

N.E.W. Leadership 2005 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 bachelor's 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

Hannah Brenner

Hannah Brenner received a bachelor's degree, with distinction, in American studies and a minor in Women's Studies at University of Iowa. She completed her law degree at University of Iowa College of Law where she received numerous awards for academic achievement and public service work. Her interests include law, politics, activism, public policy, women's and human rights.

She has served as rural services director for the Rape Victim Advocacy Program Iowa, executive director of the Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; and director of the Women's Outreach Center at University of Oklahoma. She recently returned to the Appleseed Law Center on a part-time basis to coordinate the new Oklahoma Bullying Prevention Initiative, a coalition of nonprofit state organizations working to influence policy and ultimately reduce

school bullying/harassment and its related problems like poor academic performance, high risk of future incarceration and suicide.

Hannah also works for the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma. There, she coordinates a program called N.E.W. Leadership, an initiative designed to educate, empower and inspire undergraduate women to pursue careers in politics and public service. She also teaches for the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Oklahoma; her most recent courses have included Women and the Law and Women Creating Social Change. Her research interests include bullying and sexual harassment among youth, violence against women from a comparative perspective and historical & contemporary perspectives on the women's movement.

Hannah lives in Oklahoma City with her husband Adam, a new media artist and professor at OU, and her two boys, Isaac, 7, and Aidan, 2. In her free time, Hannah enjoys renovating old homes, cooking great vegetarian food, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Friday Afternoon - Political Women: An Overview

Cindy Simon Rosenthal

Cindy Simon Rosenthal is the Director/ Curator 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, last year she won her first political campaign, winning more than 66 percent of the vote, and now represents Ward 4 on the Norman City Council.

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

Marilyn Murrell (Faculty in Residence)

Mayor Marilyn Murrell was born and raised in Arcadia, Oklahoma. After leading a successful 4-year legal battle to re-establish the identity of Arcadia as an official town, Marilyn Murrell was elected Arcadia's first mayor in May of 1988. She has been re-elected to this post four times.

She was instrumental in creating, where non-existed before, town ordinances, fully functional police and fire departments, a municipal court system, and other required governmental entities for town management.

Mayor Murrell has been a member of the Oklahoma Conference of Black Mayors and the National Conference of Black Mayors since 1988. She has served in numerous positions with both organizations. She served as President of NCBM during the 2002-2003 year; the second woman ever to hold the position of president. Mayor Murrell has served on many local and state boards and commissions representing her community. Those organizations include the Oklahoma Municipal League, Oklahoma Conference of Mayors, Central Oklahoma Regional Economic Development Task Force, ACOG 911 Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Rural Development Council, just to name a few.

She is actively involved in organizations and activities that enhance the lives of those in her community as well as small, rural communities throughout the country. Her most recent initiative is the Small Town Alliance, a national organization with a mission of assisting small and rural communities throughout the country to improve growth and development through technology, education and advocacy.

Ms. Murrell's professional career spans over 30 years as an advocate for small business and as a business consultant in the private and public sectors providing management and technical assistance to a small and minority businesses. She has chaired the Oklahoma Consortium for Minority Business Development, Inc. since 1990. In 1995 she was an Oklahoma delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business.

Mayor Murrell's civic duties continue as she also participates with the following organizations: Board of Advisors Women's Foundation of Oklahoma, Board of Directors-Youth Services of Oklahoma County, NAACP, OKC Eastside Cultural Club Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women.

Marilyn is dedicated to her Church-St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Philadelphia in 1787 by free persons of African descent as one of the first civil rights movements within the religion community in the U.S. It was founded in order that all people, including people of color, would be able to workshop freely and equally. In her church she serves as a Steward, member of the Finance Committee, a Stewardess, Secretary of the Official Board, Church School Teacher, a member of the Welcome Committee and co-editor of the Church newsletter.

Mayor Murrell has 3 adult children and one grandson.

Penny Painter (Faculty In Residence)

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. In 1994, she was honored by the Tulsa chapter of Women in Communications with its prestigious Newsmaker Award.

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 graduated from The University of Hawaii in 1970 with a BA in Education and attended a Carpentry Program at Honolulu Community College in 1979.

Judy Goforth Parker (Faculty In Residence)

Judy Goforth Parker is a Professor of Nursing at East Central University, where she teaches courses on the Childbearing Family, serves as clinical instructor for senior level nursing students in Psychiatric Mental Health, and serves as lead instructor for Community Health and Supervisory Process.

Her professional associations include membership and appointments in the American Nurses Association, Oklahoma Nurses Association, National Alaskan and Native American Indian Nurses Association, Oklahoma Public Health Association. She has served as Vice-President of the Oklahoma Nurses Association (District 10) from 1992-1993 and President from 1993-present. She has also been appointed to serve on the HRSA AIDS Advisory Committee of the Health Resources and Services Administration (1999-2003) and on the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Judy Goforth Parker is also an elected legislator for the Chickasaw Nation, a position she has held since 1994. She has also served as Chairperson of the Legislature from 1999-2000 and Secretary of the Legislature from 1996-1998 and again from 2003-present.

She has served on numerous boards including the Oklahoma Blood Institute, Valley View Regional Hospital Health Advisory Board and Chickasaw Nation Health System Institutional Review Board.

She earned her B.S. from East Central University, M.S. in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma and Ph.D. in Nursing from Texas Woman's University in Denton.

Cindy Simon Rosenthal

(See bio above)

Saturday Morning – Career Jump-Start: Internships

Carolyn Pickthorn

Carolyn is a graduate of the inaugural class of N.E.W. Leadership 2002. She has also participated actively in planning for the 2004 and 2005 N.E.W. Leadership institutes. She contributes much of her success and desire to be in politics to her experience in N.E.W. Leadership and keeps this program close to her heart. Carolyn graduated with distinction this

year from the University of Oklahoma, majoring in Political Science with minors in French and History. She was recently initiated into Phi Beta Kappa National Honor's Society as part of the top one percent of her class.

During her time at OU she worked at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center as an Undergraduate Fellow. She co-authored and co-presented research with Dr. Gary Copeland at the Southwest Political Science Associational meeting in 2004, receiving two awards for their work. As part of her fellowship she helped to enhance civic involvement and education among students at OU as part of Harvard's Institute of Politics. She has also served as member and committee chairman for the University of Oklahoma Student Congress.

During the 2004 Legislative Session, Carolyn worked as an intern for the Senate Republicans, which gave her the opportunity to advance to her current position as an Administrative Assistant for Lt. Governor Mary Fallin. Carolyn plans to pursue an MPA (Master's in Public Administration) at OU in Fall 2005. She hopes to obtain a full time position at the Lt. Governor's office or move on to work elsewhere in politics.

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.

Ann Way – “I Love To Tell My Story, But Who Is Listening?”

