looks forward to what the future will bring; no matter what challenges may come, she remains secure in the knowledge that her vision and unique perspective will serve her well.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Natalie Camacho-Mendoza

Nominated by Dr. Vincent Muli Kituku

A balance of intelligence, charisma, and altruism has made Natalie Camacho-Mendoza a dedicated attorney and outstanding activist. A successful and demanding career as a lawyer has not hindered Natalie's involvement with many organizations, including serving as the President of Image de Idaho, an "advocacy group for Hispanics in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights."

Natalie grew up in Pocatello, where her mentors and role models include "many strong women" in her family. In fact, relatives on both sides of her ancestry have been advocates for the Latino community for decades, dating all the way back to the 1920s. A passion for civil rights activism was passed down from those who came from Mexico to work on the railroad and in the fields, seeking a better life in America.

Although her family history and early experiences shaped much of who Natalie is today, it was her undergraduate research that sealed the deal on a career in law. As a senior at Idaho State University, Natalie initiated her "own research in Chicano studies," and what she discovered gave cause to the next 20 years of her life. It was Natalie's constitutional law professor, Dr. Steve Cann, who told her, "You need to go law school." Now, she enjoys her own practice.

After graduating from Idaho State, Natalie volunteered for Idaho Legal Aid while applying to law school. It was this position that introduced her to community leaders such as the former Director of the Idaho Migrant Council, Humberto Fuentes, an inspirational and outspoken leader with whom she served as a Commissioner for the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs. They both currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho.

While in law school at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, the Hispanic community made Natalie feel welcome. As a member, and later the president, of the Hispanic American Law Student Association, Natalie volunteered for several campaigns and had the privilege of attending conferences around the country with the support of Kansas Hispanic leadership and organizations. She also served on the board of the Kansas Association of Hispanic Organizations, a group that taught her the importance of advocacy.

After graduation, Natalie returned to Idaho. She stayed for three years, during which time she worked for Idaho Legal Aid Services. Eventu-

ally, Natalie married and relocated to San Antonio, Texas. She was hired by a large, private law firm and then became employed with the Corporate Legal Counsel office for State Farm Insurance Company. To obtain balance, she became a board member of the Refugee Aid Project, a nonprofit organization.

According to Natalie, "there were big Hispanic-owned law firms" in Texas. She says, "Some of the major shareholders in larger firms were women. Women had these great, powerful jobs. There were female judges, trial lawyers and Latinos on the federal bench." So, when she decided to move back to Idaho, she had to think about the differences between the two states regarding gender and diversity within the legal profession.

Approximately nine Latino lawyers were licensed in the state when Natalie left Idaho. On her return, she joined a statewide law firm that employed only three female attorneys at that time. "I was very conscientious of having that opportunity," she recalls. "I grew up poor, and I'm a person of color. I remember thinking I didn't have many options." Today, Natalie makes presentations to Girl Scouts, Mujeres Unidas, university students, and young women in general because she believes that it's important to show them that they really do have options.

Natalie's legal career has taken her to various places around the country. She's been through a number of transitions, but her own practice has allowed her to work in the areas she considers important while continuing her involvement with nonprofit organizations. She dedicates a considerable amount of her time focusing on Native American law, immigration and workers' compensation. But she is quick to point out that she doesn't do it alone. She works with a team of paralegals and assistants who share the same philosophy. "I wouldn't be able to do my job without them, and they wouldn't have a job without an attorney," she explains.

Natalie serves on the Mission Committee at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, the Board of the Idaho Nonprofit Development Center, and she was appointed to the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs by Governor Cecil D. Andrus, serving from 1989 to 1992. Hard work and commitment to bettering the lives of others helps keep Natalie going. She is devoted to social change, and making history along the way.

Written by Josie Evans: - Josie graduated in May 2006 from Boise State University. She currently serves on the Advisory Board at the Boise State University Women's Center.



Megan Egbert

Nominated by Whitney Johnson

If Idaho ever becomes famous for producing outstanding activists, Megan Egbert will go down in history as one of the best examples. An Idaho native born and raised in Rathdrum, Megan is one of the area's most dedicated agents of social change.

After graduating from Lakeland High, Megan attended Spokane Falls Community College. Intrigued by Boise State's Multiethnic Studies degree, she moved to Boise to pursue a baccalaureate. During Megan's first semester, the controversy on campus regarding the naming of the Taco Bell Arena was reaching its crescendo. She happened to take a class where she met some members of the Idaho Progressive Student Alliance, and after attending a few meetings she joined the group. She found herself drawn to the idea that by organizing and advocating, social change was possible.

