



Celebrating Women's History:
Every Impact Matters



Did you know?

March 8th is recognized as International Women's Day in honor of the day women in Soviet Russia began their protest for their right to vote.

Those ladies got their wish in 1917, and ever since, March 8th has been designated as a special day to celebrate all the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

That list is quite long, as history is filled with amazing women who have helped their fellow ladies take major strides through society. Women like Rosa Parks, Diana of Wales, Billie Jean King, Amelia Earhart, Katherine Johnson, and Oprah Winfrey have all helped bring women to the forefront in their own ways.

Earhart flew around the world while Johnson helped literally blast us away from it towards the moon, and their accomplishments should be celebrated always. As Women's History Month, March is a perfect time to recognize these great women and others like them on an international scale.

But at the same time, it's also a great opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of others too—women who may not have launched us beyond the stratosphere but have still positively affected someone in some other, important way.

At Schellman, we are lucky enough to count so many amazing women among our ranks. They all deserve recognition for all their work in different aspects, and in honor of International Women's Day, we'd like to shine the spotlight on a few of our outstanding ladies.

Debbie Zaller, Chief Operating Officer

As our Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Schellman, Debbie sits in the driver's seat of our Operations Team, spearheading the way forward for our firm to reach new heights. Before being promoted to COO, Debbie led several regions along with our national SOC 2 and Privacy service lines as a Managing Principal. Schellman's first female principal, she has acquired over 21 years of IT compliance and attestation experience and counting.



To go with her numerous compliance certifications and specializations, Debbie obtained a Culinary Nutrition Expert Certification in 2020. She is passionate about cooking and nutrition, and now channels that into helping people manage—and in some cases cure—symptoms related to chronic diseases and allergies with food. Through this work in her spare time, she supports others in getting their lives back so that they feel good despite their demoralizing diagnoses.

Andrea Alvarez, Contract Administrator

Here at Schellman, Andrea is a Contract Administrator with our legal team. Using her 15+ years of experience working in the legal field, she reviews and administers customer contracts while also assisting with NDAs, vendor agreements, and state and CPA licenses.

Before joining the firm, Andrea wrote and published her first children's book. [*Andres and his Rubik's Cube Madness*](#) is based on Andrea's own experiences watching her young son enter and conquer the world of speed-cubing. She often attends book fairs to read her book to children, though her son often steals the show with his Rubik's Cube abilities. In sharing her son's story of dedication in pursuit of a goal, Andrea has helped other kids understand the all-too-important lesson that it isn't always about being the best—it's about doing your best.





Nisha Ellis, Manager

Now a Manager with Schellman, Nisha is based in Atlanta and performs SOC services for clients seeking to provide security assurance to their customers. Now with over 4 years of experience and counting, Nisha has worked with organizations in various industries, including financial services, manufacturing, and entertainment.

A co-chair of Schellman's Women's Influence Network, she makes extra time to help pave the way for everyone to feel comfortable sharing their unique perspectives. Her talent for facilitating connection at work bleeds over from her love of travel—she's been all over, from exploring Kathmandu to glacier hiking in Iceland. In her own words, "sharing experiences with people from around the world allows me to better understand people I interact with every day. I make it a priority to ensure every viewpoint is at least heard so that we all have more opportunities to think bigger."

The Appreciation of Women from a Man's Perspective



Honoring Women Everywhere – Even At Home

Of course, for many of us, before coming to work, the influence of women started at home.

For Eric Aulbach, a senior associate at Schellman, there are two in particular that he credits for a large part of who he is today:

“Over the course of my own life, there have been two women whose accomplishments and attitude towards life have shaped me. Together, my mother and my sister have both made me a better person.

My mom is one of my role models and always has been. No matter what challenges she was facing, she always provided my two siblings, my father, and me with love and support.

Her mindset was to always put family first and to love unconditionally. Growing up, she taught me diligence, motivation to always want better, and to not quit until a job is done correctly to the best of my ability. Without her kindness and selflessness growing up, I would not be the person I am today.

As for my sister, I could not be a prouder older brother having watched her develop in to a caring, diligent, and intelligent adult. In fact, watching her has taught me to never give up.

Four years younger than me, my sister plays Division 1 basketball. As a smaller point guard, she was not given opportunities at certain schools just because of her height. But through her persistence and her belief in hard work and dedication, she achieved her goal of playing at the D1 level.

Despite all these obstacles thrown her way, she has always kept a positive attitude and has a lot of fun living life. Thanks to her, I've learned that while it is important to work hard in my career, school, or whatever I am involved in, I also need to take time to enjoy life and have fun with friends and family."

Celebrate the Women in Your Life

International Women's Day is an important milestone every year—it gives the world a chance to critically reflect on the accomplishments of women and to strive for a greater momentum towards gender equality globally.

But sometimes, we can get lost in only thinking of women who have had a large-scale effect on the world. Yet women have impacted us all in some way or another—at work, at home, or even randomly—and International Women's Day should also be about those that have made the world a better place through their dedication, talent, and care for all of us.

Whether it's your mother, sister, colleague, or any other woman in your life, on March 8th, make sure to recognize their impact on you.

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