Ann M. Way is a Senior Program Officer for Sarkeys Foundation, a private, charitable foundation, located in Norman, Oklahoma. As a senior program officer she reviews the audits and budgets of grant proposals and also provides general proposal evaluation, pre-proposal consultation, and grant oversight. Additionally, Ms. Way manages the nonprofit educational series for the foundation, and she also serves as the director of the Oklahoma Institute for Nonprofit Leadership.

Ms. Way has provided presentations for the Conference of Southwest Foundations, Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, BoardSource, a round table discussion with Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, and served as a faculty member for the Emerging Philanthropic Leaders in the Southwest, as well as many other statewide agencies.

Prior to her current work, Ms. Way acted as a consultant to several nonprofit agencies. This nonprofit experience followed a number of years in the banking world where she was a bank auditor, special projects officer, and liaison with the FDIC.

Before her arrival in Oklahoma, Ms. Way graduated from the University of Kentucky and taught high school English in Lexington, Kentucky. She also taught for the Department of Defense in Misawa, Japan. After her return to the States, she furthered her education at Oklahoma City Community College and the University of Oklahoma where she served as a graduate assistant.

Ms. Way has served her community as a member or officer for many civic and nonprofit groups. Among the local organizations with which she has been associated are the Community Services Building Board of Directors, Chair of The Social and Voluntary Services Commission of the City of Norman, Member of the Mayor's Committee to End Chronic Homelessness, President of the Board of Little River Zoo, and Member of the Noble School Board.

Saturday – Career Jump-Start: Political Campaigns

Marilyn McDow

Marilyn McDow is a 2003 graduate of N.E.W. Leadership. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2003 with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in communications. Her experience in politics includes volunteering on State Representative John Smaligo's 1998 campaign and working on Lt. Governor Mary Fallin's 2002 campaign as well as Steve Largent's gubernatorial campaign that same year. Marilyn then became the Assistant fundraiser for the Humphrey's for Senate campaign in 2004 where she helped to raise \$1.5 million. Afterwards Marilyn ran Lisa Billy's winning campaign for State House. Now she the Executive Assistant to State Senator Scott Pruitt of Broken Arrow, and in July will be attending a campaign training session at the Women's Campaign School at Yale University.

Other political experiences include: volunteering for Odilia Dank for State House, volunteering for Shane Jett for State House, research assistant for CMA Strategies (political consultants), and assistant phone bank manager for Cole Hargrave Snodgrass a political polling firm. Marilyn was also one of the first executive officers for the V.O.I.C.E. project with the Oklahoma State Regents which was created to promote civic engagement among college students in Oklahoma.

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 Dinner – Democrat and Republican: What Does It All Mean?

Lisa Pryor

Lisa Pryor is the newly elected chairwoman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, representing more than 1.2 million registered Democrats.

This former teacher, journalist, farmer, grant writer, curriculum developer, and small business owner with roots in southwestern Oklahoma is a parent to six children. She and her husband Dick live in Norman.

Lisa recently directed a statewide program on civic engagement for high school students through a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts and coordinated the work of five regional service-learning centers funded through the Oklahoma State Department of Education with a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. She has worked as a group facilitator and strategic planner.

She serves on the YWCA of Oklahoma City board, the Citizens Policy Center board, and is the state's Congressional Conference on Civic Education facilitator. She works with the Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation.

Dana 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.

Saturday Night – Campaign Simulation: Team Building in Realpolitick

Leslie Blair

Leslie Blair is a 2002 graduate of Cameron University. After graduation, Leslie served as Deputy Campaign Manager for the Ben Odom for Congress campaign, and later as the Field Coordinator for the Drew Edmondson for Attorney General Campaign. Leslie got her start in politics by working on the campaigns of the Former Speaker of the House Loyd Benson of Frederick, and the House Democratic Leader, Jari Askins of Duncan. She also volunteered on the campaign of Second District Congressman Brad Carson in 2000.

In the spring of 2003, Leslie moved to Jackson, Mississippi to be the campaign manager for a State Treasurer's race. In a crowded three-way primary, Leslie's candidate Gary Anderson finished first, and then finished first in a run-off against a well-known State Senator. Although they 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, and Anderson received the most votes ever cast for an African American running for statewide office.

Currently, Leslie is the Cabinet Secretary Liaison at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Leslie is a fifth generation Oklahoman and a native of Frederick. She currently lives in Oklahoma City

Deby Snodgrass

Named a "Mover and Shaker" by Campaign and Elections magazine in June 2003, Deby Snodgrass currently serves as the Director of Political Affairs for Chesapeake Energy. Her extensive resume includes nearly three decades of experience in gubernatorial, senatorial, congressional and legislative races across the nation.

A frequent guest speaker and political trainer, Snodgrass has served as an instructor for literally hundreds of candidates, campaign managers and grassroots activists at Republican National Committee (RNC) schools across America. In 1995, she was one of four women selected from the U.S., and one from Great Britain, to teach a national campaign school for officeholders, candidates and campaign managers in Russia.

A finalist for Oklahoma's Woman of the Year in 1997, Snodgrass has long been a contributor to her state and community. She served as Co-Chairman of the "4th of July in the Heartland" events saluting the rescue workers and volunteers from the Oklahoma City bombing; as Executive Director of the 1995 and 1999 Oklahoma Inaugural Committees; and as Chairman of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion renovation project, which was featured in the April 1997 issue of Architectural Digest. In addition, Snodgrass was a founding member of the board of

directors for Friends of the Mansion, Inc., and served eight years as a gubernatorial appointee to Oklahoma's Capitol Preservation Commission.

Best known as a founding partner of Oklahoma's first Republican consulting firm, Cole Hargrave Snodgrass & Associates, Snodgrass is also well established in the fundraising arena. From February of 1985 through February of 1989, she served as Finance Director for the Oklahoma Republican Party. Under her leadership, the Oklahoma GOP doubled its revenue and tripled the size of its donor base by shifting its fundraising focus from major gifts to a more stable and broad-based small donor program. In fact, during her tenure, Snodgrass developed one of the most successful political telemarketing operations in the country.

Snodgrass also served as a Field Representative and Scheduling Director for U.S. Congressman Mickey Edwards (1984); Assistant to the GOP State Chair (1983-84); a member of Governor Bill Clements (R-TX) Advance Staff (1982); and a top county coordinator for U.S. Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) in 1980.

Shelly Perkins

Shelly A. Perkins graduated from Choctaw High School in 1993. Shelly 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.

Shelly worked for Congressman J.C. Watts, Jr. for 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 State Finance Director. In March 2002, Shelly left Congressman Watts' office to run Jeff Cloud's statewide campaign for a seat on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Upon his election to office, Shelly served as Commissioner Cloud's Aide at the Commission until March of this year when she became Executive Director for Action Plan Oklahoma, Inc., a nonpartisan, not for profit, issue advocacy organization. Shelly attends Oklahoma City University School of Law where she is a member of Phi Alpha Delta and the American Bar Association Student Division.

