

# Taste

# The

# Rainbow

A Bid for Executive Board Member of the Year:  
Jessica McClure  
Western Washington University  
No Frills 2004  
UC Berkeley

A rainbow is an arc containing the colors of the spectrum formed in the sky by the refraction, reflection, and dispersion of light in rain or fog. As we all know, rain brings a drizzly darkness and fog blocks the sunlight. Eventually, the promise of light will once again shine through, creating one of the most beautiful spectacles nature has to offer: a rainbow. It leaves you with joy, happiness, and pride. You can't help but to forget the dark, gloomy rain and fog that once poured down on you, leaving you in utter disappointment. In the end, a rainbow is something to look forward to. It's as if it knows exactly how to identify your feelings and hopes.

Jessica McClure, only in her second year here at Western Washington University, has proved herself to be that beautiful rainbow we all look for at the end of a fog-filled rainy day. Her endless and monumental contributions as RHA Secretary to multiple programs, activities, and the region, are represented in each of these selected colors of the rainbow: blue, green, purple, red, orange, and yellow. Each color represents virtues that are interchangeable amongst the tasks and skills Jessica performs and exemplifies in her practice as an RHA Executive Board member for WWU.

**Color 1: Blue**

**Inner peace-** calmness under pressure; **Intellectual powers-** administrative skills; **Truth-** valid resources **Rhythm-** consistency; **Hidden potential-** new, stimulating ideas **Contemplation-** a thorough mind.

Blue represents Jessica's ability as the Residence Hall Association Secretary to get in touch with her *inner peace* no matter what the circumstances and apply her *intellectual powers*. When combined, they release her *hidden potential* and an ability to *contemplate* ideas concerning turning stressful situations into more harmonic *rhythms*. Throughout all of her experiences as RHA Secretary she remains sincere using *truth* as her guidance to fulfill all Secretarial duties.

**The duties of the Secretary include:**

- Act as chair of all RHA ad-hoc committees
- Hold at least five office hours each week
- Record minutes for each RHA weekly meetings
- Maintain accurate attendance records of each RHA member
- Disperse weekly agendas and updated budget information to each RHA member
- Work in collaboration with RHA Treasurer to disperse and compile quarterly reviews
- Serve as Hall Council liaison for two communities
- Serve on AS and University committees

**Ways Jessica has used her hidden potential to break through the fog...**

ξ **Chair of all RHA ad- hoc committees**

As chair of all ad-hoc committees, Jessica has taken full advantage of this opportunity by getting students involved who usually would not be. Jessica appointed two new committees this year: the Scrapbook Committee, which guarantees that all of RHA's memories and members will be remembered in years to come, and the T-shirt Committee, which allowed RHA members to demonstrate their artistic abilities while also creating something that members

could hold on to for life. Jessica is a strong advocate for leadership development and these are just a few examples of ways she has gone out of her way to involve as many members of RHA possible.

ξ *Serve as Hall council liaison for two communities*

As a member of the Birnam Wood community Jessica is a regular attendee at her tenants' council. BW is a hard community to get motivated since it is apartment style and typically occupied by older students more concerned with studying than being involved. Yet Jessica has wasted not time getting her tenants in gear. Some things she facilitated for the BW community include:

- Recruited two new residents to fill the positions of BW RHA reps while offering herself as an additional source for leadership and on-campus opportunities.
- Helped assist the BW Executive Board with legislation.
- Presented at the annual Residence Life Leadership Conference as an Exec. Member of RHA.
- In coordination with the BW President, created a list of ways to incorporate more residents in the community as well as helped develop a goal sheet for the year.
- Actively assists with Parli-Pro.

Jessica also acts as a liaison for a second community, Beta/Gamma. This enables her to remain in touch with more residents while acting as a source for those interested in RHA's activities and outside leadership opportunities. She also helps with the Parli-Pro process and is a superior source of information regarding all campus clubs and organizations.

ξ *Record weekly minutes*

Minutes can be a time-consuming process, especially if a Secretary lacks some sort of format with which to record them. Jessica has solved this problem for the 10 residence hall Secretaries and the NRHH Secretary this year by creating a universal minute format that could be easily followed. This enabled minutes to be easily read and understood. In addition, Jessica has developed a fast turnover of the minutes always having them out to our RHA council the next day.