Megan's newfound commitment to social justice dovetailed nicely with what she was studying in the classroom. She took an Intro to Gender Studies class from Melissa Wintrow, and learned about a variety of

progressive issues. Inspired by the information, Megan took initiative and got involved in local grassroots organizing and advocacy. She began volunteering at Boise State's Women's Center and in August 2005 was hired as a program assistant. Megan helped to plan and produce many of the Women's Center's signature events, including the Clothesline Project, the first annual Bra Project, Take Back The Night, and the much-scrutinized 2006 production of The Vagina Monologues.

Megan began to get requests to speak at various rallies and events around the area. She spoke at Pride 2006, the Take Back The Night speak-out, emceed for Pulitzer Prize winner Anna Applebaum's lecture, and participated in Gloria Steinem's press conference during her visit to Boise State. But by far, the speech that was most important to Megan was the rally for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2006.

"There had been some controversy/mix-up about me speaking," she explains. "It was brought to my attention that some people were afraid of what I was going to say. They thought I might offend people or something. This really bothered me, and I contemplated watering down my speech to make it a feel-good, 'Kumbaya'-type piece that would make people think that by simply attending a rally in the name of MLK Jr. that they were making a difference in the world. But I just couldn't do it. In the end, I spoke the truth. I talked about how reproductive rights, immigrant rights, and LGBT rights are human rights, and if you believe in human rights you can't pick and choose who you think should get them. Before I got up there, I thought I was going to get sick. I was so nervous, and I rarely get nervous for things. But in the end I was really proud of myself. I was afraid I was going to get booed and never asked to speak again in Boise. And I didn't care. I was willing to risk it to say what needed to be said. That made me discover what being an activist is really about: speaking the truth even when it seems easier to gloss over it."

Megan's words that day touched many people. Her nominator, Whitney Johnson, wrote "Something that stands out pretty heavily for me was when Megan spoke at the Martin Luther King Jr. rally. She spoke eloquently about the rights of women, minorities, and the ways in which oppression is tolerated in Idaho and in the rest of the country. Her voice was so powerful. She was amazing."

Later that year, Megan found a new passion when the Idaho Votes No campaign formed in response to a proposed change to Idaho's constitution that would make marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships unconstitutional for same-gender couples. She volunteered to co-chair the Special Events Committee and also served on the Idaho Votes No Steering Committee. During this time, Megan was also awaiting the birth of her daughter Evan. Despite delivering in July, she never really stopped working on the campaign. After a brief respite, she continued to stay active; the only difference was that now she had an infant daughter in tow.

In the words of Andrew Yoder, campaign manager for Idaho Votes No: "She's one of the most beautifully brilliant people that I know, with a clear passion for social justice and equality and a demonstrated commitment to the needs of those who might otherwise not be well represented in society."

Megan plans to graduate in May 2007 and will continue her education by pursuing a master's degree at Boise State University. "In ten years I would love to be an elected policy maker," she says. "I have a long way to go and a lot to learn, but I feel committed to Idaho. I'm tied to it. And I would love to see it become, and help it to become, a much better place for my daughter to grow up."

Written by Jenna Clark - Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

Feminism's agenda is basic: It asks that women not be forced to "choose" between public justice and private happiness. It asks that women be free to define themselves -- instead of having their identity defined for them, time and again, by their culture and their men.

-Susan Faludi



Charlotte Mixon Lanier

Nominated by Kara Brascia and Melody Sky Eisler

Charlotte Lanier has always been a human rights activist. The daughter of a minister and civil rights advocate, she grew up believing that working for social justice was imperative, and it was this philosophy that laid the foundation for her direction in life. With the support of her family, she became a vocal participant in the anti-war movement of the 1960s. In 1968, she led a protest that temporarily closed down her Oregon high school.

Charlotte came to Boise in the 70s and was introduced to feminism by a man she was dating at the time. "He told me 'I think this is something you should check out' and I remember thinking, oh no. That's not for me. I was happy being a barefoot hippie college student. I had all these notions about feminism that turned out to be wrong." But the developing women's movement in Boise eventually appealed to her activist side. She joined one of the city's first CR ("consciousness raising") groups, which in 1976 evolved into a group at Boise State University called the Women's Alliance.

