

President's Message:

Women's and Gender Studies at MU Supports Branch Project

It's always a pleasure to begin my message with good news. Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri have given our branch \$600 in support of our "Notable Women of Missouri" project. Four hundred dollars will help pay for research and writing, and \$200 is to be used to distribute copies of the binders to needy school districts in St. Louis, Kansas City and/or Springfield. I am most grateful to director Jacquelyn Litt and the Women's Studies Committee for helping in our endeavor to promote knowledge of women's achievements and provide role-models for young girls. Our biographies of Missouri women will remain a true asset for teaching Missouri history at fourth-grade level.

As you all remember, last year we began a partnership with Field School. Although we do not plan to limit distribution of the next ten biographies to that school, we do want to continue our connection with Field. I am hoping that we can repeat "Lunch and Learn" with the fourth grades, and at our next meeting I'll be asking for names of people who might be interested in participating. I am also still hoping that we can set up a video conference among the astronaut Linda Godwin and the students. Dr. Godwin has agreed to hold a conference, but I have not yet heard back from her about a date and possible arrangements.

I am sure that you were all outraged by the comments about women in science and mathematics that Harvard president Lawrence H. Summers recently made. Nancy Rustad, president of AAUW, and Mary Ellen Smyth, EF president, responded with a letter to the New York Times, pointing out that it is persistent sex discrimination, unclear standards, and biased behavior that make it difficult for women in higher education to reach the highest ranks, and not differences between men's and women's brains or women's unwillingness to commit to the challenges of academia. What president Summer's comments show is the current relevance of AAUW's mission to promote equity and education for women and girls.

--- Jane Biers, President

Women's Lobby Day

in

Jefferson City

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

State Capitol

House Hearing Room

Everyone is welcome. Invite a friend.

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.: Registration & breakfast for all legislators, office holders & attendees
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.: Legislative Update/Briefing
11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Visits with legislators (Make appointments with your legislators prior to March 30.)

Registration Fee: \$15.00 – includes your breakfast, all briefing materials and breakfast for legislator guests.
Contact Grace Butler (449-8062) for registration form.

Cards of Appreciation To Your Friends Will Benefit Local AAUW Scholarship

You can express your appreciation to the important women in your life and at the same time benefit the Eva Johnston Scholarship with the purchase and mailing of cards honoring Women's History Month. The cards will be available at the February meeting, and it is hoped that we can raise at least \$350 for the Eva Johnston scholarship. The cards will sell for \$5 each, or 6 for \$25.

Nominees Sought for Coming Year Positions

The positions of president, vice-president for membership, vice-president for programs, and secretary need to be filled. Please contact Grace Butler, nominating committee chair, if you have an interest in any of these positions.

"Tools for Achieving Balance in our Busy Lives" Is Theme for April Conference

"I would love to do that, but I'm just so busy!" Who hasn't gotten that response when you ask women to help with an AAUW project, take a leadership role for your branch, or to come to a meeting? The truth is that whether we are students, moms wrangling kids, working women, or retired – there's just not enough time to do the things we want to get done. That's why this year at our statewide meeting (April 8-9, 2005 in Boonville) we are focusing on tools for achieving balance in our chaotic lives.

The centerpiece of our conference will be two workshops – one about how to manage our time, and one about how to manage our "stuff." Mary Corcoran, PhD is a special feature writer for the business section of the Kansas City Star. Her expertise is in managing time. She'll cover how to make the most of our time, make meetings efficient, and how to stomp out procrastination. Why bother? Mary swears that taking control of your time will greatly reduce the stress in your life.

Sally Wolf, owner of Sally's Organizing Service in Kansas City, will lead a workshop on how to regain control over your workplace and home by getting the clutter tamed. By creating systems so you can find things more quickly, you can greatly improve the quality of life. She specializes in matching approaches to organization to our own unique personalities.

Hon. Bekki Cook, who ran statewide across Missouri for the Lieutenant Governor this last November, will provide some inspiration about taking risks, balancing work and family, and the role of women as leaders. We will soon face stiff challenges to programs that Missouri's women rely on. We need to maintain our focus on public policy at both the state and federal levels.

This year we will again host parallel conferences for our members and college students. Friday evening's lineup for students will focus on the grants available through AAUW's Educational Foundation, and a how-to workshop covering writing successful grants. We hope that branches and individuals will contribute generously as they did last year to sponsor students, thereby introducing the next generation of members to AAUW.

The Boonville Branch is hosting us, and we'll have an opportunity to explore one of Missouri's most historic small river towns. Friday evening's events will be held at Roslyn Heights, the Victorian style Daughters of the American Revolution state headquarters. All members and students will be invited for a welcome reception at Roslyn Heights on Friday evening. Saturday we will hold our meetings at the LSE School, which was the original public

school in Boonville, expanded and updated many times over the years. The Holiday Inn Express, one of the new hotels in town, will be our lodging headquarters.