In addition to volunteering for several political campaigns, Shelly was actively involved in numerous political and academic organizations while attending college. She served as both Chairman and First Vice Chairman of OU College Republicans. Shelly has also participated in numerous charitable and civic organizations serving as a Board Member for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Cleveland County. In addition, Shelly attended the National Women's Law Student Association Conference held at OCU in April 2004. Shelly is scheduled to complete her training as a certified mediator for the Oklahoma Supreme Court in March 2005.

Shelly and her husband, Rusty, have a 3-year old daughter, Savannah. They are members of First Baptist Church of Choctaw, where they teach Sunday school.

Deneka Turney

Deneka Turney Cain received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma in 1997. As an undergraduate, she was the recipient of the Cortez Ewing Public Service Fellowship in 1996 and the Carl Albert Undergraduate Research Fellowship in 1997. In 2000, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

Deneka's political experience began at a young age which has allowed her to work nearly every job there is in a political campaign. She now concentrates on the areas of fundraising and

political compliance. Deneka has acted as primary fundraiser for candidates at all levels. In 2000 she became Congressman Bart Stupac's(MI-1) Finance Director in a nationally targeted race, where they raised over \$1 million dollars, a record for this district, in less than four months. Since returning from Michigan, Deneka has helped various Oklahoma candidates build their campaign structure, raise money, and develop a general campaign strategy...all while keeping them in compliance with the law. Additionally, she has acted as a consultant for political media firms and non-profit entities. She is currently involved with Cain Consulting, a PR firm owned jointly with her husband Mark.

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

Nancy McDonald

Nancy was born in rural Nebraska, graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Medical Technology. She attended the University of Tulsa's School of Management, Continuing Education.

Her work experience has been as a Medical Technologist at a number of hospitals and teaching in the School of Medical Technology, San Bernardino Charity Hospital, affiliated with UCLA She was employed by Tulsa Public School as Director of Magnet School Recruitment/Placement, Business-Community Resources, Parent Involvement and Partners in Education. She also had her own consulting service for ten years, Resources for Education.

She has been involved in numerous organizations and as served on many Boards of Directors and as President of a number of those local, regional and national boards.

As a community activist she has been instrumental in upgrading the standards for camping in the state of Oklahoma, upgrading the standards for day cares in the state of Oklahoma, one of the key designers of the voluntary integration of Tulsa Public Schools, developed the parent involvement/volunteer program and adopt a school program, instrumental in developing Tulsa's response to HIV/AIDS and is a founder of the first center for HIV/AIDS in Tulsa. Nancy has a daughter who is a lesbian and developed the PFLAG Chapter in Tulsa plus numerous Chapters across the United States. She served as National President of PFLAG. Nancy developed standards for parent involvement and the adopt a school programs and served as vice president of the National Partners in Education Board of Directors. She has been very involved in mobilizing Oklahoma's response to the need for early childhood programs funded by the state.

Nancy has testified in Congress on a number of issues and has been invited to the White House to speak to the Presidents on several issues, such as parent involvement, community support for public education and gay rights.

She is married, has four children and seven grandchildren.

Toni Rice

Toni Rice has been active in community and social action for over 20 years. Prior to her recent move to Oklahoma, she served on various boards and committees in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. Her focus has been on issues related to diversity and underrepresented groups, serving as an advocate for abused and neglected children and “pounding the pavement” for candidates who share these concerns.

Her professional life took her through 3 states before making Norman her home in 2001. She has served as a Project Coordinator for the SAPTA program with the Children's Advocacy Center of Greater St. Louis, Assistant to the Director of the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University, Director of Marketing and Development for the Illinois Summer School for the Arts, Coordinator for the Institutional Review Board at the University of Oklahoma and her current position of Academic Advisor in the College of Architecture there.

She firmly believes the future of our country is in the hands and hearts of the next generation of women, but is not yet ready to sit back and quietly watch.

Celeste Smith-Warah

Celeste Smith-Warah began her community work as a Case Manager for the Cleveland County District Attorney-Child Support Division from 1987 to 1993. In this position she provided case management for child support cases and prepared necessary legal documents for collection. She then moved on to work for Food & Shelter for Friends in 1994 as the Assistant to the Executive Director and then became the Programs Coordinator where she coordinated client/resident related activities/services. These services included a community Thanksgiving meal, Christmas Party and Children's Programs, such as, an after school program and summer program. She also provided crisis intervention, referral services and resource identification, along with the supervision of staff.

In 1998, she became Homeless Services Coordinator for Food & Shelter for Friends where she assisted the Executive Director in grant preparation and coordinated all activities related to client/resident services. In this position she acted as a case manager for clients/residents through linkage, did crisis intervention, assisted women and children involved in domestic violence, and provided referral services and resource identification. In addition, she developed a Dress for Success program for first time employed clients.

Celeste received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma in 1981 and is currently a Pen & Ink "Stippling" Artist.

Sunday Lunch – Lessons Learned Through Civic Involvement

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.

Sunday Afternoon: Feminism, Leadership and Diversity

Teresa Collado

Teresa Collado is the Associate Director, Development and Prevention Services at NAIC/Center for Oklahoma Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc. in Norman, Oklahoma. Teresa attended received her undergraduate degree from The University of Oklahoma and is currently a part-time student working towards her Master's Degree in Human Relations.

Teresa has been in the field of substance abuse prevention since 1988 and is a certified prevention specialist. Many confuse prevention with counseling. Prevention is the facilitation at the community level of actions, strategies, trainings and education that promote wellness among all people. A vast amount of her experience is in developing and providing trainings, community mobilization, and facilitation. Cultural diversity, crisis management, stress management, team building, youth leadership development, community mobilization, communication, and violence prevention are some of the trainings she provides.

Teresa is the mother of three children: stepdaughter Alexis, 18, son Eric, 6 and daughter Olivia, 3. She and her husband of 8 years, Byron Jackson, have a full life with family, careers, volunteerism, and personal growth. In addition, Teresa teaches fitness classes at her local YMCA. Teresa loves to travel and greatly enjoys meeting and experiencing new people and cultures.

Jan Tipton

Jan was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma and graduated from both Shawnee High School and Oklahoma Baptist University, so she really is a Shawnee Girl. In her younger days, she was one of those smart little kids and ended up skipping the 4th grade, so she has always been the youngest and the shortest kid in the class (and the most immature). Having grown up on a farm with a brother six years her senior, survival meant being agile and athletic. In college at OBU, she was discovered by the tennis coach and started playing tennis in the spring of her freshman year. By the time she graduated, she was ranked number two in Missouri Valley (OK, Missouri,

Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas combined) and thought she was pretty hot stuff. She still plays competitive tennis on three different USTA league teams in Oklahoma City, but she no longer thinks she's all that hot.

