

## **N.E.W. Leadership 2004 Faculty Biographies (In Order of Appearance)**

### **Friday Morning Speaker**

#### **Susan Savage**

Susan Savage was appointed Oklahoma's Secretary of State by Governor Brad Henry in January of 2003. The Secretary of State's office is the official repository and filing agency for all official acts of the Governor, legislation, and state questions, and for business entity filings, state agency rules and regulations, agricultural lien filings, and notary public applications.

Before her appointment, Savage was on the faculty (2002-2003) of the University of Oklahoma College of Architecture where she lectured on public policy and finance issues relating to planning, urban design, landscape architecture and community development.

Savage served as mayor of the City of Tulsa from July 1992 to April 2002. Her responsibilities as mayor included serving as the CEO of a \$5600 million operation with 4,000 employees. As mayor, she implemented more than one billion dollars in new infrastructure investments for streets, parks, water, wastewater, storm water, cultural facilities, correctional facilities, and public safety.

Prior to becoming mayor, Savage served as Chief of Staff and Mayor Pro Temp for Tulsa Mayor Roger Randle (1988-1992). She represented the mayor and assisted in all duties related to the operation of city government. During that period, she directed the city's transition from a Commission to a Mayor/Council form of government.

Previously, Savage served as executive director of the Metropolitan Tulsa Citizen Crime Commission (1977 to 1987) starting such programs as Crime Stoppers and Alert Neighbors. She was Volunteer Coordinator for the VOTE YES FOR TULSA! Bond campaign (1987).

She holds a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and Economics and has studied and worked with courts and prison systems in the United States and England. Secretary Savage is the granddaughter of the late U.S. District Judge Royce Savage, appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt. She has received many honors and awards including the Pinnacle Leadership Award from the Tulsa Women's Foundation and the Elected Official of the Year from the Resource Center for the physically limited. Her interests include reading, travel and hiking.

## **Friday – Welcome, Introductions and Program Overview**

### **Jean S. Warner**

Jean Shumway Warner has primary responsibility for N.E.W. Leadership, a five-day residential summer institute for undergraduate women designed to inform and empower participants to consider careers in politics and public service.

Warner holds a B.A. degree in English from Roosevelt University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. While earning her Doctorate, she was a Carl Albert Graduate Fellow and served one year as a Congressional Fellow on Capitol Hill where she worked for Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker (D-OH).

Warner wrote her dissertation on the legislative history of youth service programs in the United States. Her primary interests are the role of faith-based organizations in addressing social issues and programs that increase the role of women in politics and government.

She previously worked as Program Director at Oklahoma State University's Policy Sciences Center where she managed numerous research projects including a \$5.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding juvenile restitution and victim-offender mediation programs. Warner is President-Elect of the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma. She is a past president of the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma City, the Stillwater chapter of Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Stillwater Women's Political Caucus. She chairs the social witness task force at her church which is working to advance interfaith dialogue in the Oklahoma City area.

## **Friday Afternoon ~ Political Women: An Overview**

### **Cindy Simon Rosenthal**

Cindy Simon Rosenthal is the Associate Director for the Carl Albert Center and the Carlisle and Lurleen Mabrey Presidential Professor of political science and women's studies. She holds a degree in journalism from Northwestern University, masters in urban studies from Occidental College, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oklahoma. From 1975 until 1991, she worked extensively with state legislatures—first with Legis 50/The Center for Legislative Improvement, later at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and then finally as a consultant with several states. At the NCSL, she was part of the senior management team and oversaw the conference's legislative management program, state services and publications

Her research and teaching interests focus on women in politics, leadership in the public sector and state legislatures, specifically, state governments and intergovernmental relations, and public policy issues involving race and gender inequality. She is author of When Women Lead (New York: Oxford University Press 1998) and editor, Women Transforming Congress. Her work also has appeared in Political Research Quarterly, Policy Studies Journal, Legislative Studies Quarterly, State Legislatures, Women & Politics, and Social Science Quarterly. She is working on a book on Title IX.

Inspired by her work with N.E.W. Leadership, this spring she entered her first political campaign, winning more than 66 percent of the vote. In July, she will be sworn in as a member of the Norman City Council.

### **Friday – Talk During Bus Ride to Monnet Hall**

#### **Mary Millben**

Mary Millben is a senior at the University of Oklahoma pursuing a dual-degree in Musical Theatre and Political Science/Pre-Law. She received a Regent scholarship for performance in musical theatre and has performed in roles *Guys and Dolls*, *Nine*, *Good News*, and *Cabaret*.

She recently completed a term as President of the Student Body and served as Student Body Vice-President the prior year. She is co-author and editor of *What Possibilities, a Guide to Opportunities and Traditions*, a 325 page book detailing OU history and traditions that was published in September 2002 by the OU Press.

A native of Oklahoma City, Millben graduated from Putnam City High School with honors and distinction in 2000. In high school, she was class president her freshman and senior years. Millben attended the Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership Conference (1998) and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Conference (1999). She was one of two selected from 100 students to represent Oklahoma at the Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership World Congress in Washington D.C. (1998) and one of two selected from over 400 students to represent Oklahoma at Girls Nation in Washington D.C (1999). Governor Frank Keating presented Millben with the Governor's Commendation Award for outstanding excellence and achievement in leadership.

Millben is a member of the inaugural class of N.E.W. Leadership and is an active member of the OU College Republicans. US Congressman Tom Cole recently nominated her to attend the national African American Leadership Summit.

Following graduation, Mary plans to work in the international service area, attend law school, and return to Oklahoma to serve in public office. She is very active in her church, Cathedral of Praise World Outreach Center in Oklahoma City and enjoys reading, performing on stage, playing the violin, motivational speaking, and outdoor football.

### **Friday Night – Women and Public Leadership: Reports from the Front-Line**

#### **JoKay Dowell (Faculty in Residence)**

From the Quapaw, Peoria and Cherokee Nations, JoKay Dowell is a photojournalist, consultant and freelance writer who has won awards for her poetry. She is the founder and director of the Eagle and Condor Indigenous Peoples Alliance.

Dowell is active in Oklahoma and nationally assisting grassroots Indian communities to address social issues utilizing, among other things, the mass media. She writes and speaks publicly to dispel myths and stereotypes about Indian people and to educate about Indian sovereignty and environmental issues, among others.

Her documentary-style photographs of Indigenous peoples from throughout the Western Hemisphere have shown at Gilcrease museum in Tulsa, OK and other venues. She is published in *Native Americas Journal*, *Indian Country Today* and *Indigenous Women* magazine. She has written for *Indian Country*, the nation's leading American Indian news source. In November, 2004, she will help host the OKC Sovereignty Rally –a peaceful demonstration in support of Indian sovereignty with the goal of educating participants on taxation and sovereignty issues, with prayers, our elders, children, the drum, music, and food.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Northeastern Oklahoma State University and lives with her husband, Steve Falling, and her two daughters, Katherine and Anna MiSka, near Lake Tenkiller in Oklahoma.

### **Rebecca Marks-Jimerson (Faculty in Residence)**

Rebecca Marks-Jimerson is one of the first certified Multicultural Diversity Trainers for the City of Tulsa Multi-Agency Diversity Consortium under the leadership of former Mayor Susan Savage (1995). She has been employed by Tulsa Community College for fifteen years as the college's Diversity Student Outreach Coordinator, and host of "Diversity Dialogue", a multicultural community program for Tulsa Community college channel 21. For the past two and a half years, she has been dividing her time between TCC and the Mayor's office where she serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> African American Women to be appointed Director of Diversity / Education and Community Outreach to the Mayor of Tulsa the Honorable Bill LaFortune. In addition, she is the Education/Diversity columnist for The Oklahoma Eagle and former columnist for The New Orleans Tribune newspaper (2001).

Marks-Jimerson has served as campaign chair for Joe Williams City Councilor District 1, Minority Campaign Advisor Former Mayor Susan Savage, and spearheaded the Wesley Clark for President minority outreach campaign for Tulsa and surrounding counties. As a former member of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth advisory board, she pioneered the pathway to multicultural empowerment and self-discovery initiatives targeted toward Oklahoma's historically underserved and underrepresented youth. She served as a volunteer grants Administrator/Facilitator enabling her to direct the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention grants to areas in the state of Oklahoma where they would have their greatest multicultural impact. In addition, she is a former host of "Crossroads", a multicultural community affairs program for KOTV channel 6 and former contributing producer "Teen Talk back with Kaye" radio station KGGR Dallas Texas a BET affiliate (1997-2000). She has received local, state, and national recognition and awards for her work in the community. Some of them are: Booker T Washington Hall of Fame inductee 2002; Outstanding Educator 2001 NAACP Oklahoma; Human Rights Award 2000 National Diversity Education Initiative Institute; Woman of Color Award 1996 from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; and the Leadership Service Award 2000 from the Starks Foundation.