<p><i>Color 2: Green</i></p>
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**Growth-** building upon the foundation; **Harmony-** ability to work well with others; **Freshness-** new & invigorating ideas; **Stability-** holding things together; & **Productiveness-** exceptional use of time.

Green highlights Jessica's monumental contributions not only to her secretarial position, but also to her fellow RHA Executive Board, RHA Council, and WWU Residence Halls. Her priorities focus on the *growth* and *harmony* that is required in order to maintain the *freshness* of Residence Life here at WWU. Her continued *productiveness* has been a strong force in maintaining the tradition of excellence and recognition that has been established. Jessica contributes greatly to the *stability* required to keep things running successfully!

## **Ways Jessica's involvement with her fellow RHA Executive board, RHA council, and WWU Residence Halls has cleared up the drizzle:**

### **ξ *Introduction Binders***

With the help of her fellow executive board, Jessica put together a key essential to understanding RHA logistics for the RHA council. These binders, complete with dividers, contained an RHA constitution, funding request information, "Get To Know Your Exec" fact sheets, and basic Parli- Pro information. This friendly gesture greatly increased the acceptance and *harmony* that each new RHA member requires in order to understand the organization as a whole. Jessica also organized binders for all of the 10 residence hall secretaries. The binders included contact sheets, agenda and minute layouts, attendance sheets, and friendly notes regarding secretarial duties. Jessica is also in frequent contact with her fellow secretaries providing fresh ideas and advice.

### **ξ *Office "modification"***

What a better way to start of the year than adding a little flava' to the RHA office? Jessica wasted no time adding some color and "homely" decorations to the office all RHA Executive Board members call home! She also maintains a tightly organized filing cabinet containing all RHA files from the past three years.

### **ξ *Residence Life Annual Leadership Retreat***

Jessica, in collaboration with her fellow executive board, took time to explain the role of RHA within the residence halls, particularly in areas regarding *stability* and *growth*. Her encouragement and enthusiasm created an inspiring attitude among all of those in attendance. During the retreat, Jessica also held a training program for her fellow residence hall Secretaries explaining the duties and expectations each secretary is to follow as well as recognition ideas for each hall and on-campus resources regarding program ideas.

### **ξ *Dollar Bills, Ya'll***

Finals Kits has traditionally been one of the largest fundraising traditions for RHA. Yet due to some rising competition, our executive board decided to explore other options. Jessica wasted no time adding *freshness* to this subject. Working with her advisors and fellow executive board, she introduced the ideas of bake sales and the sale of roses for Valentines Day. She has also provided substantial amounts of feedback regarding the decision to work with New Student Programs (NSP) in order to tie in RHA's OCM-sponsored Linens sales with NSP's Fall Welcome Kits. This will permit increased advertisement for RHA as well as the opportunity to collaborate with another group on campus. Once again, Jessica assisted in broadening the gap for leadership opportunity.

Jessica has also taken the initiative to work with WWU's Residence Life Director in efforts to explore funding options to help increase leadership development within RHA and the residence halls.

## ξ *Home Improvement*

To point out the need for RHA “home improvement”, Jessica completely revamped the quarterly review system by changing the way council opinions and ideas are evaluated. In the past, a questionnaire was given to each council member ranking RHA components on a number system. Jessica took this to the next level by formatting questions in a way that encouraged feedback excluding numbers. Her emphasis on constructive criticism regarding the RHA Executive Board, advisors, hall reps, and multiple liaisons has allowed the council to stress areas that needed great improvements or added *freshness*. Her new format also encourages feedback in areas the council has enjoyed.

## ξ *“Calendar Girl”*

Jessica took the start of a new quarter as an opportunity to emphasize *productiveness*. She took the initiative to bring her executive board together to plan out the entire RHA winter quarter in areas regarding programs, legislation, elections, and council activities. She emphasized goals and deadlines while frequently reminding everyone of their constitutional duties and personal obligations. Her enthusiasm and focus on completion added to the much-anticipated rewards of their duties, such as prosperous programs and satisfied goals and expectations.

<b>Color 3: Purple</b>
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**Reliability**- job completion; **Influence**- networking; **Ambition**- exploring different opportunities; **Insight**- acting as an important resource; **Passion**- dedication; & **Independence**- ability to take the job into your own hands.

Purple combines blue and green in the sense that it takes the experiences, ideas, and duties of the two and builds upon them. Jessica’s *reliability* and *independence* has given her a quite the advantage when it comes to her ability to *influence* and provide *insight* to other committees and organizations she works with. Her *ambitions* have opened many doors for others, once again stressing the *passion* she holds for leadership development.

