

31st Annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Winning Essays

Best Essays, Grades 6-7

1. **First place:** General category
Author: Kassidi Long
Home city: Knoxville, Iowa
School: Prairie City-Monroe (PCM) Middle School (Prairie City)
Teacher: Jennifer Ropes
Subject: Valerie Corson
1. **First place:** STEM category
Author: Sophie Hoffmeier
Home city: Polk City, Iowa
School: North Polk Middle School (Alleman)
Teacher: Sarah Seligman
Subject: Marie Curie
2. **Second place**
Author: Adeline Coenen
Home city: Dubuque, Iowa
School: Thomas Jefferson Middle School (Dubuque)
Teacher: Laura Lenz
Subject: Carrie Chapman Catt
3. **Third place**
Author: Ellie Wilson
Home city: Ankeny, Iowa
School: Prairie Ridge Middle School (Ankeny)
Teacher: John Stratton
Subject: Annie Wittenmeyer

Best Essays, Grades 8-9

1. **First place:** General category
Author: Kari Swanson
Home city: Sioux City, Iowa
School: North High School (Sioux City)
Teacher: Korey Cantrell
Subject: Mildred Wirt Benson
1. **First place:** STEM category
Author: Daisy Sieven
Home city: Sioux City, Iowa

School: North High School (Sioux City)
Teacher: Korey Cantrell
Subject: Temple Grandin

2. Second place

Author: Elisa Sturgeon
Home city: Sioux City, Iowa
School: North High School (Sioux City)
Teacher: Korey Cantrell
Subject: Marti Anderson

3. Third place

Author: Andie Exline
Home city: Dubuque, Iowa
School: Stephen Hempstead High School (Dubuque)
Teacher: Marcya Grudzina
Subject: Caroline Herschel

Long, Kassidi

Valerie Corson, Superhero

Have you ever met a real life superhero? I have and her name is Valerie Corson! Valerie Corson is a superhero to the students of PCM Middle School. She uses her super powers of guidance, compassion, and wisdom to help students succeed and get through rough times. Some of her many super powers are giving advice without solving our problems for us, the ability to teach us to be a great friend to others, showing us how to become bully-stoppers, and being an all-around force of goodness in our school. Her superpowers have helped our school and our community “fly”, rocketing to the top with success.

Mrs. Corson has done so much for this school. Usually, new middle school students feel nervous. When I was new, I was scared. I worried that I might not make friends or I may be bullied. Middle school students sometimes feel stress managing their different classes, staying organized, and getting along with other students. That’s when they go to their guidance counselor, Mrs. Corson. She talks to students about their problems, and makes them feel better about themselves, then she helps them come up with solutions to solve the problem. When the problem is solved students are so relieved and they can focus on school. Mrs. Corson’s super powers of wisdom and problem solving helped me make friends by showing me a table of nice students to sit by at lunch, and now they’re my best friends. I am no longer scared because I have adjusted to middle school. Mrs. Corson is there when we need her.

Mrs. Corson was born in Marshalltown, IA on August 14, 1981. She is in her seventh year as a guidance counselor. Her job involves meeting with students, staff, and parents. She assists kids in making the right choices, she works with them through emotional times, and is always working at keeping the school a safe environment for students. Mrs. Corson wanted to be a

guidance counselor because she knew she wanted to work with youth, and she wanted to help others. During an interview with Mrs. Corson she explained that, “students face many challenges, including negative peer influences, struggles at home, and high expectations to perform well at school regardless of their individual academic skill sets.” Mrs. Corson went on to say, “students are discovering who they are, what kind of person they want to be, and learning valuable friendship skills.” She says that some parts of her job can be difficult, but she always makes time in her day to meet with students, and accomplish her jobs.

