

President's Message: Projects Provide Opportunities For Reaching Out

This January, Carlynn Trout, our writer, and Mary Dahm, our designer, completed production of ten biographies for *Notable Women of Missouri*. Betty Cook Rottmann, Liz Bailey and I presented three copies to Field School, one for the Media Center, the other two for use in fourth-grade classes. The biographies begin with Hannah Cole, the first pioneer woman to settle in Central Missouri, and end with Linda Godwin, physicist, pilot and astronaut. All ten women represent a variety of achievements and backgrounds. Each two-page biography has been laminated, and all are included in a binder with a good-looking cover. A copy of the volume will be available for your inspection at the Saturday morning brunch on February 21 and at subsequent meetings. I think you will all agree that the finished product is professional and attractive. Both Carlynn and Mary deserve our thanks for all the time and energy they have devoted to this project.

This is a pilot project, but I do not want us to stop there. I would like to see the project expand after the teachers at Field School have used the biographies in their classes and have given us some feedback. I am confident that the biographies could become an essential tool for teaching Missouri history at fourth-grade level, and I very much hope that in the future we can add additional biographies of Missouri women to the initial ten and that all fourth-grade classes in the Columbia School system will be able to use them.

With the completion of the first part of our Partnership Friend agreement with Field School, we must now turn our attention to the second component. The agreement calls for the branch to contribute to classroom presentations. Details of how we will accomplish this remain to be worked out. You may receive a call asking whether you can help. So be prepared!

Other good news concerns a possible collaboration with Girl Scouts-Heart of America Council to hold two engineering workshops on the MU Campus for girls in 4th and 5th grades. Your board agreed to collaborate on an application to AAUW for a Community Action Grant. If the application is successful, the workshops will be held in the Spring of 2005 and 2006. Our commitment to this project will require advising during the planning stage and

for 8-10 of us to help during the workshops.

These two projects offer this branch opportunities to do more for our community. I feel strongly that for us to survive and fulfill our mission we must reach out locally to a greater extent than we have done in the past.

— Jane Biers, President

Columbia Area Teacher Receives AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowship



Bronwyn McFarlane,
AAUW Fellow

All of you are probably well aware that we have the honor of having one of the Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships awarded to Bronwyn MacFarlane of Columbia. Many members of our Columbia Branch have had the opportunity to meet her in person at Tea and Taste.

When Jane Biers and I visited with Bronwyn in November she told us that she had completed and sent

the 18-page application for the fellowship in January of 2003 and was notified in May 2003 that she had indeed been awarded one of the ten prestigious professional development fellowships. In July, she and a colleague went on a five-day trip to the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Washington D.C. All of her expenses were paid and her colleague only had to pay the travel expenses. In November she attended the National Association of Gifted Children 50th Anniversary Conference in Indianapolis with the support she received from this fellowship.

Bronwyn was born in Jackson, Ohio and soon moved to Philadelphia, Pa. She moved again at the age of 4 to Mexico, Mo. Her mother, Beverly, had been a member of AAUW in Ohio. Bronwyn received her undergraduate degree in Secondary Education and her M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri. She studied as a graduate student in *(continued on page 2)*

(from page 1) Paris and Cannes, France for two months in 1999. In 2003, Bronwyn received her second masters degree in Counseling from Stephens College. Since 1999 she has taught French and secondary gifted and talented grades 7-12 at Hallsville High School, as well as being the Sophomore Class Sponsor and coach for the high school men's golf team.

In Bronwyn's spare time, she is a contributing writer for "Columbia Home" magazine and an Independent Consultant for Mary Kay cosmetics. When you see her at one of our meetings please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to this delightful young woman.

— Karen Dixon, EF and Eva Johnston Scholarship Chair

February Program Focuses On Appreciation of Diversity

The next Columbia Branch meeting will be on February 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. Our guest speaker is Monica Naylor, Coordinator of Multicultural Programs for the Columbia Public Schools. Her topic is "Valuing Diversity". She was Mistress of Ceremonies at this year's "Columbia Celebrates Diversity" Breakfast. The cost of brunch is \$10.00. Reservations are required. You will be called or contacted by e-mail.

REMINDER: Since inclement weather necessitated cancellation of our Holiday Social in December, we haven't donated our gifts for the girls at Missouri Girl's Town. Please bring your gifts to the February meeting and they will be taken to the girls. The gifts may be late but will still be appreciated.

--- Betty Burchett, Program Co-Chair

Volunteer History Day Judges Needed

For several years, Columbia Branch members have assisted the AAUW State Chair, Joan Gones, by helping judge entries at *History Day in Missouri* on the MU Campus. AAUW of Missouri awards 6 cash prizes and we have traditionally partnered with Columbia Altrusa, who also gives awards. History Day this year is Saturday, April 17.

