

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Madison

Spring 2005

Women of Distinction to be Honored May 17th



Shiva Bidar-Sielaff



Connie Ferris Bailey

On May 17th at the Concourse Hotel, the YWCA will hold the 31st annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon. Each year we honor women whose community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership and dedication to the lives of others stand as a reflection of the YWCA's historic mission and values.

This year we honor six outstanding women:

Connie Ferris Bailey has dedicated her professional career to helping disadvantaged young people have a second chance at success. The Executive Director of Operation Fresh Start (OFS) from 1979 to the present, Connie has led the agency to become nationally recognized for its effectiveness in assisting at-risk youth to turn their lives around. Under Connie's leadership, many of the young people, all facing significant life hurdles such as drug and alcohol dependency or school failure, have become productive, contributing members of the community.



Martha Gaines



Gwendolyn Jones

A leader among non-profit service providers, Connie chaired or served on over a dozen public safety, juvenile justice, and workforce development committees at the city, county and state levels, and in these positions she has demanded quality education and support services for young people of all backgrounds. Most recently, Connie reached out to Wisconsin's political leadership to create the Wisconsin Fresh Start program, a growing network of rural and urban programs, currently numbering twelve, replicating the OFS comprehensive youth training model. For this pioneering work, in July 2000, Connie was awarded the National Governors' Association Award for Distinguished Service to State Government.

Martha "Meg" Gaines received her BA in religion from Vassar College in 1977, her J.D. cum laude and her LL.M from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1983 and 1993, respectively. She served as Dean of Student and Academic Affairs at the Law School from 1998-2000.



Lindsay McClernan



Jeanan Yasiri

In 1994, Meg was diagnosed with ovarian cancer which ultimately spread to her liver. In early 1995, a doctor told her to "go home and think about the quality, not the quantity" of her remaining days. Her children were 1 and 3 years old at that time. But Meg did not go home and die. She went on an odyssey around the U.S. and found the surgeon who would save her life. Mindful of the role that education and resources played in her own survival, Meg decided to commit her professional energies to helping other patients get the care they need. In September, 2000, she and several colleagues

Article continued on page 10

Board of Directors Seats First Male Members

For the first time in its 96-year history the YWCA Madison has elected men to the Board of Directors. Two men, Anthony J. (Nino) Amato and Mario Mendoza will be seated along with Mary L. Sies as board members at the Annual Meeting of the YWCA on April 13th at 8:00 a.m. at the Edgewater Hotel, Madison.

YWCA Madison Executive director, Eileen Mershart said “It became increasingly clear to our YWCA that in order to be true to our mission we needed to be inclusive of all those who support us in our work—the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women. We believe that as an organization we need everyone who believes as we do in this work to join us and work with us at the table. If we are going to change this world we need the voices of all.”

The YWCA Madison amended its bylaws in January of 2004 to include men in governance roles. Mershart says “this change in the YWCA Madison bylaws is at variance with the YWCA of the USA rules, but change may be coming.” According to Mershart, the National Coordinating Board of the YWCA of the USA voted in February to recommend that the YWCAs in the United States amend the national bylaws. The proposed amendment calls for gender-neutral language regarding membership and governance.

In praising these new YWCA Board Members, Mershart said “Each year our nominating committee brings forward a slate for our board that includes individuals who care deeply about the mission and work we do at the YWCA. As we look forward to having Nino and Mario join with Mary on our board, we know that we will have individuals who will bring compassion, wisdom, and commitment to our work.”



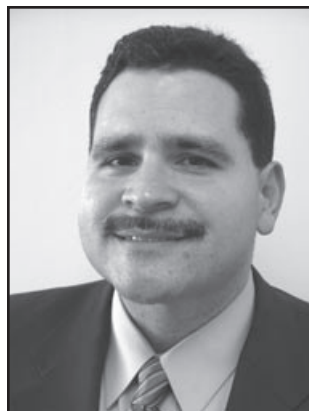
Nino Amato

& Economics at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

Nino co-authored the book: “Today’s Hidden Racism: A Polite Apartheid;” recently published an article entitled: “A Blueprint for our Energy Future;” and has presented a health care white paper to the national organization of Volunteer Hospital Association Marketing Executives: “The Strategic Challenge of Cultural Change in the Health Care Industry.”

He served on the UW Board of Regents, the UW-Hospital Authority Board and is the past President of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. He is active on numerous state-wide, county and city boards and committees.