The biggest part of her job is providing the guidance needed, or often times missing, so students can grow successfully and be confident in their personal, social, and academic skills. She explains, “many challenges happen on an “as you learn” type of situation, so navigating through their mistakes and experiences are crucial to their development.” Mrs. Corson always enjoys her time with students, teachers, and parents. One part of her job, she especially enjoys, is working with students, making their plans for the future, creating both academic and career goals. Mrs. Corson is always setting goals herself, and she is constantly reaching for the stars and unlocking her own full potential. Mrs. Corson’s biggest accomplishment has been “becoming a mother, as it benefited me as I get to spend every day asking myself, what can I do to have a positive impact on my kids?”

Sometimes my family has struggles and Mrs. Corson has been there when we needed some help. We did not have many clothes, food, or toiletry items, so she had had my brother and I come in and pick out some nice clothing. Then a few weeks later, on the last day of school before winter break, she and some others gave my family a Christmas dinner and she even gave us some presents which consisted of clothes, toys, books, and bathroom care items. It was a huge help, and we had had an even better Christmas than we would have had without her help. When I

have problems with other students, or I'm having a bad day, and I just need to talk to someone, she is the one I always go to. She is my hero. I want to help other people like she has helped me.

Mrs. Corson doesn't think she is a superhero. She just thinks she is just an average person doing her job. In our interview she said, "I truly am just an average person doing the same thing as many different women in this world. I cannot justify what makes me "stand out" apart from other women in this world, but I can focus on my own expectations and stand-out in my world. By doing that, my self-worth and accomplishments are undeniable!" Mrs. Corson is shaping the future for the students of PCM with a positive impact that will help them become better people in the future. She should be written into history because she has made an impact on the youth of Iowa who will become the role models and leaders of Iowa's future and will shape other children's lives when they become adults. The better the role model, the better the future.

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Hoffmeier, Sophie

Marie Curie

“All my mind was centered on my studies. All that I saw and learned that was new delighted me. It was like a new world opened to me, the world of science, which I was at last permitted to know in liberty.” This is a quote from Marie Curie, the woman who discovered the elements radium and polonium, and made an impact on the whole world of science. Let’s weave her back into history.

Marie Curie is a significant leader in history. *“The Curies could have made a fortune... for producing radium but, as poor as they were, they did not wish to take personal advantage of their discovery. They revealed their secrets to the world in the interests of humanity, and a method was devised for treating cancer patients with radium.”* This is a quote from Norman Wymer from the *Inventors Book*. This was very inspiring because Marie and Pierre did not want the money for their long, hard, work. Marie struggled a bit to get the one piece of evidence that she needed. At her time, women couldn’t get second degrees in anything. But Marie performed so well above her classmates that she got her degrees in physics, math, and French. She was one of the few women to do so in Europe. Marie was also the woman who worked relentlessly to prove radium’s existence. Once she found it, she gave away her samples to scientists like Henri Becquerel, and Ernest Rutherford. The three scientists were great friends, and when it came to World War I, Marie had mobile x-rays to help the wounded. She the great scientist of her time, along with her husband Pierre. The two worked together until Pierre’s death in 1906. After his death, Marie worked on the Radium Institute, until she died in 1934. Marie’s leadership has inspired women all over to do great things. I have been very inspired by her work. This led me to

be a chemistry person. I dream about my future, and how much of Marie's work has been put into it.

Marie Curie's work proves she was a great woman not only to science, but also to the world. But, she did have trouble to work her way up. *"Think of it, I am learning chemistry from a book. You can imagine how little I get out of that, but what can I do? I have no workspace to do experiments."* She wrote this in a letter to her brother, Jozef, in 1888. But Marie did not give up. Her tireless effort to get that radium sample comes to show her college skills and degree helped her. She needed them in order to prove the existence of two elements: radium and polonium. Along with her husband Pierre, the pair used all the skill and equipment they had, and they produced a tenth of a gram of radium. This took her many years, after all college was expensive. But once they had found radium there was no stopping. Marie, used her skillfulness to use radium in different things, like x-rays. She worked harder and harder so her skills would be better for the future. She had to produce more and more radium, so she had to extract it from pitchblende, a rock that contains radium and polonium. With her husband, the pair produced and shared their samples to the world. With her methods and skills, Marie was able to use her knowledge and put it to work. During World War I, she worked with mobile x-rays to find and heal any wounds. She had to be careful, as effects of radium were spreading across. When she started the Radium Institute, her skills were needed more than ever, to produce radium. Marie's talent and skill left an impact on not only the world, but as an individual, I am greatly impacted. I wish to add on to Marie's studies, and like she, I will have a little trouble getting my way up.