If you are interested in spending the morning (8:00-12:00 a.m.) observing and marveling at the young talent from around the state, you won't regret it. Those judging in the past have always enjoyed the experience. **We need at least 12 volunteers again this year.** Please mark April 17 on your calendar and call Liz Bailey (449-7677) or Holly Burgess, (449-0625). There will be sign up opportunities at the February and March branch meetings. A free lunch is provided and no prior experience or knowledge of history is needed.

— Liz Bailey

Remembering Margaret M. Schaper

Margaret was a devoted and loyal member of AAUW for many years. She had been a teacher of French and loved, among other things, traveling, learning new things and playing bridge. She passed away Dec. 31, 2003 at the age of 93 years. She will be missed by her many friends.

Branch Newsletters Available Online

If you have a computer you can read our newsletters online by going to our website, aauw.columbia.missouri.org and clicking on the "newsletters" tab. The files are in PDF format, so you will need the software program Acrobat Reader to read them. Acrobat is a free program that you may already have on your computer. If not, you can download it from the Adobe website at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>.

To print the newsletter at its full size, adjust your printing margins to .5 inch on all sides. Please try it and see if you would like to receive your newsletters in this manner. It would save printing and postage expense for the Branch. Your suggestions and comments may be sent to newsletter editor at mprather@coin.org.

Branch Money Matters

Sincere thanks to all of you for supporting the Tea and Taste fundraiser. We now have the Eva Johnston Scholarship Fund and the branch expenses (mainly this newsletter) for this year covered. We have had to hold fundraiser drawings at most meetings to keep our Branch going on the \$5.00 included in your yearly dues of \$50.

The Branch Board is recommending a raise in our dues this year along with the announced \$2.00 increase in Association dues. We are proposing a one-time increase of Branch dues of \$3.00 for a total Branch dues of \$8.00. Bottom line total dues for the 2004-05 year would be \$55 (includes association, state and branch).

— Liz Bailey, Treasurer

Connections

is the newsletter of the Columbia, Missouri Branch of the American Association of University Women. Please submit items to Mildred L. Prather-Garner, 4701 W. Gibbs Rd., Columbia, MO 65202 or e-mail mprather@coin.org Website: <http://aauw.columbia.missouri.org>

Tea and Taste: A Tea Party

And What a Party it Was!

The fund raiser was co-hosted by the Columbia Branch of AAUW and Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma at Paxton Keeley Elementary School on November 9. The members provided something for everyone – delicious refreshments, a silent auction, tables of home-made goodies and crafts for the early Holiday shoppers and delightful entertainment.

The entertainment, WOMEN IN THE ARTS, consisted of two types; active (performance) and passive (visual). The passive performance was a Power Point presentation of pictures and slides of the artistic endeavors of members from both groups prepared and presented by Dr. Linnea Lilja. The program was a mix of performance and visuals. In performance, Carolyn Holste did a piano solo, "The Waltzing Doll"; Mary Beth Ming sang a medley of songs from "Sound of Music" accompanied by Carolyn on the piano; Betty Cook Rottman, portraying Dorothy Parker, read from some of her works; Diane Brukaradt shared several selections of poetry and Bethel DeSpain entertained with her puppetry.

The Power Point included the works of Patti Doyle, Marilyn Skipper, Beuna Lansford, Karen Dixon, Linnea Lilja and Betty Burchett. Patti shared photos of her pieced quilts and a pieced quilted jacket. She also included photos of her embroidery, dresses and costumes for the Stephens College Performing Arts Department shows. Her recent works are vests embroidered with pictures of organ consoles which are sold to raise money to restore theater organs. Marilyn shared photos of some special quilts that she had pieced or embroidered and quilted. Beuna's contribution was a photo of a "Hand Painted China Chocolate Set". Since her retirement, she has enjoyed her china painting and filled her home with beautiful examples of her work. Karen displayed her talents of rubber stamping and embossing through individual greeting cards and sets of note cards. Linnea shared slides of her flower arrangements, including wreaths for the front door (both seasonal and special holidays) and some of her jewelry making and ornaments. Betty Burchett contributed photos of her knitting, needlepoint and weaving.

It was a busy, fun-filled afternoon and helped both organizations raise money to fund projects in the community. We thank all of you who helped in any way to make our afternoon a success. We especially appreciate the assistance of Elaine Hassemmer, Principal of Paxton Keeley Elementary.

--- Betty Burchett, Tea and Taste Coordinator

Diversity Corner

Nine members of the our branch filled our designated table at the Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast, January 15th, 2004. Other branch members were in attendance throughout the room. The theme of the breakfast was "The Price of Freedom." The breakfast included live jazz, presentation of many awards by Mayor Hindman and Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond, inspirational and patriotic music, and a dramatic presentation entitled "The Price of Freedom." It was inspiring and challenging to see so many people from Columbia turned out to celebrate the idea of embracing the diversity of our community. Thank you to all the members that took seats at our table and represented our branch to the greater Columbia community.

