

WELCOME TO THE 26TH ANNUAL
AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR IRISH STUDIES
WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

acis~west 2010



(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the
Contemporary / Post-Modern

1 – 3 OCTOBER 2010
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOISE, IDAHO

CONFERENCE MAP

The Residence Inn provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Boise Airport, BSU, and downtown Boise.



- 1) [BSU Student Union Building \(SUB\)](#)
Outlook Room – 3rd Floor (Opening Reception – Friday)
Jordan Ballroom A – 2nd Floor (Poetry Reading – Friday)
Simplot Ballroom C – 2nd Floor (Banquet and Keynote Address – Saturday)
1700 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725
- 2) [BSU Interactive Learning Center \(ILC\)](#)
Room 302 – 3rd Floor (Conference Presentations – Saturday & Sunday)
2120 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725
- 3) [Residence Inn](#) (Conference Hotel)
1401 Lusk Avenue
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 344-1200
- 4) [Ha' Penny Bridge Irish Pub](#) (No host entertainment Friday and Saturday night)
855 Broad Street, Suite 250
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 343-5568

These locations are within one mile of the Residence Inn

ABOUT ACIS

The American Conference for Irish Studies was founded in 1960 as the American Committee for Irish Studies, and is a multidisciplinary scholarly organization with approximately 800 members in the United States, Ireland, Canada, and other countries around the world. Each spring, the ACIS holds a national conference attended by 300 - 400 people from the academic community and the general public. The 2011 International Meeting of the ACIS will take place at the University of Wisconsin – Madison on 30 March – 2 April 2011.

Each fall, meetings are held in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and Western regions; the Southern regional takes place in the winter. The ACIS also sponsors joint sessions with the American Historical Association and the Modern Language Association at their annual conventions.

Both national and regional meetings include plenary speakers, academic sessions in all fields of Irish Studies, poetry and fiction readings, films, and performances of Irish music and plays.

ABOUT ACIS-WEST

The Western Region of ACIS comprises the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The American Committee [later Conference] for Irish Studies first met in 1984 in Tacoma, WA. Irish Studies Enthusiasts from the west coast began a discussion that ended with the forming of ACIS-West, which held its first conference in October 1985 at the University of San Francisco.

In 2003, the Western Institute of Irish Studies was formed, and in 2005, WIIS was incorporated and approved for non-profit status. In 2006, the first issue on the site's online journal *Siar*, published a selection of papers delivered at the 2005 conference.

In 2004, ACIS-West began presenting the Willard Potts and Don Jordan Emerging Scholar Award in honor of the organization's founding members and early presidents. The Emerging Scholar Award goes to the best conference presentation and paper submission by an Emerging Scholar.

ACIS-WEST ELECTED OFFICIALS (2010 – 2011)



