

# GeoTech



**LECTURE SERIES *presents***

## **Women's Empowerment Conference** **Monday, October 16, 2017**

*Equipping girls with the confidence, resiliency, and leadership skills needed to achieve their goals and improve their communities.*

**Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Leslie Dewan**  
National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer  
Nuclear Engineer  
Entrepreneur

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**



**NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY**

**iGNiTE**

POLITICAL POWER IN EVERY YOUNG WOMAN

# THE FIRST GEOTECH WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

## Monday, October 16, 2017

The conference will empower our girls to aspire to leadership within our school, our community, our nation, and our planet. Respected and inspirational women from all walks of life tell their story and promote intergenerational mentorship and intercultural collaboration, helping to equip girls with the confidence, resiliency, and leadership skills needed to achieve their goals and improve their communities.

### Program

**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**Check in**

**Cafeteria**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Questions and Answers**

**Monsignor Milam J. Joseph Auditorium**

**9:35 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

***We All Belong Here***

***What Matters to You?***

**Classrooms**

**10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

***What Is Your Vision***

**Classrooms**

**11:05 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.**

**Lunch and Sign Up for Sessions**

**Cafeteria**

**12:05 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.**

**Sessions**

**Classrooms**

**1:05 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.**

**Sessions**

**Classrooms**

**2:05 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Closing Activity**

**Classrooms**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# DR. LESLIE DEWAN



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Dr. Leslie Dewan is a co-founder and the Chief Executive Officer of Transatomic Power, a nuclear reactor design company developing safe and environmentally friendly power plants that run entirely on nuclear waste. She received her Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from MIT in 2013, with a research focus on computational nuclear materials. She also holds degrees from MIT in mechanical engineering and nuclear engineering. Leslie has been awarded an MIT Presidential Fellowship and a Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship. She is a member of the MIT Corporation, MIT's board of trustees. She was named a TIME Magazine "30 People Under 30 Changing the World," a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, an MIT Technology Review "Innovator Under 35," and a Forbes "30 Under 30" in Energy.

Dr. Dewan is helping revolutionize the nuclear power industry. She and MIT colleagues have designed a new type of nuclear reactor, which is a safer, more efficient alternative to the current light water reactors in use today. Called the "Waste-Annihilating Molten-Salt Reactor," Dewan's design is based on molten-salt reactors that were originally proposed in the 1950s as a way to power aircraft. The main advantage of molten-salt reactors is that they use liquid rather than solid fuel, making them more efficient and safer. The original molten-salt prototypes, however, were bulky, expensive and had a low power density. Dewan has introduced new materials and a new shape that allowed her to increase power output by 30 times.

With the Waste-Annihilating Molten-Salt Reactor, 96 percent of the energy can be extracted, compared to only 3 or 4 percent with conventional reactors. By extracting more of the energy, the radioactive life of the majority of the waste can be reduced to just a few hundred years, compared to conventional nuclear waste that is radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. An environmentalist at heart, Dewan says we need nuclear power if we are to have any hope of reducing fossil fuel emissions and preventing climate change.

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

### MARGO McCLINTON STOGLIN, TEXAS STATE DIRECTOR, IGNITE



Margo comes from a long career in the non-profit and educational sectors, with experience in operations, communications, fundraising, governance, and human resources. Margo has served in higher education positions at Paul Quinn College, Southern Methodist University, Washington and Lee University, Florida State University, and Washington University in St. Louis. Margo holds a bachelor of arts degree from Emory University, a master's degree in education from Harvard University, a MBA from The University of Texas at Dallas, and a doctorate from Florida State University. She has been recognized by *The Dallas Business Journal*,

Clubcorps, and Who's Who in Black Dallas, Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. She is part of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2012, Sustainer of the Dallas Junior League, Member of the Fort Worth Rotary, former Board Member of Granger Ministry, and volunteer at several nonprofits in the DFW area.

### GENAI WALKER-MACKLIN, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, MORGAN STANLEY WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Genai Walker-Macklin, a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley, is from Arkansas. She was a standout scholar athlete and was offered numerous basketball and academic scholarships. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Central Arkansas with a bachelor of science degree with honors in mathematics and sociology. After college, Genai was recruited by Coates Sports Management to play basketball professionally. She played in Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Switzerland, as well as Spanish Islands Mallorca, Ibiza, and Tenerife for eight years. Genai continued to work in the finance industry while on break in-

between seasons. She also achieved her master's degree in science and certification in Spanish studies while living abroad and playing tough basketball schedules.

