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Carol Bresnahan, Michelle Stecker

Weddings/Celebrations
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Carol Marie Bresnahan and Michelle Julia Stecker were joined in civil union on Saturday in Spring Lake, N.J. The Rev. Laurie Hill, a minister of the United Church of Christ, officiated.

Ms. Bresnahan (above, left) is 52. She is a professor of history and the vice provost for academic programs and policies at the University of Toledo. Next month, she will join the College of New Jersey at Ewing as a professor of history, the provost and the executive vice president.

She graduated cum laude from Smith College. She received both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in history from Brown.

Ms. Bresnahan is a daughter of Patricia A. Bresnahan and Charles W. Bresnahan of Rockport, Mass. Her father is a vice president of HUB International, an insurance and risk management company, in Wilmington, Mass.

Ms. Bresnahan's marriage ended in divorce.

Ms. Stecker, 44, worked until earlier this month as a contract mediator in the Lucas County Juvenile Court in Toledo. She is the founder of EqualityToledo, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights group. **She is also on the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington.** From 1989 to 2006, Ms. Stecker, an ordained Presbyterian minister, served Presbyterian and United Church of Christ congregations in Ohio and Michigan.

She graduated from George Fox College in Newberg, Ore., and has a master's of divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and a Ph.D. in American women's history and a law degree from the University of Toledo.

Ms. Stecker is a daughter of Myrna G. Stecker and Thomas F. Stecker of Longview, Wash. Her father is a longshoreman at the Port of Longview, and in the summer, a commercial fisherman in Alaska. He is also a professional pianist in the band After Five.