The Women's Alliance addressed a variety of issues that affected women in the community and was instrumental in creating the Children's Center and the Women's Center on campus. Charlotte also co-founded KBSU Student Radio and created a variety of programming that challenged the "traditional" notions about the role of women in society. Charlotte lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment, domestic violence laws, equal wage protection for women, and Idaho's burgeoning LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) rights movement.

By the early 1980s, she had a degree in social work, a husband, and a newborn baby named Jackson. The family moved to California's Bay area so that her husband could attend art school. Charlotte taught birth-control classes for a women's health center and worked in the promotions department of the first woman-owned record company in the nation. It was during this period in her life that she slowly began to realize that what had started as social drinking had turned into an addiction. Fearing for what that might mean for her small son, Charlotte got herself into recovery. Although it hasn't been easy, she now counts among her proudest achievements 25 years of sobriety.

Charlotte moved back to Boise in 1990 when her marriage ended. Emotionally devastated, and now with two young sons, she struggled for several years as a single mother. "It felt like the ultimate betrayal,"

she said. "I had worked so hard to support my husband, helped him get through school, and then was treated like those years didn't matter." In 1997, she began to volunteer at the Idaho Women's Network. The volunteer position eventually developed into a full-time job helping to raise awareness about issues important to Idaho women and their families. Charlotte also began to lobby for treatment options for Idahoans struggling with substance abuse.

The issue of substance abuse took an intensely personal turn when Charlotte found out that Jackson, the son who inspired her sobriety as an infant, was himself an addict. Boise at that time had very limited treatment options, so with no insurance he detoxed twice at Charlotte's home. Unfortunately, his efforts were unsuccessful, and Jackson Barnes died of a heroin overdose on Thanksgiving Day, 2004. He was 23 years old. Over 500 people, attended the memorial, many of them friends who recalled a talented and kind man who tried very hard to get clean.

Reeling from Jackson's death, Charlotte found herself drawn to his friends. Today, she still mentors some of them, offering encouragement and support as they work to attain their goals. She helped establish the Community Detox Coalition and approached the City of Boise to create a steering committee to work on issues related to substance abuse. Charlotte said, "Jack was a drug addict for only a year out of his life. He was trying to get clean, but there was nowhere for him to go." She is determined that Boise's teen drug problem be eliminated through treatment, compassion and respect.

During the day Charlotte works for the Service Learning program at Boise State, which promotes civic engagement among college students. She is responsible for coordinating 55 community agencies and 100 different projects for students at the University. Her other job, a part-time position that often turns into 40 or more hours a week, is managing a halfway house for women in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. She plans clean and sober activities, being available anytime someone needs to talk, and never judging.

Her most important advice for other activists? "Listen to your intuition. Learn to develop it, because when something doesn't feel right, whether it's social injustice or a family problem at home, it almost always means that something is indeed wrong." She also said that part of knowing that something is wrong means making every effort to solve it. As a community, Boise is stronger for having a tenacious and resilient advocate in Charlotte Lanier.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Whitney Johnson

Nominated by Megan Egbert

Whitney's life as a dedicated activist began largely when she decided that she wasn't quite ready to attend college. After growing up in Kansas City, then graduating from high school, Whitney joined AmeriCorps, a network of service programs that provides thousands of U.S. citizens each year with the opportunity to help meet the country's critical needs, such as fighting literacy, building affordable housing, and tutoring disadvantaged youth. During her ten months, Whitney met countless people trying to support their families; children trying desperately to pass onto the next grade level; and women for whom the welfare system had consistently failed.

Part of Whitney's AmeriCorps assignment was to help raise children's test scores at Guilford Elementary in Baltimore, Maryland, an inner-city school on the verge of being shut down. While teaching special education, she saw firsthand how legislation could have a negative impact on the elementary school. However, the daily exposure to deeply committed teachers and administrators provided great inspiration. She participated in the constant struggle to keep the kids in school, so they would not be left to the streets with no education or no future. The teachers, including some parents, worked incredibly hard to create a life full of opportunities for the children, yet often found

**Education as the practice of freedom becomes
not a force which fragments or separates, but
one that brings us closer, expanding our
definitions of home and community.**

-Bell Hooks

themselves at odds with policymakers and legislators who had differing ideas on the best way to help poor families. The constant struggle was exhausting to witness. While working at Guilford, Whitney also experienced the inadequacies of the welfare system through watching people she cared about struggling to survive on minimum wage, feed their families, and clothe their children. She extended her caring also to working with Habitat for Humanity where she helped build houses for two single-parent families, the hardest hit among people struggling to make ends meet.

