



▶ PACE IS THE OFFICIAL VOICE TO CSI'S NON-TEACHING, NON-ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES.



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# PACE News

*Every professional and classified employee, both full- and part-time, is automatically a member of PACE.*

*PACE is a wonderful opportunity for our classified and professional employees to get together, network and stay "in the know" about things going on at this wonderful campus of ours. If you want to be involved contact your building rep; you can find who they are here:*

<http://pace.csi.edu/representatives.asp>

## Administrative Corner

ERIC NIELSEN  
HR DIRECTOR

### PACE's role from the HR Director's point of view

"What role does PACE play from the HR Director's point of view" was the question I was asked.

This question kind of stumped me at first, because I had not thought of PACE in that way. I know that PACE is a wonderful organization, full of driven and talented individuals. I know that the organization supports and assists with many activities, projects, and is there whenever asked or needed.

But the question still remains, what role does PACE play for me? It was after talking with several members around campus about things they were working on or ideas they would like to implement when it hit me. PACE is about making

changes and assisting to ensure that things are always improving.

Members are the eyes and ears around campus and when something comes up that needs to be addressed they are able to help with the communication.

Experienced members of PACE can help guide and mentor newer members while those newer members can look at things with a fresh set of eyes. Together they can all help each other improve professionally which in turn raises the bar across campus.

This is a great organization that provides support, guidance, and a voice to each of its members. I am proud to work with such a fine group striving to make CSI the best it can be.



# At the Water Cooler

## Izabella Bagdasarova

### Instructional Technology Specialist

*At the Water Cooler you'll meet other CSI employees and get to know them better. Meet Izabella Bagdasarova, Instructional Technology Specialist.*

Chances are that, if you use classroom technology such as Blackboard (the Learning Management System used for online course delivery) and have encountered a problem, you've talked to Izabella Bagdasarova.

"When faculty and students have technology-related questions or problems, they contact the CSI Helpdesk first. Helpdesk transfers calls related to my area of expertise to me," Izabella said. "Each problem is a puzzle that needs to be analyzed and solved. I find this process exciting."

Her job is to assist the Institutional Information and Effectiveness Department with evaluating, implementing, maintaining, and supporting instructional technologies and related services that address the teaching and learning needs of CSI faculty, students, and staff. Some of the main responsibilities are to create and maintain the online help resources and also provide support and training to faculty and students.

Faculty and staff can also call her directly or schedule meetings at her office, located in the Taylor building, room 210.

Izabella has been at CSI for 15 years. "However, since my first day in United States, my life has been connected to CSI: being a student at first, then working as

an Instructional Technology Specialist since January 1, 2000," she said. "CSI is a very special place for me," she explains. "Here I learned English and new skills that helped me start and build a new life, find the job I like, and make friends. Prior to CSI, I had a Master's degree in Geological and Geophysical Science from Azerbaijan State University and a diploma of Engineer-programmer from the Institute of Applied Mathematics. I also had done 14 years of work in All-Russian Research Institute of Geophysical Exploration Methods. CSI gave me an opportunity to explore new professional venues and find a passion for teaching."

Izabella loves her work with faculty, staff, and students. "There is nothing more rewarding than feeling their appreciation and knowing that you helped someone succeed in their tasks and projects. It makes my everyday job meaningful and motivates me to work hard to maintain the required level of

professionalism and competency," she said. The constant learning is another important part of her job that she enjoys. "Taking online courses and programs and participating in webinars and cohorts helps me keep up with constantly changing technologies," she explained.

Izabella enjoys spending time with her family. Her son Alex lives in Twin Falls with his family, and her daughter Yelena lives in Seattle and studies at the University of Washington. "I love when she comes home on school breaks and the whole family gets together. I also like spending weekends with my grandsons. We play games, do little craft projects, and sometimes go to movies or to the park to play soccer or basketball. Every Saturday they stay overnight and I read them a couple chapters of a book in Russian before they fall asleep. This is our favorite tradition."



# News from: Mini Cassia Center

The Center serves 400 students enrolled in 90 academic classes each semester

Happy New Year to all the PACE members! The staff at the Mini-Cassia Center is excited to share a little bit of information with their CSI colleagues about their center and the people that make it an awesome place to work. The Mini-Cassia Center has a great history of CSI commitment in this area since the late 1960s. A strong vision by CSI administrators was combined with local community



support to provide access to a college experience right here in Burley.