Kendall Reid
President

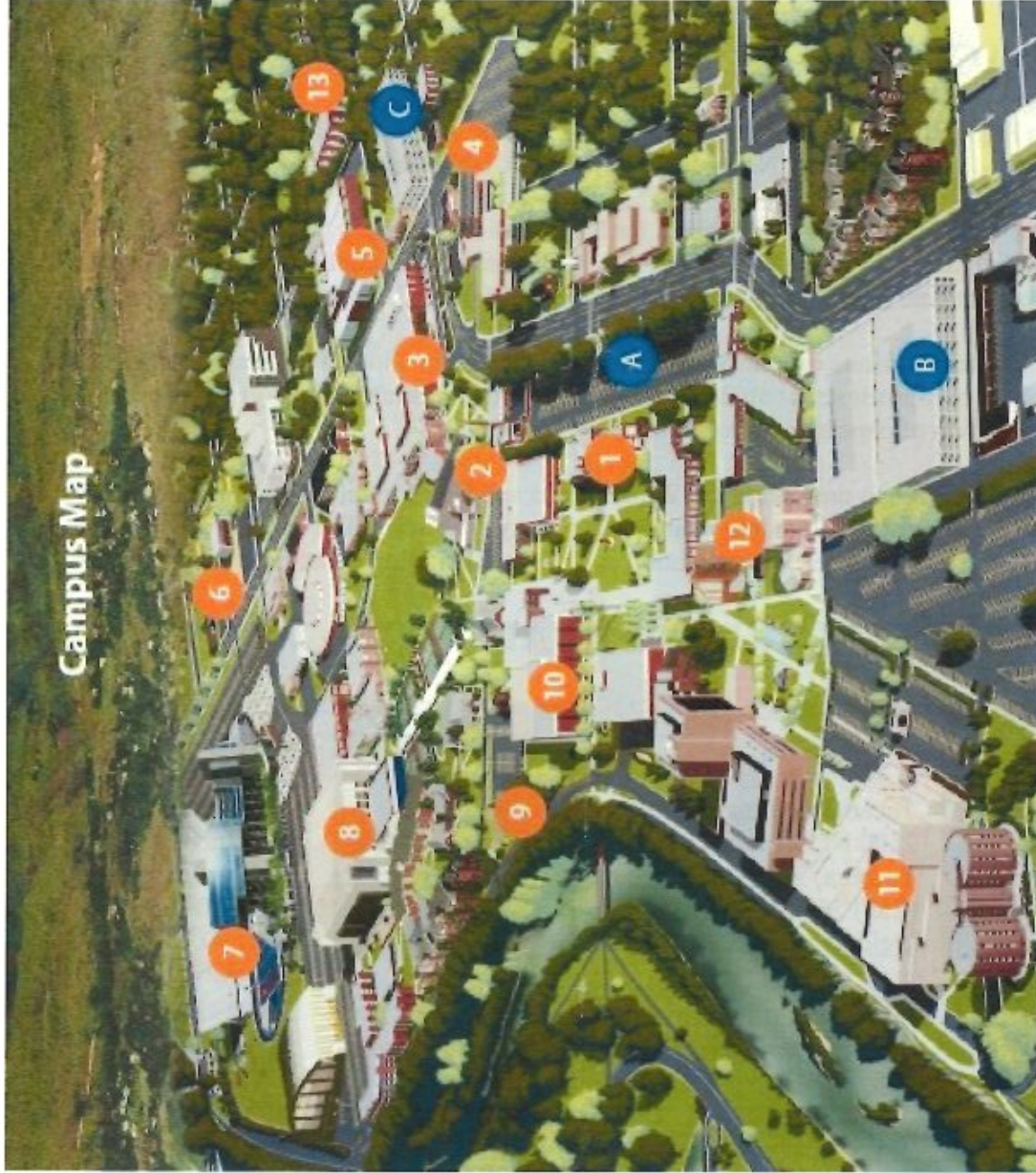
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Jodi Chilson
Secretary – Treasurer

Boise State University
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Graduate College
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Boise, ID 83725
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Campus Map



Facilities

Boise State's main entertainment venues include the Special Events Center (Capacity 435), Student Union Jordan Ballroom (1,000) and Simplot Ballroom (700), Bronco Stadium (33,500), Taco Bell Arena (12,000), Morrison Center (2,000) and Centennial Amphitheatre (800).

Points of Interest

1. Administration Building
2. Special Events Center
3. Student Union
4. Parking Office
5. Student Recreation Center
6. Alumni Center
7. Bronco Stadium
8. Taco Bell Arena
9. Centennial Amphitheatre
10. Albertsons Library
11. Morrison Center
12. Interactive Learning Center
13. Norco Building

Visitor Parking

- A. Administration Lot
- B. Brady Parking Structure
- C. Lincoln Parking Structure

The Residence Inn provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Boise Airport, BSU, and downtown Boise. Their phone number is (208) 344-1200.

The Interactive Learning Center (12) is approximately a 10–15 minute walk from the hotel.