Jan has a Master's Degree in Gifted Education from Oklahoma City University and taught public school in the '70's. In 1980, she moved to Crested Butte, Colorado and lived there for 6 years cleaning ski lodge rooms and skiing, teaching tennis and skiing, typing medical records and skiing, and being an executive secretary and skiing. One can only ski for so long before life becomes a bit meaningless, so she left the Rockies of Crested Butte in 1986 to teach missionary kids in the Andes of Peru. She lived in Huanuco, Peru, the "city of eternal springtime" teaching 5th through 9th graders whose parents were translating the Bible into the Quechua Indian languages in the mountains around Huanuco. She lived in Peru until 1990 when she moved back to Shawnee and ended up working at Gateway as a substance abuse prevention specialist. After a one year stint teaching at West Nairobi School in Kenya in '96-'97, she went back to work as a prevention specialist, settled down and married a Shawnee Boy, David Austin. She teaches the 11th and 12th grade youth Sunday School at First Baptist Church, plays a lot of tennis and tries to laugh at least 3 times a day. She will play almost anything as long as there is potential to beat somebody; although she draws the line at contact sports and singing contests.

Monday Morning – Career Jump-Start: Graduate School

Jill Tao

Professor Jill Tao has been teaching public policy courses at the University of Oklahoma since 1998. Prior to arriving in the Sooner state, Tao was completing her doctorate degree in Tallahassee, Florida at the Florida State University in the Reubin O'D. Askew School of Public Administration and Policy. While pursuing her doctorate, she held a variety of positions in state government, including: research associate in the Office of Program Policy and Government Analysis with the State Office of the Auditor General; staff researcher for the Office of the Governor, Commission on Government Accountability to the People; legislative intern for the Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations; and public consultant for the Florida Center for Public Management.

However, the most interesting jobs held by Professor Tao have been as an employee for other types of government: the United States Information Agency (a subsidiary of the Department of State); and the Ministry of Education in the People's Republic of China. Both required living in cool places, like San Francisco, California, and Ganzhou, China, and both required a great deal of on-the-job training (mostly without any trainers involved). Currently, Professor Tao is working on a book, hopefully to be published soon by Georgetown University Press.

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

Kathryn L. Taylor

Kathryn L. Taylor was appointed by Governor Brad Henry in February 2003 to serve as Secretary of Commerce & Tourism. She oversees state economic development and tourism agencies, in addition to serving as the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce. Taylor was the first Commerce Secretary to be tasked with oversight of three state agencies –

Commerce, Tourism and Workforce Development/Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, representing more than 2,000 employees. She also serves as Governor Henry's Small Business Advocate.

Taylor comes to the office with a diverse and extensive business background, ranging from more than a decade in the travel industry as a senior officer in a "Fortune 100" company, as an owner and a member of the board for an international business and in the franchise industry as an attorney and business advisor representing franchisors expanding in the United State, Europe and Asia. She also served as counsel to numerous small franchisees. Consequently she has the unique mix of experiences necessary to understand not only what motivates business decisions of multinational companies but also understands the challenges of owning and managing your own business.

Taylor has been active in Oklahoma education and non-profit entities. She serves on the Board of Visitors for OU College of Arts and Sciences and on the University of Tulsa Board of Trustees. She serves as President of the Lobeck-Taylor Foundation, a foundation begun by Ms. Taylor and her husband to support education and social issues. She has served on the board of directors of Sonic Industries, Dollar Car Rental, National Car Rental and the Grand River Dam Authority and as a trustee for the OU Foundation.

Taylor has been active with Gilcrease Museum, Resonance Support Center for Women, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Tulsa Zoo Friends, Philbrook Museum of Art, and Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa. She has served as chair of two major fund-raising events – the Opera Ball and the Philbrook Wine Experience both of which achieved record results.

Monday – A Woman's Place is in the House and Senate

Representative Jari Askins

Born and reared in Duncan, OK, Jari received her BA in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and in 1980 earned a Juris Doctorate from the OU College of Law.

Jari 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 Jari to the Pardon and Parole Board. as the first board member with prior judicial experience. Three weeks after her appointment, the Board elected Jari as the first woman Chairman of the Pardon and Parole Board. They re-elected her to that position in 1992. Jari later served as Executive Director of the Pardon and Parole Board. She also served as Deputy General Counsel in the Governor's Office. These experiences helped develop criminal and juvenile justice issues as her special expertise.

Jari has been a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives since 1994. In 2000, Jari was named to Speaker-elect Adair's leadership team and was appointed to the new position of Deputy Floor Leader. In 2001, Jari was selected Chairman of the National Conference of State Legislators Criminal Justice committee. On March 6, 2003, the House Democratic caucus made history by selecting Jari as the first woman caucus designee for speaker of the House. For the 2005-2006 session, Jari was elected by her caucus as Democratic Leader. Rep. Askins serves as a member of the following committees: Appropriations & Budget Public Safety & Judiciary Subcommittee, Career & Technology Education, Corrections & Criminal Justice, and Judiciary.

Speaker Hiatt has appointed her a member of The Energy Council for the 50th Oklahoma Legislature.

Jari's community involvement in the past has included the Citizens for Children Advisory Board, Crimestoppers, Women's Haven from Domestic Violence, Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma, and Director of Arvest Bank in Duncan. She served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Cottey College, a private two-year women's college in Missouri. Jari is a member of the Duncan Noon Lions Club, the Duncan Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Oklahoma, Oklahoma Academy of State Goals, and the First Christian Church (where she sings in the choir).

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.

Senator Debbe Leftwich

Debbe Leftwich, State Senator District 44, was elected in a special election December 9, 2003 to fill the vacancy left by her husband, Senator Keith Leftwich who died of cancer in September 2003. She serves on Appropriations, Transportation, Health & Human Resources, and Rules Committees and Appropriations Sub-Committee Public Safety & Homeland Security. She is also the Chairman of Business & Labor, Vice-Chair of Veterans & Military Affairs & Vice-Chair of Public Safety & Judiciary Committees. She has also received appointments to the Oklahoma Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Advisory Committee, the Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Coordination of Efforts for Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the Attorney General's Task Force to Improve End-of-Life Care in Oklahoma and the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention.

Debbe worked for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner from 1990 to 2003 and was their Director of Administration and Personnel the last 6 of those years. Prior to this she was an Operations Manager for Globe Life & Accident Insurance Company's Real Estate Division and was a Supervisor in their Mass Marketing Division. She's the Immediate Past Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, has served as an appointed member on the Office of Personnel Management's Advisory Council and the Employee Benefit Coordinator's Association Board as an elected member. She has had extensive training in Total Quality Management and the State's Performance Management Process along with Government Purchasing, State Ethics, Administrative Law, as well as facilitating strategic planning meetings. She has served in several positions with the Oklahoma Democratic Party and the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women Clubs, having leadership roles in both. Debbe's a member of the League of Women Voters and Southern Hills United Methodist Church where she has served on their administrative board and has taught Sunday school. She was an active PTA member for several years and coached little league t-ball, softball and basketball.

Born in Chandler, OK on September 7, 1951 to Dave and Betty (Helm) McLain, she grew up in Wellston and graduated from Wellston High School in 1969. Debbe has two sons, Kevin Logan, 27 and Kurt Leftwich, 20.