In 2012, Genai retired from playing professionally and moved to Texas to focus on her financial career, joining Morgan Stanley. She is passionate about animal rescue, competitive basketball, Kiwanis Club of Garland, The City of Garland, and the advancement of diverse groups.

### MARY VALADEZ, SENIOR GRANTS DIRECTOR, DALLAS WOMEN'S FOUNDATION



Mary Valadez is the senior grants director at The Dallas Women's Foundation and is responsible for administering the Foundation's community grant cycles and donor advised fund granting. Mary is a former advisory board member of Catholic Charities of Dallas, former board chair of AVANCE-Dallas, former board member of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas and the MLK Medical Clinic, and member of the Committee on Catholic Schools and Strategic Planning for the Diocese of Dallas. Mary is currently a member of KERA's Community Advisory Board. She is a graduate of the Dallas Regional Chamber's Leadership Dallas program and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (Economics and Business Administration).

## **CYDNI M. ROBERTSON, DIGITAL ANALYTICS MANAGER, OMNI HOTELS**



Cydni M. Robertson is a 2009 graduate of Bishop Dunne Catholic School, where she served as captain of both of the Falconette Drill Team and Varsity Girls' Track Team. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and master's degree from The University of North Texas at Dallas. Currently, she is enjoying and developing a professional career as the Digital Analytics Manager for Omni Hotels.

## **STEPHANIE TIMKO, DALLAS ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD COMMISSIONER**



Animal advocate Stephanie G. Kunkle-Timko serves as Dallas Animal Advisory Board commissioner for Council District 7. Chair of the Dowdy Ferry Placing of the Crosses, Stephanie and her team annually place crosses on Dowdy Ferry Road in memory of the dumped and abandoned dogs found there, bringing local and national attention to the cause of abused and abandoned dogs. In partnership with Paul Quinn College, Stephanie convened the first Southern Dallas Animal Initiative to address the loose and stray dog crisis. In October 2016, Stephanie began working with pet owners in underserved neighborhoods to provide fence repair, veterinary care, and access to low cost spay/neuter and vaccination services. Today, her outreach work partners with Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity, Paul Quinn College, Spay Neuter Network, and Duck Team 6 Street Dog Rescue, to bring much needed education, medical care, and comfort to pets in the neighborhoods of Fair Park, South Oak Cliff, and Bon Ton. Their outreach efforts are changing Dallas . . . one dog at a time!

## **ASHLEY MARTINEZ, FARMERS BRANCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Ashley Nicole Martinez, Bishop Dunne class of '10, started in the pet industry where she worked as a vet technician, then a supervisor and marketing associate for Paradise 4 Paws, a pet boarding facility near the DFW airport. She is currently the office manager of the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce.

She attended Mountain View College where she was committed to making each student's opinions and concerns heard by the administration, eventually becoming the president of the student government association, the only student maintained organization in the state that works to promote the cause of community college students at the local, regional, state, and national levels. During her presidency, she had the opportunity to sit on the Texas Junior College Student Government Association board as the secretary and treasurer. She manages the Chamber of Commerce, coordinating businesses online and through events within the Chamber, mediating the needs of businesses within the Chamber in order to establish better communication, and helping businesses garner an online presence by hosting morning networking meetings. During her spare time, she participates and attends charitable races and events, is a Texas Rangers fanatic, plays co-ed softball, enjoys country western dancing, and spends time with her fur-children Rizzo, Hillbilly, and Zeke.

## **SISTER PATRICIA RIDGLEY, SSMN**



Sister Patricia Ridgley, SSMN, studied in France and has taught at Bishop Dunne. A sister of St. Mary of Namur, she is an active and enthusiastic participant in the order who founded Bishop Dunne Catholic School, Nolan Catholic School, and the University of Dallas. Sister has been involved with many social justice issues including immigration and death penalty cases. She is an Oak Cliff native, an educator, a pastoral associate at Holy Cross Catholic Church and a seeker-of-God, lover-of-justice, life-time learner, and gardener.

## **DR. VERONICA ALONZO, ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, DIOCESE OF DALLAS**



Dr. Veronica Alonzo received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame in pre-professional medicine and Spanish, her master's degree from the University of Portland, and her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Phoenix. In addition, Dr. Alonzo has completed the Catholic School Leadership Program at the University of Dallas and is a graduate of the Alliance for Catholic Education Program from the University of Notre Dame, focusing on advanced teaching methods and a rigorous fellowship program.

