

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AAUW supports education for women and girls. Women remain, however, underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Although we make up half of the workforce, women comprise only 25% of the labor force in STEM fields.

Brevard Branch has fostered early interest in STEM curricula through summer camp scholarships for rising 5th and 6th grade girls at Green River Preserve Science Camp and rising 8th grade girls at the Asheville School Science Camp. When the Asheville School closed its summer program, our Education/Local Scholarship committee began searching for a quality summer science program at middle school level. They are investigating a promising program at Clemson University named WISE, Women in Science & Engineering. It is one week of collaborative and hands-on learning through practical applications.

On November 23 President Obama announced establishment of National Lab Day, an effort supported by AAUW and more than 200 other organizations representing over 6.5 million science, technology, engineering and math professionals and teachers. Tentatively scheduled for early May 2010, this is a nationwide movement to bring together STEM professionals and teachers to provide high-quality, hands-on, lab experiences for students.

Teachers can partner with outside experts to assess current labs, update or refurbish lab equipment, conduct equipment and materials inventory, or clean and repair equipment. Experts may also implement hands-on projects, start a fundraising effort to buy needed supplies, help with science fairs, mentor a student, coordinate and host field trips, provide internship opportunities, donate materials, and assist with lesson plans.

While many Brevard Branch members do not have career experience in STEM fields, we may know of professionals and experts who would have an interest in encouraging this initiative for women and girls. If you think of an individual or business that could make a contribution to this effort, please pass that information along to me.

Judy Baghose

BRANCH MEETING **12:00 noon, February 9, at College Walk**

Susan Borgman, Clinical Director of Wellspring Academy of the Carolinas, will discuss the mission and activities of this weight-loss boarding school for teens and young adults.

Hostesses: Judith Johnson & Barbara Wolfe



Photo by Jackie Hovey

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND



In Saint Cloud, MN, Julie Bell is the lone female head coach of a boys' soccer team. The lack of female coaches in boys' sports is not unusual. A study done by the *St. Cloud Times* shows that three women coach area girls' basketball teams this winter, and none are head coaches for girls' hockey.

In the conferences that include St. Cloud area teams, there are 53 male and five female head girls' basketball coaches. And this trend is toward more male coaches. At first, almost all coaches in girls' sports were women. That came after the historic Title IX legislation in 1972. By the 1980's, the numbers trended toward men as head coaches. By the 1990's, most head coaches of girls' basketball teams were males.

Recent research cites five primary reasons. 1) Success of the 'old boys' network; 2) Lack of support systems for females; 3) Failure of an 'old girls' network; 4) Females "burn out" and leave coaching sooner than males; and 5) Failure of females to apply for job openings.

These findings show how vital it is for universities to continue to prepare women coaches as much as it is vital to prepare all educators. And, maybe, for all of us to strengthen the "good old girls" network!

Connie Keeney, Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

COMING EVENTS

Feb 3 2:00 p.m.	Book Club College Walk
Feb 8 1:00 p.m.	Board Meeting St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Feb 9 12:00 noon	Branch Meeting College Walk
Feb 23 1:00 p.m.	Bridge Club Pam Brannon's home
Feb 23	Mar. Newsletter Deadline
Mar 3 2:00 p.m.	Book Club College Walk

HELP WANTED!

Our speakers for both February and March will need a laptop projector. If anyone has one to loan for this use or knows someone who might loan to us, please call either Laura Ledford, 877-2766, or Jackie Hovey, 884-8647.

Laura Ledford, Program Co-Chair

RISE & SHINE HAS INTERIM DIRECTOR

As many of you know, Rise & Shine founding director — and AAUW "Women Who Make A Difference" honoree, Tami Moss, resigned last fall to take on new challenges. The board of directors of Neighbors in Ministry, Inc., the parent organization of Rise & Shine, has selected Vrindy Delisle as interim executive director of Rise & Shine Freedom School. AAUW Brevard Branch member Mary Read, a charter volunteer with Rise & Shine, is on the board and may be contacted for more information.

AAUW BREVARD SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The endowment fund received this donation since the last newsletter:

In Honor of

Norma & Jim Aguilar

Donor

Francis Aguilar

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

In December 2009, AAUW Brevard Branch contributed \$4500 to national to support the Fellowships and Grants division of the Educational Opportunities Fund, the largest source of funding in the world for women pursuing graduate degrees.

We earmarked \$1000 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund in honor of Roberta Halinen and Nancy Stricker, our "Women Who Make a Difference" honorees. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund currently supports research projects on issues important to women such as the pay gap and girls in science.