Through Marie's characteristics, she became a leader for women and for the world. By discovering two new and main radioactive elements, the world could explore with it. Think of it, without radioactivity, or Marie's discoveries, the world would have no equipment for healing or

finding wounds. Cancer treatment would be harder, since we use radiation. Marie proved herself to scientists that women are just as great as men. Her leadership is still used today, in technology, science, and many other things we have today. Just think, no Marie Curie, no radioactivity, no technology today. The technology we have now is because of Marie then. This is why Marie's hard work deserves to be woven back into our lives and our history.

"I have a lively memory of that sympathetic atmosphere of social and intellectual comradeship. The means of action were poor and the results obtained could not yet be very considerable; and yet I persist in believing that the ideas that then guided us are the only ones, which can lead to sure social progress. We cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individual. Towards this end, each of us must work toward his own highest development, accepting at the same time his share of responsibility in the general life of humanity-our particular duty being to help those to whom we feel we can be most useful."

~ Marie Curie, a letter dated in 1924.

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Coenen, Adeline

Carrie Chapman Catt

"In the adjustment of the new order of things, we women demand an equal voice; we shall except nothing less." Those were the wise words of Carrie Chapman Catt. She helped people see past gender, and look at who they were. Carrie Chapman Catt was one of the people who pushed to have the 19th amendment approved. She, along with Susan B. Anthony, helped the United States include women in political decisions. Without them, the United States wouldn't be the same. It probably would still only have men running it. Now, thanks to Carrie Chapman Catt, the world is more equal. Women can vote as well as men, women can get educated and can have a job instead of only staying at home and taking care of the family. She gave women a new option: to vote.

Carrie Chapman Catt was born on January 9th, 1859 in Ripon, Wisconsin and died on March 9th, 1947 in New Rochelle, New York. She moved to a farm near Charles City, Iowa when she was seven years old. In the 1872 presidential election, she began to wonder why her father could vote, but her mother could not. Before the Civil War, the only people that were legally able to vote were Caucasian males that were over the age of 21 or men who could show proof of military service. Rules were very strict back then. Carrie graduated high school in just three years, and went on to get a bachelors degree in general science. During her time at college, she helped start military drills and she was the first woman to give a speech before a debating society. In 1885, she married a newspaper editor by the name of Leo Chapman. He died in 1886, while visiting California. After his death, Carrie took a job as a newspaper reporter in San Francisco, California, and returned to Iowa in 1887 to earn a living and to begin working to

“change people’s minds about woman’s function in society.” Thirteen years after she moved back, she married her second husband, George Catt.

Although she was the first girl to give a speech before a debate discussion, that wasn’t enough for her. Carrie Chapman Catt was also the first woman to give the commencement address at Iowa State University. She also took jobs usually reserved for men. Her first job was at a law firm. Next, she became one of the first female school superintendents. Then, in 1881, she became the principal of Mason High School. After her second husband's death in 1905, Carrie Chapman Catt was able to devote all of her life to the women's suffrage movement. She also became financially independent. Carrie Chapman Catt worked alongside Susan B. Anthony, but took her position in 1900 as the president of National American Woman Suffrage Association for four years. She did leave to be with her dying husband, but then took the position once again in 1915.

My life wouldn’t be the same without Carrie Chapman Catt's actions. When I get older, I wouldn’t be able to vote, or get all of the jobs or education I am able to now. I wouldn’t have all of the opportunities I have today. Even though I am only twelve years old, she has helped me in many ways. She dedicated her life to helping women succeed in life. Thirty years of her life were spent working on the women's suffrage movement. Her main focus in life was to help women later in life. I appreciate all of her dedication. She has helped many women all across the United States and maybe in the world!