Nino Amato, President of the Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group (WIEG), graduated with an M.A. degree from UW-Madison, Robert M. LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs in 1976. Prior to his work at WIEG, he served as a senior officer in the energy and health care industries. He also served as the President/CEO of Forward Wisconsin, the State of Wisconsin’s marketing and economic development corporation, as well as the Director of Technology Transfer & Business Outreach in the College of Business



Mario Mendoza

Mario served as a Commissioner on the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of the City of Madison from 1997 to 2001. In April of 2003, Mendoza was appointed Economic Development and Legislative Liaison for Mayor Cieslewicz. His responsibilities include serving as Mayor Cieslewicz’s liaison with: the Madison Police Department, Madison Fire Department, Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Overture Center for the Arts, and the Madison Municipal Court Judge. Mendoza is the City of Madison’s legislative lobbyist and the Mayor’s economic development policy analyst.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of Centro Hispano of Dane County and the Advisory Council of the United Way Rosenberry Society. He is lead singer for the group MadiSalsa and lead singer and guitarist for the Latin American folk music group Sotavento.



Mary Sies

Catholic Church. She also volunteers at the ‘Red Barn’ community thrift shop in Sun Prairie. Mary volunteered her management skills to help Habitat for Humanity of Green County in strategic planning, and continues today to mentor young women in small business startups.

Besides her busy work schedule, Mary helps take care of elderly parents, allowing them to stay in their home in their golden years. She enjoys music, spending time with her family, and walking with her two dogs, both who were rescued from the Humane Society. She is active politically and civically, and has a special interest in social issues and women’s concerns.

Mario Mendoza is the Economic Development and Legislative Liaison for Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz. He was raised in Puerto Rico. After earning his JD at UW-Madison in 1996, Mendoza was employed at Boardman Law Firm in Madison, practicing civil litigation with an emphasis on commercial litigation, dealership law, debtor/creditor law, and employment law.

Mario served as a Commissioner on the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of the City of

Madison from 1997 to 2001. In April of 2003, Mendoza was appointed Economic Development and Legislative Liaison for Mayor Cieslewicz. His responsibilities include serving as Mayor Cieslewicz’s liaison with: the Madison Police Department, Madison Fire Department, Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Overture Center for the Arts, and the Madison Municipal Court Judge. Mendoza is the City of Madison’s legislative lobbyist and the Mayor’s economic development policy analyst.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of Centro Hispano of Dane County and the Advisory Council of the United Way Rosenberry Society. He is lead singer for the group MadiSalsa and lead singer and guitarist for the Latin American folk music group Sotavento.

Mary Sies is president of SGTS, Inc – a security installation company specializing in state and county jail and prison contracts. She manages the operations, financial and human resources roles of this million-dollar business. Mary holds a bachelor’s degree from UW-Madison in anthropology and art history.

Mary has a strong background in volunteerism, going back to her high school days in Sun Prairie where she taught religious education at St. Albert the Great

Catholic Church. She also volunteers at the ‘Red Barn’ community thrift shop in Sun Prairie. Mary volunteered her management skills to help Habitat for Humanity of Green County in strategic planning, and continues today to mentor young women in small business startups.

Besides her busy work schedule, Mary helps take care of elderly parents, allowing them to stay in their home in their golden years. She enjoys music, spending time with her family, and walking with her two dogs, both who were rescued from the Humane Society. She is active politically and civically, and has a special interest in social issues and women’s concerns.

YWCA Offers Affordable Permanent Housing

Jean Leckie Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary



Jean Leckie

Upon relocating back to Madison in 1995 to be closer to her children, Jean Leckie saw an advertisement in the paper for rooms for rent at the YWCA. "I had always thought the YWCA just offered temporary accommodations, I never thought of it as a place with permanent housing." Drawn to the YWCA because of its convenient location and easy accessibility to the downtown area, Jean has been a resident of the YWCA's affordable housing for single women program ever since. "In the summer I have a front door seat for parades and the Farmer's Market." Jean enjoys being able to walk out her front door to the Farmer's Market, but she also likes to enjoy the smells, sights, and sounds of the Market from her apartment window that looks down over the capital square.

In addition to the location, Jean celebrates the diverse community of women that she is a part of. "There are women of different ethnic backgrounds, young women with children, middle aged women, and even a few that are older than me." Jean enjoys being a part of a community that is supportive to women of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. "If it weren't for the YWCA, I don't think I'd have as much interaction with people of different ethnic backgrounds."

In her 10 years at the YWCA, Jean has developed many close friendships with the other women in the building. She enjoys attending the various social events that staff and many volunteer groups help to organize. "I particularly enjoy the brunches, holiday dinners, and the tree decorating in the lobby at Christmas time and how Santa always comes to hand out presents to the children in the building, but I'm saving the Bingo for my old age."

Jean has made the YWCA her home for the last ten years. When asked what were some of the reasons that she has continued to rent at the YWCA all these years, she says one of her main reasons is the affordable rental rates that the YWCA offers. Private room rates range from \$279 to \$328 a month and apartments range from \$565 to \$611 a month, utilities included. "I enjoy being downtown. There is no other place to be so close to downtown this inexpensive." Another reason that Jean has continued to make the YWCA her home is the 24-hour building security. "There is no other place you could go that offers the same."