After her AmeriCorps assignment, Whitney began her studies at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UKMC). While at UKMC, she interned at Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Missouri (PPKM), focusing primarily on bringing together constituents in the greater Kansas City area for the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. in 2004. For nine months she gained hands-on leadership education and learned about the importance of choice. For the first time in her life, Whitney was struck by the consequences that could exist if reproductive rights were eliminated. For her, without the power to control your own body, you are left to bend to someone else's will. She found herself becoming passionate about the issues that affect Planned Parenthood, and she has carried these passions—ideals and beliefs that demand change and hard work to create that change—into her current work as an activist.

Taking her experiences from PPKM, Whitney founded the Organization for Gender Equality and Education (OGEE), a student organization that she led for two years. OGEE developed as a special project for Planned Parenthood and the Idaho Women's Network, organizations that advocate for women based on human rights. Because OGEE addresses what would be considered controversial topics for conservative Idaho, Whitney has had the opportunity to sharpen her persuasive skills, remaining calm in the face of opposition. She has helped educate the public on the need for comprehensive sex education, the value of choice and reproductive freedom for women, and most importantly, the inequalities inherent in social institutions. Whitney firmly believes in building a better, safer, and stronger community. In the words of her nominator, Megan Egbert, "Whitney has quickly made a name for herself on the Boise State campus as an incredibly intelligent, articulate, and powerful activist. She can often be found doing outreach in the Student Union, protesting on the Quad, or attending informational events put on by campus departments. She challenges sexism, works for equality, and is a positive role model every single day through the way she leads her life. Her best personal quality is her ability to give so much time and energy towards solving the problems she sees around her. She believes deeply that she can and will help to reshape the world around her."

That belief also directed her to work as the coordinator for the Community Garden of Boise. Refugees typically arrive with only the essentials and are given four months of paid rent and language classes to help them acclimate to a new life. It's important to recognize that for Boise's refugee population, this is an extremely difficult environment. Learning to speak English is challenging and jobs are hard to come by. Whitney learned some valuable lessons from knowing the individual gardeners. In their constant struggles, she saw their strengths and their courage in trying to successfully integrate into a new country.

This year, while preparing herself to graduate in spring 2007, Whitney has been busy a program assistant at the BSU Women's Center. She's planned fundraising and awareness events that work to help improve the lives of women. The best part about the job, she said, was that it forced her to examine carefully her own knowledge, beliefs, and possible biases, and she has learned to stand strong in her own voice.

Written by Audra Green – Audra graduated in December 2006 with a second baccalaureate degree in History. She is a well-known activist and social justice advocate in the community.



Christelle Edmo

Nominated by the Women of Color Alliance Staff

In an ever-changing, swiftly moving modern world, it is easy for some people to lose sight of tradition. But not for Christelle Edmo. She is passionate about tradition and the importance of it to her community—the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at Fort Hall Indian Reservations. For her, it is imperative to find ways to preserve traditional culture while at the same time discovering new solutions to overcome problems. While this might seem to be a paradox to some, Christelle considers the two deeply entwined.

Christelle strives to make life better at the reservation. She is an enrolled member who finds her work to be innately rewarding because she is so personally invested in the end result. "I've done work in other communities, but my work in Fort Hall is the most rewarding. Not only because I feel that I'm making a positive contribution in my community, but I'm also a part of the community." The approach Christelle uses goes beyond "helping people". "Anyone can 'help' by raising money or by implementing a new project for us. That's nice, but in the long run it becomes shortsighted. I promote capacity-building in everything I do. That means providing resources and tools to help the community make its own decisions. You have to help people find ways to help themselves. I want people to have the ability to have a voice and to take ownership over their efforts. I'm just here to support them along the way."

For Christelle, being supportive takes the form of three projects, all of which are a great source of pride. She helped tribal members in the creation of the Snake River Basin Business Association. The organization helps to educate current and aspiring small business owners by offering culturally-appropriate business training and one-on-one assistance. "You see, we have unique land and cultural issues to deal with when starting a small business on the Reservation. These are issues that can not be addressed by people outside our community. That's why this Association is best suited to help tribal members who want to become entrepreneurs. The people who operate the Association and are members of the Association are all tribal members."