Carrie Chapman Catt: that is a name you should remember. She showed men that women are able to be successful, too. She just wanted men and women to be equal, and she worked hard to achieve that. Without her help and the help of women like Susan B. Anthony, women most

likely wouldn't be voting today or working outside of their houses. She accomplished many things in her life, and both men and women should be very grateful.

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Wilson, Ellie

Gracious Acts to Iowa's People and Society

Annie Wittenmyer

There are numerous women that should be written back into history, many of them with arduous efforts to enhance the quality of Iowa. One of the many wondrous women that I recognized is Annie Wittenmyer. She made a difference in Iowa by serving for the wounded and the soldiers' orphans. Annie Wittenmyer was born in 1827. She was deeply concerned about sanitation, education, and the wounded. Although she was not born in Iowa she eventually moved to Iowa. Annie taught us to care for others; young and old. She encouraged many others to follow in her footsteps and protect people.

Annie Wittenmyer should be written back into history for her cordial and thoughtful accomplishments throughout her life. Annie Wittenmyer was born in Sandy Springs, Ohio on August 26, 1827. About twenty years later, she married and eventually moved to Keokuk, Iowa. Shortly after Annie relocated to Iowa she learned that there were no public schools and only wealthy families could pay for their children to attend private schools. Annie believed strongly that education was key to a great future and childhood for everyone. In 1853 Annie started a tuition-free school. Many children were enrolled in her school. Others were inspired by what Annie was doing so they helped support the school. As the country entered the Civil War many wounded soldiers were taken to Keokuk for medical attention. Annie volunteered her time to care for these soldiers. While there she learned of the hardships the soldiers faced; bad food, filthy campsites, and worry about their loved ones. In 1861 the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society was formed and Annie became a very active member. She traveled to countless army camps and

wrote letters describing the conditions the soldiers were in. Annie distributed more than 150,000 dollars' worth of supplies to the soldiers. One year later, the Ninth General Assembly appointed Annie to the Iowa State Sanitary Commission. As the state's first Sanitary Agent Annie continued to report unclean conditions and request supplies. She also took the job of writing letters to the families of soldiers who were wounded or killed. Nearing the end of the civil war Annie started taking care of the orphans left by the war. Many efforts were made to provide centers and homes for orphans. Long worried about food sanitation, Annie asked the United States Christian Commission to help set up a special dietary kitchen system. Annie Wittenmyer died on February 2, 1900 with a life full of challenges to make life better for everyone and accomplishments that have continued to affect our society in a positive way.

Annie Wittenmyer accomplished so many things that have helped people even today. Still not many people know about her. Many people can learn from her and from this essay by understanding who Annie is and what she has done to others and realize anyone can be compassionate to others and make a difference. This unsung hero has affected our society and people in the past, today, and yet to come. Annie encourages me to care for everyone. Her acts of genuine kindness inspired me and others to look around, to save someone, to help and love through every tough time.

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Swanson, Kari

Mildred Wirt Benson

I remember the first day I picked up a yellow, hard cover book entitled, *Nancy Drew Mystery Stories: The Secret of the Old Clock*. Little did I know that from then on, I would be forever hooked onto the amateur detective Nancy Drew, and her mysterious adventures. I didn't know I would be spending each night reading way past my bed time telling my mom, "Just one more chapter, I promise!" I didn't know that these books would later make me feel like a strong woman who could do anything, but they did. These Nancy Drew mysteries that have sparked the creativity and love for adventure were written by Mildred Wirt Benson, better known by her pseudonym, Carolyn Keene. Mildred Wirt Benson, an author and journalist, paved the idea of an independent woman just by writing books, and should be written back into Iowa's history.