On the Borderline Project

Photography Program presents works by
Girl Neighborhood Power
April through June, 2005

Overture Center for the Arts, Third Floor Gallery
Reception Friday, May 6th, 6:00--9:00pm.



Funding was provided by Dane County Cultural Arts Commission.

THE YWCA OFFERS:

- A** convenient downtown location
- F**urnished rooms & apartments
- F**loor lounges with televisions
- O**nsite laundry facilities
- R**ents set below fair market values
- D**iverse housing community
- A** shared kitchen on each floor
- B**uilding security 24 hours a day
- L**ocal phone service & voice mail
- E**asy access to all Metro bus routes
- H**andicap accessibility
- O**nsite beverage & snack vending
- U**tilities included
- S**upport services
- I**nformative educational programs
- N**on-smoking & smoking floors
- G**ames & recreational activities

If you or someone you know are interested in applying for housing, please call 257.1436 to schedule an appointment.

Racial Justice News

The YWCA offers multiple, open opportunities to focus on Race and Diversity in our Community.

“It’s Time to Talk” Community Meals

In February, we held our first free community brown-bag “It’s Time to Talk” lunch. We were very excited by the turnout and the open and honest participation. Attendees stated that they were surprised by **“how easy it became to talk about race if you start.”** Talking about race **“wasn’t as scary or intimidating as I had imagined it might be.”**

I appreciated the honesty, I just loved having the opportunity and the time to think about racism.

The focus of this program is to provide an informal opportunity for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue about racism to bring people together who may be friends or acquaintances, see each other at work, in community groups, or civic organizations, and may have never discussed race issues. People have lunch with a small group with a facilitator who poses a question for discussion.

To join in this community discussion, please join us at the Catholic Multicultural Center (at 1862 Beld St.) on Wednesday **May 18th from noon – 1:00.** To register, call Colleen at 257-1436 or email racialjustice@ywcamadison.org.

Unlearning Racism Community Education Workshops

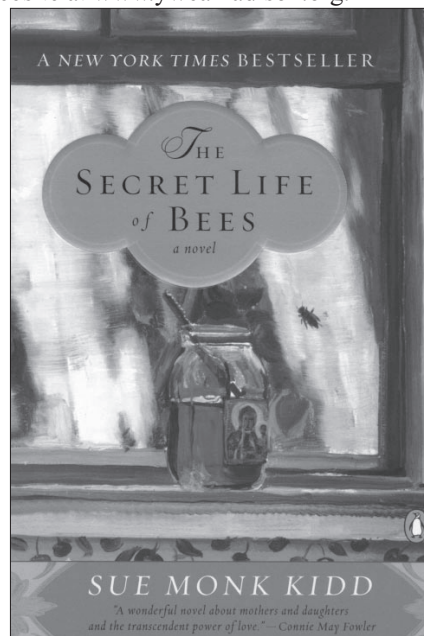
Please join us on Tuesday, April 26th from 8:00 – noon at the Pyle Center (702 Langdon St.) for an Unlearning Racism workshop featuring the film, *The Color of Fear*. This workshop helps participants to discover conscious and unconscious ways that racism has impacted their lives. The intention of the program is to foster an appreciation of differences and a deeper understanding of race in our community. After attending one of the YWCA’s Unlearning Racism workshops, one graduate stated: **“I am leaving with an enlightened, more open view point and an interest in pursuing more information about racism and a role in changing my own racism.”**

One goal of this program is to inspire ideas about how participants can affect change and stay focused on this issue after leaving the workshop. While the problem cannot be solved in four hours, one participant left with **“a new sense of responsibility to actively challenge people I encounter who are racist rather than shutting them out. Also, a new realization of my own privilege as a white person – the fact that I never think about what it means to be white because...I don’t have to.”** After completing the Unlearning Racism program, people are encouraged to stay actively engaged on a personal, professional, and community-wide basis.

The YWCA offers a series of opportunities to help people maintain the momentum of the Unlearning Racism workshop. We encourage participants to become part of our open community “It’s Time to Talk” discussions. In addition, we also offer a quarterly meeting that is specifically for people who have gone through our Unlearning Racism workshop. These meetings are intended to serve as a forum for people who have seen the film but would like

more time for ongoing discussion about racism. The discussions are based on questions that were raised in the film, *The Color of Fear*. Each discussion is different, so participants are welcome to come to as many as they are interested in. If you are an Unlearning Racism graduate, our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14th from noon-1:00 at the YWCA. To sign up, call or email Colleen using the contact info above. Additionally, in October, we will be adding a new film featuring women discussing issues of racism, and we would welcome any participants of our Racial Justice programming to join us in broadening the discussion. The YWCA is working to support individuals who are working to affect change within themselves and their community toward the end goal of eliminating racism.

For more information about all Racial Justice events, or to download a registration form for an Unlearning Racism Workshop, please visit our website at www.ywcamadison.org.



