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## Fearless: Professor Janet Powers and Linnea Goebel

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# Fearless: Professor Janet Powers and Linnea Goebel

## **Abstract**

This week we would like to recognize Professor Janet Powers and recent graduate Linnea Goebel '13 for their work in Bosnia this summer helping to set up a group of female embroiderers with an Amazon Marketplace account to sell their wares on the internet. [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Surge, Surge Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Center for Public Service, Bosnia, Amazon Marketplace, Global Feminism

## **Disciplines**

Civic and Community Engagement | Eastern European Studies | Gender and Sexuality | International and Area Studies | Politics and Social Change | Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies | Sociology | Women's Studies

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# SURGE

[ VERB ] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

## FEARLESS: PROFESSOR JANET POWERS AND LINNEA GOEBEL

August 2, 2013

This week we would like to recognize **Professor Janet Powers** and recent graduate **Linnea Goebel '13** for their work in **Bosnia** this summer helping to set up a group of female embroiderers with an **Amazon Marketplace** account to sell their wares on the internet.



Professor Powers first became involved with the group of twenty Bosnian war widows in 2011 when she traveled to the country to interview **women's groups** for her book. Like most other women in the country, where the **unemployment rate is about 43%**, they struggle to support families, many of which include older children who are unable to support themselves in the **economic climate**. They are extremely talented at **crocheting, knitting, and embroidering**, but lack a market for their goods. Professor Powers became their liaison, bringing their wares home with her to sell at different craft fairs and markets.

Linnea became involved in the project while taking the professor's **Global Feminism** course. She was already interested in the region and was **learning Serbo-Croatian** with another professor. Linnea had the idea to **expand Professor Powers' efforts** by creating a store online, and the two of them applied for a grant to travel back to Bosnia and make this a reality.

At the beginning of the summer, they flew to **Sarajevo** and helped the women to **take an inventory** of their wares and write up descriptions for the online stores. Professor Powers had also been **conducting research** with focus groups on campus about what other types of clothing and what styles would be popular so that the women could **expand their selections**. This trip was also an opportunity to begin incorporating her findings into their work.



The last hurdle that they need to overcome in order to get their storefront online is to **set up a bank account** for the women that can be accessed in both **Bosnia and the US**, which is made difficult because the country is not part of the **Eurozone**. Professor Powers will be handling this project herself now that Linnea has departed to spend a year in **Moscow**.

We'd also like to give our shout out this week to Professor Powers and her **co-researcher**, also a Bosnian refugee. In addition to this project, the two of them have organized various **peace-building projects** in the country. These have included various **concerts for peace** and efforts to bring **Catholic and Muslim women** from rural areas together to share their stories of loss and unite over the fact that **suffering is not contingent upon ethnic identities**.

<http://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com/2013/08/02/fearless-professor-janet-powers-and-linnea-goebel/>