Benson was born and raised in Ladora Iowa, a small rural town. After graduating from our own University of Iowa for journalism, she spent the rest of her life as a journalist in Illinois ("Mildred Wirt Benson." The Writing University). Right after graduating from college, Benson was signed on to work for an editor, Edward Stratemeyer, where the first Nancy Drew mystery was born in early 1930's. As only a 24 year old women, Benson's publisher assigned her with the basic plots of the first four books. From there, Benson published a grand total of 22 Nancy Drew Mysteries, each growing more and more popular with each release ("Mildred Wirt Benson." Times. 40). Unfortunately, due to contracting, she was not allowed to revel herself as the famous writer of the Nancy Drew to the public for 50 more years. When she testified in a lawsuit against her former publisher, she was finally revealed as the famous author. Once the

news was released, she became an instant celebrity (“Mildred Wirt Benson.” The Writing University).

Mildred Benson did not only write over 130 different books under many pseudonyms, but she also received a Master’s degree in journalism from the University of Iowa, the first woman to ever do so. She later continued the career of journalism after writing many books up until her death in 2002 at the ripe age of 96 (“Mildred Wirt Benson.” Times. 40).

Nancy Drew is an awe-inspiring, confident character- the typical heroine, but it was just what girls in the 20’s and 30’s needed to read, so they could believe in their own potential (Fisher). In this period of time, women were finally experiencing their new freedom and voting rights brought upon by the 19th and 20th amendments. They were called “Modern Women,” and they were finally stepping out of the normal stay at home house-wife to jumping in to the job market (“The Twenties in Contemporary Commentary”). Nancy Drew was the ideal example of the “Modern Woman.” She was feisty, smart, and most importantly, an independent young women, perfectly capable of taking care of herself. As Mildred Benson said herself, “Nancy’s break from the traditional came at the right time, for girls were ready for something more, something they had aspired for but had not yet achieved” (qtd. in Fisher). Mildred not only gave the young women of the 30’s a role model to look up to, but women from every generation have passed down the spirit of Nancy. Even women from the 40’s, 80’s, and girls from my generation have summoned the timeless spirit of Nancy Drew in their own situations (Fisher). Where could Mildred Benson have found the ideas to create such a dynamic character? The answer is in herself. Jennifer Fisher, a women who interviewed Benson herself, said that Mildred is Nancy. From golfing, to swimming, and even piloting a plane herself, Fisher says, “She is still the same

vivacious, charming, and forthright women today that she was many years ago, when she set out to create something new...giving a life and passionate voice to Nancy Drew” (qtd. in Fisher).

Nancy Drew gave me a person to look up to, someone that I strived to be. From the third grade to the fifth grade, I was *convinced* that one day I would be a detective, fighting crime and solving mysteries. I even dressed up as her for Halloween, complete with a magnifying glass and hat that I thought looked “detectivey”. I lived and dreamed Nancy Drew, and I can only thank Mildred Wirt Benson for that. Mildred made girls in all generations dream. She made them want to become something more than they ever thought they could be.

Mildred Benson, a small town Iowa girl, achieved many great things. Not only was she a journalist, but she was also a visionary who created a character just ahead of her time. She made young girls realize what their own potential was. Even though Benson is no longer with us, Nancy Drew will continue to live in the hearts of all women and children, teaching them to be themselves now, and in many generations to come.

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Sieben, Daisy

Temple Grandin

By age eight, one in eighty-eight children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, or ASD (“Autism Fact Sheet”). ASD is a very common problem without an absolute cause or cure.

Despite this widespread issue, some parents of autistic children didn’t know how to teach their child basic skills (Farwell). Temple Grandin is important because she helped bring understanding and awareness to the state of the autistic mind.