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 is Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Previously, Sen. Monson served as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and continues to serve as a member of that committee. In addition, she is a member of the Senate Appropriations, Rules, Health and Human Resources, Retirement and Group Health, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Committees. Senator Monson served as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives from November 1990 until her election to the State Senate.

Senator Monson previously served as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and also as chair of the NCSL Health Committee. She is currently a member of the NCSL Executive Committee and a former Executive Committee member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures.

A nationally noted advocate of health care reform, Sen. Monson serves as a member of the Steering Committee of the Reforming States Group, a Milbank Memorial Fund health care initiative, and is also a board member of the Public Health Law Association. Until recently, she served on the board of Families USA Foundation. In 1998, Senator Monson was appointed to the National Advisory Council to the National Health Service Corps by then Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. Senator Monson was later appointed chair of the Council and served in that capacity until the spring of 2002.

As a community activist, Senator Monson has worked with elementary schools, churches and other community organizations providing technical support and assistance to many after school programs and other school related initiatives. Additionally, Sen. Monson was among the first youth Board members of the Oklahoma City Urban League. She is an active member of the Voice of Praise Baptist Church, where she serves as Treasurer, Music Coordinator and a choir director.

In 2003, Sen. Monson was recognized in Italy by the Tuscan regional government for her work in human rights and leadership of the National Conference of State Legislature. She was the recipient of the Silver Banner Award, the highest honor conferred by the Tuscan government. Additionally, Sen. Monson has also been honored by the Brazilian and Argentine governments for her work with women's rights organizations in those countries.

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.

Senator Susan Paddack

Susan Paddack received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Colorado and a Master of Education Degree in Secondary Education from East Central University. She earned a Certificate of Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Susan was elected in November 2004 as the State Senator for District 13, which includes Pontotoc, Hughes, portions of Garvin and Coal Counties. She serves as the Majority Whip and Vice-Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Select Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, she serves on the Health and Human Services Committee, Health and Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee, Finance Committee, and Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

Prior to her election, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence employed Susan for nine

years as their Director of Local Education Foundation Outreach. She traveled the state working with LEF boards and tailored presentations and workshops based on each foundation's specific need. She was employed as a secondary science teacher in middle and junior high schools in Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma. She also served as an adjunct faculty member for East Central University's Education Department.

Susan serves in various capacities in local, state, and national volunteer organizations. She served as the 2000-2001 president of the American Medical Association Alliance, and traveled to 32 states as a part of their Speakers' Bureau. On the state level, she is a board member for the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, an executive committee and board member for the Oklahoma Academy, a board member of the Oklahoma Arts Institute and is on the advisory board of governors for the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma. She was named among the 2004 honorees for *The Journal Record's* 50 Making a Difference. She also was a board member of the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy, and was a board member of the Center for Nonprofit Management. Susan served as a board member for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence for many years prior to her employment. She was also on the board of trustees, the executive committee, and chaired the Local Education Foundation Outreach Committee. Susan served as the 1991-92 president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association Alliance.

On the local level, Susan served on the board of the Ada City Schools Foundation where she was previously president, vice-president, and was grant review chair for ten years. She was named the Ada Education Association's 1992 Friend of Education. Susan is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Ada. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Gary, and they are the parents of two children, Geoffrey, 24, and Elizabeth, 21.

Senator Nancy Riley

Senator Nancy Riley serves as the Republican Minority Whip in the Oklahoma State Senate. Riley was elected to the Senate in 2000 representing Tulsa County. Currently she serves on the following committees: Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Social Services, Education, Energy and Environment, Rules, Sunset Review, Transportation, and Veterans and Military Affairs.

Senator Nancy Riley brings her experience as an elementary school teacher in Tulsa to the table when it comes to making decisions about the state's future. Until recently she was a member and building delegate for the Tulsa Classroom Teacher's Association. As such, Nancy was able to be an avenue of information and resources for the teachers in her building and provided a conduit for conflict resolution between administrators and teachers. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for four years and served as the organization's secretary.

In her local community, Nancy was a co-pastor of Stonewood Park Christian Church and member of the Hoover Elementary Parent Teacher Association. She remains active in the Berryhill Parent Teacher Organization, the After Five Republican Women's Club, the Tulsa County Republican Women's Club, the Oklahoma First Ladies' Club, and is an associate member of the Tulsa County Republican Men's Club. She is also a member of the Southwest Tulsa, Sand Springs and Bixby Chambers of Commerce. She further contributes to educational issues as an Education Task Force member of ALEC and is a member of NCSL. She is a member of the Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention and sits on the Minority Teacher Recruitment Committee. She is a Green Country Council of Camp Fire Advisory Board member, a member of Leadership Oklahoma, Class XVII, an advisory member of The Heartland Institute of Chicago, and a member of the Sand Springs Civitan Club.

Representative Susan Winchester

Representative Susan Winchester became Oklahoma's first woman Speaker Pro Tempore when the 50th session of the state Legislature opened in 2005. A Republican lawmaker, Rep. Winchester was elected to represent State House District 47 in 1998.

As Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest position in the House, Winchester is responsible for presiding over the House in the Speaker's absence. She also is an ex-officio voting member of all House committees. Having passed extensive legislation, Winchester has established a reputation for getting things done.

With a bachelor's degree in business education and a master's in human resource management from the University of Oklahoma, Rep. Winchester is a member of numerous local and state organizations promoting leadership development. She currently sits on the board of the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and is a member and former board member of Leadership Oklahoma. She also serves on the selection committee of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

The Chickasha lawmaker was as a finalist for the 2004 Journal Record Woman of the Year. She received the 2004 Exceptional Commitment Award from the Oklahoma Academy of State Goals, the Oklahoma Adoption Coalition Community Leadership Award, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy Hall of Fame. Rep. Winchester also is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and the Pathfinder Award from the Research Institute for Economic Development, and has been named Legislator of the Year by both the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Economic Development Council.

Before her career in politics, Rep. Winchester was an educator and a businesswoman in the agricultural industry. For more ten years, she co-owned and operated American Dusting Company and Chickasha Flying Service, selling the business in 1989. She then served as coordinator for the Adult Training and Development for Canadian Valley Technology Center, then was the Graduate Programs coordinator for Leadership Oklahoma.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Chickasha with their son, Davis. She is a member of the Chickasha, Mustang, and Tuttle Chambers of Commerce, the Grady County Economic Development Council, Rotary International, and the First Presbyterian Church of Chickasha.

District 47 covers portions of Grady and Canadian Counties, including the communities of Chickasha, Tuttle, Amber, Pocasset, and portions of Mustang and Oklahoma City.

Monday – Women in the Judiciary

Nancy Coats

The Honorable Nancy Coats, Oklahoma County District Judge (Active-Retired) was elected to the bench in 1994. She has been a leader in recognizing the need for and working toward the establishment of Mental Health Courts. In 2002, Judge Coats and a task force in Oklahoma County collaborated to establish the first Mental Health Court in Oklahoma.