Both the Student Union Building (3) and the Ha' Penny Bridge Irish Pub are approximately a 15 – 20 minute walk from the hotel.

Residence Inn
located here

Downtown Districts

- The Grove Plaza
- Central Downtown
- Old Boise Historic District
- The Capitol District
- Julia Davis Park and the Cultural District
- South Eighth Street Historic District (BoDo)

Hotels

- Grove Hotel 245 S Capitol Blvd. • (208) 333-8000
- Hampton Inn & Suites 495 S Capitol Blvd. • (208) 331-1900
- Hotel 43 981 W Grove St. • (208) 342-4622
- Leku Ona Basque Hotel 111 S 6th St. • (208) 345-6655
- Owyhee Plaza Hotel 1109 W Mar. St. • (208) 343-4611
- Safari Inn Downtown 1070 W Grove St. • (208) 344-6556
- The Modern Hotel & Bar 1314 W Grove St. • (208) 424-8244

Museums

- Basque Museum
- Idaho State Historical Museum
- Black History Museum
- Boise Art Museum

Points of Interest

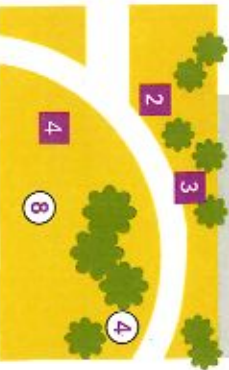
- Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial
- The Cabin Literary Center
- Boise Public Library
- Zoo Boise
- Boise Contemporary Theater
- Esther Simplot Performing Arts Center
- Discovery Center
- Rose Garden

Parking

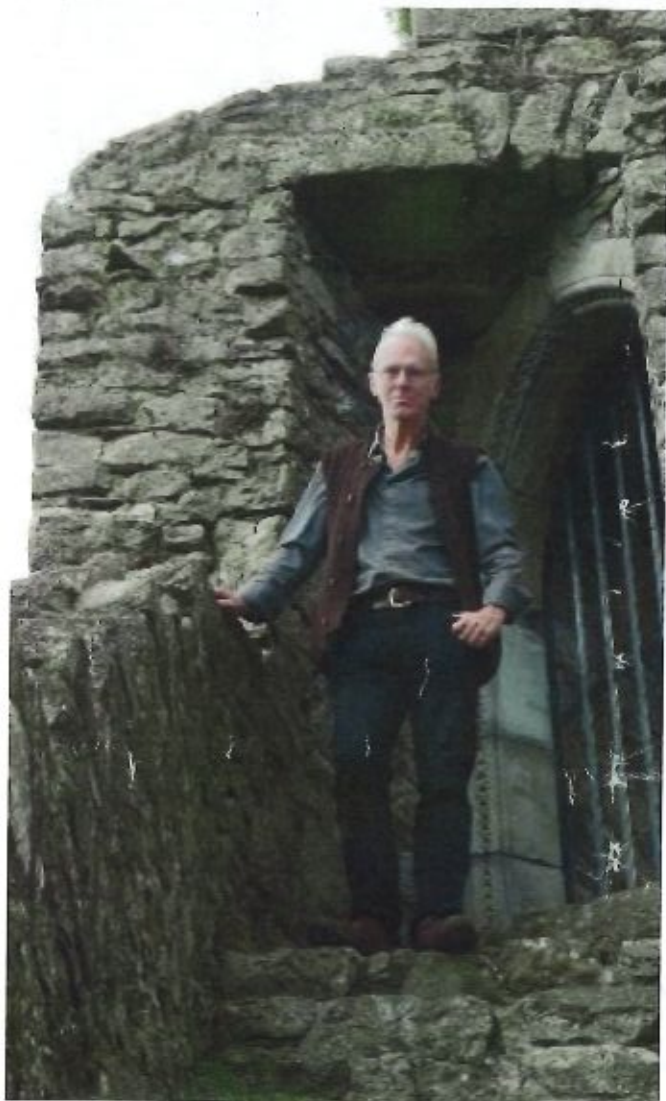
- Public Garages - First Hour Free
- Public Parking - No First Hour Free
- Pay Lots / Garages
- 20 Minutes Free on All Downtown Parking Meters



