

## FIRST WORD

### Balancing Act

Indulge me, please. I'll start by telling you something you already know.

As the publication bringing you the ongoing story of Case Western Reserve University, this magazine should reflect the diversity found here. Since men and women and people of all ethnicities, backgrounds, and orientations have a home at the University, so too should they populate *Case Magazine*.

And they do. In our coverage of women in the Case community, though, something had been missing. Yes, each issue contains stories that discuss their contributions to the University and the wider world. But we had yet to look at a central fact shaping the experience of women faculty, students, and staff at Case. Namely, they are outnumbered by men at this institution.

What, we decided to ask, is it like to be a woman on this campus?

This issue's cover feature, "A Place to Shine," undertakes an answer. The story describes the disparity in numbers and how, in leadership roles, it becomes more pronounced with each step up the faculty and administrative ladders. Apart from the numbers, the story points out, the culture of academia is also largely male. This has implications for every woman striving to make her mark at Case.

In higher education, the challenges of gender equity are not unique to Case Western Reserve University. Case is in common company, especially with other research universities where science and engineering programs thrive—and where the numbers favor men even more dramatically than in other fields.

Now to the most important question: For the women in its classrooms, labs, and offices, what is Case doing to help them succeed? The article details actions, from the opening of the new Center for Women to the winning of a major federal grant aimed at improving the hiring and promotion of women.

While the story that "A Place to Shine" tells is far from over, the denouement looks promising.

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## CONTRIBUTORS



### Jolie Lewis

"I think of Peter Tippett's technological beginnings as a picaresque," says Jolie, who wrote "In Computer Security, He's the Man." "He tumbles from scientific adventure to scientific adventure, such as chasing a girl to New York and ending up building proteins with Nobel scientists. His is no kite-in-the-wind story, though, and that's because two elements worked behind the scenes: talent and drive."



### John Gerard Quinn

John witnessed Case for Community Day through his camera's viewfinder. And what did he see? Teamwork and caring—"It was like an extended family," says the photographer, whose images appear in "Many Hands." He chronicled three work sites. A sense of family pervaded all three, he says. "I saw it in everybody who wanted to be there and do a good job."



### Barney Taxel

Sunlight was critical to the photos illustrating the special collections department in "The One and Only." Which made Barney's job a nail-biter, since the photographer faced, he says, what was seemingly the "bleakest run of weather in Cleveland history. Finally, after three weeks and the deadline fast approaching, schedules, weather, and light came into conjunction." Handling the collection's unique objects, says Barney, made the wait worthwhile.