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Women's Festivals Coming to Limerick, Ireland

SANTA BARBARA, CA (February 11, 2009) – The Women's Festivals, a not-for-profit collaborative of community leaders and leading not-for-profit organizations, will be heading to Limerick, Ireland to conduct a celebration of International Women's Day at the University of Limerick on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. **Patty DeDominic**, founder of the Women's Festivals will be making the overseas trip along with **Deborah Hutchison**, founder of Gutsy Gals Inspire Me, **Dr. Anabel Ford** a Mesoamerican archaeologist, and **Carolyn Fineran**, life coach and owner of Gypsies Collection.

The University of Limerick (UL) Women's Forum Events Committee, a sub-committee of the UL Women's Forum is delighted to announce its first annual conference to celebrate International Women's Day – "Women, Work and Life—Negotiating the Boundaries." International Women's Day is a day when women throughout the entire world come together regardless of nationality or lifestyle and celebrate life as a woman. The UL Women's Forum is a network within the University of Limerick which supports the development of female employees within their working environment through the organization of networking events, co-ordination of sub-committees and lobbying for support for women's issues. The forum is committed to supporting and empowering women to realize their full potential and highlight issues of importance to female employees in UL. It provides a networking opportunity for existing and new employees in a supportive environment where issues of concern can be discussed openly and frankly. It also promotes positive actions to address gender inequality within the University of Limerick.

The California Women's Festival will take place on March 8, 2009—International Women's Day—at the Corwin Pavilion on the campus of UC Santa Barbara. Plenary sessions and seminars featuring multidisciplinary authors, forward thinkers, and experts will be offered, as well as a business expo filled with quality organizations dedicated sustainability and betterment. The event promises to be a successful follow up to the inaugural festival to celebrate International Women's Day.

Women from across the country will gather, share resources, provide inspiration, and start personal action plans for improving their lives, communities, and ultimately, our whole world.

The full day program includes such local celebrities as:

- **Chef Kate Adamick, JD** of the Orfaea Foundation's "s'Cool Food" Initiative;
- **Deborah Hutchison**, founder of Gutsy Gals Inspire Me, a dynamic way-of-life company;
- **Dr. Jean Weidemann** of the Weidemann Foundation talking about micro financing;
- **Mikki Reilly, CSCS**, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist;
- **Alan Tratner** founder of Green2Gold; and
- **Marsha Bailey**, CEO and Founder of Women's Economic Ventures

About the Women's Festivals

In 1997, the United Nations declared March 8 the day to celebrate women around the world. The Women's Festivals were created to celebrate the accomplishments and nurture the dreams of women in an interactive, multi-cultural, and entertaining format focusing on the five key areas of women's lives: **Personal**, **Professional**, **Philanthropic**, **Political** and **Planet** (also known as the "5 Ps"). The Festivals aim to provide a unique opportunity to provide a rich common experience and fertile environment for networking and resource sharing. Founding not-for-profit organizations include: The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO),

Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, SCORE, Future Women CEOs, and Women's Economic Ventures (WEV).

Data compiled by the Department of Commerce indicates that women account for some \$7 trillion in consumer and business spending in the U.S. and control more than \$13 trillion in personal wealth. This amount is projected to rise to \$20 trillion over the next 15 years. Quite simply, the economic power wielded by women has never been greater.

Santa Barbara is the perfect city to host the California Women's Festival on March 8, 2009. The Santa Barbara Conference and Visitors Bureau is a member of the host committee and will assist those coming from out of town to find accommodations, visit them at www.santabarbaraca.com.

For more information or to register for the day long events or the VIP reception the night before, please visit www.womensfestivals.org or call 805.565.9967.

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