Autism is a disease that can impair social skills and understanding between people to varying degrees. The most severe form of autism is ASD, while another form, Asperger syndrome is to a milder degree. People with ASD have an inability to understand discussion skills like body posture and facial clues during conversation. Autistic people may also panic; to calm themselves down, they may spin in circles or engage in self-harming behavior like biting. As mentioned earlier, by age eight, one in eighty eight children have autism. Despite the amount of people with ASD, four out of five of them are male (“Autism Fact Sheet”). Grandin has also said, “Some of it’s increased detection, but I think severe autism has actually increased.” (qtd. in Farwell). The lacking social skills of an autistic mind have caused it to become a mystery, but Grandin’s lectures, interviews, etc. have helped widen the understanding of the autistic mind.

Temple Grandin’s life was not always easy, but she worked hard to not only succeed, but change the world around her for the better. She was three-and-one-half when her doctor told her mother, Eustacia that she had autism (Farwell, and “Temple Grandin” 6). Due to her autistic limitations, Grandin was kicked-out of schools growing up. Later, when she was a teenager, she went to a boarding school in New Hampshire that was specially equipped to handle the people who ride the “short bus”. During her time there, Grandin’s eidetic, or photographic, memory was

discovered (“Temple Grandin” 6). Only about ten percent of people with ASD are savants, or an expert that is gifted in something. (Grandin and Panek 56). In between her school and college, she went to stay with her aunt on a cattle farm. Fascinated by the cows, she found she could relate to them, due to her autism (“Temple Grandin” 6). In her own words, “I can immediately spot the paper cup that is going to spook the cattle, while the neurotypicals all around me don’t even notice it.” (Grandin and Panek 56). She went on to earn her doctorate in animal sciences, which she used to make slaughter houses more humane (“Temple Grandin” 6). To this day Temple Grandin gives lectures and writes articles on autism and how to understand people with it (“Temple Grandin” 6, and Farwell).

Temple Grandin improved the understanding between ordinary minds and autistic cognitive function. One of the ways she helped with the exposure and understanding of autism is by lecturing crowds on ASD. Since she has autism, she isn’t guessing how autistic people think she knows. She tells of her own experiences with autism and also gives guiding advice to people with autistic children. For example, some modern autism patients aren't learning manners or social practices. During a Portland lecture, Grandin has said, “The worst approach to take with autistic kids is to stick them in a corner and them to languish.” (qtd. in Farwell). Even with ASD, Grandin’s social skills have improved enough to inspire people and raise awareness to a disease shrouded in mystery (“Temple Grandin” 6).

Again, the cause(s) and cure for ASD are unknown; that is a big dilemma for people with this widespread disease. Grandin’s work led to a greater understanding, and that helps enormously to parents and patients with ASD or autistic children. She has set a guideline to follow when speaking to autistic people, and has also helped people with ASD interact with the ordinary population. Nearly everybody knows someone, or of someone with autism. With the help of

Temple Grandin, they are not just put into a home, which is what Eustacia was told to do with Temple. Like Hellen Keller, she is looked up to worldwide for overcoming a disease through hard work and inspiring others to do the same.

I believe that Temple Grandin's work matters because she helps others understand people everywhere (not necessarily autistic). I'm not autistic, but I am a little socially awkward sometimes. I don't usually say the right thing, and yet I keep talking. During my life, all 15 years of it, I've seen people who have autism try to live everyday life. Grandin overcame her autism, and I believe that that is a great accomplishment. I used to attend White Tiger, a school of martial arts. During the summer program there, everyone would go to the park. One of those times, I remember an autistic little girl who was adorable, but she kept cutting in line for the tire-swing. Angry, I confronted her, but she didn't seem to understand that everyone else was waiting too. No one really knew how to handle her, and the various articles I've found for this report have helped me learn. Grandin is helping children fit in, just by speaking.

Overall, Temple Grandin is important because she helped bring understanding and awareness to the state of the autistic mind. Her entire life, she has worked to overpower her disabilities, the most prominent one being ASD. She has inspired young, elderly, autistic, and ordinary people to overcome their handicaps and work toward their goals. She has guided people towards a more understanding mindset. History shouldn't forget her, as her disability made her strong.