Additionally, Christelle has worked to help increase opportunities for Shoshone-Bannock beadworkers and crafters. "Women of this community produce world-renowned beadwork. They've had little exposure to consumer markets outside of this small community for various reasons." With Christelle's assistance, and with resources from many outside organizations, the members of the arts and crafts



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group developed plans and eventually built a small vendor structure with individual stalls so the beadworkers and crafters can sell their products to a larger consumer market. Again, culture plays a key role in the development of economic opportunities. Christelle notes, "For these artisans, their products are more than art. Their work is preserving a tradition. These artists are carrying on a tradition that has been passed down for many, many generations. So, preserving the art is as important, or more important, as selling it."

The third project focuses on preserving the Bannock language, a subject that is particularly near to Christelle's heart. "If you look at our history, when our two tribes were forced onto the Reservation, there was a larger population of Shoshone than Bannock people. So, naturally, the Shoshone language was more commonly spoken. Today, however, both languages are struggling to survive due to past governmental and assimilation interference. Without our native languages, we lose our identity because our culture is interwoven into the language." The remaining speakers of the Bannock language are mostly tribal elders, so in 2005 a new group was formed: the Bannock Language Preservation Project. Tribal members with particularly strong ties to their Bannock heritage hold language classes for any tribal member interested in learning the Bannock Language. Because the language isn't taught in written form, pupils learn the language orally. The Bannock Language Preservation group recently hosted its first Bannock reunion with over 200 participants from Idaho, Nevada and Oregon.

When asked what keeps her motivated, Christelle immediately credits the women around her. "This community has strong women of color serving as leaders. What is most rewarding to me is seeing the positive changes women are making in the community." Christelle has worked with the Women of Color Alliance to bridge relationships between Native American and Latinas. "You have to consider the historical context of our communities. There has been a long history of barriers between our people. However, when you come together and recognize how much you have in common, while still taking pride in your uniqueness, you begin to break down those barriers and start to build very strong alliances with each other. So much of what I do involves working to build trust and relationships. That's the most important and most challenging part of my work—but it's also the most rewarding."

Christelle recognizes her contributions, and the effort she's put into her work. But she's careful to add, "It's also important to recognize the efforts of many, many other Native American women who worked hard to make positive contributions in our community." For Christelle, her personal contributions are part of a larger community vision for the future.

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.



Mary Lou Kinney

Nominated by Dick Kinney

Tucked away on a bookshelf in a corner of Mary Lou Kinney's office, there is a small sign that reads, "Kids Can't Vote." The sign is a constant reminder for Mary that as an advocate working to influence public policy for Idaho children, she bears an incredible responsibility. She has dedicated her entire career to finding ways to better the lives of Idaho's youngest citizens. One wonders what the political landscape might look like if the 369,000 children in Idaho were given the opportunity to help choose who represented them at the Statehouse.

Advocacy at the legislative level is rarely an easy task. Legislators have an incredible amount of power over the lives of children in this state, whether the topic is access to health care, social services, education, or family law. However, the legislature also has a finite budget, and balancing the needs of Idahoans while maintaining a fiscally conservative standard is not easy. Some legislators are not receptive to change, particularly when it comes to kids. Although investing in children eventually pays off, often the benefits aren't seen for a number of years.

Mary is profoundly talented at conveying the stories of Idaho families to policymakers. She doesn't lobby; rather, she simply relates what she sees happening around the state to families and children. She is also unafraid to ask tough questions and to point out possible flaws in

the way the systems work. For example, if Idaho has a state law that requires licensing for childcare providers, why isn't funding provided for enforcement? If there are 20,000 uninsured children in Idaho, why is the State turning down federal money that could be used to provide those children insurance? If the income guidelines for the federal reduced lunch program are the same as for CHIP (a supplemental insurance program for children from low-income families), then why doesn't Idaho use that data to help get eligible children enrolled? If families who have no insurance are accessing emergency care through the emergency room at their local hospitals, why not direct outreach aimed at enrolling eligible children there?

Her life as an activist began when she moved to Idaho as a mother to a kindergarten-age daughter. At the time, kindergarten was a new idea in Idaho, and there was some controversy over whether it was effective in educating young children. Mary immediately got involved, since this was a decision that would directly affect her family. She also called upon her experiences as a preschool teacher and what she had studied while getting a master's in early childhood education. It was the beginning of a 30-year career as an activist, a researcher, and a writer.