She was appointed presiding judge of the Mental Health Court in Oklahoma County and has been commended for her work for the rights of the mentally ill by several organizations including: Oklahoma Psychological Association (Distinguished Public Service Citation 2002); Oklahoma County Mental Health Association (Elizabeth C. Holmes Mental Health Service Award 2004); CONTACT Crises Hotline (Outstanding Leadership Award 2002); North Care Center (Anna McBride Leadership Award 2005); Oklahoma Mental Health Consumer Council

(Humanitarian Award 2003); Oklahoma County Bar Association (Community Service Award 2004).

Judge Coats was honored in 2003 by the Junior League of Oklahoma City as Sustainer of the Year. She is a member of Leadership Oklahoma City and was awarded the organization's Paragon Award in 2004 for her volunteer work. The Oklahoma Bar Association recognized Judge Coats in 2002 with its Judicial Excellence Award.

Judge Coats currently serves on the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Board of Trustees, the Oklahoma Bar Association Access to Justice Committee, and the Mental Health Court Advisory Board. She was also recently inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

She is married and the mother of two adult children.

Yvonne Kauger

Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger is a fourth generation Oklahoman from Colony, Oklahoma, who was born in Cordell on August 3, 1937. She was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court on March 11, 1984 by Governor George Nigh. Justice Kauger chairs the Building Committee for the Oklahoma Judicial Center. She served as Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court from January 1997 to December of 1998, and she is the only woman to serve as Vice Chief Justice and Chief Justice on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Kauger has served as Presiding Judge for the Court on the Judiciary, and on the Law School and Bench and Bar Committees of the Oklahoma Bar Association. She founded the Gallery of the Plains Indian in Colony and co-founded Red Earth. She has acted as Symposium Co-ordinator for The Sovereignty Symposium, a seminar on Indian law sponsored by the Oklahoma Supreme Court since its inception in 1987.

Justice Kauger has received many awards including Valedictorian of her high school class in Colony, and first in her class at OCU School of Law, National Delta Zeta of the year for 1988, and Oklahoma City Pioneer Award for 1989. She was the featured speaker at the Twentieth William O. Douglas Lecture Series at Gonzaga University in November 1990. She received an honorary doctorate from OCU in 1991. She has been named a distinguished alumnus by OCU and by Southwestern Oklahoma State University. On June 7, 1999, she was awarded the Herbert Harley Award - "The Effective Administration of Justice" by the American Judicature Society in recognition of her outstanding efforts to improve the administration of justice. She is one of only four Oklahomans to have ever received the award and the only sitting judge. In November of 1999, she was honored by the Oklahoma Bar Association with the Judicial Excellence Award. In March, 2001, Justice Kauger was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. On April 6, 2004 she was named one of the 10 most notable women in Oklahoma City by the Oklahoma City Orchestra League.

Justice Kauger is a member of the District State-Federal Judicial Council and of the Washita County Hall of Fame. She was adopted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma in 1984. In July, 2004 she gave Main Street in Colony, which was built by her great grandfather to Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, OK. Kauger's mother, Alice Bottom Kauger, is an active resident of Teal Ridge Manor. She has a daughter and two grandsons, Jonna Dee Kauger Kirschner.

Reta Strubhar

Reta M. Strubhar is a Judge on the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. She is the first, and only, woman to be appointed to this Court since the formation of the Court in 1907. She was appointed to the Court on July 6, 1993. She served as the Presiding Judge on the Court during the years 1999-2000.

Oklahoma has a bifurcated court system in which the Oklahoma Supreme Court is the highest court in Oklahoma to handle civil appeals and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest court in Oklahoma to handle criminal appeals. The only other state to use this type of system is the state of Texas.

Judge Strubhar attended the Barlesville, Oklahoma public school system. She attended Phillips University, the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University School of Law, obtaining her bachelor's degree in business education, her master's degree in English and her Juris Doctorate.

She taught high school English and business for thirteen years in the Oklahoma City public school system and the Mustang public school system.

After law school, she worked as an assistant attorney general, an assistant district attorney and was in the private practice of law. She taught as an adjunct professor for Southern Nazarene University and was the associate district judge of Canadian County from 1984-1993.

She is married to Richard Strubhar, an attorney, and they have three children: Khristan, an assistant district attorney; Rustin, an attorney with Crowe & Dunlevy law firm; and Michael, a federal officer with Homeland Security. They also have seven grandchildren.

Judge Strubhar is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the National Association of Women Judges. She is a member of the Judges Helping Judges Committee, the Oklahoma Bar Association Law Related Education Committee, the American Inn of Court and served on the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee. She is very active in children's issues and began the state wide young adult legal seminar. She has served on the advisory councils to the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, the Oklahoma Juvenile Authority's Future Focus Committee, the Oklahoma Close-Up Youth Program and has been very active in the Oklahoma Young Lawyer's Mock Trial Program. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Rehnquist recently appointed Judge Strubhar to be the only state judge to sit on the Federal Criminal Rules Committee.

Barbara Swinton

Judge Swinton was appointed Special Judge in November 1996. She served on the domestic docket until November 2002 when she was elected District Judge and was Presiding Judge of the domestic docket. In September 2004, Judge Swinton was assigned to the civil division in Oklahoma County.

Judge Swinton has served as the Oklahoma City Downtown Exchange Club President from 1999-2000, as Block Coordinator for the Redbud Classic from 1995-2003, and as an artist's aid at the Arts Council Art Festival. Judge Swinton is a member of the Oklahoma Trial Judges, serving as President in 2003 and Chairman from 2004-2005. In addition she has been a Legislative Committee Member for the Oklahoma Judicial Conference since 1997, and a member of the Inns of Court, Luther Bohannon Chapter since 2001.

She received her Bachelor's of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1982 and her J.D. from Georgia State University in 1991. After graduation, she practiced with Watson & McKenzie; Riggs, Abney; and David Lee.

Monday Afternoon: Behind the Scenes at the State Capitol

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 Broockey 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 8th 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.

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.

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.

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 married to James Weedn. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Tina Majors

Tina Majors is the President of the Oklahoma City Chapter of NAWBO, National Association of Women Business Owners. She has been the Owner and Finance Director of Majors Management Commercial Real Estate Investment & Development since 1980. In addition, Majors serves as an Adjunct Professor for Career Training and Transition at Oklahoma City Community College.

In the community, Majors serves as a National Founding Partner, Advisory Board member, and Co-Chair of the National Membership Council for WIPP, Women Impacting Public Policy and as Honorary Chairman Oklahoma for NRCC's Business Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Arthritis Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Taxation and Legislative Affairs Committee for The State Chamber, and is a member of the Small Business Council, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Rotary Club 29, and the Salvation Army Auxiliary.

Majors has been honored by the NRCC Business Advisory Council of Washington D.C. as the **2004 Businesswomen of the Year from Oklahoma**. She has received a **Community Service Award** for her dedicated service to the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City and a **Governor's Commendation** in recognition of her service and commitment to the Oklahoma Small Business Community and the State of Oklahoma.