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Sturgeon, Elise

Marti Anderson

The air was brisk in Des Moines, Iowa on January 11, 2015. It was a Sunday, and my thoughts were still focused on the state debate tournament the day before in Ankeny. The air in Chef's Kitchen was warm, but the atmosphere was even warmer when Marti walked through the door. Marti Anderson is a state representative for Iowa's 36th district in Polk County. Her contributions for the state of Iowa in the fields of social work, child abuse, and women's rights in general have affected the lives of thousands of Iowans.

As the youngest child of six, I had a basic knowledge of my parent's lives in the past, but naturally there were a few things of which I was completely unaware. As a young child I had always heard my parents say that they "went to visit Marti and Bram this weekend." Little could I know as a child the history that Marti helped create through legislation reform my dad brought to the Iowa legislature.

Chef's Kitchen was a delightful small restaurant in Des Moines, and was one that Marti (as I have always known her) had attended quite often. It was around 9 in the morning, as my mom and I waited for Marti to come and join us at the back table. I had already known basic information about Marti from talking to my dad. Marti Anderson is in her second term as a state representative for Polk County. She lives in Des Moines with her husband of 21 years, Bob Brammer and has 2 step-children named Alissa (a political researcher) and Gabe (an astrophysicist). Marti is the oldest of 5 children, her dad was a salesman and her mom was a nurse and as Marti said, her family "puts the fun in dysfunction." (Anderson).

Marti started her lifelong career in social work at Broadlawns Medical Center and began as a volunteer and director of Polk County Victim Services which is now called Crisis and Advocacy. She was the first service director at the Polk County Family Violence Center, and she helped in organizing Prevent Child Abuse Iowa. In 2005 she received recognition from the Young Woman's Christian Association for being a Des Moines Woman of Achievement. Even more prestigious, in 2011 she received the Christine Wilson Medal of Equality and Justice from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. Marti is also proud of her contributions in campaigning across Iowa which has led to half of the Democrats in the Iowa House of Representatives being women. However, some of her most important contributions for victims of domestic violence is from her work lobbying for state legislation and her work in the attorney general's office ("Marti Anderson").

The division of the attorney general's office that Marti worked for was in Crime Victim Assistance. When she arrived, this division of the attorney general's office had a total of 6 employees and around \$912,000 as a budget. After 22 years in this line of work Marti had managed to help move resources to this division, leaving the office with 25 employees and around \$20 million for service of programs. Although Marti retired from the Attorney General's office in 2011, her impact will last throughout the state by helping Victims of Crimes seek refuge (Anderson).

One of the reasons that Marti decided to retire was so that she pursue a career in the Iowa House of Representatives and take the seat of Janet Peterson when she decided to run for Iowa Senate. Although Marti was not new to Iowa politics, as I found out when I talked to my dad. One bill in particular that Marti helped to write and defend was one of the first pieces of legislation seriously dealing with domestic abuse in 1991. When this bill passed it included provisions to increase

domestic abuse shelters, required a mandatory arrest for the primary aggressor in cases where the police are called, and a mandatory two day jail sentence for the aggressor. It also made it easier for a victim to get a protection order without a lawyer or great expense and made it a requirement that all aggressors convicted attend a batterer's education program. Marti constantly contributed to every aspect of this bill including writing, passage, and execution (Sturgeon).

Marti Anderson is important to me because of her work for women. Her work is helping Iowa families reshape their lives, protecting children involved in domestic violence, and restoring hope to victims of domestic abuse ("Restoring Hope, Building Futures"). It is comforting to know that my family, friends, and I have the reassurance that no matter what happens, Marti is fighting for our rights in the Iowa House of Representatives. As we sit in Chef's Kitchen, Marti begins to talk about the new session of the Iowa legislature that is to begin the following day.

Marti said that she thinks the "discussions will be richer" because of the number of women in the House of Representatives and together they all can help create solutions (Anderson). Marti is also important to me because as a student involved in student congress, she is showing me that it is actually possible for a young woman like me to achieve her dreams in politics. Maybe one day the entire United States government may be more widely represented by great women like Marti, but only by following the example set by and her colleagues can we expect this to happen.