. Ms Jimerson also possesses acting and playwright experience. She has starred in many productions including "The "Crucible" at the University of Tulsa and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" at the University of Southern California. A regular in the Press Club of Tulsa's spoof "Gridiron Show", she most recently appeared in the Oklahoma Jazz Hall Of Fame, "Ladies Sing the Blues".

### **Patricia Presley (Faculty in Residence)**

Vowing to collect millions of dollars in unpaid criminal fines, Patricia Presley first took office as Oklahoma County District Court Clerk in January 1997. It was her first elective office and she became the first female Court Clerk in Oklahoma County history.

Since then, Presley has implemented the first ever-cost collection department to formalize collection of judicially ordered criminal fines, acquired and activated the first computerized juror automation system in Oklahoma, implemented the first ever document-imaging project in Oklahoma County, and maintained a full time satellite office in Edmond.

She also ordered a badly needed routine inventory of the Court Clerk's office. To promote professional conduct and quality customer service, she implemented formal job descriptions, dress and conduct codes, training programs and compensation increases to attract and keep the best work force possible. Presley is running for her third term of office in 2004.

The Court Clerk is an elected Constitutional officer with a four-year term entrusted with the duty of recording and preserving all state records of the District Courts of Oklahoma County's judicial district. The Court Clerk's office is where all lawsuits and other legal actions, as well as court proceedings and rulings, are filed and where citizens can obtain various licenses. Filing fees and other court costs collected by the Court Clerk are put into the Court Fund to operate the District Courts. The Clerk's office receives and deposits about \$20 million a year in court costs, fees, bond forfeitures, support and alimony payments, and judgments. The office is financed by the Court Fund.

### **Cindy Simon Rosenthal**

(See bio above)

### **Saturday Morning – Career Jump-Start: Internships**

#### **LeAnn Jenkins**

LeAnn Jenkins has been the executive director of Oklahoma's Federal Executive Board since May 1994. She has also served as the Director of Oklahoma's Cooperative Administration Support Unit (CASU) from May 1994 until February 1999.

In her twenty-five years of federal service, Jenkins has worked in various staffing functions, two years of which were at the Office of Personnel Management (1977-1979). Special Programs include an effort to place physically restricted employees into different positions within an agency in an attempt to retain employees. Prior to that, she served as the Program Manager for Individuals with Disabilities at Tinker Air Force Base during which time she received a Public Service Award from the Mayor's Committee of Disability Concerns and the Air Force Distinguished EEO Award.

Since 1995, Jenkins has served as a keynote speaker at various federal training events regarding emergency response. She was the facilitator/coordinator for an interagency group (the Federal Executive Board), which developed an Emergency Preparedness handbook for federal agencies in 1999. This handbook has been utilized nation-wide by numerous

agencies. Since September 11, 2002, the Oklahoma FEB has reconvened their group and Jenkins is leading the guidance for government agencies on Emergency Preparedness and Continuity of Operations.

Jenkins graduated Cum Laude from Southern Nazarene University with a Bachelor's in Management. She has taken some graduate courses in Public Administration at the University of Oklahoma and takes sign language courses as a hobby. Her community involvement includes the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee of Disability Concerns, Oklahoma City Resource Coordination Committee, Water Garden Society of Oklahoma, Community Council of Central Oklahoma, American Society of Public Administrators, and other civic and cultural organizations and volunteer services.

### **Saturday Morning –Building Skills for Leadership (Concurrent Workshops)**

#### **Ginger Decoteau – “Dreams to Realities: Successful Career Planning Strategies”**

For over a decade, Ginger Decoteau has had a rewarding career in the Human Resources arena. Helping people realize their talents, encourage their growth through education and tap into their strengths has always been her focus. Her life is filled with examples of diligent persistence and ambition. This is the driving force behind helping people achieve their career goals.

“I've always worked. I was 32 years old when I finished my Bachelors degree, 36 years old when I finished my Masters degree, and I'll be 45 when I finish my Ph.D. But, I am going to be 45 anyway, I might as well be 45 and have a Ph.D. This has always been my philosophy when it comes to education or, for that matter, anything to which I set my mind. Age will never limit me.”

For nearly three years now, her life's work blended into a unique synergy when she set her goal on ending domestic violence through education. She is founder and executive director of the Community Learning Council, Inc., (CLC) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing education to non-profit, community, and corporate entities. The CLC's current focus is to end domestic violence through education.

#### **JoKay Dowell – “Organizing/Motivating Volunteers: Community Action from the Bottom Up”**

(See bio above)

#### **Valerie Thompson – “Analyzing Your Leadership Effectiveness”**

Thompson is the President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. Prior to taking this position, she was director of the highly successful Oklahoma City Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) for six (6) years and has more than 18 years of experience in all facets of for-profit and not-for-profit management including: program development, fund development, fiscal and personnel management. She also has corporate experience from the banking and oil/gas industry.

She received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University and a M.B.A. from the University of Oklahoma. She is completing studies towards a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma.

Thompson was presented the 1999 Minority Advocate of the Year award from the Oklahoma City Small Business Administration district office. She was named “Outstanding Young Woman of America” in 1991 and selected in 1997 by Metro Journal in Oklahoma City as one of “Forty People to Watch Under Forty.” In October 2002, she was listed in the Oklahoma Gazette as one of the most powerful women in Oklahoma City. She was recently appointed by the Honorable Governor Brad Henry, as a representative to the Southern Growth Policies Board of Trustees.

She has served on a host of boards and advisory committees including the half billion dollar City of Oklahoma City MAPS Trust Board, Leadership Oklahoma City, Rotary International, OSU Black Alumni Association, OU Black Alumni Association, Oklahoma City Volunteer Center, Girl Scouts Redlands Council, Community Council of Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma Academy. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Thompson has been married to Warren Thompson from Dale City, VA for over 15 years. They have one daughter, Maya Thompson.

### **Saturday Morning – Building Skills for Leadership Workshops (Continued)**

#### **Ginger Decoteau – “Dreams to Realities: Successful Career Planning Strategies”**

(See bio above)

#### **Catheryn Koss – “Organizing/Motivating Volunteers: Community Action from the Bottom Up”**

Catheryn Koss is currently pursuing a law degree at Oklahoma City University and doing consulting for non-profits including her former employer, World Neighbors -- a people-to-people nonprofit organization working at the forefront of worldwide efforts to eliminate hunger, disease and poverty in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Koss joined World Neighbors in 1998 as a Communications Associate was involved in community organizing both locally and internationally. She is co-author of *From the Roots Up: Strengthening Organizational capacity through Guided Self-Assessment(2000)*.

Prior to working for World Neighbors, Koss was an Americorps volunteer working with mentoring programs in Northern California and the Volunteer Coordinator for the San Francisco Food Bank. She holds a degree in Anthropology from Smith College.

#### **Valerie Thompson - “Analyzing Your Leadership Effectiveness”**

(See bio above)

### **Saturday – Lunch and Career Jump-Start: Political Campaigns**

#### **Leslie Blair**

Blair Leslie is Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, Kathy Taylor. She graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Cameron University in 2002. After graduation, she served as Deputy Campaign Manager for the Ben Odom for Congress campaign and later worked as Field Coordinator for the Drew Edmondson for Attorney

General campaign. She originally got her start in politics by working on the campaigns of the Former Speaker of the House Loyd Benson of Frederick and the Future Speaker of the House, Jari Askins, of Duncan. She also volunteered on the campaign of Second District Congressman Brad Carson in 2000.

In the spring of 2003, Blair moved to Jackson, Mississippi to become campaign manager for a State Treasurer's race. In a crowded three-way primary, her candidate, Gary Anderson, finished first and went on to finish first in a run-off election against a well-known State Senator. Although he did not ultimately win, Anderson was one of two African Americans who were the first to serve as their party's nominee for statewide office since Reconstruction. Anderson received the most votes ever cast for an African American running for statewide office.

Leslie is a sixth generation Oklahoman and a native of Frederick. She currently resides in Oklahoma City.