### **Ways Jessica has broken through the clouds to explore broader territory:**

## ξ *“Calling all Clubs”*

One of Jessica’s duties has been to sit on one Associated Students committee. Her choice went to the Activities Council this year. Jessica has taken this opportunity to network with the 180+ clubs on campus. So far this year her involvement has included:

- Granting club recognition and basic funding for all new and current clubs.
- Voting on club funding requests ranging from basic grants, loans, and underwrites for programming and events, as well as club and academic conferences.
- Providing RHA as an available resource for advertising all club events.

- Providing *insight* to on- and off-campus clubs regarding advertising resources such as the Publicity Center, KUGS (radio station), and Resource and Outreach Programs.

Jessica acts as the main communicator between RHA and the AS, continuously providing accurate information to both groups regarding upcoming events and current issues. Jessica also took it upon her self to clear up the RHA and AS funding issue regarding whether or not the two groups should fund each others constituents.

### ξ ***Regional Involvement***

Jessica has had the opportunity to attend two conferences during her term:

1. NACURH 2003 at NCSU
2. PACURH 2003 at UCSB

At PACURH she was selected as a program presenter and co-presented “Recog with flava”. This program provided 20+ delegates with the opportunity to recognize more students throughout their campus starting within their RHA’s and hall councils. During her time at PACURH Jessica also observed multiple board room meetings to gain a better understanding of regional procedures and bid processes.

### ξ ***Delegation Preparation***

What is the one thing that a delegation must bring to a conference? Spirit! A banner, display, WWU paraphernalia, and fun things to pass out to other schools would not have been taken care of without help from Jessica’s creativity and *ambition*. She designed our PACURH 2003 banner, display, and was part of the spirit committee. She worked hard to make sure that WWU showed up in style!

### ξ ***Volunteering***

Note-taking is tedious in any class however; Jessica has volunteered herself as a note taker in one of her classes for the campus Students with Disabilities Department.

<b>Colors 4, 5, &amp; 6: <i>Red, Orange, &amp; Yellow</i></b>
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**Creativity**- *thinking outside the box*; **Inspiration**- *assisting others with their passion*; **Energy**- *maintaining a lively and contagious attitude*; **Love**- *open hear*; **Enthusiasm**- *added zest*; **Happiness**- *smiles for all*; & **Encouragement**- *backbone of support*.

Red, orange, and yellow are combined because of the brightness of their qualities and powerful ability to catch the eye. Jessica’s *creativity*, as demonstrated in her recognition ideas and work ethic, has created more *happiness* than our council could ask for. Her *enthusiasm* and prevailing *encouragement* provides *energy* in and among every RHA member. Jessica’s charismatic and open minded attitude illustrates the *love* she holds for all those she encounters.

## Ways Jessica has provided sunshine on cloudy days...

### ξ *Establishing a sense of community*

Jessica is a strong asset when it comes to demonstrating respect for others. Her encouragement of the heart highlights her appreciation for individual and group excellence. Her contributions to the overall group well-being includes:

- New team builders each week
- Weekly raffles
- Emphasis on themed meetings
- Holding on to memories by taking pictures
- Maintaining bulletin boards
- Announcement and reminder emails

It is also worth noting that her contagious smile and positive outlook on stressful situations are qualities everyone looks forward to.

### ξ *Recog*

There is no escaping recognition if Jessica has anything to do with it. Jessica knows just about everything each RHA council member is involved in and is fully aware of all the work each member completes each week. Therefore she has gone above verbal acknowledgement by adding the “liter” of the week program while also working with our VP/NCC to help select recipients of the “High Five Award” each week.

### *The end of the rainbow*

No one really knows what lies at the end of a rainbow, but that adds to the mystery of not knowing what to expect. You have received only a small dose of what Jessica McClure is capable of, and there is much more to come! Her colors are endless and she is continuously painting beautiful ideas for the world to see. Her leadership qualities are infinite, her goals are inspiring, and her commitments and accomplishments are exactly why she is the Executive Board Member of the Year. In closing, we will leave you with a quote from her winning 2003 bid for RHA Secretary.