Infuse your Summer Reading with Racial Justice

The YWCA Recommended Summer Read is *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Small-town Georgia in 1964 is the setting for this novel of beekeeping, civil rights, and a girl’s yearning for her deceased mother. Despite the difficult subjects, this novel is sad but warm and, ultimately, uplifting.

The YWCA Racial Justice program is recommending books that focus on issues of race and diversity for you to either incorporate into your own book club, or for you to use to start your own Racial Justice Book Group. Our book picks and discussion questions can be found on our website, www.rjbookclub.ywca.org/madison.

Books can be purchased at Borders Bookstores for 20% off if you tell them you are part of the YWCA Book Club. In addition, Madison Public Library has Book Club kits available to be checked out by an entire Book Club. The kit contains multiple copies of the book as well as discussion questions. For more information, contact Colleen at 257-1436 or racialjustice@ywcamadison.org.

Volunteer Recognition Awards

The YWCA will be honoring outstanding volunteers at this year's Annual Meeting on April 13th. The recipients this year have all made an incredible impact in the YWCA community, with hands-on volunteer work with our residents.

Brian Jenks has been a Children's program volunteer for the past 2 years. He has supervised weekend outings to the Children's Museum, Overture Center and park for children staying in our homeless shelter. He has been one of the children's favorite volunteers!



Brian Jenks

Downtown Kiwanis Club has been a huge supporter of the 3rd Street program for the past couple of years. They helped organize mother's day events, a sewing project, entertainment, our annual picnic, and a huge pantry donation, to name a few tasks!



A member of the Kiwanis group performs magic with the children.



Jenny and her daughter Miette.

Jenny Flatt and her 2 year old daughter Miette have been helping out wherever needed since moving into the YWCA about a year ago. Jenny is teaching her daughter the value of being involved in the community you live in and contributing your time whenever you can.



Carolyn Geier

Carolyn Geier and **Lisa Hanrahan** have been Children's program volunteers for almost 3 years. Every Tuesday evening they read stories to the children in our homeless shelter. They make reading fun for a group of young, impressionable children!

These, and the hundreds of volunteers each year, make a difference in the lives of the families that we serve. With their help, we are strong alone, but fearless together!



Lisa Hanrahan reading.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Marcy Stutzman at 608.257.1436 or visit our website for more information on getting involved.

UW Performance of "Vagina Monologues" Benefits YWCA



YWCA staff pose with members of the cast, (from left to right), Emily Henken, Debra Schwabe, Martha Lemnus, Eileen Mershart, Marcy Stutzman, Franny Marion, Emily McWilliams, Torrie Kopp, Nancy Wrenn Bauch and Stephanie Ricketts.

The YWCA was the lucky and proud beneficiary of the proceeds from this year's Vagina Monologues presented by the UW Women's Center. A group of YWCA staff were honored at the performance as "Vagina Warriors," women and men in our communities who stand out as individuals who make a difference in the lives of women, and advocate for a world without violence against women and girls. The show had a cast of 30, the majority are students at the UW, along with members of the Madison community. Nicole Ryan and Jessica Harrison organized the show and V-Day campaign for the second year in a row, and are passing it on for the tradition to continue!

The generous and talented cast members also purchased 10 tickets so that some of our YWCA residents could attend the show. The Thursday night show was almost sold out--in the venue of 1300, there were about 1150 in attendance. The proceeds totaled almost \$7000, which we will use to continue the YWCA mission of empowering women and eliminating racism.

If you want more info on the V-Day campaign, go to www.vday.org

Third Street Mom Pursues Education Goals



Jessica and her son.

Jessica and her son moved to the YWCA a couple of years ago, leaving a bad situation. Jessica had dreams of going to school and becoming a lawyer, but as a new single mom, felt those dreams were beyond her grasp. Jessica says that Third Street was her "life preserver," rescuing her from isolation and despair, helping her to make plans, set goals, and fulfill her dreams.

She is now attending Edgewood College, working toward her business degree and successfully parenting her 5 year old son, who attends the Nuestra Mundo kindergarten program. After getting her business degree, she plans to attend law school. Quality education for herself and her son has been very important to Jessica. Jessica says Third Street has allowed her to dream and work toward that dream. She hopes to use her law degree to help single moms in the future. Jessica is an inspiration and role model to other moms in our program!

Your charitable gift may also be a good investment.

Investors seeking a higher guaranteed return of income might want to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). A CGA is a good tool for people who are seeking a steady stream of income for life, and who are also interested in making a charitable gift to the YWCA Madison. It offers an immediate tax deduction and the option of deferring annuity payments until the donor is in a lower tax bracket. Capital gains can be reduced - and a non-earning asset turned into a stream of income - through the donation of appreciated stock, real estate or other property.