## **Saturday – Team Building for Effective Leadership**

### **Linda Terrell**

Linda A. Terrell is executive director of the Center for Children & Families, Inc. – a child abuse prevention and treatment agency. As a non-profit United Way agency, CCFI sponsors seven major programs: Extended Families (short-term foster care for children 0-18); Divorce Visitation Arbitration (education and support services to keep children out of the middle of conflict surrounding divorce, separation, and visitation disputes); Home Visitation (education and support for victims of violence in their home setting); Neighborhood Centers (accessible, intergenerational activities at school sites after school hours); Parents Assistance (parent education and support for families struggling with issues of abuse); Study Buddies (one-on-one peer tutoring/mentoring of elementary school students to increase their likelihood of early school success); and Teen Age Parenting (parent education and support for pregnant and parenting teenagers to increase healthy outcomes for their children).

In 2002, Terrell was elected to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY), a statewide commission legislatively mandated to provide input to state agencies, the legislature, and the Governor for improving services for children. Locally she chairs OCCY's Community Partnership Board-Norman Prevention Coalition. In 2003, LINK Norman honored her with their Championship of Community Dialogue Award for her vocal child advocacy across the community and state.

Terrell is past-president of the Social Services Coordinating Council and is a board member and chair of the Business and Social Services Committee of the Norman Chamber of Commerce. She is working with a community group to help bring a federally qualified Health Center to Norman, actively promotes Norman's Success By Six Initiative and is helping to start a Norman Exchange Club. She is also a parent representative on the Oklahoma Genetic Advisory Council where she advocates on behalf of her child with PKU, a genetic disorder which prevents the normal use of protein food.

Terrell received both her BA in Political Science and her MA in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma. She is the proud mother of a blended family of five daughters.

## **Saturday Night – Campaign Simulation: Team Building in Realpolitick**

### **Sheryl Lovelady**

Lovelady is executive director of the Oklahoma State Senate Democratic Caucus where she oversees multiple campaigns for incumbent legislators as well as new candidates for office. Her duties include fundraising, targeting, and communications strategy for political action and candidate committees. Her organization recently set a national precedent by successfully electing four new candidates by special election in a non-election year.

She began working in politics in 1994 as manager of a campaign for the State Senate. Her legislative experience includes service on the staffs of the Senate President Pro Tempore and the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Prior to her work in politics, she worked as a professional photographer and owned and operated a studio and laboratory.

A native of Seminole, Oklahoma, Lovelady currently serves as an adjunct professor at her local college and serves on several local boards in and around her hometown. Serious about recruiting and mentoring women in political careers, she recently founded a political action committee dedicated to the election of women candidates for office. She has served on the senior staff of Oklahoma Girls State for the past 12 years.

Lovelady holds a B.A. in History from the University of Oklahoma.

### **Dana L. Murphy**

Born in Woodward, Oklahoma and raised within a family committed to agriculture and the petroleum industry, Dana has deep roots in Oklahoma. After attending Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma where she received the Best All-Around Freshman Athlete award, she attended Oklahoma State University and graduated in the top ten percent of her class with a bachelor's degree in geology. After practicing as a geologist for ten years, she obtained her law degree *cum laude* while attending night school at Oklahoma City University.

Dana is licensed to practice in all district courts in Oklahoma as well as the Western District of Oklahoma federal court. She has experience in oil and gas and commercial litigation as well as regulatory practice and oil and gas title work. While an administrative law judge at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for almost six years, she was named co-employee of the year for 1997 and received the Commissioners' Public Servant Award in 2001. At the end of 2001, Dana left her position as an administrative law judge and began working as a consulting geologist in order to run for the statewide office of Corporation Commissioner. As a first time candidate, she garnered 41 percent of the primary vote and raised over \$400,000.

In 2003, Dana returned to private law practice with an emphasis in oil and gas litigation, regulatory practice and title work. Dana was also recently elected as the Vice Chairman of State Republican Party in Oklahoma and remains active in the Oklahoma Bar Association, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Petroleum Engineers.

### **Shelly Perkins**

Shelly Perkins graduated from Choctaw High School in 1993. She obtained an Associate's Degree in Political Science/Pre-Law from Rose State College in 1995 and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs and Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1998.

She worked for Congressman J.C. Watts, Jr. for a total of six years in both his Norman, OK and briefly in his Washington, D.C. congressional offices as well as in his campaign office for the 1998 and 2000 election cycles. She has served as his Scheduler, Office Manager, and Finance Director. In March of 2002, Shelly left Congressman Watts' office to run Jeff Cloud's statewide campaign for Corporation Commissioner.

Shelly currently serves as Commissioner Cloud's Aide at the Corporation Commission. She just completed her first year at Oklahoma City University School of Law where she is a member of Phi Alpha Delta and the American Bar Association Student Division and was recently elected Treasurer of the OCU Family Law Student Association. Shelly and her husband, Rusty, have a 2-year old daughter, Savannah, and will celebrate their 10-year wedding anniversary next month. They are members of First Baptist Church of Choctaw.

In addition to volunteering for several political campaigns, Shelly was actively involved in numerous political and academic organizations while attending college. At Rose State, she was a member of College Republicans, Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, Student Senate, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. At OU, she was a member of Junior College Merit Council, Golden Key National Honor Society, Phi Sigma Alpha, and Cleveland County Republican Women's Club and served as both Chairman and First Vice Chairman of OU College Republicans.

Perkins has also participated in charitable and civic organizations such as the United Way, March of Dimes, Habitat for Humanity, and Redbud Classic and as a Board Member for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Cleveland County.

### **Leslie Blair**

(See bio above)

## **Sunday Morning – Community Activism and Politics: Mobilizing Communities and Shaping Public Policy**

### **Penny Painter**

Penny Painter is executive director of Resonance Support Center for Women in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Resonance provides a range of services to women of all including private listening sessions; support groups; workshops on topics such as assertiveness training, self-

esteem, communication, stress and anger management; and career development counseling services. Their Girls Unlimited program offers year-round opportunities for young girls and teens to help them learn leadership skills, decision making, confidence building and awareness of health and safety issues. A Parenting Partnership program offers hope and alternatives for women released from prison with the goal of breaking the cycle of multi-generational incarceration by offering parenting and life skills training, one-on-one mentoring, employment and vocational guidance and referrals throughout the partnership's member agencies.

Among her many affiliations and awards, Painter has served on the Advisory Board for the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and Chaired the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women in Tulsa. She helped establish the Women's Leadership Forum Partnership in 2000 which provided direction and training for the startup of TZEela, an organization modeled after Resonance, which focuses on women's personal growth, learning, and development, and is located in Tulsa's sister city of Tiberius, Israel. She was one of three Tulsans sent to Russia in 2002 to teach workshops on volunteerism and philanthropy to non-profits established after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Prior to becoming Director of Resonance, Painter was a counselor and then director of the YWCA/Women's Resource Center at The University of Tulsa from 1986 to 1993. She graduate from The University of Hawaii in 1970 with a BA in Education and attended a Carpentry Program at Honolulu Community College in 1979.

### **Kay Holladay**

Kay Holladay is the president of AIDS Walk of Oklahoma City, Inc., president of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)/Norman Chapter, president of the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma, and chair of the statewide Interagency Coordinating Council for Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (appointment by Governor Brad Henry). Additionally, she serves on the boards of the Junior League of Norman, the United Ministry Center/OU, and the Cleveland County Christmas Store.

She has a Master of Public Health Degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma. She served as executive director of CarePoint, Inc., Oklahoma's largest HIV/AIDS service organization.

She has served as president of Oklahoma Public Health Association, Norman Board of Education, First Baptist Church of Norman Board of Trustees, Junior League of Norman, Transition House, Oklahoma AIDS Coalition, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, and CarePoint.

### **Dana Tiger**

Dana Tiger is a member of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. Her artistic achievements and recognition for her work as an advocate for the rights of women and children earned her induction into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 2001. She is also a Master Artist in a small elite group with the Five Tribes Museum in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Her paintings have won her an impressive list of awards with her portrayals of strong Indian women.

Tiger has always believed that preserving the culture and history of native people is the most important task that Indian tribes face today. In 2001, she founded Legacy Cultural Learning Community, an organization that brings programs to children and teens so they may be in touch with the ways of their ancestors. With no budget but with a dedicated group of volunteers, she has been putting on a diverse mix of programs from outdoor survival skills to acting workshops. Legacy has a goal of preserving native heritage while incorporating modern educational needs in modern life. Children sometimes make pottery in the morning and learn to write and direct their own movie in the afternoon.