Examples of work done by graduate women who have received American Fellowship AAUW awards this year include that of Llane Barber, Ph.D., American History, Boston College, "who studies the impact of immigration and systemic racism on 20th-century U.S. cities. Her dissertation examines the development of a Latino-majority population in a small New England city...."

Anjali Bhatara's postdoctoral research at the University of California, Los Angeles, "focuses on auditory and music perception in people with autism spectrum disorders and on therapeutic applications of music...."

International Fellowship award winner, Maria Alejandra Artunduaga, from Colombia is doing postdoctoral research "studying the genetic basis of congenital external ear malformations. She plans to become a surgeon and scientist by pursuing further training in pediatric reconstructive surgery in the United States. Her goals involve creating a craniofacial center for research/treatment back in Colombia, and she hopes to be a positive role model by demonstrating that women in developing countries can succeed in medical research."

Information on over 1300 awardees can be found on the AAUW web site. The 2009-10 online Directory of Fellowship and Grant Recipients showcases the recipients of AAUW's five fellowship and grant programs-- 214 individuals and nonprofit organizations that will receive more than \$3 million in funding during the current program year.

Our branch has generously supported national's educational funding for years, and in view of the Educational Opportunity Fund's ability to reach and help individuals whose studies benefit both our national and international societies, we should continue to be proud that we are able to do so.

Corinne Barboza, Educational Opportunities Fund

BOOK SALE UPDATE

Consider sponsoring announcements about the book sale on WCQS, Asheville's NPR station. We have one member who sponsors three announcements on a day near the sale. The cost is \$150 and there is no mention of the sponsor's name. Another option for \$139 provides four announcements and the sponsor's name is mentioned. We would like additional support in this area. Call me for more information.

The book sale is scheduled for June 26-July 3, 2010, in Boshamer Gym on the Brevard College campus.
Suzie Knapp, Book Sale Committee

BRIDGE CLUB

AAUW bridge club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We will gather on February 23 at the home of Pam Brannon at 1 p.m. Pam will contact members. If you are new to AAUW, and you enjoy good bridge hands and good company, please call Connie Kay Hughes at 862-6654 to join our group.

BOOK GROUP

AAUW book group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. at College Walk. The next meeting will be on February 3, and we will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. On March 3, we will discuss *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Stout. For further information, please call Carol Carrano at 883-3424.

EDUCATION UPDATE: NEW CENTURY SCHOLARS



A few years before the beginning of this new century, Communities in Schools (CIS) was initiated in many communities in the U.S. A chapter was begun here in Transylvania County that still exists today.

The purpose of the organization is to connect students with resources in the community to ensure that their school experiences are as beneficial as possible. To this end, community organizations were contacted to join in supporting CIS through yearly donations. AAUW Brevard Branch accepted the challenge to help support the New Century Scholars (NCS), a CIS program to encourage young people to finish high school and attend college.

NCS participants are nominated by seventh grade teachers who know the students and recognize that they would benefit from the program. The program introduces students and their families to the idea that they will be able to graduate from high school and makes financial help available as they pursue a college degree at either Brevard College or Blue Ridge Community College. Parents and school personnel pledge to support the students, and the young people pledge to meet the standards of good students — good attendance and attitude, good work habits and grades, and good citizenship. If all of these goals are met, the students are eligible for a full college scholarship. What a wonderful opportunity!

Since the inception of the program, at least 20 students have successfully attended college on New Century Scholarships. Other participants earned scholarships to attend other schools and did not need the funds raised for tuition. It has been a successful program.

The school administrators and those working with NCS have changed several times over the years, and the program has not been a priority in recent years. Currently one Rotary Club and AAUW Brevard are the only community supporters of the program. North Carolina has stopped funding the after-school mentoring program that was part of the NCS effort. Your AAUW education/local scholarship committee has met with representatives of the program twice this year and still do not know what is happening to the program. We have been told that changes are planned and have asked for a report on these changes before we provide additional financial support the program. Hopefully, soon we will be able to report what the changes are and make recommendations as to support for the program in the future.

Mary Kay Jennings, Co-Chair, Education/Local Scholarship Committee

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Members of our Branch who have paid dues for Fiscal Year 2010, July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010, that included National Dues will have received a Dues Receipt noting that the National AAUW has restructured itself into a 501 (c)(3), "public charity". A certain amount of National Dues may be considered a tax deduction.

Betty Runion