Majors received a Degree in Business Management from Tampa Business College and has had her Oklahoma Real Estate Broker's License since 1990. She has been a resident of Oklahoma City since 1971, has been married to her husband Donald Majors for 33 years and has two sons, D.G. and Troy.

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

“Education”

Fern Green Bowling

Fern Green Bowling serves currently as an Equity and Diversity Specialist at the Oklahoma Department of Career & Technology Education in Stillwater. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Council on Vocational Education in Oklahoma City.

In addition she serves on the Board of Directors and as a Past President for Rural Enterprises, Inc. of Durant, Oklahoma, on the Board of Directors and Past President for Oklahoma CareerTech Foundation, and serves as Charter National President, Past President, Outstanding Member for the Career and Technical Education Equity Council. She also is a past member of the Board of Directors and Chair of Legislative Affairs Committee for the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the American Association of University Women, Stillwater Chapter.

She received her Bachelor's of Science in Business Education, Master's of Science in Business, and Doctorate of Education Administration/Career & Technical Education all from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Representative Sally Kern

Representative Sally Kern was born on November 27, 1946 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She received a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Texas in 1971. She also obtained her teacher certification in social studies with emphasis on government from East Texas State University in 1986.

Kern won election to the Oklahoma House of Representatives from District 84 in 2004. She continues to actively participate in the American Legislative Exchange Council, Eagle Forum, Frontier Country Republican Women, Heart and Hand Ministries, Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Olivet Baptist Church, and Tri-City republican Women's Club.

Currently Representative Kern serves on the following committees: Vice Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education, Business and Economic Development, Common Education, and Health and Human Services.

She is married to Steve Kern, Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church. They have two sons: Jesse and Nathan. Kern's hobbies include golf, playing games, spending time with family and friends, and reading.

Senator Kathleen Wilcoxson

Senator Kathleen Wilcoxson was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, and grew up in Owasso, Oklahoma. She now lives in Oklahoma City with her husband Lynden Wilcoxson, and they have one daughter, Stacy, who attends the University of Oklah

oma. In addition to serving as a state senator, Kathleen is an adjunct professor at Hillsdale Freewill Baptist College and also at the University of Phoenix. Her husband is a retired counselor from the Washington Public Schools in Washington, Oklahoma. He currently serves as president of the Oklahoma Water Color Association and is an award winning artist. Kathleen and Lynden attend the Mustang Assembly of God where she is an adult Sunday school teacher, and he sings in the choir.

Senator Wilcoxson has taught school since 1970 and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the National Advisory Council on Adult Basic Education in 1982 and served four years. She was selected OKC Teacher of the Year in 1990, and also earned her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Oklahoma State University.

Kathleen was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1996, was re-elected in 2000, and ran unopposed in the 2004 elections. She represents Moore, So OKC, Mustang and Yukon.

Kathleen is a member of the Moore, Mustang, South OKC, and Greater OKC Chambers of Commerce. She serves on the Board of trustees for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence which honors outstanding highschool students and teachers. She continues to serve on several boards and task forces throughout her district.

“Health for Women: Issues of Access and Equity”

Representative Jeannie McDaniel

Representative Jeannie McDaniel is serving her first term as State Representative from District 78, representing Tulsa County. Currently Representative McDaniel serves on the Common Education Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

Representative McDaniel attended Tulsa Community college where she earned an Associate's Degree and then the University of Oklahoma where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies. Before running for the State House of Representatives, McDaniel served as the Coordinator of Tulsa Mayor's Office for Neighborhoods and on the Metropolitan Tulsa Citizens Crime Commission. In addition, she was appointed by Governor Brad Henry to serve on the Southern Regional Education Board's Legislative Advisory Council and Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention. McDaniel is a member of Habitat for Humanity, YMCA Tulsa Advisory Board, and Youth Services of Tulsa County.

Representative McDaniel was born on December 10, 1948. She is married to Joe L. McDaniel and they have four children and four grandchildren.

Senator Judy Eason McIntyre

Senator Eason McIntyre describes herself as:

“Sooner Born, Sooner Bred” and when she dies she'll be Sooner dead.” In between, she worked 31 years at DHS, 16 years on School Board, 2 years in the House of Representatives and was recently elected to the Senate.

Judy Eason McIntyre is a native Oklahoman from Tulsa. She attended and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. She received the Bachelor's and Master of Science Degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma.

She served in the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare for 31 years.

Judy Eason McIntyre was elected to the House of Representatives, 49th Legislature, District 73 in 2002. In her position as Representative, she has served on the Common Education Committee, the Higher Education Committee, the Human Services Committee, and the Public Health Committee. In 2002, she was one of sixteen black women from twelve states selected as a Fellow for the NOBEL/Women (National Organization of Black Elected Legislators/Women) for the NOBEL/Women CAWP (Center for American Women and Politics/Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University) Leadership Institute. Senator Judy Eason McIntyre was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 2004. She was named Committee Chair of the Retirement and Group Health Committee and Vice-Chair of Health & Human Resources Committee.

She holds memberships in the following organizations: Member, Vernon AME Church, 1921 Race Riot Design Committee; the Greenwood Re-Development Authority; Tulsa School Board (served 16 years and was former President, Tulsa School Board for two years) the NAACP; CWA (Communication Workers of America) Local #6086, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She has a precious dog named Harry.

Marilyn Murrell

(See bio above)

Marcia Smith

Marcia Smith, BA, CDSVRP, is Executive Director of the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA), Oklahoma's professional membership organization of domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.

She obtained her education in Family Relations and Child Development and Psychology at Oklahoma State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and is a Certified

Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Professional. Formerly, she was director of Women's Crisis Services of LeFlore County.

Marcia sits on the Oklahoma Child Abuse Training, Coordination Council of the State Health Department, the State Health Department Intimate Partner Surveillance Grant Advisory Committee; the Oklahoma State Sex Offender Management Team; the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, of which she was a founding member; Oklahoma Court Appointed Special Advocates Board of Directors; and the Violence Against Women Grant Board of Directors. She is active in the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the National Sexual Assault Resource Sharing Project.

She had a leadership role in the development of the Oklahoma Certified Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Professional project and the establishment of batterer intervention program certification standards at the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Marcia was a Torch Bearer for the 1996 Olympics; the Zonta of Central Oklahoma Woman of the Year and the 2002 recipient of the OCADVSA Ann Lowrance Award. With her leadership the Coalition received the 2002 Oklahoma Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

“Children, Youth and Families”

Representative Lisa Billy

Representative Lisa Johnson-Billy was elected in 2004 to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, representing District 42. Rep. Billy is Chickasaw, Choctaw, & Irish and was born and raised in Oklahoma. She is married to Phillip Billy and they have three children, Masheli Nahinli, and Anoli. Billy received her Bachelor's Degree in Business and Fine Arts from Northeastern State University, and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma.