The Tiger family of artists started with Dana's father, Jerome, who is amongst the 100 most influential people in Oklahoma history. Jerome Tiger's unique style and beautiful portrayals of Native people in historic and modern settings of everyday life earned him a place in Native Art History. When he died at 26, he had changed the way people viewed Indian art forever by replacing flat one-dimensional paintings with a style that defied category. Dana's uncle and mentor, Johnny Tiger, is one of the most successful artists in the nation. Christopher Jerome Tiger, Dana younger brother, was just getting national attention with his work when he was murdered at 22. Her sister Lisa is an AIDS advocate and new mother who travels throughout Indian Country educating young people about the dangers that Native youth face today with sexually transmitted disease, drugs and alcohol.

### **Sandra Rana**

Dr. Sandra K. Rana, SPHR is a consultant and owner of The Human Resource Factor, a consulting firm specializing in compliance issues including affirmative action, DOT drug and alcohol testing, diversity in the workplace, job safety and Workers compensation case management for employers. Dr. Rana has over twenty years experience as a human resource professional in the public and private sector.

Her civic activities have included participation in and Chair of the Mayor's Jobs for Veterans Committee, member of the City of Tulsa Human Rights Commission, the City of Tulsa Police Community and Race Relations Committee, The Governor's Marriage and Family Initiative and Board Member and Past President of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry.

She has spoken locally and nationally on issues of diversity in the workplace, school and community. Dr. Rana has participated in the Plowshares Program that seeks to find solutions and to build community through dialogue. Honors include recipient of the Aaronson Award, given by the Tulsa Jewish Federation, and recognition as one of Oklahoma's most influential women for 2001 by the Oklahoma Family magazine.

### **Patricia Presley**

(See bio above)

### **Sunday Lunch: Lessons Learned Through Civic Involvement**

#### **Vicki Miles LaGrange**

Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange is a federal judge serving on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. She was appointed to the bench by President Bill Clinton

in 1994. She is the first African-American federal judge in the six states which make up the Tenth Circuit, namely Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Before her appointment to the bench, Miles-LaGrange was named U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma by President Bill Clinton. She was the first female U.S. Attorney in Oklahoma and among the first in the nation.

Miles-LaGrange was the first African-American female elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1986. During her tenure as an Oklahoma State Senator from 1986-1993, she advocated on behalf of children, families, law and justice. She served as Chairman of the Oklahoma Senate Judiciary Committee, and later, the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus and the Law and Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators. During her years in the Oklahoma legislature, she was also engaged in the private practice of law.

Earlier in her career, Miles-LaGrange worked as both a federal and state prosecutor. She prosecuted Nazi war criminals as a Criminal Trial Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. She later prosecuted sex crimes as an Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

Miles-LaGrange graduated cum laude from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1974, and received a certificate from the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. She received her law degree from Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C., where she was an editor of *The Howard Law Journal*. During law school, she worked as a Congressional Aide for Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Carl Albert (D-Okla.). Following graduation, she clerked for Judge Woodrow Seals on the United States District Court in Houston, Texas.

Miles-LaGrange enjoys gardening, reading and writing Oklahoma and Black History. She recently co-authored a book, "*A Passion for Equality . . . The Life of Jimmy Stewart*", which was a 2000 Oklahoma Book Award Finalist. She tutors fifth-grade students weekly at KIPP Reach Academy. She has one daughter, Johnna Marie.

## **Sunday Afternoon: Feminism, Leadership and Diversity**

### **Teresa Collado**

Teresa Collado is an Associate Director at NAIC/Center for Oklahoma Alcohol & Drug Services Inc. in Norman where she oversees the agency's prevention programs. She is a certified prevention specialist with over 15 years experience in the field of prevention and training.

Collado provides workshops at state and national level. Some of the topics include cultural diversity, effective communication, anger management, ethics, community mobilization, and team building. She has provided intensive, three to five-day trainings for schools, public housing, Indian public housing, Department of Mental Health, Department of Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and the University of Oklahoma.

Collado received her bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma. In her spare time, she teaches fitness classes at the local YMCA and works out. She loves to travel and recently spent a month in India through the Rotary Group Study Exchange. She is married to Byron Jackson and they share 3 children: Alexis (17), Eric (5), and Olivia (2).

## **Monday Morning: Career Jump-Start: Graduate School**

### **Sarah Jo Peterson**

Dr. Sarah Jo Peterson has served as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Regional and City Planning in the College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma from 2001 to the present. She has the following degrees: a B.S. in Mathematics and History from the University of Wisconsin; an M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin; and a Ph.D. in History from Yale University awarded to her in 2002. At the University of Oklahoma, Professor Peterson teaches History and Theory of Urban Planning, Planning Management, and elective courses in transportation and regional planning.

Peterson served as a Program and Planning Analyst, Urban Strategies Section in the Office of Policy and Budget from 1993 to 1996 for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. There she was responsible for policy analysis, program development, and general research on land use-related departmental activities.

## **Monday Morning: Effective Conflict Resolution**

### **Gaetane Jean-Marie**

Gaetane Jean-Marie, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma is in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Jean-Marie teaches graduate courses in curriculum development, theory, and supervision of special programs in the Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision (EACS) program area in addition to an undergraduate course, Women of the African Diaspora in the African & African American Studies Department.

She received her doctorate in curriculum and teaching and post-baccalaureate certificate in women's studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2003). Her dissertation examined leadership discourses of African American women administrators in historically black colleges and universities. Her research interest includes women and educational leadership, issues of equity and justice, curriculum and assessment and narrative research. She is a recipient of numerous academic and service awards, among them include: *Luther Self Fellowship*, *Kappa Delta Pi – International Honor Society in Education*, *Minority Presence Grant Program for Doctoral Study, Law, and Veterinary Medicine* and *Outstanding Leader Service Award*.

Her work includes presentations at international, national and regional conferences such as the American Educational Studies Association (AESAs), American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and American Educational Research Association (AERA) and her recent articles, Black women administrators in historically black institutions: Social justice project rooted in community; *The courage to lead: Women administrators speak and Educating ethnically diverse students: What do educators need to know are* in refereed journals/proceedings.

## **Monday Lunch: The View From the Top: Transitions, Change and Opportunities**

## **Kathryn L. Taylor**

Taylor was appointed by Governor Brad Henry in February 2003 to serve as Secretary of Commerce and Tourism for the State of Oklahoma. She oversees state economic development and tourism agencies. She also serves as executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. This agency recruits new businesses to the state, develops economic incentives, assists existing business with growth, facilitates international trade and export assistance, manages programs that develop the future workforce, and provides funding to Oklahoma rural communities for programs and activities aimed at sustainability and economic growth. Most recently, the Governor placed under Taylor's purview the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and the Workforce Development Authority. She also serves as Governor Henry's Small Business Advocate for the State of Oklahoma. Prior to her appointment, she served on Governor Henry's transition team, advising the chief executive on economic development and tourism issues.

A Tulsa businesswoman, Taylor was one of four investors who purchased National Car Rental from General Motors Corporation and served on its Board of Directors until selling the company to Wayne Huzienga's AutoNation. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the implementation of a \$ 1 billion asset securitization for National's fleet financing. Taylor, an attorney, has significant experience in franchising and has frequently given seminars on international licensing and development.

Previous to her involvement with National, she chaired the Franchising and Distribution Section as a director of Crowe & Dunlevy, one of the state's oldest and largest law firms. Much of her franchising experience comes from the position she held with Tulsa-based Pentastar Transportation Group, now Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group and Oklahoma City-based Sonic Industries. Taylor served as vice president and general counsel, supervising more than 100 employees within the human resources, real estate, licensing, and legal departments, and serving as an active participant in expanding operations in Europe and Asia.

Her affiliation with Sonic Industries involved serving on the board of directors, guiding them through the purchase of the company, its subsequent Initial Public Offering, and its leveraged buy-out. Moreover, Taylor has literally been involved in hundreds of oil and gas related securities offerings, most of which were accomplished while she practiced law with the Oklahoma City law firm Hartzog, Conger and Cason.

Taylor is a member of the Tulsa County Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the International Bar Association. She is also a board member for the Oklahoma Science Technology Research and Development (OSTRaD) board, Oklahoma Community Institute (OCI), Oklahoma Development Finance Authority (ODFA), Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority (OIFA), Oklahoma Ordinance Works Authority (OOWA), the Oklahoma Quality Awards Foundation, the State Workforce Investment board and the International Trade Advisory Committee.