*Cont'd page 7*

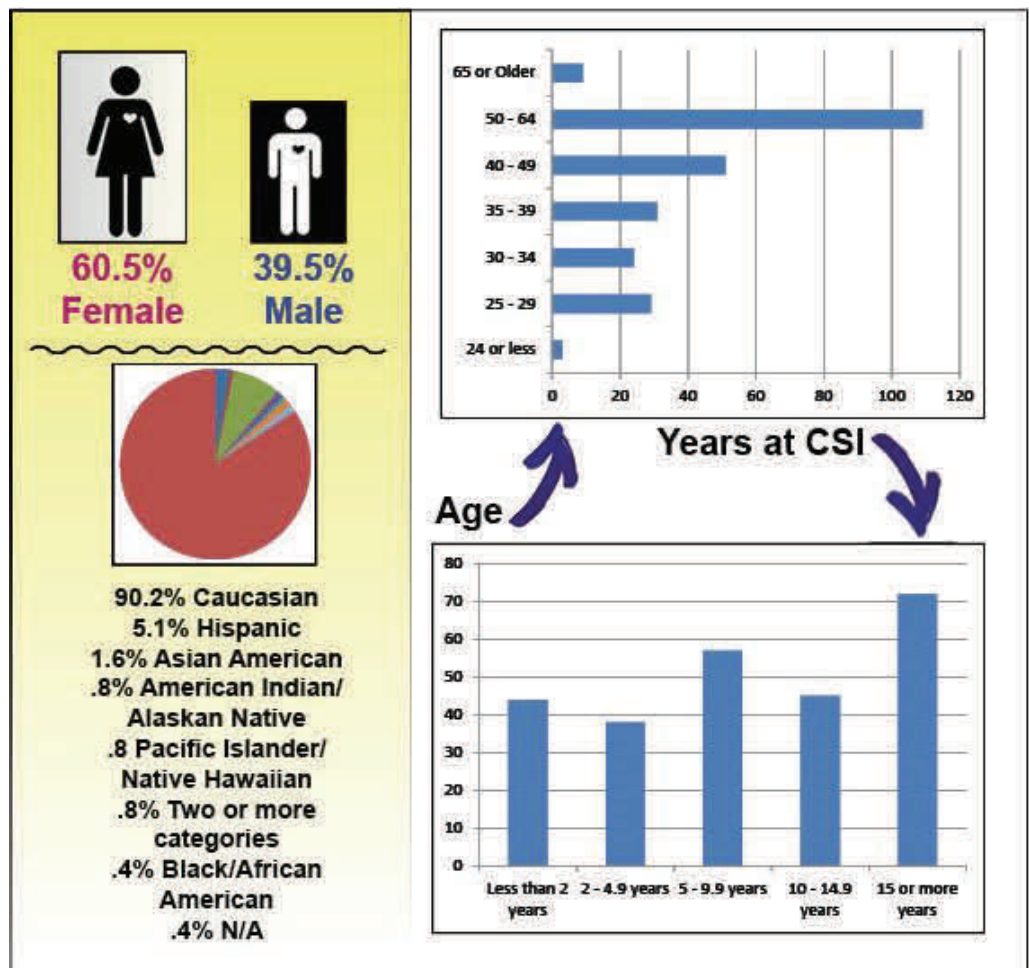
## PACE by the Numbers

Did you know that PACE has 152 Classified and 256 Professional employees?

Ever wondered about the workforce's diversity, how many are male or female, how old the average PACE member is, or how many years we work for CSI?

This infographic offers a small glimpse at what PACE looks like.

Our thanks to Dr. Ken Campbell for gathering and sharing the data with us.



# New Faces on Campus

## Renee Turner

Replacing Christy Horton—Office/Facilities Use Specialist—Taylor 250, ext 6282

My name is Renee Turner and I am the new Facilities Use Specialist. I am originally from Paul, and I attended CSI after high school. I worked for over three years as a secretary in a local body shop, and I am looking forward to the change

of pace and new working environment. I am married. My husband and I enjoy going on road trips together, spending time with our families, fishing, golfing, and having lazy Saturdays once in a while.

I am very excited about all of the opportunities I will have at CSI, as well as all of the new people I will meet. I can't wait to become acquainted and work with all of you!