To Boise Airport



FEATURED POET - TREVOR JOYCE



Trevor Joyce co-founded New Writers' Press in 1967, and was a founding editor of the influential journal of poetry and criticism, *The Lace Curtain*. His early publications included *Watches* (1968) and *Pentahedron* (1972). *The Poems of Sweeny Peregrine*, a working from the middle-Irish Suibhne Gealt, appeared in 1976.

In Dublin and Oxford he conducted seminars and lectured on classical Chinese poetry, and visited the People's Republic of China as a poet at the invitation of the Chinese government in 1983. Having read Philosophy and English at UCD, he moved to Cork where he read Mathematical Sciences in UCC.

In 1995, NWP issued *stone floods*, his first publication in almost twenty years. In 1997 he co-founded SoundEye: The Cork International Festival of the Arts of the Word. Having worked in industry for many years, he became a full-time writer in 2000.

He has published numerous papers on contemporary poetics, twice conducted the advanced poetry workshop at the Listowel Writers Week, and lectured and given public readings of his work throughout

Ireland, the U.K., Europe and the U.S.A. He was text-editor of *On Art, Possibility & Democracy* (2006).

Recent work explores the possibilities of found text, computer-mediated composition, and writing under constraint. He has produced workings from classical Chinese poetry, from Hungarian, Finno-Ugric and Turkic folk-songs, and from anonymous materials out of the Irish folk tradition. A prose assemblage, *STILLSMAN*, was exhibited in the Vinyl Project in 2005, and has been presented as a performance work by Art / not-art.

A collected poems to 2000 was published as *with the first dream of fire they hunt the cold* (2001). More recent collections include *What's in Store* (2007) and *Courts of Air and Earth* (2009). He has been a Fulbright scholar, and was Visiting Fellow in Poetry to Cambridge University for 2009/10. He is a member of Aesdána, the Irish affiliation of creative artists.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – CHRISTOPHER MURRAY



Christopher Murray is a former Director of the Drama Centre and a member of the Department of English at University College Dublin. He has written extensively on modern and contemporary Irish drama, including *Twentieth-Century Irish Drama: Mirror Up to Nation* (1997) and *Sean O'Casey; Writer at Work: A biography* (2004). He was editor of the *Irish University Review* for several years and served as Chair of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures.

Christopher Murray is associate professor of drama and theatre history at University College Dublin. He is the author of *Twentieth-Century Irish Drama: Mirror Up to Nation*.

Present Position: Emeritus Professor of Drama and Theatre History, School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

Former Employment: Assistant Lecturer in English, NUI Galway (1962-65); Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of New Haven, Connecticut, (1968-70); visiting professor University of Antwerp (UIA), 1990; visiting professor Waseda University, Tokyo (1993); visiting professor at University of Pecs, Hungary (1995).

Recent publications:

(Ed.) *Beckett at 100: Centenary Essays* . (Dublin: New Island Press, 2006)

(Ed.) *Selected Plays of George Shiels* (Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe, 2008)

'Brian Friel, Tyrone Guthrie, and Thornton Wilder,' *Irish Theatre International*, 2.1 (Aug 2009): 16-27

'"If the mask fits, wear it, I say": Dissension and Identity in the Plays of Brian Friel,' in *CrosSections*, Volume 2: *Selected Papers in Literature and Culture from the 9th HUSSE Conference*, ed. Andrew C. Rouse, Gertrud Szamosi, and Gabriella Voo (Pecs, Hungary: Institute of English Studies, University of Pecs, 2010), 135-45

(Ed., with introduction), *Alive in Time: The Enduring Drama of Tom Murphy: New Essays* (Dublin: Carysfort Press, 2010)

FEATURED FILMMAKER – CAROL MOORE



Carol has been an actress for 30 years and was nominated Best Actress in the 1988 European Film Awards for her role as the 'model' in *Reefer and the Model*. Carol co-founded Charabanc Theatre Company in 1983 and remained a co-Artistic Director and actress with the company until its closure in 1995. Carol performed last year in Kabosh's site-specific production *Two Roads West* by Lawrence McKeown but in the last number of years has been making films.