The YWCA Madison can benefit from a CGA facilitated through the Madison Community Foundation (MCF). Here is how it works. A donor age 60 or older makes an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more to the Madison Community Foundation to benefit the YWCA Madison endowment fund. A tax deduction can be taken at the time for the charitable portion of the gift, based on rates determined by the IRS. The Madison Community Foundation agrees to make payments to the donor, for the remainder of his or her life, at a guaranteed annual rate of return ranging from 5.7% to 11.3% depending on the donor's age. The lifetime annuity payments can also extend to the life of a second person, usually the donor's spouse.

Upon the donor's death, MCF uses the remaining assets to establish or add to a permanent endowment for the YWCA. A legacy of good work lives on in the donor's name, to benefit the YWCA forever.

To get more information about a Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit the YWCA, contact Steve Leger at the YWCA 257-1436 or Amy Overby at the Madison Community Foundation at 232-1763.

YWCA Interns Lend a Helping Hand



Carrie Simon, Magda Kmiecik and Andrea Hoekman (from Left to Right)

The YWCA staff are grateful for the three UW-Madison social work students who have been doing their field placements at the YWCA this year. Andrea Hoekman has worked with our shelter families and permanent residents. Magda Kmiecik and Carrie Simon have worked with the mothers and children in the Third Street Program. They have developed good working relationships with our clients, helped enhance services and brought excellent ideas to programs. Thank you for all of your hard work.

YWCA Staff Take Spanish Classes

In an effort to better serve the Latino community, YWCA staff and social work interns are taking Spanish classes through the Barrientos Language Academy. These classes, funded by the Evjue Foundation and Julian Barrientos, began in January 2004 and take place at the YWCA. They are designed to meet the specific needs of our agency and clients. In addition to basic vocabulary, the classes focus on teaching common terms used in the delivery of human services. Gracias to Julian Barrientos and his staff for providing us this wonderful opportunity!



S.K.I.L.L.S Program Continues to Grow

YWCA Madison's newest program, the S.K.I.L.L.S. Program (Student Knowledge of Independent Living and Life Skills), had a very successful series of presentations last year and continues to grow. The program is a tenant and financial education curriculum designed to give local at-risk high school students the tools they need to be successfully independent. YWCA staff and volunteers from area credit unions and UW-Madison presented 42 workshops and served 135 students of the Madison Metropolitan School District last November through January of this year. The school programs included: the two Work and Learn Centers, the School Age Parent Program, the CRIS Program at West High School and the Transition Learning Center at Northport/Packer Apartment Community. The YWCA extends our gratitude to the teachers and social workers of these programs for welcoming us into their classrooms.

A special thanks goes to our volunteer financial presenters who generously gave their time and without whom our program could not exist: Yolanda Riddell and Nancy Hacker from Summit Credit Union, Matthew Kovalaske from UW Credit Union, and Jonny Jerome, Kaila Walker and Heidi Ginter from UW-Madison School of Human Ecology. The S.K.I.L.L.S. Program will be presented again this April. If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please contact the S.K.I.L.L.S. Program Coordinator, Martha Lemnus, at (608) 257-1436.

St. Dennis Students Make Move-Out Baskets for Shelter Families



On December 5, 2004 juniors from the St. Dennis High School Youth Ministry Class worked on a service project for homeless families living at the YWCA. The freshman, sophomore, and junior classes brought in donations to make household gift baskets for the families living in the YWCA's homeless shelter. The juniors assembled baskets that included laundry detergent, dish soap, and numerous cleaning supplies for families to use when they move out of the shelter and into the community.

Employment and Training News

TPST Graduates Await First Hiring Season

In mid-August, the Training Partnership for the Skilled Trades graduated its first class. The bulk of the hiring in the construction trades usually takes place in the spring of the year. By the middle of August, most of the job sites have all the workers they need and some employers stop offering their tests to qualify for apprenticeships until the next spring. It takes time to get into an apprenticeship, but it's worth the wait: a starting wage of at least \$11.00 an hour plus benefits, wages paid for on-the-job training and time spent in the classroom and, after completing an apprenticeship, graduates can earn an income of from \$20.00 to over \$30.00 an hour.

With spring begins the construction-hiring season. The future looks very good for building trades careers in the Madison area. Scott Vaughn, Executive Director of the Building and Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin, says the next three years look especially busy. This is great news for the fifteen people from TPST who now qualify for an apprenticeship, as well as all the other program participants who are working towards a career in the construction trades.

TPST conducted two more training sessions in October thru March where 21 people completed the program. In addition, 30 people completed the "fast track" portion of program. Fast track is for individuals who are re-taking an apprenticeship qualifying test, graduates of the TrANS program who need tutoring before taking their apprenticeship test and for people who enter the program with a skill base that does not require the full program. Fifteen of the participants in the 2004 programs have passed their apprenticeship tests. Seven are waiting to get into trades that will resume testing this spring.