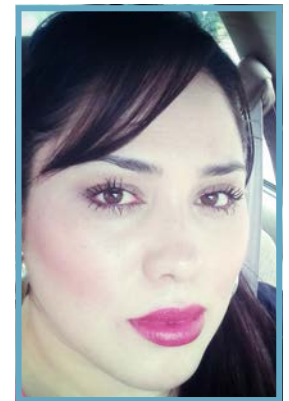
## Katrina Oksten

Replacing Kerry Bailey— R&P Office Specialist—Refugee Center

Hello Team! I am Katrina Oksten AKA Katya. I am happy to become a full-timer at CSI Refugee Programs. I've been working with Refugee Programs since 2010 as an Employment Specialist, and later a few new responsibilities were added to my position, such as resettlement and budgeting. Working with refugees is an exciting experience.

My family is very international. I was born in Ukraine, my husband was in Kuwait and our wonderful kids, Sarah and Daniel were born in Idaho, USA. We are so happy to be a part of a great Twin Falls community.

I would like to thank CSI Refugee Center and CSI Career Center for supporting me and being such a great team. Looking forward to make a lot of new friends!



## Blanca Lozano-Vargas

Replacing David Hartgrave  
Security Officer  
McManaman, ext. 6605



## Jennifer Gebhardt

New Position—Student Services Specialist—Idaho Falls Center, 208-535-5495

Hello Everyone. My name is Jennifer Gebhardt. I am the Student Services Specialist for the Idaho Falls campus.

I graduated from Eastern Idaho Technical College in May 2014. I was born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I have two boys ages four and two who make my life very busy and interesting.

In my free time I like to cook and shop. I am very excited to be joining the CSI family.



## James Kellis

Replacing Ben Hamlett—  
Manufacturing Technology  
Instructor—ATIC 125, ext. 6379

I am a 50ish retired Military Vet, I am married and have four children and six grandchildren. I spent 29 years working full time for the Army National Guard in the maintenance field. I achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three before retiring in 2009.

I spent the last 25 years of my career in the Idaho Guard teaching maintenance at Gowen Field and running a maintenance shop in Jerome. I deployed to Iraq in 2004 and spent eighteen months away from home.

During my time in Boise, I earned an AS from BSU in Marketing-Mid Management.

After retiring I decided to return to school. Since I love the hands-on world, I went through the CSI Cabinetry Program. Ken Triplet helped me through my transition from military to civilian life. My love for working with metal over wood won out and I started Ben Hamlett’s Manufacturing Program. Ben encouraged me with my love for helping others. After graduating the shop lab assistant retired and I was fortunate enough to be hired in this position. During my first year as the lab assistant, Ben moved to the Automation/Food Processing Program. Again, I was fortunate and was hired as the Manufacturing Technologies Instructor. I have always enjoyed sharing the knowledge I have gained and find teaching very rewarding. I look forward to my new life as a teacher and a member of this great CSI family.

## Sara Tate

Replacing Susan Beseris—Student Advisor—Mini-Cassia, 678-1400



Hello! My name is Sara Tate and I am the new Student Advisor at the CSI Mini-Cassia Center. I grew up here in Southern Idaho and after graduating from Minico High School I moved to Las Vegas, where I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I worked in Donor Relations with the UNLV Foundation until 2012, when I moved to the Philippines for humanitarian work. Over the last three years I’ve been working with non-profits across the world to help abolish modern day slavery and end human trafficking. I recently returned from Eastern Europe and am thrilled to be back in Idaho. I can easily say that I have already fallen in love with the students, faculty and community here!

## Matthew English

Replacing Perri Gardner—Grant Writer—Taylor 120D, ext. 6248

I am excited about the opportunity to be at CSI and to bring my family to Twin Falls. I have been married for 17 years and have 5 children between 5 and 14 years old. Our family recently moved back to Idaho from Reno Nevada. In addition to working in the court systems in Idaho and Nevada, I have worked as an adjunct instructor of English for several years. I enjoy so many things about living in Idaho with hiking, camping, and disc golf among some of my favorite activities.





## Naysa Shepherd

Replacing Jaime Reid—Office Specialist, Physical Science—Evergreen A40, ext. 6400

I am very excited to join CSI as the Office Specialist for the Physical Science Department and look forward to serving our community and those pursuing their educational goals here in Southern Idaho. I have lived in Twin Falls for 18 years and received my AAS degree in the Administrative Assistant Program here at CSI. My husband and I have three boys ages 11, 9 and 3. We love being outdoors and spend our time together exploring.



