

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Journal of Women in Educational Leadership

Educational Administration, Department of

10-2005

Identity

Marilyn L. Grady

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, mgrady1@unl.edu

Barbara LaCost

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, blacost1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jwel>



Part of the [Educational Administration and Supervision Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Grady, Marilyn L. and LaCost, Barbara, "Identity" (2005). *Journal of Women in Educational Leadership*. 163.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jwel/163>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Educational Administration, Department of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Women in Educational Leadership by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Identity

Marilyn L. Grady
Barbara Y. LaCost

Women's efforts to be recognized for their work have been seemingly endless. Often women are referred to as the 51% in the United States. Their work, however, is often invisible.

One of the built-in invisibility cloaks is the practice of women changing their last names throughout their adult years. This, alone, makes it difficult to establish an identity.

Consider the mobility of U.S. society. Because mobility is high, it is difficult to keep track of individuals.

The move to cell phones and the termination of land lines, means that until a cell phone directory is printed, we will have a difficult time finding individuals through telephone directories. I am reminded of being in Moscow, Russia in 1993. At that time in a city of 10 million people, the most populous city in Europe, there was no telephone directory. One needed to know someone who "knew" the number and had either memorized it or written it on a piece of paper.

I sent a congratulatory email to a colleague who I had been told had married recently. Of course the email was returned to me as undeliverable. Obviously a name change caused the email's undeliverable status, and the email was not "forwarded" to a new address.

Now I know I can find this person, but it sure does slow down communication.

The university takes great effort in upgrading our email system. The result of this practice is that I have an "old" email address and a "new" email address. For the more neurotic individuals I have contact with, this means they send all messages to both addresses because they have no way of knowing which is the correct or current address.

When I complained about these issues at work, a colleague pointed out that for \$27 there is a service that will find anyone you want found. That statement caused me to remember a friend from my undergraduate days who is a private investigator. I have an idea of the work he does. Do I want to subject my colleagues to his type of work? Is finding someone worth \$27?

Bernita Krumm commented that it was difficult to write about Susan LaFlesch Picotte because she needed to be identified as LaFlesch in her early years and Picotte in her married years. This makes for awkward writing.

For women who have been unrecognized for their work in education, being lost due to name changes, phone changes, and email changes does not seem to be very helpful to the cause of recognizing the work of the 51%. We have had enough invisibility and enough flying around like ivory-billed woodpeckers.

Proposals for presentations at the *20th Annual Women in Educational Leadership Conference* are being accepted! The conference will be October 8-9, 2006, in Lincoln, Nebraska. For information about the conference or proposal guidelines contact Marilyn Grady at mgrady1@unl.edu