We are now taking applications for our second session, which starts on May 2nd. If you or someone you know is interested in getting into an apprenticeship, call Mary at 608-287-1602, Leslie at 608-287-1063, or stop in at the YWCA Training Annex, 338 West Lakeside Street in Madison.

CNA Program Graduation

On Friday, March 11, 2005, the 23rd C.N.A. Career Alliance class of the YWCA Madison held its graduation at St. Marys Care Center. Graduates brought family, mentors and their children.

Following congratulations and appreciation from the coordinator and Joy Pfeffer RN, primary instructor and several nurses who served as program trainers, the graduates received their certificates and pins.

Everyone enjoyed refreshments and cake. The Alliance is grateful to Ginger Croft RN, In-service/Training Director for St. Marys Care Center and staff who worked alongside our students during their clinical training.



A TrANS student learns how to lay cement.

TrANS Graduates Ready To Work

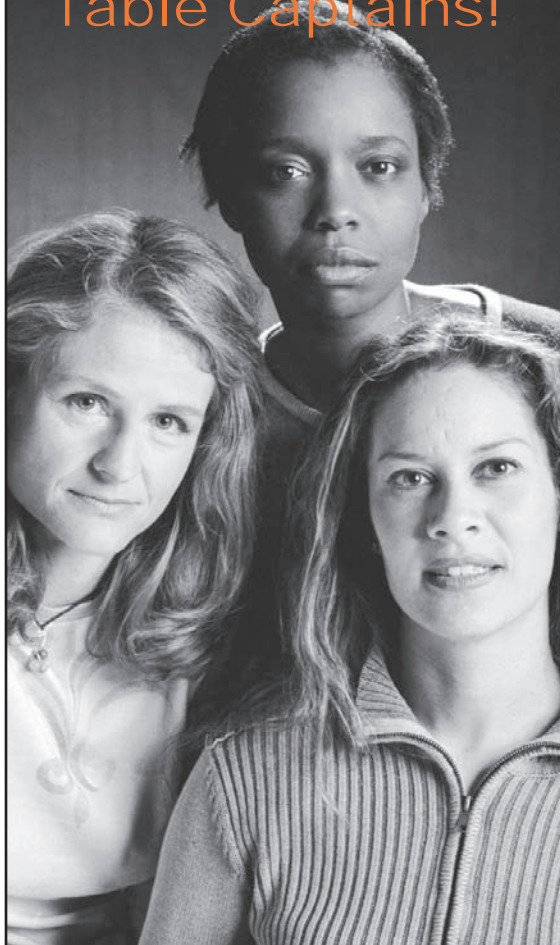
The first class in 2005 of the TrANS highway construction program ended on a positive note. They graduated and sit ready with resumes, cover letters, and applications to start the construction season with a smile.

We are grateful to the Laborer's and Apprenticeship Training Center's Executive Director, Al Friedl for allowing us to use their brand new, state of the art, training facility for some of our technical training. Sandy Thistle, our lead instructor, said this class and training was one of the best she'd worked with.

TrANS is an acronym for Transportation Alliance for New Solutions. It is a five week, one-hundred and twenty hour course designed to introduce women, minorities, and others into road construction.

The annex team of Julia, Leslie, Mary, Ann, and Richard account for the success of the program. If you or someone you know have an individual that is interested, please have them contact Richard (608) 255-3259 or Leslie (608)287-1063 for further information and an application.

Thank you Table Captains!



Circle of Women™

Thank you to our sponsors, table captains and guests for making the Second Annual Circle of Women Event a success. Nearly 900 people came together at the Monona Terrace to complete our Circle and celebrate the power of individual philanthropy. We achieved our goals of raising awareness of the YWCA's mission and programs, while raising more than \$100,000 to help ensure our continued work to empower women and eliminate racism.

Becky Anhalt*
 Julia Anthony Brown
 Kristine Ashe
 Melissa Auchard
 Scholz*
 Juli Aulik*
 Linda S. Balisle
 Diane Balweg
 Elizabeth Barnhill*
 LaMarr Billups*
 Jacquelyn Boggess
 Frayne Born
 Sally Borton*
 James Bradley*
 Patricia A. Brady*
 Lois Brick
 Mark Bugher*
 Mary Carr Lee*
 Betty Custer*
 Barbara DeMain
 Mary Deniro*
 Karen Dettinger*
 Londa Dewey*
 Sandra Docter
 Jan Dowden
 Scott Duce
 Emily Earley
 Jane Englund*
 Kristin Erickson*
 Diane Everson
 Heidi Fields*
 Barbara Finley*
 Jeanne C. Flesch
 Jill Genter*