She's passionate about finding ways to help support the education, health, and safety of Idaho's children. Over the years, she has worked as the early childhood education senior program officer for the Albertson Foundation, which focused on enhancing early childhood education in Idaho. She worked for Child Care Connections, an agency that has helped thousands of families find affordable, quality childcare, and assisted in public policy efforts around childcare. Mary was a cofounder and the first president of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children. She also was elected to and served on the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. As the Project Director for the Idaho Covering Kids and Families Initiative for Mountain States Group, she helps to ensure that kids in Idaho have the health insurance coverage they need. The initiative provides outreach, seeks to simplify the enrollment process, and coordinates with state and county agencies. Additionally, the project educates legislators and policymakers on the importance of health care coverage for Idaho's children.

When asked about her greatest achievements, however, Mary's immediate response was "My family." Her husband, Dr. Richard Kinney, is a professor in the Political Science Department at Boise State University. Dick and Mary are both extremely knowledgeable about state and local politics and have also co-written journal articles. Mary cites his support as integral to the work she does. Additionally, Dick nominated his wife for this award—without telling her. He is arguably her biggest fan. The couple has also raised three children, and are now proud grandparents of two. "My family provides so much emotional support for me; they really are the reason I do the work that I do."

Clearly, she inspires the members of her family just as much as they inspire her. As Dick wrote in his nomination letter, "Mary's knowledge of issues involving children and families, not just in Idaho but elsewhere, is unlimited. She is constantly seeking out more information about what works in other states, and what might work in Idaho. There are days when she literally eats, breathes, and lives helping families and children. Numerous times during our meals we have received phone calls from people seeking help and Mary will take the time to stop and talk with them. Her caring is totally genuine. She advocates for those in need not for her own power, reputation, recognition or ego, but because she simply believes it is right to do so."

Written by Jenna Clark – Jenna is a senior at Boise State majoring in Social Science, with emphases in Sociology and Gender Studies.

**Nobody
can make you feel inferior
without your permission.**

-Eleanor Roosevelt



Noemi Herrera

Nominated by Sonya Rosario

Noemi was born in a small village called Mimbres, outside of Valparaiso, Zacatecas, Mexico. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, her family has a long history of traveling and working between the Pacific Northwest and Mexico. If you ask Noemi where she is from, it's tough for her to answer. She has lived in both, has family in both, and was educated in both countries. A recent graduate of the University of Idaho, she studied psychology and spent a semester abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico. She already knows what she wants for her future: a master's in communication and organizational leadership and to make a difference in her community by empowering others.

Two important events happened for Noemi at the 2003 Hispanic Issues Training Conference in Boise. First, she met Sonya Rosario from the Women of Color Alliance (WOCA), where she is currently serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer; second, she listened to a speech about the cross-country Immigrant Freedom Ride that ended in Washington D.C. At the training conference, Noemi began her grassroots work, and her passion for social justice grew into social action.

As a result of meeting Sonya, Noemi started a WOCA chapter at the University of Idaho, which was highly successful, and thus laid the groundwork for the career path she now follows. Through WOCA-UI, Noemi began to assert change locally and internationally. One of the first actions the new chapter undertook was a letter writing campaign to Webster's Dictionary for adding a second definition to the word "squaw" (also considered profanity). They expanded their campaign outside of Idaho to the states of Washington and Oregon and eventually sent off approximately 1,000 letters. Though Webster's response was not what they'd hoped, and the definition still stands in its Euro-Anglo perception, Noemi does not consider the effort a loss. She and WOCA not only educated many people about the linguistic discrepancy, she also gained a crash course in grassroots organizing.

Noemi also worked on educating people about the disappearances and deaths of the women of Ciudad Juarez by showing, to more than one sold-out crowd, "Señoritas Extraviada," a documentary about the dangers of being a woman and a woman factory worker in Juarez, Mexico. More than 300 women have been found raped and mutilated in the desert surrounding the city, and the stories have been ignored by international media.

Noemi also assisted in bringing the Yale Women's Campaign School (WCS) to campus and found the experience highly empowering. The biggest challenge was to find female participants who were not only interested in politics, but might be persuaded to eventually run for public office. When they first posted the press release, no one registered, but that didn't stop them. They got out and walked and spread the message through word-of-mouth. When it was all said and done, the WCS was a success. One participant went on to become student body president, and Noemi went on to be one of only 31 nationally chosen interns at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington D.C. Noemi was placed with the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, which was chaired by the Honorable Ms. Hilary Clinton. Other women in the program were able to take the tools they learned in the WCS and apply them directly to their local programs where they became leaders in communities throughout the Northwest.