## Kelsey Ordaz

Replacing Jerry Gardner—Security Officer—McManaman Building, ext. 6605

I have currently been hired as a full-time security officer at the College of Southern Idaho. I have lived in Jerome, Idaho my whole life. I graduated from Jerome High School in 2010. Then I went to CSI to work on my nursing

degree and later changed to Law. I currently have two Associates Degrees: one in Criminal Justice and the other in Law Enforcement. I am now currently a Boise State student working on my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

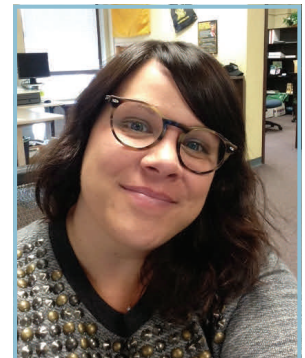
Have a great day.

## Sarah Lowe

Replacing Tracy Anderson—Student Services Specialist—Blaine County Center, 788-2033

I am thrilled to be joining the CSI family as the new Student Services Specialist at the Blaine County Center. I come from a member services background in local recreation with a focus on personal attention and support.

I am a true Idaho girl and love everything that living here affords me. I live in Hailey with my husband, daughter and 2 pugs!



## Clay Wilkie

Replacing Brian Sprinkle—Welding Instructor—Desert 100A, ext. 6372

I am very excited to be joining the CSI family. I have over twenty years of experience in the construction industry. I started in the U.S. Navy as a shipfitter and then moved back to Idaho. I then worked in the construction industry doing structural and piping while attending CSI. After that ,I joined the local pipe fitters union.

I am married with three boys and a girl. I enjoy fishing, walking, bike riding, woodworking and hanging out with my family. I am looking forward to working with the teachers, staff and students at CSI.

*Cont'd from page 3—News from Mini-Cassia*

Director Amy Christopherson first came to CSI in 1996 when her family moved to the area and was excited to teach part-time for the Biology Department.

"I learned about this community by teaching and serving the students that came to my classes each semester," she said.

When the new Burley High School was finished in 1998, the Mini-Cassia Center moved into its current home on Parke Avenue.

Sara Tate is the academic advisor, and Anne McMurry and John Paskett provide one stop services for registration, financial aid, and business office processes.

Currently the Mini-Cassia Center has about 400 students enrolled in 90 academic classes each semester. They have classes specifically for the Over 60 population, as well as full services for ABE and ESL instruction. The testing center provides a place



for CSI and non-CSI exams to be taken, and the office staff provides support services for the hundreds of local high school students taking advantage of dual credit classes.

This year they also welcomed staff members from the Office on Aging. "We are grateful to work with our colleagues across campus, and you know you're talking with the Burley office if John ends the phone call by saying, 'Have a great day. You deserve it!'"

## Picks from the Shelf

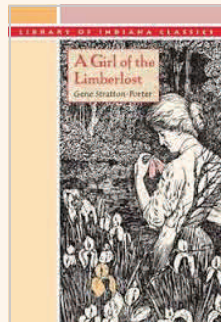


### Finding Vivian Maier - DVD

This is an illuminating story that leaves one with a mystery unsolved. Vivian was an unknown street photographer taking amazing photos. I liken it to something like a personal journal of her times. There are little film clips and audio clips featured in the bonus

material. Listening to the movie there is some debate over whether Vivian's accent was actually French or fake. But the real mystery is what happened to Vivian that made her stand out of the norm as an "odd one." This whole discovery of Vivian was due to a purchase of thousands of negatives at an auction by John Maloof. He has spent his time tirelessly in a crusade to get Vivian in the history books. This is absolutely wonderful and it will fill you with a sense of wondering.

- Ann Keane, ADC Office Spec.



### Girl of the Limberlost - Book

This book is written by Gene Stratton-Porter. Our library has the electronic version. I happened to read the hard copy. Amazing story based on the actual Limberlost swamp area in the state of Indiana. Gene Stratton-Porter was ahead of her time and accomplished in several areas.

A writer of novels, poetry and children books she was also accomplished in having a knack for wildlife photography and opening a movie business. Several of her books have been made into films. The Limberlost girl finds a way to do the things she is passionate about. That is learning and sharing the knowledge she has gained. She does it through hard work and perseverance. It is a story of a mother and daughter finally coming to love each other openly. It is a coming of age story and it is superbly marvelous. This is a real treat to the senses. - Ann Keane, ADC Office Spec.