Dr. Alonzo has worked for twenty years in numerous Catholic schools. She is currently the associate superintendent of operations for the Diocese of Dallas. She served on the Austin Diocesan School Advisory Board as vice-chair and was part of the Pastoral Strategic Planning committee for the Diocese of Austin. She has participated in the Latino Enrollment Initiative at the University of Notre Dame, and is currently a member of the national task force on Latino enrollment for Catholic schools for NCEA.

## **KERRI RESSL, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS, KERRION GROUP**



Kerri Ressler is the chief encouragement officer for the Kerrion Group, a leadership training and organizational consulting agency dedicated to educating others, creating inspiration, and guiding teams towards transformation. She founded the Kerrion Group after a 20-year career holding various roles in non-profit, technology, and higher education focusing on organizational communication and leadership training. Kerri's positive approach, backed by her life experience, leaves a significant and long-term impact on clients.

Her career has a unique background in both public and private sectors – Kerri has supported a wide array of clients including Sabre Corporation, University of Texas at Arlington, Lone Star Analysis, National Kitchen & Bath Association, Texas Diversity Council, Interfaith Dallas, and the Leadership Educators Institute.

Kerri received her master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies and bachelor's degree in communications and journalism from the University of Texas at Arlington. She lives in North Texas, married to her college sweetheart, and serves as a peacemaker to her two children.

## **CELESTE ARISTA, PEACE CORPS AND PHILANTHROPY OFFICER, COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION**



Celeste is a Community Philanthropy Officer at Communities Foundation of Texas. She grew up in Oak Cliff, attended Santa Clara Catholic School, and is a proud Falcon alumna, Class of 2002. Celeste studied biology at Mountain View and El Centro Community Colleges before graduating from The University of Texas at Austin. Passionate about helping others, she joined the Peace Corps and moved to Uganda where she taught early childhood courses for two years. Celeste then decided to pursue a master's degree in community development and planning in Massachusetts while working with youth development programs. Post-graduation, she taught at Bishop Dunne Catholic School before accepting a philanthropy role at The Meadows

Foundation. She recently transitioned to working at Communities Foundation of Texas, where her job keeps her engaged in the community, visiting and learning about the various nonprofits in the DFW area.

## **REBECCA HERRERA, INSTRUCTIONAL COACH, RICHARDSON ISD**



Rebecca Herrera is a Dallas native. She graduated from Bishop Dunne Catholic School in 2010. While at Dunne, she served as a National Hispanic Institute team member and leader, was a member of Latinos Unidos, and a student athlete. She also participated in a study abroad opportunity to Costa Rica and worked as a student worker for Dunne's childcare center.

Upon graduating from Bishop Dunne, she attended the University of St. Thomas in Houston and earned a degree in elementary education. She acted as the university's president of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, was a member of the Bilingual Education Student Organization, and student researcher with an emphasis in looking at the American education system in comparison to other country's education structures. She also served as a student worker for the university's education department and volunteered as a tutor in one of Houston's community centers. Rebecca was honored as the Graduate of the Year in 2013.

She began serving the Richardson community as a third and fifth grade teacher. While teaching, she began and completed her graduate education through Dallas Baptist University where she earned a master's degree in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction and a master's degree of education with an emphasis in education administration. Upon graduating in 2017, she was nominated as one of the graduates of the year.

Her current role as an instructional coach in Richardson ISD allows her to target strategies that meet the needs of all students. Her responsibilities include delivering district professional developments and assisting kindergarten through 6th grade teachers in preparing student-centered instruction, responding to students' academic and emotional needs, supporting student intervention, and developing life-long learning skills by modeling and presenting instructional best practices to teachers.

She currently resides in Dallas with her husband, Arturo Herrera, who serves as a hospital administrator for Methodist Health System.

## **ANITA PALMER, CEO, GISetc**



Anita Palmer is a middle and high school technology and social studies teacher who became a National Geography teacher consultant (TC) in 1993. Mrs. Palmer is the CEO of the woman-owned business GISetc, started by her and husband Roger Palmer in 1999 to provide geospatial professional development and curriculum and support to K-12 and higher education teachers and students. Over the past eighteen years, she and Roger have authored and taught hundreds of geospatial technology institutes and classes for K-12 and post-secondary teachers focusing on integration of GIS technologies throughout the curriculum both in the U.S.A. and globally.

Mrs. Palmer is co-author of over a dozen books that provide activities for teachers and students to use geospatial technologies in which to teach and learn. She has been on the teaching staff of Esri, National Geographic, and the GeoTech Research Lab and works with multiple universities on teacher professional development. In her spare time, Anita works on their non-profit Geoporter that trains communities around the world to use geospatial technologies to examine local resources and solve local issues.