Noemi made the official move to Idaho to pursue the "American Dream"—a dream she knows is not fully accessible to the entire U.S. population. She wanted to do something to help improve people's lifestyles and employment opportunities, to help her family and other families just like hers. Noemi cites language barriers, economic backgrounds, and cultural differences as hurdles to the "American Dream." She also cites lack of access to loans. Undocumented youth do not have access to financial aid, banishing them from higher education; while other individuals face difficulties in accessing small business loans and home loans.

Because Noemi works hard to overcome barriers, she is passionate about Fair Trade. A Fair Trade market guarantees a living wage to families who are unemployed, underemployed, or working for an employer who pays barely enough to survive. The wages are low enough to keep dreams of cars, higher education, and owning a home just out of reach. Many families have relied on their children to help keep the family fed and sheltered. Fair Trade can change that.

Most people think of imported goods—for example coffee, tea, and international crafts—when they think Fair Trade. But Noemi brought Fair Trade home to Idaho. With the assistance of WOCA, she approached the women of the Duck Valley Reservation. Although it was challenging to build a relationship and establish trust with the women, Noemi persisted. Eventually, she was able to foster a way to bring their craft goods to Ten Thousand Villages, a local Fair Trade shop that sits below the WOCA office located in Hyde Park in Boise. We now have amazing, beautiful beadwork crafted right here in the Gem State, but most importantly, a fair wage, along with increased opportunity for those families, exists.

Why is it important to purchase items of Fair Trade? Poverty is everywhere. Even in the United States. According to Noemi, bringing Fair Trade to local artisans and local venues can help alleviate poverty. Fair Trade, whether locally or globally, can help create healthier communities, which equates to lower rates of domestic violence, drug and gang violence, crime and human trafficking. And that's where Noemi comes in—she understands the problems and the barriers, and she is willing to work against them and teach others that they, too, can change their lives.

Written by Audra Green – Audra graduated in December 2006 with a second baccalaureate degree in History. She is a well-known activist and social justice advocate in the community.



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community in Idaho

- **Diversity – monthly news magazine**
- **Coming-Out support group**
- **LGBT lending library**
- **Meeting space**
- **LGBT resource contacts**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH 07

March 2

Women's History Month National Juried Art Exhibition

Opens in the SUB Gallery
Co-sponsored with Student Activities

March 2

Women Making History Award Reception

Invitation only

March 3

Nicole Bayley and Mo Kelly

7:00pm - Hatch A/B
\$10/general, \$8/student w/ ID

Singer/Songwriter Nicole Bayley and bassist Mo Kelly ring in the Women's History Month celebration. Ground breaking originals mixed with some fun covers from those women we love (Janis Joplin, Patsy Cline and Carole King and others) will be an added bonus as we celebrate women in music. Nicole and Mo have a candid stage presence, whimsical banter, and angelic harmonies that make a musical act a real treat; it is no wonder they are gaining popularity around Boise and the Northwest. Don't miss out! Spread the word and let's celebrate Women's History Month together! Part of the proceeds will be donated to the BSU Women's Center. Tickets can be purchased by calling 426-4259. For more information and sound bytes by Niccole, please check out www.niccolebayley.com.

WC Benefit Concert



March 4

Film Festival

Tickets \$11
Co sponsored with TVTV

Mohawk Girls

4:00pm - The Flicks Theater

A deeply emotional yet unsentimental look into what it means to grow up Native at the beginning of the 21st century. Filmmaker Tracey Deer intimately captures the lives of three exuberant and insightful Mohawk teenagers as they return from school to their families in the Kahnawake Native Reserve

I Was A Teenage Feminist

7:00pm - The Flicks Theater

This film explores why some young independent, progressive women in today's society feel uncomfortable identifying with the F-word. Join filmmaker Therese Shechter as she takes a funny, moving and very personal journey into the heart of feminism.

March 8

International Women's Day

The Women's Center will present roses to the women of Boise State University. If you see or receive a rose remember to celebrate the wonderful diversity, talent and potential of all the women of the world.