Taylor's civic involvement includes being a trustee for both the University of Oklahoma Foundation and the University of Tulsa and a member of OU-Tulsa President's Cabinet. Historically, she served on the Boards of Tulsa's Thomas Gilcrease Museum, the Resonance Support Center for Women, Tulsa Zoo Friends, Community Service Council of

Greater Tulsa, The Simon Estes Education Foundation, The Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Friends of the Fairgrounds, Domestic Violence Intervention Service, the Grand River Dam Authority, the Appleseed Foundation, and the Girl Scouts of America Juliette Lowe Society. She is the 2003 recipient of the Pinnacle Award for Community Service, given by the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women and was named Woman Lawyer of the Year in 2003 by the Women In Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association..

## **Monday: A Woman's Place is in the House and Senate**

### **Representative Jari Askins**

Representative Askins has been involved in public service in all three branches of government. She served as Special District Judge for the District Court of Stephens County for eight years, from 1982-1990. In 1991, the Governor appointed her to the Pardon and Parole Board as the first board member with prior judicial experience. Three weeks after her appointment, the Board elected Askins as the first woman Chairman of the Pardon and Parole Board. They re-elected her to that position in 1992. Askins became Deputy General Counsel in the Governor's Office in 1992 and was appointed executive director of the Pardon and Parole Board in 1994. These experiences helped develop criminal and juvenile justice issues as her special expertise.

As a freshman legislator elected in 1994 from District 50, Stephens County, Askins was named Vice-Chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee. Upon re-election in 1996, she was moved to serve as Chairman of the newly created Government Operations and Agency Oversight Committee and, also, was chosen as the first woman Assistant Majority Floor Leader. In 1998, after re-election without opposition to her third term, she was appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee for Judiciary and Law Enforcement Appropriations. Additionally, she was named to Speaker Benson's leadership team. In 2000, Askins was again named to Speaker-elect Adair's leadership team and was appointed to the new position of Deputy Floor Leader. In 2002, she retained her position of Deputy Floor Leader and in 2003 she obtained enough pledges from the House Democratic Caucus to become "Speaker-designate" and will succeed Rep. Larry Adair when his term expires in November 2004. Askins will be the first woman in state history to hold the position of Speaker of the House.

Askin's has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Her hobbies include reading, golfing and being a loyal Sooner fan.

### **Representative Susan Winchester**

Representative Winchester is First Assistant Minority Floor Leader in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She was originally elected to the Oklahoma Legislature in 1998. She serves on Insurance Committee, Appropriations and Budget Committee, Banking and Finance Committee, Public Health Committee, and Joint Oversight on Budget Performance Committee. Before serving as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, she was a trainer and consultant.

Winchester currently serves as President of the Oklahoma Judicial Auxiliary Conference, board member of the Grady County Economic Development Council and board member of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Foundation. Additionally, she is on the selection committee for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and is a member of Leadership Oklahoma, Leadership Chickasha, American Legislative Exchange and the Chickasha, Tuttle, and Mustang Chambers of Commerce.

Born in Chickasha, Oklahoma, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1972 with a BS in Business. She earned a masters degree in Human Resource Development from OU in 1994. She lives in Chickasha with her James Winchester who is an Oklahoma Supreme Court Judge; they have one son, Robert.

### **Senator Angela Monson**

Senator Angela Monson has been a member of the Oklahoma State Senate since 1993. She currently serves as First Assistant Majority Floor Leader and previously served as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Senate Appropriations, Finance, Rules, Human Resources, Retirement and Group Health Committee and Business and Labor Committee. Senator Monson served as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives from November 1990 until her election to the State Senate.

Currently, Senator Monson serves as immediate past president of the National Conference of State Legislatures. She previously served as president of NCSL and chair of the NCSL Health Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. Sen. Monson is also an Executive Committee member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures.

Sen. Monson has been employed in various capacities during her professional career, including executive director of the Oklahoma Health Care Project, fiscal analyst for the Oklahoma State Legislature, municipal management consultant for the East Central Rural Municipal Area Council, and probation and parole officer for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

As a community activist, Senator Monson works with elementary schools, churches and other community organizations providing technical support and assistance to many after school programs and other school related initiatives. Senator Monson is a member of numerous community organizations and is very active in her church, the Voice of Praise Baptist Church.

Senator Monson attended Oklahoma City University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Corrections from that institution and received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

### **Corporation Commissioner Denise Bode**

Denise Bode is only the second woman to serve as a member of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since its creation in 1907 when Oklahoma became a state. (The Commission is a constitutional body composed of three-state wide elected officials regulating oil and natural gas production, electric, natural gas, telecommunications and water utilities, transportation, gasoline and above and below ground storage tanks.)

Bode was originally appointed commissioner by Governor Frank Keating after JC Watts resigned from the Commission. She took office in August, 1997 and was then elected to the Corporation Commission in November of 1998 with over 60% of the vote, a record for a Republican running statewide for the first time. She currently serves as Commission Chairman.

Born in Tulsa and raised in Bartlesville, Bode graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma where she chaired the University of Oklahoma Student Congress. Having earned her Juris Doctorate from George Mason University and a Master's of Law in taxation from Georgetown University, Bode worked nine years on the staff of then US Senator David Boren as his legal counsel with a focus energy and taxation.

Before joining the commission, Bode served seven years as president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) in Washington, D.C. She preceded her service at IPAA as a founding partner of a Washington D.C. firm, where she represented a broad range of businesses ranging from cattlemen to life insurance.

In her 7 years on the Commission, Bode has been involved in the restructuring of the telecommunications, natural gas and electricity industry markets. She chaired the hearings on alternative regulation of telecommunications, which resulted in the dramatic expansion of high-speed Internet access across the state, a reduction in fees for consumers on telecommunications and discounts to encourage competition. She is a strong consumer advocate having fought for the rights of consumers by requiring greater notice against slamming, the premature deregulation of electricity and against the imprudent purchase of natural gas in the winter of 2001.

Bode has been married to her husband, John, for 27 years and they have a 21 year-old son, Sean. They have a home in Oklahoma City as well as a ranching operation in western Oklahoma.

## **Yvonne Kauger**

When Justice Yvonne Kauger was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1984 by Governor George Nigh, she became the second woman ever to serve on the court. She served as Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court from January 1997 to December of 1998.

Kauger is a fourth generation Oklahoman from Colony, Oklahoma. After she was adopted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma in 1984, she co-founded Red Earth, Inc.. She founded the Gallery of the Plains Indian in Colony and has acted as Symposium Coordinator for The Sovereignty Symposium, a seminar on Indian law sponsored by the Oklahoma Supreme Court since its inception in 1987.

Justice Kauger is widely known for her advancement of Native American cultural and scholarly events. She founded the Gallery of the Plains Indian, which is located in her hometown of Colony, Oklahoma. She was co-founder of Oklahoma City's nationally acclaimed Red Earth Native American Culture Festival which promotes awareness of the diversity of the many Native American cultures. Since 1987, she has served as coordinator for the Oklahoma Supreme Court-sponsored Sovereignty Symposium, a two-day conference

held each spring in Oklahoma City addressing current legal issues affecting Native Americans.

She has received many awards throughout her career, including the Oklahoma Bar Association's Award for Judicial Excellence. She is the only sitting judge to have received the Herbert Harley Award from the American Judicature Society, given in recognition of her efforts to improve the administration of justice. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

Justice Kauger graduated magna cum laude from Southwestern State University and first in her class from OCU School of Law. She received an honorary doctorate from OCU in 1991, and she has been named a distinguished alumnus by OCU and Southwestern. Her husband, Ned Bastow, a former Assistant Attorney General, now serves as General Counsel to the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education. Her daughter, Jonna Dee Kauger Kirshner, is General Counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

### **Monday Afternoon: Behind the Scenes at the State Capitol**

#### **Anne Roberts**

Anne Roberts has been executive director for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy since 1989. As director of OICA, she works with legislators and other policy makers to push children's issues to the top of the public policy agenda in Oklahoma.

Roberts has been a gubernatorial appointee to a variety of statewide advisory councils dealing with children's issues, including child welfare, substance abuse, child abuse, and teen pregnancy. Nationally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Child Advocates and is the Oklahoma State Leader for the Child Welfare League of America.

She has received numerous honors and awards for her efforts in child advocacy, not least of which being named the National Child Advocate of 2000 by the National Association of Child Advocates. Most recently, the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services named her 2001 Youth Advocate of the Year. She is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma, and a member of the Downtown Rotary Club in Oklahoma City.