“The job of Secretary would challenge me intellectually while furthering my ability to take initiative in tasks such as assisting others in their duties, taking minutes, recognizing others in their achievement, keeping proper records of RHA attendance while enforcing the guidelines of attendance, and most of all having fun. I am 100% prepared to complete these duties. My priorities lie within contributing to RHA in every way possible while maintaining an exciting, professional atmosphere. Thank you for giving me the chance to share my past and present experiences with you throughout my bid. With me as your Secretary, together we can continue to maintain the tradition of excellence and recognition that RHA has established throughout the years while striving to enhance RHA’s success.”

*-Jessica McClure; Election Speech, 2003*

Office of University Residences

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January 27, 2004

To the Executive Board Member of the Year Selection Committee,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Jessica McClure. I have known Jessica for five months through our relationship with the Residence Housing Association (RHA). As a Resident Director within Residence Life I have had the opportunity to co-advise RHA. During that time I have witnessed the many colors of Jessica, and hope I can paint a wonderful rainbow for you today.

Jessica's "blue" intellectual powers have been demonstrated in her ability to not only be a rock for the Western RHA but to ground her in her studies. In her time as a leader Jessica's grades have not suffered. She still maintains a GPA of 3.4 while serving as the RHA Secretary, a member of the Associate Students Activities Council, and a delegate to many regional and national conferences.

Green is the color of success, and there should be no end to the green in Jessica's life. She has successfully worked to create an executive board team that works together and has fun while doing so. She is a woman who sees problems and works to fix them, and she has been instrumental in bringing her red energy to the RHA and the executive board. Jessica has painted the meeting room of RHA orange many times with her enthusiasm. Beyond taking minutes, Jessica has brought raffles to the representatives, she has helped develop evaluation tools, she offers insight into campus life, she recognizes individual and group achievements, and she works to make the RHA representative body excited about being a part of a great campus organization. Additionally, Jessica is the person on the executive board who works to develop change and growth. She has been instrumental in creating binders for the representative body, helping to plan the residential leadership retreat, and developing a quarterly calendar of events. Jessica is always willing to help her fellow executive board members, has no problem meeting deadlines, and is always looking for new ways to improve her position and herself.

Not only has Jessica contributed to residence life at Western Washington University through her executive board position and former committee chair positions, she has also attended many regional and national conferences. In addition, to collecting information to present upon her return to Western, Jessica has shared her knowledge by presenting programs at these events.

Many times the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is what people strive to achieve, but the very fact that Jessica has described herself as the rainbow itself represents that she sees herself and her work as something always in progress. With two quarters of the year remaining I imagine we have yet to see the best of her. When you put all of the colors described together you get a beautiful rainbow that is Jessica McClure, an outstanding candidate for Executive Board Member of the Year. If you have any questions about Jessica's skills or abilities please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 650-4116.

Sincerely,



Alice Schwehofer  
Co-Advisor RHA  
Western Washington University

January 28, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing a letter of recommendation and support on behalf of Jessica McClure who is bidding for Executive Board Member of the Year. I have had the opportunity to work with Jessica as her advisor for the 2003-04 academic year. In her role as the Secretary for the Western Washington University Residence Hall Association (RHA), I have observed Jessica in a significant leadership position serving as an advocate, resource and representative for residential students at Western. The RHA at Western is comprised of an Executive Board (of which Jessica is a member), representatives from each residential community and numerous liaison positions.

Jessica has many roles in her position as Secretary. She maintains extensive and accurate records of meetings and events, completes weekly office hours to address the individual and group needs of the organization, and serves as a voting member of the Association. Within these roles, what strikes me more than the number of tasks Jessica completes, but the manner in which they are completed. From the beginning of the year, Jessica has endeavored to have a personal connection with members of the Association. She created and provided orientation tools for each residence hall council secretary – information on campus resources, policies, sample agendas, etc. – and provided training to the secretaries. As representatives have transitioned into and out of RHA, Jessica has made them feel welcome, introduced them to the group and worked individually with them so they fully understand their duties and responsibilities.

A unique characteristic about Jessica is her desire to motivate and inspire representatives. Jessica has taken the lead on creating recognition awards and bringing recognition of the hard work of an individual to the group's attention. The personal connections she makes to members keeps them engaged and invested in the organization and our university business.

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Jessica McClure in the bid for Executive Board Member of the Year.

Sincerely,

  
Ronna J. Biggs

Coordinator for Programming & Leadership Development  
Advisor – Western Washington University Residence Hall Association