Returning Women's Luncheon

11:30am-1:30pm - Women's Center

March 8-10

Film Fest

Co-sponsored with Student Programming Board

March 8

Whale Rider

Thursday, 7:00pm - SPEC

A magical and deeply moving story of a young girl's struggle to fulfil her destiny. Whale Rider is an award-winning film from New Zealand filmmaker Niki Caro.

March 9

The Women Of Summer: An Unknown Chapter Of American Social History

Friday, 7:00pm - SPEC

The National Endowment for the Humanities documentary captures an historic moment when feminists, unionists, and educators came together to pursue a common social idea. From 1921 to 1938, 1700 blue-collar women participated in a controversial and inspired educational experiment known as The Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers. The program forever changed their lives and has left a legacy meriting public awareness. Panel discussion afterwards.

March 10

High Heels And Ground Glass: Pioneering Women Photographers

Saturday, 12:00pm - SPEC

This fascinating film portrays the life and work of five outstanding women photographers born around the turn of the century who perfected their craft in an era when photography was a man's domain.

March 10

The Artist Was A Woman

Saturday, 1:15pm - SPEC

The history of Western art has very few examples of women artists. This documentary uncovers the works of some gifted women, while exploring why talent such as theirs was overlooked.

March 12

Dr. Linda Marie Zaerr

"Medieval Women in Story and Song"

7:30pm - Barnwell

A single silk weaver in a small town struggles to balance conflicting responsibilities. A countess lashes out against a man who no longer loves her. A princess disguises herself as a male musician to find her way back to her lover. An abbess creates a complex music drama for the women in her convent. King Arthur is forced to answer the question "What do women most desire?" Join us as we explore these and other medieval stories and songs by or about women. This presentation will expand notions of medieval women, demonstrating through entertainment how similar the issues they faced were to those we face today.

March 14

Larry Selland

Humanitarian Award Breakfast

Invitation only

March 16

"The Spy and the Orange Girl"

7:00pm - SPEC

Keynote Event

Co-sponsored with Student Programming Board. Written by James Daniels. Starring Patricia Daniels and Sharon Williams.

This one act play is a lively romp through the manners and mores of the Restoration era featuring real-life characters, Aphra Behn and Nell Gwyn. These two women were born in the basest of circumstances and by their wit, will, and unflagging ambition rose to power in the English court.

No characters could better embody the culture of pleasure that swept London with the return of the king: Nell, the madcap actress and lifelong mistress to Charles II; and Aphra, English Spy and first professional female playwright, whose plays dared to reveal the beauty and baseness of modern love. The Spy and The Orange Girl is based on a real incident that tests the limits of friendship between the two women. Aphra's urgent need creates a struggle that navigates the ups and downs of their relationship and ultimately reveals what it really means to be friends.



March 17

Money Wise Women

9:00am-4:30pm - Jordan Ballroom

The conference offers financial strategies and advice just for women. Marcia Brixey, lunchtime speaker, will share tips about achieving financial fitness, minimizing the risk of identity theft, and help you understand the importance of Social Security. To register or for more information visit <http://www.moneywisewomen.net>.

March 17

"Tres Vidas"

7:00pm - SPEC

\$10/general admission \$5/student and seniors

Co-sponsored with Global Expressions and Student Activities. Written by Marjorie Agosin and directed by Matthew Wright.

Tres Vidas celebrates the life, times, and work of three significant Latin and South American Women: painter Frida Kahlo of Mexico, peasant activist Rufina Amaya of El Salvador, and poet Alfonsina Storni of Argentina. With storylines including Frida Kahlo's dramatic and passionate relationship with painter Diego Rivera, Rufina Amaya's astounding singular survival of the massacre at El Mozote and Alfonsina Storni's life long challenges as Argentina's first great feminist poet, Tres Vidas presents dramatic situations timeless in their emotional appeal and connection to audiences across all gender and ethnic spectrums.

March 19

"The Virgin Mary in History and Art"

Dr. Lisa McClain and Rena Vandewater, MFA

7-9 p.m - Lookout

Many Christians assume they know Mary through her role in the Nativity, as Mother of Jesus as portrayed in portraits and images, and as powerful intercessor. Yet there is hardly any mention of Mary in Christian gospels. We'll explore the historical Mary, the symbolic Mary, and how what Mary represents has changed (and continues to change) over time.

March 22

National Juried Art Exhibit Reception

5:30-7pm - SUB Gallery

March 25

The Idaho Women's Network celebrates Women's History Month at The Flicks with a film and fundraiser.