She is an honors graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and has worked in the non-profit sector for seventeen years. She has recently returned to the University of Oklahoma for a graduate degree, and is on the adjunct faculty at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

#### **Margaret Erling**

Margaret Erling is President of Erling & Associates, a public relations firm in Tulsa. She is a registered lobbyist with the State of Oklahoma; her clients include Cherokee Nation Enterprises, the City of Tulsa, Emergency Medical Service Authority [EMSA], Great Plains Airlines, Physicians Total Care, Sunoco, Inc., Tulsa Public Schools, and Tulsa Technology Center.

From 1973 to 1997 she was a teacher, principal, and the director of professional development for the Tulsa Public Schools. She also served as Project Director for the Mayo Demonstration School of Science and Technology. From 1995 to 1998, she was Special

Assistant to the Superintendent for the Tulsa Public Schools. In 1998, she became the Director of Government Relations for Schnake Turnbo Brookey public relations firm.

Her professional affiliations include being Co-Chair of the Governor's Tulsa One Year Anniversary Event in 2004 and Co-Chair of the Governors Inaugural Committee in Tulsa in 2003. In addition, she and her husband, KRNG radio talk-show host John Erling, were listed in *Tulsa People Magazine* as one of the "Power Couples" in October 2003. She was a member of Leadership Oklahoma (Class 13), the Oklahoma Academy Executive Board of Directors, the Tulsa Press Club, and the Simon Estes Foundation board. She also served on the Oklahoma State Board of Education as a Governor's appointee from 1993 to 1997.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in from Abilene Christian University and a Masters in Education from Northeastern State University.

### **Kathy Jones**

Dr. Kathryn E. Jones has served as executive director of the Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma (HEACO) since January 1992. HEACO is a statewide organization of supporters of the state system of higher education.

Previous positions she has held in higher education include Assistant Director of the McCurtain County Higher Education Program (Idabel), Director of Student Services at Bacone College (Muskogee), and Graduate Research Associate/Assistant to the Dean of the College of Education at Oklahoma State University (Stillwater). She also taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade English in Bartlesville, Oklahoma for 13 years.

Jones is an active member of several professional, civic, and honorary organizations including Rotary, the American Association of University Women, Friends of the Metropolitan Library System, and the League of Women Voters. She is a member of Leadership Oklahoma (Class XI) and the Oklahoma Academy.

Jones received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate of education from Oklahoma State University.

### **Trish Weedn**

Trish Weedn has been executive director of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils since 2000. She served 12 years in the Oklahoma State Senate from 1988 to 2000. Prior to running for the state legislature, she served in county government as McClain County Assessor from 1978 to 1988 and as McClain County Deputy Treasurer from 1971 to 1977.

Weedn currently serves on the Board of Regents of Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Oklahoma; Board of Directors of the International Pentecostal Holiness Churches, Board of Directors for the Purcell Chamber of Commerce and is Secretary/Treasurer of the Purcell Pentecostal Holiness Church. She is past President of the Sooner Girl Scout Council and Board Member.

She graduated from Lexington High School and holds a bachelors degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. She is is married to James Weedn. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

### **Vicki White-Rankin**

Vicki White-Rankin owns her own political consulting and management firm and serves as a contract lobbyist for a variety of education and health care entities, as well as private contractors in corrections and other areas. She served in The Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1986 to 1990 where she was Chairwoman for the Public Health and Mental Health Committee. She has had 21 years of experience monitoring and developing public policy, as a legislator, administrator and lobbyist.

Among her many accomplishments as a legislature and lobbyist, she passed the nation's first Aids Education bill and the 2004 Oklahoma's Maxine Belle Hilliard Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. Among her many honors and awards, she has received the Annual Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service from the Oklahoma Association for Children Under Six in 1990; the Superintendent's Award for Exemplary Service for the Oklahoma City Public Schools in 1994 and 1995; the Karen Leveridge Award for Public Education in 1987 and the Outstanding Young Women of America award in 1985 and 1987.

White-Rankin earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree (cum laude) at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas in 1978 and her Master of Arts Degree (summa cum laude) at Oklahoma City University in 1981. She is married and has four children ranging in ages from 7 to 24.

### **Lou Kohlman**

Lou Kohlman is judicial assistant to Judge Charlie Chapel at the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. She previously worked in Washington, D.C. with an appellate court, a private law firm, and the Congressional Research Service. She has also worked an assistant public defender in Santa Barbara, California.

Kohlman is an active member of the League of Women Voters, the Oklahoma Academy, and Leadership Oklahoma, as well as other local organizations. She worked with the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women to present the 2004 Women's Summit.

She attended public schools in Oklahoma City and graduated from Northeast High School. She received a Bachelor's degrees in music and philosophy from Rice University in 1983 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1986. She is a member of the St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral Choir and has sung everywhere from the Kennedy Center to Redhawks games.

### **Monday Afternoon: Round Robin Networking Panels Issues and Opportunities in Government**

#### **“Security at Home and Abroad”**

#### **Vanessa Thurman**

Vanessa Thurman began her career as a United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Oklahoma in 1986. While employed at the probation officer, she has worked as an officer, an Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist, and as a supervisor. In January 2004, Vanessa was appointed Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Oklahoma. This appointment made Vanessa the first African American and the first female to hold this position. There are 92 Judicial Districts in the United States and Vanessa is now 1 of 14 African Americans appointed as a Chief United States Probation or Pretrial Services Officer. Prior to her appointment as a probation officer, Vanessa was employed as the Residential Program Director of the Oklahoma Halfway House, Inc.

Thurman is a charter member of the Oklahoma Sooner City Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a board member of the Oklahoma Halfway House, Inc. She is a member of the Urban League and the Urban League Guild of Greater Oklahoma City. In addition, Vanessa is a member of Unity Baptist Church where she serves as a tutor and mentor with the Educational Outreach Ministry.

A native of Oklahoma City, Thurman was educated in the Oklahoma City Public School System. She attended the University of Central Oklahoma where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration and Management.

## **LaRita Aragon**

Brigadier General LaRita Aragon is the first woman-American-Indian general in the military and the first woman commander in the Oklahoma Air National Guard (ANG). She is of Cherokee and Choctaw descent.

Aragon was appointed Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Oklahoma Air National Guard in March 2003. She is directly responsible to the adjutant general of Oklahoma for the supervision and continuity of all units of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. In September 2003, she was given a second (dual) assignment of Air National Guard Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Aragon taught kindergarten through seventh grade in her civilian life. She started her career teaching in an all-black school in 1970, before the Oklahoma City school district began integration. She became a principal in 1984 and was named "Principal of the Year" in 1988 and 1992. She was selected as the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Excellent Educator of the Year in 1990 and served as president of the Oklahoma City Principal Association.

She enlisted in the Oklahoma ANG at the age of 30 for financial reasons; she was a single mother and needed the extra income. An elder in her church, who was a guardsman himself, suggested she sign up. At that time, she had a B.S. degree in Education and a M.S. degree in Guidance and Counseling from Central State College in Edmond. After receiving her commission through the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tenn., in October 1981, she returned to the 219th EIS as an administrative officer. In February 1989, Aragon became the first female commander in the Oklahoma Air National Guard when she assumed command of the 137th Services Flight at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Okla.

Aragon served as the mortuary officer for the Oklahoma City Murrah Federal Building bombing recovery in 1995 where she helped make identification of bodies and notification to next of kin.

General Aragon has received many military awards and decorations. Other honor she has received include Woman of the Year for Government (Edmond, Oklahoma); Oklahoma Hospitality Club “Women in the News”; Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year (1998); and Red Lands Counsel Girl Scouts Woman of the Year. She is on the Board of Directors for the Red Cross Chapter of Central Oklahoma and is a charter member of Women In Military Service for America. She and her husband, Greg, share six children. She loves golf and spending time with her grandchildren.

### **Melissa McLawhorn Houston**

Melissa McLawhorn Houston currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. In her current position Melissa works to develop, recommend and implement various homeland security initiatives in the State of Oklahoma. Melissa first became involved in the issue of homeland security in 1995 when, as part of a group of family members and survivors of the Murrah Federal Building bombing, she advocated for anti-terrorism legislation at the federal level.

Immediately prior to her current position, Melissa was involved in political and policy development initiatives. She has worked on various campaigns including the Oklahoma State House and a statewide issue campaign where she served as both the Coalitions Director and Political Director.

An established professional in criminal justice reform measures, Melissa has worked for sensible criminal justice reform. She played a lead role in reform efforts related to “truth in sentencing,” community sentencing, and federal anti-terrorism legislation. Melissa served as the Deputy Director for the Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association, a statewide organization representing the 77 elected county sheriffs. She has also held the position of Staff Attorney for the Oklahoma Truth in Sentencing Policy Advisory Commission.