In 1997 Carol's short film adaptation of Cathal O Searcaigh poem *Gort an gCnámh* won four awards in 1998 including Best First Time Director at the Celtic Film Festival and Foyle Film Festival. She received a NESTA fellowship in 2005 to enable her to explore and develop ideas surrounding diversity, integration and migration. These include *The Farther, The Dearer, This Belfast Thing* and *History Unfinished* (Northern Ireland regional winner of the BAFTA 60 SEC 2008 film competition). Carol's debut feature film *Pumpgirl* by Abbie Spallen (Holywood Productions) previewed at the Belfast Film Festival in 2009.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, 1 October 2010

2:00 – 5:00pm — Conference Registration and Name-Tag Pick-up (Residence Inn)

5:00 – 7:30pm — Welcoming Reception (Lookout Room, Student Union Building)

Sponsored in part by: BSU Office of the Provost, Graduate College,
College of Arts & Sciences, and College of Social Sciences & Public Affairs

Jodi Chilson – Conference Director & Secretary/Treasurer, ACIS-West

Jack Pelton – Dean of the Graduate College, Boise State University

Kendall Reid – President, ACIS-West

Chad Summervill – Music

7:30 – 8:30pm — Reading by Trevor Joyce (Jordan Ballroom A, Student Union Building)

Sponsored in part by BSU MFA Program

9:00 – 11:00pm — No host after party at Ha' Penny Bridge Irish Pub (Downtown Boise)

Saturday, 2 October 2010 (Presentations take place in the Interactive Learning Center, Room 302)

6:30 – 9:00am — Continental breakfast at Residence Inn

9:00 – 10:00am — Defining Irish-ness: Language, Linguistics, and Words

[Chair: Jodi Chilson (Boise State University)]

“Lies Will Set You Free” – Zan Cammack (Brigham Young University, Idaho)

“Defining Irish Style: A Computational Stylistics of Irish and British Prose” –
Matthew Jockers (Stanford University)

“Seamus Heaney: The Syntax and Rhythm of Politics” – George Lensing
(University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

10:00 – 10:15am — Break

10:15 – 10:30am — Film by Carol Moore, *This Belfast Thing*

10:30 – 11:30am — Re-defining Irish-ness and Recreating History

[Chair: Helen Lojek (Boise State University)]

“(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the Contemporary/Post-Modern” – Susan Reese
(Portland State University)

“From Byways to Highways: Changing Landscapes in Contemporary Irish
Poetry” – Marthine Satris (U.C. Santa Barbara)

“That’s Not How I Remember It: Creating Nostalgia in ‘The Dead’” –
Marguerite Quintelli-Neary (Winthrop University)

11:30 – 1:00pm — Lunch Break

1:00 – 1:15pm — Film by Carol Moore, *The Cruelty Man*

1:15 – 2:15pm — Inequality and International Irish Connections

[Chair: Tiffany Hitesman, Boise State University]

“‘Color it Irish’: General Responses to Defining Identity in the Contemporary
Post-Modern World” – John Bieter and Dr. Ken Coll
(Boise State University)

“Hybrid Ireland: Roddy Doyle’s Nigerian Irish Identity” – Eva Roa White
(Indiana University Kokomo)

“Native American Presences in Northern Irish Poetry” – Jolynn Amrine
Goertz (University of Alabama)

FEATURED WRITER – ANGELINE KEARNS BLAIN



Angeline Kearns Blain was born in Dublin in 1938. She emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s, married and had three sons. After raising her family she enrolled in basic education classes, continuing to university where she earned an MA degree. She has been Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies for twenty years at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. Her publications include *Tactical Textiles: A Genealogy of the Boise Peace Quilt Project*, articles on the peace women and women, *Stealing Sunlight: Growing up in Irishtown*, and *I Used to be Irish: Leaving Ireland, becoming American*.