Billy was inducted into Northeastern State University Hall of Fame in 1989, has received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from Chickasaw Nation Youth Services and was given the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Institute of Child Advocacy in 1991. In addition she was elected to the Chickasaw Legislature from 1997-2002 and currently serves as National Board Member and National Board Liaison for Girl Scouts of the USA. She is responsible for developing "Peacemakers Inc." (youth coalition) while a student at NSU. Her hobbies include family activities, Choctaw dancing, and storytelling to children.

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.

A member of the Oklahoma Women Hall of Fame, 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.

Penny Painter

(See bio above)

Representative Barbara Staggs

Representative Barbara Staggs is a ten-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: Health and Human Services, Retirement Laws, and 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 is married to Ross Staggs, a small business owner in Muskogee. They have two adult sons, Rick and Mathew. She and her husband are members of the First Baptist Church in Muskogee where she teaches a singles Sunday school class.

Monday Evening

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

Katheleen Guzman

Professor Katheleen Guzman served as Visiting Associate Professor at OU during the 1993-94 academic year, and was hired as a permanent member of the OU law faculty in 1994. She has taught property, wills and trusts, Indian land titles, land use, and real estate transactions.

Guzman served as articles editor for the Arkansas Law Review and participated in the Georgetown University Law Center Program in International Law in 1989. Before joining the OU faculty, Professor Guzman worked as a litigation associate for the Philadelphia firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish, and Kauffman. She has been visiting professor of law at Villanova.

A member of the Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Arkansas Bars, Guzman is an active contributor to state and national newsletters published by the real property bar. More extensive scholarship appears in law reviews published by the University of Arkansas, Washington University, the University of California-Davis, the University of Iowa, Arizona State, and the University of Oklahoma. Guzman is currently working on an Oklahoma wills and trusts treatise with Professor Mark Gillett.

Tuesday Morning - Leadership in Action: A Public Policy Simulation

Margaret Ellis

Professor Margaret Ellis received her doctorate in Political Economics from the University of Texas at Dallas and conducts her research on state courts, public policy, and minority representation. She has served as Professor in Residence and Internship Coordinator for James Madison University in Washington, D.C. and is a pre-law advisor. She has coached a national award winning Mock Trial Team and has received several teaching awards. She also is an endorsed consultant for College Board and serves as chair of the Test Development Committee for the College Board College Level Examination of Proficiency (CLEP). She is currently teaching as assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at The University of Oklahoma.

Professor Ellis was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is married to James Sheffield, Department Chair at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas. The couple has four children and spends their leisure time traveling.

Jill Tao

(See Bio Above)

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

Willa Johnson

Willa Johnson was elected to her first term as Ward 7 Councilwoman in April, 1993. She serves on the City's Finance, Economic Development, 5-year Capital Improvement Committees and is chairperson of the Neighborhood Conservation Committee. She maintains an active role

with Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS), MAPS for Kids, and Neighborhood Initiative Program.

She is a Trustee to the Zoo Trust, Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, Oklahoma City Water Trust, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, and Oklahoma Health Foundation. She is a Board member of Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, YMCA Achievers, Oklahoma City Leadership and chairperson for the Local Elected Officials Board of the Central Oklahoma Workforce Program. She is a member of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Johnson is a working member of the Oklahoma Municipal League. She has been an active member of the National League of Cities, serving as member, Vice-Chair, and Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee and was elected to a two year term on the NLC Board of Directors in 2002.

Ms. Johnson is active in a number of community and professional organizations. She is a long time member of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms. Johnson was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Eastern Golf Course, now known as the James E. Stewart Golf Course, in providing for expanded public transportation in far northeast OKC, the rehabilitation of most northeast youth community centers, improvements to numerous northeast streets, drainage channels, and traffic improvements, clean up of Superfund toxic sites, the implementation of the Empowerment Zone program, the development and implementation of the Youth Council of Oklahoma City, development of The First Tee Program, and the revitalization of NE 23rd Street.

Judy Hatfield

Judy Hatfield is a successful business leader in Oklahoma. Her credentials include: BBA from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Real Estate Broker, Certified Public Accountant, CCIM Designee. She has experience in a variety of business fields including her current position as President of Equity Realty. She has served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Oklahoma, Vice-President of First National Bank of Norman, Vice President of TOTCO, a division of Baker International and Plant Controller for Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Judy has been recognized with many awards and honors including: Norman Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year, Outstanding Business and Professional Women's Club President, Who's Who of American Women, Paul Harris Fellow (Rotary International), and the Journal Record's Top 50 Women Making a Difference (2 years in a row).

Some of her extensive leadership roles include: CCIM Institute, National Board of Directors and Executive Committee; Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; President-Sooner Stiletto (Oklahoma Women's Basketball Group for Coach Sherri Coale); Board of Directors, Oklahoma City National Memorial; Past Chairman, Oklahoma State Chamber, Board of Directors 2004, Currently on Board of Directors; Past Chairman, Norman Regional Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; Past Board of Directors, Leadership Oklahoma; Past Board of Directors, Norman Community Foundation. First woman appointed by the governor to the Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Commission (and later became first woman Chairperson).

Judy enjoys being involved and helping her community and state succeed.

Brenda Reneau

A native of Fort Gibson, Brenda Reneau was sworn in as Oklahoma's first female Labor Commissioner in January, 1995. She began serving an unprecedented third term in January, 2003. Her platform has always emphasized wide-spread public education of labor laws instead of narrowly-focused enforcement. Commissioner Reneau's principal interest is in working with private industry to provide effective, long-term safety and health training programs designed to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma workers through reduced workplace injuries and lower workers' compensation costs.

Commissioner Reneau joined a coalition of business leaders and elected officials who worked tirelessly in 2001 for passage of Right To Work. Her 'tell it like it is' approach to all things government hit home with Oklahomans. A Right To Work advocate for many years, Reneau convincingly argued that people have the constitutional guarantees of freedom of association and to own the fruits of their labor.

Crucial to her mission, Commissioner Reneau set out to polish the agency's tarnished, heavy-handed image. She launched an aggressive outreach program to inform Oklahoma businesses of the benefits derived from implementing effective safety and health programs in the workplace. The constructive use of the department's OSHA Consultation Division is estimated to have saved companies \$10 million in workers' compensation costs in fiscal year 1998. In many instances, those savings were then passed on to employees. The "Safety Pays" program is helping companies take the initiative to work with their employees to reduce workplace accidents and lower workers' compensation costs.

As Labor Commissioner, Reneau oversees Oklahoma's labor laws to promote fairness and safety in the workplace. The agency regulates wage and hour laws; enforces child labor laws; ensures that employers provide workers' compensation coverage; administers licensing for the asbestos and welding industries; enforces asbestos abatement regulations; and, inspects pressure vessels and amusement rides, among a long list of other responsibilities.

Commissioner Reneau's philosophy is simple. She believes the Labor Commissioner doesn't need to maintain an adversarial relationship with business in order to protect the welfare of wage earners. Reneau believes that assisting companies to save money and increase the bottom line will result in higher wages, improved benefits and increased jobs.