Melissa is very involved in her community and holds various positions at the state and local level. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for several statewide organizations including Leadership Oklahoma (Class XII) and the Omniplex. In her local community, Melissa serves on the Institutional Review Board for Norman Regional Hospital, Vice-Chair of the Cleveland County Community Sentencing Council, Cleveland County Jail Oversight Board and is involved in Leadership Norman.

She is recipient of the Courage and Valor Award from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (1996), the Governor's Commendation for Service on State Employees Bombing Recovery Committee (1997) and the Leadership Legacy Award from the Norman Chamber of Commerce (1999).

A proud graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Melissa received her Bachelor of Arts in Letters and her Juris Doctor from the university.

Melissa is married to Ben Houston, formerly of Tulsa. Ben is an attorney with Pierce, Couch, Hendrickson of Oklahoma City. They currently reside in Norman with their dogs, Champion and Blue.

## **“Economic Self-Sufficiency”**

### **Susie Graves**

A product of Oklahoma City Public Schools, Susie Graves earned a BA in Business Education from the University of Oklahoma following coursework at Southern Methodist University and a Masters degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Central Oklahoma. She is employed by Frank Merrick of Foundation Management, Inc. and serves as executive director of the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma, a statewide community foundation with major emphasis on philanthropy and charitable endeavors in non-metropolitan areas of our state. Prior to this position, she served as executive director of Positive Tomorrows – Oklahoma City’s school for homeless children and youth – for over nine years.

Her volunteer experiences include Leadership OKC (Class XVIII), Youth Leadership Exchange President, current Leadership Oklahoma City Board Secretary, and Program Chair of the new OKC Youth City Council, Junior League of OKC (President 1986-87, Community VP, and currently Sustaining Advisor to Finance Council), Westminster Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons, and in varied capacities of annual community fundraisers.

Graves’ avocational interests include duplicate bridge, golf, and mahjonn. She and architect/ engineer husband, Jack, have raised five children (ages 24 to 41) and are currently celebrating the empty nest syndrome.

### **Wanda DeBruler**

Wanda DeBruler has been in the government and nonprofit business for twenty-three years. She is President of DeBruler, Inc., an Oklahoma woman-owned enterprise. Her firm provides consultation to public and private organizations in the areas of proposal formulation and evaluation; strategic action planning; and, training and technical assistance on a variety of topics.

DeBruler has a strong background in low-income energy issues and policies. She provides testimony and comments on low-income energy issues. Her career includes six years as executive director and housing coordinator for the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies and thirteen years working in various accounting and federal coordinator positions at the State of Oklahoma’s Department of Commerce. She is engaged with several National and State boards, task forces, and committees.

### **Gena Timberman-Howard**

Gena Timberman-Howard was appointed deputy director of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority (NACEA) in December 1999. NACEA plans to create a Native American Cultural Center and Museum at the southeast corner of I-35 and I-40 near downtown Oklahoma City.

Timberman-Howard is founding president of the OSU American Indian Alumni Association, a member of the Oklahoma City Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of

Commerce, a Designee to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Museum Association, member of the Leadership Team of the OKC Chamber Human Capital & Diversity Project, member of the City of Oklahoma City Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Governance Committee, member of the Oklahoma Tourism Promotion Advisory Committee and currently serves on the Board of Wings of America, a National American Indian Youth Development Program of The Earth Circle Foundation, Inc.

She is a former Associate of the Oklahoma City law firm of Holloway, Dobson, Hudson, Bachman & Jennings where she gained experience in various areas including: Insurance Defense, Product Liability, Commercial Law, and Medical Malpractice. Her work in the Commercial Section focused on the Economic Development of Native American businesses. Timberman-Howard served as a legal intern in the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. She served in both the Office of Tribal Justice and the Environment & Natural Resources Division, Indian Law Section. As an intern in the Office of Tribal Justice, she committed her efforts to the research of Indian law issues affecting Indian country and writing speeches for the Attorney General Janet Reno's activities relating to Indian country and her meetings with tribal court judges and tribal leaders.

As a former Wings of America, Southern Plains runner, Timberman-Howard has been active as a Facilitator and Leader for the Wings of American Running & Fitness Camps. The camps, sponsored by Nike, have been influential across the United States in promoting the health and wellness of Native American people in Indian country. She has participated in over 16 camps nationwide. She has also been active in United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) as a Native Youth Leadership Development Facilitator.

Howard received her B.A. degree in English Literature with Honors from Oklahoma State University in 1996. As President of the Native American Student Association, Howard received the Outstanding Contribution to the Native American Community Award. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma's College of Law in May 1999 and is a member of the Oklahoma Bar and the Federal Bar of the Western District of Oklahoma. As a law student, Howard attended the Oxford Summer Law Seminar at The Queen's College, Oxford, England; served as an Editor of the American Indian Law Review from 1997-99; was a Student Member of the American Bar Association; served as both the President and Vice President of the Native American Law Student Association; honored as a Sequoyah Scholar; recognized as the Joseph F. Rarick Indian Scholar; received the Mueller Law Scholarship for a recognized American Indian Law Scholar; and served as a member of the National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Team.

Timberman-Howard is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She and her husband Brad currently reside in Oklahoma City, OK.

## **“Children, Youth and Families”**

### **Sandy Ingraham**

Sandy Ingraham completed undergraduate work in English Literature and Philosophy at Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, earning a Bachelor of Arts in both fields.

She did post graduate work in Philosophy, Social Work and Law, earning Master of Social Work and Juris Doctorate Degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Current professional activities for Ingraham include practicing law as a sole practitioner and maintaining an active practice as a social policy consultant. She consults and trains in Oklahoma and throughout the nation on advocacy, lobbying, legal issues, dispute mediation, needs and asset assessment, community capacity building, planning, policy and funding.

As a consultant, Ingraham actively promotes a service delivery philosophy that emphasizes early intervention and prevention, provides comprehensive services based on needs, and makes the best use of resources through effective practices like integrated funding and community decision-making. She watched and lobbied the Oklahoma legislature for nearly two decades. She has researched and documented a variety of social concerns through more than fifty publications. She taught at the University of Oklahoma Graduate College Of Social Work for seventeen years.

As an attorney, Ingraham maintains a general practice, while spending most of her time in the areas of adoption and estate planning. She combines her legal skills with her knowledge of social policy and programs in several areas, including facilitating special needs adoptions, creating trusts to help protect and provide for people with disabilities, estate planning for non-traditional families and protecting children being raised by their grandparents. Sandy is legal counsel for several state, national and international charitable, non-profit organizations.

Ingraham is the recipient of numerous awards and honors as a result of advocacy and program development on behalf of children, older citizens, those who are mentally ill, people with disabilities, people who are homeless and those who are poor.

### **Sharon Neuwald**

As coordinator for the Office of Legislative Relations and Special Projects at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), Sharon Neuwald works on major issues facing the Department as well as policies affecting other agencies in the health and human services arena. She also serves as chair of the DHS rate setting committee and is a member of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's Medical Advisory Committee and Medicaid rate setting committee.

Neuwald joined the agency in 1985 as a Research & Development Specialist with the Division of Medical Services. During that period she worked on Medicaid reimbursement methodologies for hospitals, nursing homes and prescription drugs. She also developed new services for pregnant women and home and community-based services for persons with developmental and physical disabilities. She worked five years for the Oklahoma House of Representatives focusing on human services and higher education issues.

Neuwald earned her undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma. She received a master's in human services management from Brandeis University and a doctorate of public health from the University of Michigan.

## **Barbara Staggs**

Representative Barbara Staggs is a nine-year Democratic legislator from District 14 which encompasses the northeastern half of Muskogee County and the western part of Cherokee County. She serves the Muskogee, Fort Gibson, Braggs and Hulbert communities. She is a member of the following committees: Appropriations and Budget, Career and Technology Education, Public Health, Retirement Laws, and Chairman of Common Education.

Having spent twenty-five years in public education as a teacher, principal and superintendent, Representative Staggs is keenly interested in supporting legislation which will continue to aid the current economic development of the entire state and especially northeastern Oklahoma. Legislation dealing with children or the elderly is also a primary concern of hers.

Staggs was born in Hulbert and moved to Muskogee while only a few weeks old. She attended public schools in Muskogee and graduated from Northeastern State University in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in education. In 1968, she received a master's degree and in 1987 a doctorate, both from the University of Tulsa. Her dissertation concerned a study of the implementation of selected legislative policies in school districts in northeastern Oklahoma.