Audrey Gilliam
 Steve Goldberg*
 Gloria Green*
 Mary Gulbrandsen*
 Therese Gulbransen
 Lanette Hansen
 Diane Hardt*
 Hatheway Hasler
 Dawn Hastings
 Scott Haumerson*
 Lynne Hienzelman
 Muriel Howells*
 Frances Huntley-Cooper*
 Gloria Jones-Bey
 Sue Ann Kaestner
 Lori Kay
 Lucy Keane
 Janet Kelly
 Kathy Kienitz
 Kelly Lagman
 Stevan Leger*
 Jane Lemon
 Ellen Lindgren
 Elaine Lohr*
 Judy Lowell
 Peg H. Luby*
 Cheri Madsen
 Salli Martyniak*
 Mary Kay McCanna*
 Ron McCrea
 Eileen Mershart*
 Sally Miley*
 Regina Millner

Belinda Mucklow*
 Melissa Mulliken*
 Sarah Nankivil
 Ramona Natera
 Mary Neuhaus
 Carol Palmer*
 Sharol Parish
 Kay Plantes*
 LuAnn Quella*
 Tim Radelet
 Beth Roloff
 Ellen Rosner*
 Wendy Rusch*
 Renee Ryan
 Linda Schilling*
 Debbie Schwartz*
 Christina Sheehan*
 Lynn Sproule*
 Jennifer Stelse*
 Dawn E. Stucki*
 Laurie Sullivan*
 Tammy Sullivan
 Eileen Sutula*
 Martha Vukelich-Austin*
 Sally Weidemann
 Betty Weyand*
 Georgia Wiley*
 Kelly Williams
 Debbie Wiora
 Sarah Wortham
 Jeanan Yasiri*
 Cindy Zellers

* Indicates 2004 Table Captains.

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Women of Distinction - Continued from Page 1

founded the multidisciplinary Center for Patient Partnerships at the University of Wisconsin. The Center, committed to empowering patients as equal partners with health care practitioners, brings together students and faculty from various disciplines including Medicine, Nursing, Law, Social Work, Business, Counseling Psychology, Public Policy, Pharmacy and Industrial Engineering to serve as advocates for patients with life threatening and serious chronic illnesses.

Gwendolyn Jones is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire. Gwen holds a BA degree in History and Political Science.

After graduating college she began her advertising and marketing career in the sales department of WAXX-FM in Eau Claire, WI. Upon relocating to Madison, Wisconsin, she accepted a position with Waldbillig & Besteman Advertising as a Media Buyer. Gwen later joined Armstrong Creative as Media Director and soon after was promoted to Vice President of Media Services.

In 1995, Gwen accepted a newly created position with American Family Mutual Insurance and set out to create a corporate identity for the company in urban/ethnic markets throughout their 17-state operating area. In addition to her position at American Family, she has also served as an advertising instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Journalism. Gwen is currently the director of Emerging Market Development for American Family Insurance. Believing that a difference can be made through community involvement; Gwen is currently Board Chair of Urban Insurance Partners Institute, a national association of insurance carriers focused on insurance availability in urban markets, a member of the National Hispanic Corporate Council and Tempo Madison, she serves as President of the Madison Chapter of the Links, Inc., is a board member of the African American Ethnic Academy and serves as an officer in her church, S.S. Morris A.M.E. Church.

In addition, she volunteers her time to United Way of Dane County as a member of the Marketing Committee and for over 20 years has (with her husband and children) volunteered as a host family for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections—Juvenile Corrections S.P.R.I.T.E. (Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education) program.

Lindsay McClernan is being honored as a “Young Woman of Tomorrow.” Lindsay McClernan is a 22-year-old single mother that comes from generations of women in poverty and whose goal is to break the chain. She graduated from high school at age 17 and had her daughter, Valencia, soon after. The following year she entered the Human Service Program at MATC.

During this time, McClernan unexpectedly gained custody of her two nieces, took time off from school, and became very involved in the Early Head Start program and concentrated on the development and well-being of the children. After moving to the Allied Drive Neighborhood, Lindsay started getting involved more in the community, volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, attending meetings to improve the area, getting her voice heard as a community member.

At this time she is going to school full-time at MATC. She hopes

to transfer next year into the UW system to earn her bachelors and eventually her masters and Ph.D. She is currently employed as the 0-3 Program Assistant at Early Head Start.