As we finish our breakfasts and receive the checks we say our final farewells. We get up to leave, she thanks me, and invites me back to the capitol sometime to see a real legislative session. But maybe because of Marti, I'll be able to earn my own seat in the Iowa General Assembly.

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Exline, Andie

Caroline Herschel

Everyone knows of the planet, Uranus, but not many would be able to name who discovered it. Even more people would be surprised the person who helped prove its existence, was a woman. Caroline Herschel discovered a planet, several comets and asteroids during the last half of her life. She deserves to be written back into history because her discoveries are important to science but few people know of her.

She was born on March 16, 1750 in Hanover, Germany. Two childhood diseases had an enormous effect on her. Small pox caused her to have a lazy eye and Typhus stunted her growth to 4'3". Her mother denied her and her sister an education because she wanted them to be house servants. Her father would give them secret lessons behind their mother's back. Her father always said Lina would never be married because she wasn't "handsome enough". When she was 17, her father passed away and her mother finally made her into the servant that she always wanted her to be. A neighbor would still occasionally teach her marketing, English and how to cook. Eventually, Lina moved to Bath, England to be her brother, Frederic Wilhelm's (known as Will), housekeeper and assistant. but she took voice lessons and became a well-known soprano and sang professionally on the opera stage. Lina would get upset when she had to pause her music for polishing mirrors and glass. However, she eventually abandoned her singing for science.

When her brother, Will, was named the King's Astronomer in 1782 and he encouraged Caroline to begin her own studies. In some of her free time, Lina trained herself in geometry, learned formulas and studied logarithmic tables. She also gained an understanding of sidereal

time (measuring time by using stars). Together, Will and Caroline mapped the distance to stars in many directions and determined that the Milky Way was disc-like and a cloud of stars. Their most important discovery was the planet, Uranus, which at the time was called "Georgium" after King George III.

When her brother, Will, got married, Caroline had more time to discover things on her own because Will was never around. On August 1, 1786, she discovered her first comet and became history's first woman to make this a discovery of this nature. The comet is known as "First Lady's Comet." The second comet she discovered was on December 21, 1788. This second comet was also "discovered" by another person named Rigollet in 1939. The comet is named "The Herschel-Rigollet" and it returns every 155 years. Caroline also discovered the Andromeda Galaxy and Cetus constellation. On February 26, 1783, she discovered an open cluster known today as NGC 2360 along with 14 new nebulae, including NGC 205. In 1787, King George III officially made Caroline Will's assistant and provided her with a modest salary of 50 pounds annually. It made her the first woman paid for scientific services. When her brother passed away, she moved back to Hanover, Germany and finished two astronomical catalogs that were published and are still being used today.

She was the first woman to be officially recognized in a major scientific position. She received the honorary membership into Britain's prestigious Royal Society, the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, and became an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy. The King of Prussia gave her the Gold Medal of Science. After receiving her last award, she died at the age of 98 on January 9, 1848. After her death, her fame began to spread and she had a Lunar Crater named C. Herschel and an asteroid, named after her middle name, Lucretia.

She had an extremely rough childhood and became an amazing astronomer in the long run. She grew up being taught behind her mother's back by her father. I think she is really inspiring because she practically figured out everything on her own, with some help from her brother. When she was denied an education by her mother and other people didn't think that women could do this type of job, she proved them wrong. She wasn't worried about what people would think about her. It's really impressive because most adults nowadays still need help on their work and figuring things out.

I know you are probably thinking "Why should anyone care?" You should care because Caroline practically started the idea of women being able to be important contributors in science. She proves that if you work hard enough for something it will pay off. It seems to me that Caroline Herschel made a lot of important advances and discoveries in astronomy and even was somewhat acknowledged for them, yet, I've never heard of her before. Have you? That doesn't seem right, does it? It's these women the past who have made everything better for the women today and have given us the motivation to be whatever we want to if we work hard enough for it.

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