She is a member of Leadership Oklahoma (VI), Breakfast Optimists, American Association of University Women, Soroptimists, Int., Lions, Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Service League of Muskogee, Inc. and Chambers of Commerce in Muskogee and Fort Gibson.

She has been married for 43 years to Ross Staggs, a small business owner in Muskogee. They have two sons, Rick, 40, who lives in Nevada, and Mathew, 35, who lives in Muskogee. She and her husband are members of the First Baptist Church in Muskogee where she teaches a singles Sunday school class.

## **Monday 5:00 pm**

### **Lt. Governor Mary Fallin**

Mary Fallin was elected the state's first woman and first Republican Lieutenant Governor in 1994. She was re-elected in 1998 and in 2002. She previously served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives (1990 to 1994). As Lieutenant Governor, Fallin has primarily focused on economic development, education, health care and government reform. She held the cabinet-level position of Small Business Advocate during the Keating administration. In 1997, the "Fallin Commission on Workers' Compensation Reform" recommended sweeping legal changes to the workers' compensation system that were adopted by the Oklahoma Legislature.

Fallin has taken a special interest in advancing the issues of women business owners and lends her support and time to events and projects associated with the National Association of Women Business Owners and other organizations that strive to improve the

status of women in the workplace. She used her position as the President of the Senate in 2000 to bring the issue of Right to Work to a vote of the people for the first time in 25 years.

As Lieutenant Governor, Fallin serves on numerous boards and commissions including the Tourism and Recreation Commission, the State Board of Equalization, the Oklahoma Land Commission, the State Insurance Fund and the Film Office Advisory Commission. Among her many initiatives benefiting children and youth, Fallin initiated Project Homesafe, a program which, to date, has distributed more than 80,000 free cable gun locks to Oklahomans.

Fallin has been a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Oklahoma City and the YWCA. She has also served on the Trail of Tears Advisory Board, Honorary Chair of the Organ Donor Network, Honorary Co-Chair of the Indian Territory Arts and Humanities Council, and as co-chair of the Festival of Hope, an event organized to promote mental health and wellness.

Fallin is a graduate of Oklahoma State University. She was raised in Tecumseh where public service was a family tradition. Her father, the late Joseph "Newton" Copeland, served as Mayor. Her mother, Mary Jo Copeland served as the town's first woman mayor.

Despite her many accomplishments in the public arena, the Lieutenant Governor's proudest role is that of mother to her daughter Christina and son Price.

## **Tuesday Morning: Career Jump-Start: The Many Paths to and from Law School**

### **Hannah Brenner**

Hannah Brenner is director of the Women's Outreach Center at the University of Oklahoma. She oversees the Center's broad project agenda and support services.

Brenner has a background in law, women's studies and community activism. Before joining the OU community, she was executive director of a nonprofit public interest law center called the Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. In this capacity, she facilitated the program's diverse project agenda, which addressed issues such as elder law, school violence/bullying prevention and educating law students about the dynamics of domestic abuse.

Prior to moving to Oklahoma, Ms. Brenner worked for the University of Iowa's Rape Victim Advocacy Program, an organization that provides support, advocacy and education to survivors of sexual abuse and their significant others. She earned her B.A. in American Studies & Women's Studies from the University of Iowa and her J.D. from the University Of Iowa College of Law.

When not working, Ms. Brenner enjoys cooking great vegetarian food, spending time with family (including 2 boys Isaac, 6 and Aidan, 9 months) and renovating historic homes. Some of the "empowering moments" in her life include the semester she spent as part of a Women's Studies program in Europe and being surrounded by intelligent, diverse, amazing women on a daily basis. She is planning a trip in the upcoming year to Amsterdam, which remains her favorite city in the world.

## **Tuesday Morning - Leadership in Action: A Public Policy Simulation**

**Cindy Simon Rosenthal**

(See Bio Above)

## **Tuesday Afternoon: Choices and Commitments: The Many Options of Public Service**

**Terry Neese**

Terry Neese made history in 1990 as the first woman nominated by a major political party for Lt. Governor of Oklahoma. Prior to that historic campaign, Terry founded Terry Neese Personnel Services, which celebrated 25 years in business in July 2000. She is an entrepreneur who manages 5 companies including farming and ranching, Gulf Coast real estate properties, and a public policy strategy firm.

One of her companies, GrassRoots Impact, is a corporate and government public policy strategies firm with rapid response surveying capabilities. GrassRoots Impact's clients include American Express, Intuit, IBM, Verizon and many other top global corporations. GrassRoots Impact excels in crafting a communications strategy and fine tuning "the message" that corporations and government agencies need in order to reach out effectively to women and minorities in business.

As president of WIPP: Women Impacting Public Policy, a national bi-partisan public policy organization advocating for women in business, Neese represents the organization's more than 500,000 women business owners and women in business on Capitol Hill and to the Administration. She was recognized in the September 2000 issue of Fortune Magazine as one of the Power 30--the most influential small businesspersons in Washington, D.C. Terry was rated number 6 in the Power 30!

Known by the movers and shakers in Congress, Terry testifies on a regular basis before the U.S. House and Senate, and is part of a "Brain Trust" that provides important input to the Small Business Administration, and various coalitions. She led the efforts of the Small Business Advisory Team for the Bush/Cheney Campaign 2000. She has built coalitions in both the Democratic and Republican Parties to get key legislation passed.

Her weekly "Smart Business" newspaper columns are published nationally.

Her roots run deep in the Cherokee Nation. President George Herbert Walker Bush appointed Terry as a Commissioner to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education, in the late 90's President Clinton reappointed her to the council, where she still serves as a voice today for the Indian community. President George Herbert Walker Bush also appointed Neese to serve on the SBA Small Business Advisory Council. In January 2001, she was appointed to serve on the newly created Office Depot Women's Advisory Board. Neese's outreach goes beyond the United States. She is an active member of the Euro-American Women's Council and serves as its Global Corporate Vice President of Business and Development/Public Policy.

She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. She has also been honored with the Women In Communication By Liner Award;

NAWBO's National Public Policy Award, and the Oklahoma City NAWBO Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award. The Business Women's Network and the National Foundation For Women Legislators recently recognized Terry as "Entrepreneur of the Year" and, in 2000, she was named the Oklahoma City Journal Record's Hall of Fame Woman of the Year.

In recognition of Neese's unwavering small business advocacy and her successful efforts to create the Terry Neese Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence, an SBA Women's Business Center that opened in October 2001 in Oklahoma City, former Congressman J.C. Watts nominated Terry for the prestigious "Unsung Heroines Award". She accepted that award in Washington, DC March of 2002.

This past February 2003 Terry was sworn in to a three-year term as a member of the National Women's Business Council - a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Most recently Neese has been appointed to the Advisory Council for the United States Committee for United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Known as the women's fund at the United Nations, UNIFEM helps women in over 100 developing nations around the world achieve equality by providing financial and technical assistance to projects that foster the development of women's economic security, promote women's human rights, and increase women's participation in decision-making processes that shape their lives.

Neese is a wife, mother, a pilot, a political strategist and an entrepreneur extraordinaire.

## **Nance Diamond**

Thirteen years of piano influenced Nance Diamond to major in piano at the University of Oklahoma. Although a later change to education resulted in a teaching experience, Diamond has always valued and appreciated the arts. She served as a board member of the Oklahoma Arts Institute for twelve years before joining the staff as the Director of Development and Operations in 2001. In January 2003, Diamond assumed the role of President of the organization.

The Oklahoma Arts Institute provides an intensive two-week summer arts academy for high school students, ages 14-18, and comprehensive workshops in the fall for educators and community artists. Both programs are held at Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center in southwest Oklahoma.

Diamond's other professional experience includes founder and executive director of the Oklahoma Community Institute, Director of the Drug and Alcohol Policy Board in the office of the State Attorney General, founder and executive director of the Oklahoma Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association as well as teaching positions in Special Education, Head Start and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Honors include the Excellence in Oklahoma Leadership Award presented by Leadership Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Academy; a National Merit Award for Board Leadership from the Child Welfare League of America, and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association for Community Leadership.

Diamond and her husband, Jeff, a native of Holdenville, Oklahoma, live in Shawnee. They have two sons: Jeffrey, who lives in Shawnee with his wife, Carol and their son, Jack. Diamond's other son, Jay, lives in Dallas.

**Cindy Simon Rosenthal (See Above)**