There is another chance to examine issues of diversity coming up this spring. "Let's Talk Columbia", the community study circles that discuss issues of diversity, will be held Saturday, May 1, 9:00am-5:30pm and Sunday, 1:30pm-5:30pm and May 2 at the Unity Center in Columbia. Discussion is facilitated, and centered on the discussion guide and video, "Toward a More Perfect Union in the Age of Diversity." Registration is due by April 16. For more information or to register, contact Nanette Ward, City of Columbia Human Rights Commission at hcr@GoColumbiaMO.com or phone (573) 874-7488

— Christine Roberson, Diversity Chair

Coming Events

2004

Feb. 7 ... Sat	.....	MU Women's Leadership Conference
Feb. 21 .. Sat	.....	Columbia Branch Meeting
Feb. 16 .. Mon	.....	Kids First Rally, Jefferson City
March	.....	Women's History Month
Mar 31 .. Wed	.....	Legislative Day, Jefferson City
Mar 11 .. Thurs.	.....	Columbia Branch Board Meeting
Mar 16 .. Tues	.....	Columbia Branch Meeting
Mar 24 .. Wed.	.....	Deadline for Branch Newsletter
Mar 31 .. Wed	....	Women's Lobby Day, Jefferson City
Apr 17 .. Sat	.....	Missouri History Day
Apr 20 .. Tues	.....	Columbia Branch Meeting
Apr 24-25	.....	State Conference, Kansas City
May 18 .. Tues	.....	Columbia Branch Meeting
June TBA	.....	Columbia Branch Board Meeting

Reading Group

The Reading Group continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month. It is open to the entire community. You do not have to be an AAUW member to be in the book club, so your friends are welcome also. Most of our reading group members are not Columbia branch members. We have a very strong core group of four women, and have had up to seven attending the discussions. If you want to attend for just one book, or if you want to attend but did not get the book read, you are still very welcome to attend.

Ordering reading group books from Amazon through the AAUW website will give AAUW some money. Locally, 9th Street Bookstore will give you a 20% discount for reading group purchases. If you would like a brochure, more information, or want to RSVP for a meeting, please contact Christine Roberson at RockMOMS@aol.com or 499-9411. These are the books we will be reading in the next few months.

February (African American History Month): **Rock My Soul Black People and Self-esteem** by bell hooks. Ms. hooks considers the ongoing part that low self-esteem

plays within the African-American community. She examines the causes of the collective wounded self-esteem that she sees affecting the entire range of the African Americans, and how it undermines both individuals and the entire society. Discussion: 02/19/2004

March (Women's History Month): **Nicked and Dimed on (Not) Getting by in America** by Barbara Ehrenreich. Welfare reform has pushed many women out of their homes with their children, and forced them into low-wage jobs. Ehrenreich worked a series of low skill jobs, and tried to make ends meet on the wages which many women are attempting to raise a family. Her story of struggle is an indictment of the current state of affairs in the minimum wage world. Discussion: 03/18/2004

April: **No Disrespect** by Sister Souljah. Part memoir, part social criticism, the (in)famous rapper discusses growing up in the Bronx. She devotes each chapter to a person that made a difference, good or bad, in her life. Her honesty in telling her life experiences provides a jumping off point for her thoughts on race in America. Discussion: 04/15/2004

– Christine Roberson, Reading Group Chair

"Kids First Rally"

When: Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 16th, 1–2 p.m.

Where: the Capitol, Jefferson City

Sponsored by the Educational Roundtable

Organizers expect this to be the largest funding rally for education in Missouri history. The aim is to demonstrate to the Missouri General Assembly the importance of a long-term funding solution for Missouri's educational needs. For more information check the website: www.missourikidsfirst.org.

Women's Lobby Day

March 31

State Capitol House Hearing Room, Jefferson City

8-9 a.m.: Registration

Breakfast for all Legislators, Office Holders, Attendees

9-11 a.m.: Legislative Update/Briefing

11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Visits with Legislators

Registration fee is \$10 per person. This includes all briefing materials and breakfast for our legislator guests. Breakfast for participants is \$5 per person.

This fee may be paid at the door on March 31.

Please make your reservation before March 28. Call Grace Butler (449-8062) or e-mail gbutler@coin.org for further information and to make reservations.

Everyone is welcome. Invite a friend.

– Grace Butler, Public Policy Chair

March Program

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Friends Room, Columbia Public Library

Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Program at 7 p.m. followed by business meeting

"Historic Preservation in Columbia"

Debbie Sheals

Historic Preservation Consultant

Program co-sponsored by Columbia Public Library.

Please promote this program and bring guests.

Fifth Annual Women's Leadership Conference

Saturday, February 7, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Memorial Union

Sponsored by Leadership Development/Student Life.

Presentations on women's issues and leadership by students, faculty, staff and community members.

Opportunity to network and connect with others.

Catered lunch provided. Non-student registration \$15.

More information from Megan Warner,

884-8268, new89f@mizzou.edu.

MU's annual Women's Leadership Conference explores issues relevant to women in leadership.

Participants come from all disciplines on campus to enhance skills, meet fellow leaders and discuss important female leadership topics.