## ANGELA R. MAVERICK, ATTORNEY, ANDREWS & BARTH, PC



Angela R. Maverick, Bishop Dunne Class of '87, is a partner with Andrews & Barth, PC in Dallas. She has almost twenty years of experience representing commercial clients in real estate transactions. Angela assists developers of investment properties with acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and development. Her practice includes representation of sellers and buyers in Texas and in multi-state transactions in the acquisition and disposition of office buildings, apartment complexes, retail centers, industrial and warehouse facilities and raw land; representation of borrowers in connection with real estate and other asset-secured lending transactions, including acquisition loans, interim construction loans and permanent financing; representation of both landlords and tenants in the leasing of office, retail, industrial and warehouse properties; and representation of brokers, owners, managers, and other parties in negotiating and documenting listing agreements, property management agreements, and commercial contracts related to all other aspects of real estate. She received her bachelor's degree in arts from Loyola University and her doctorate in law from Texas Tech University School of Law.

## MISHTY DEB, ATTORNEY, RANEY LASUSA, LASUSA & DEB, PLLC



Mishty is a talented attorney who has worked extensively in the governmental, non-profit, and private sectors. She has a strong academic background as a president scholar from SMU. During her studies, she focused on economics, international trade, corporate governance, and alternative energy, giving her an excellent academic foundation. After graduating with dual degrees in economics and environmental science, Mishty pursued her law degree from the University of Texas, where she served as an editorial board member for Texas International Law Journal and for *Texas Journal of Women and the Law*.

Upon graduation Mishty was admitted to the Texas bar and began working for the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) as in-house counsel specializing in small business loans and complex real estate title issues. In 2008 she moved to private law practice and eventually opened her own firm with Raney LaSusa, LaSusa & Deb, PLLC, a general practice law firm. Mishty has since worked for small and large businesses as well as non-profits, entrepreneurs, and private land owners. She is also a mediator settling disputes through alternative dispute resolution processes.

As an advocate for women in business Mishty founded *Sharks in Heels*, a fun and informative social networking organization geared towards connecting, educating, and training women into becoming the future generation of successful women entrepreneurs.

## GLORIA NIETO, OWNER, GLORIA NIETO PHOTOGRAPHY



Gloria Nieto graduated magna cum laude from Bishop Dunne in 1986. She continued her education at St. Mary's University in San Antonio where she received a Bachelor's degree in business. She received her master's degree in international management from the University of Dallas.

She has worked as an accountant with Exxon Mobil Corporation and senior financial analyst at Ericsson, a telecommunications company. In 2005, Gloria launched her photography business, Gloria Nieto Photography. She specializes in executive portraits and school and sports photography and was selected as City of Dallas photographer in 2011. In 2015, Gloria was invited to substitute for Bishop Dunne's photography class. This evolved into her being a part-time teacher teaching Photography 1 and 2.

## **Symone Redwine, Attorney, The Redwine Law Firm, PLLC**



As an aggressive trial attorney, Symone Redwine has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of her wrongful death and injury clients. Relying upon her finance and business background, she has also closed million-dollar real estate, entertainment, and business deals. Ms. Redwine has a history of commitment to improving life in Dallas County. After receiving a stellar educational foundation from Bishop Dunne Catholic School in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood, she received a full scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh at age 17. She majored in finance, studied and interned in London, and completed Inroads Internships with Fortune 500 companies before graduating with honors. Prior to law school, she provided free after-school dance, modeling and theater arts classes to youth in the Southern Sector of Dallas through a grant from the non-profit Junior Players.

After accepting a scholarship to Cornell Law School, Symone honed her research skills as a Cornell business law teaching assistant and law clerk in the Cornell Death Penalty Project, successfully representing inmates on death row. Her summers were spent with several top law firms in various cities where she developed her contract, real estate drafting and trial skills. Upon graduation from Cornell Law School, Symone became licensed in New York and New Jersey, and practiced fashion, trademark, copyright, contract and trial law. She fulfilled her ongoing passion to address injustice by providing pro bono legal services to expunge and seal criminal records through former Newark Mayor Cory Booker's ex-offender re-entry program.

Since her return to Dallas, Symone opened The Redwine Law Firm, PLLC with her long-standing mentor and aunt, Glynis Redwine and recently became counsel to The English Law Group, PLLC where she focuses exclusively on auto accidents, serious injuries and death cases.