2:15 – 2:45pm — Creative Writer Reading: Angeline Kearns Blain (author of *Stealing Sunlight: Growing Up in Irishtown* (2000) and *I Used to Be Irish* (2009))

2:45 – 3:00pm — Break

3:00 – 4:15pm — Irish Identity in This Life, The Afterlife, and On the State
[Chair: Charlotte Headrick (Oregon State University)]

“Beckett’s *Play*, *The Lost Ones*, and *How It Is*: Protestant Hells, Catholic Purgatories, or Agnostic Limbos?” – John Murphy (DeVry University)

“‘The White Appearance of Their Persons’: White Racial Relationships in the Contexts of Union, Empire, and Nationalism” – Catherine M. Eagan (Las Positas College)

“Another Look at Yeats’ *The Player Queen*: A Postmodern Mousetrap” – Brandie Siegfried (Brigham Young University)

“‘The Prince of Darkness Is a Daughter’: The Patriarchal Domination and the Struggle for Female Subjectivity in Marina Carr’s *The Cordelia Dream*” – Nancy Finn (University of Massachusetts)

4:15 – 4:30pm — Film by Carol Moore, *Crack in the Pavement*

6:00 – 7:30pm — Banquet & Business Meeting (Simplot Ballroom C, Student Union Bldg)

7:30 – 8:30pm — Keynote Address by Christopher Murray

“‘The New Thing That Has Happened, or the Old Thing That Has Happened Again’: Beckett and the Irish Sensibility”

9:00 – 11:00pm — No host after party at Ha’ Penny Bridge Irish Pub (Downtown Boise)

Sunday, 3 October 2010 (Presentations take place in the Interactive Learning Center, Room 302)

6:30 – 9:00am — Continental breakfast at Residence Inn

9:00 – 10:00am — Irish Masculine Identities

[Chair: Kendall Reid (Tacoma Community College)]

“George M. Cohan: ‘The Most Talented Man in the History of American Theatre’ ” – Maria Szasz (University of New Mexico)

“Body and Soul Laid Bare: Nudity in ‘More Pricks and Murphy’ ” –
Mary Powers (University of New Mexico)

10:00 – 11:00am — Irish Female Identities

[Chair: Audrey Eyster (Pacific Lutheran University)]

“Losing Her Figure: (Mis)shapen Identities and the Absence of Mothers in Elizabeth Bowen’s *The Death of the Heart*” – Brianna Rangel (San Diego State University)

“Expanding the Definition of Irish Drama: The Case of Elizabeth Kuti” –
Charlotte Headrick (Oregon State University)

“Why Jane and Not Maria?: Market Forces, Literary Value or National Identity?” – Anne Macdonald (Poudre River Public Library District, Fort Collins, CO)

11:00 – 11:15 — Presentation of the Willard Potts and Don Jordan Emerging Scholar Award

11:15 – 11:30 — Closing Remarks

LINKS

ACIS-West – ACISWest.wordpress.com

ACIS-West Email – ACISWest@gmail.com

ACIS – www.acisweb.com

Western Institute for Irish Studies – www.wiisonline.com

International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures – www.iasil.org

Consulate General of Ireland – www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org

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SPECIAL THANKS

Audrey Eyler

Chad Summervill

Charlotte Headrick

Helen Lojek

Jason Stevens

~~Jason Stevens~~
Kendall Reid

Matthew Jockers

Nora McGuinness

Tiffany Hitesman

Tony Chilson