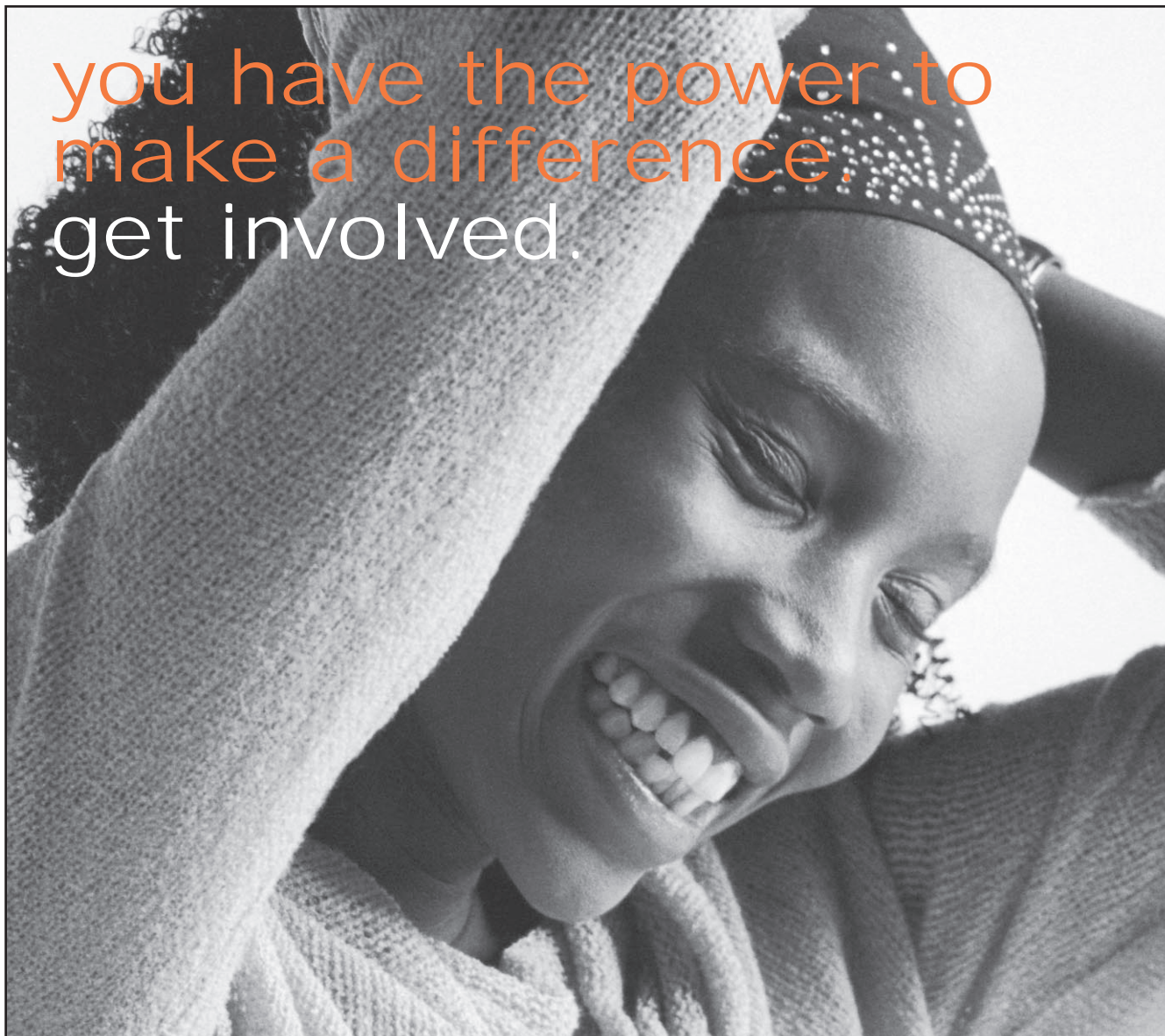
Shiva Bidar-Sielaff is the Manager of Minority Community Relations and Interpreter Services for UW Hospital and Clinics and the UW Physicians’ Clinics. Working with other community healthcare partners, Shiva’s leadership has resulted in an effective language access program that serves thousands of patients and families each year. A nationally renowned expert in the field of medical interpreting and published author, Shiva serves on the Board of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care. Locally, Shiva is the Vice-Chair of the Dane County Latino Health Council and an Executive Committee member of the Latino Support Network. She is the President of the Board of South Madison Health & Family Center-Harambee. Shiva demonstrates her strong commitment to civic activism through her work as a member of both the Madison Public Health Commission and the Police & Fire Commission, as well as through countless hours of community volunteering.

Jeanan Yasiri is Vice President for Service Innovation with Dean Health System. In that role, she has executive responsibility for programs that focus on practice management as well as patient and community advocacy. Among those programs is Dean’s Community Care Program, a nationally recognized, progressive health benefits counseling effort which assists uninsured patients in finding access to resources that help them in meeting their medical expenses. Her career commitment to consumer advocacy includes serving as Senior Lecturer with the UW School of Human Ecology since 1987. Yasiri’s commitment to improving access to health care for vulnerable groups also includes work with the Madison Community Health Center, United Way of Dane County and numerous other community based and public sector efforts.

The Women of Distinction Awards are made possible with the support of our sponsors. Our Sustaining and Leadership sponsors are: American Family Insurance, Capital Newspapers, Madison Gas and Electric, The Printing Partners, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. and Dean/St. Marys. Proceeds from the event help to support the YWCA programs throughout the year. If you are interested in attending or supporting the Women of Distinction event, please contact Debra at 608.257.1436 or dschwabe@ywcamadison.org. The RSVP deadline for tickets is May 2nd, 2005.

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