We hope that you will take advantage of these great workshops, enjoy camaraderie with other AAUW members, and gain some life skills in the process. Remember, the early bird gets the registration discount!

—Barbara Richardson, Missouri AAUW Program V.P.
[Ed. Note: Registration materials will be included with your next issue of *Missouri in Motion*.]

Preparations Continue for Merger of Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Foundation

An update on the process taking place which will combine the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund has been provided by Mary Ellen Smyth, President, AAUW Educational Foundation, and Michele Warholic Wetherald, President, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

"We are writing to update you concerning the status of the merger of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund into the AAUW Educational Foundation. There has not been any news to report since the communication last May to announce that the Educational Foundation Board has agreed to accept the Legal Advocacy Fund Board's proposal of merger. During the last several months, further discussions, research, and consultation with legal and accounting professionals have been completed. In the last few weeks, both Boards (EF and LAF) met separately and jointly, with representatives of the other board, to consider the next formal steps.

"We want to reassure you, on behalf of both the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund Board members, of our continued commitment to insure that the Legal Advocacy Fund mission survives. As a result of recent collaborative efforts, such as the recently released research report titled, *Tenure Denied*, we are confident that the merger will be a new opportunity for LAF growth, as well as the synergy of combined efforts with the Foundation!

"In summary, both Boards have unanimously agreed to a full merger between the EF and LAF. Without legalese and financial terminology, this means that the LAF will cease to exist as a separate corporate entity (with an independent board) and that the EF will be the surviving corporate entity (with IRS 501 (c)(3) status). Further, the Legal Advocacy Fund will become a fund of the Foundation, operating under the current EF Program Committee, and will retain its same name. For most (continued on page 4)

February Meeting

Saturday, February 12, 2005 9:00 a.m.



Brunch, Business Meeting & Program
Jack's Restaurant
 1903 Business Loop 70 East
 Buffet, tax & gratuity: \$11.00
 R.S.V.P. will be requested.

**“Missouri’s Contribution to
 the Development of American Music”**
Lucille Salerno

Social Psychologist, University of Missouri

Lucille Salerno, Ph.D., is the newly appointed Director of the MU Lifespan Learning Program. Her last presentation for AAUW conveyed details of a curriculum she devised to assist adolescents to acquire conflict resolution skills as Director of International Youth Peace Initiatives in the Peace Studies Program. Lack of funding brought a conclusion to that innovative program.

This time Lucille’s presentation relates to her avocation, ragtime – America’s first true genre of music – and early jazz. Syncopation is the signature feature of ragtime and the intoxicating rhythm is likely to have you moving as you experience musical excerpts of Missouri’s great composers in the genre. But, don’t be surprised if you come away also knowing something about Lifespan’s 2005 Spring courses – classes begin March 14.

Coming Events

- Feb. 12 Sat Columbia Branch Meeting
- Mar. 13 Sun Columbia Branch Board Meeting
- Mar. 15 Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
- Mar. 28 Mon Branch Newsletter Deadline
- Mar. 30 Fri Women’s Lobby Day, Jefferson City
- Apr. 8 & 9 Fri, Sat Missouri State Conference, Boonville
- Apr. 16 Sat History Day at MU
- Apr. 19 Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
- May 10 Tues Columbia Branch Meeting
- June 24-27 AAUW National Convention, Washington, DC

March Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2005 6:30 p.m.

Celebrating Women’s History Month
 Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Program at 7:00 p.m., followed by Business Meeting.
Friends Room, Columbia Public Library

“I Believe in Happiness”
A Dramatic Reading

Portraying the Actress Harriet Bosse
Carla Waal

Professor Emerita, Theater Department
 University of Missouri

Carla Waal Johns will portray the Swedish actress Harriet Bosse (1878–1961), reminiscing about her career and her marriage to the playwright August Strindberg. Known as Strindberg’s “muse,” Bosse interpreted his plays on stage and film. For fifty years she was an independent artist and career woman, playing more than 220 roles. Carla Waal Johns, a Professor Emerita of Theatre at the University of Missouri, will introduce the monologue with anecdotes about the colorful people she met while doing research for a biography of the actress.

Johns has a Ph.D. from Indiana University. She taught at the University of Georgia from 1964–73 and at the University of Missouri-Columbia from 1973–92. She is the author of *Johanne Dybwad: Norwegian Actress*, and *Harriet Bosse: Strindberg’s Muse and Interpreter*, and is co-editor of *Hardship and Hope*. She is both actress and director. Her roles include Ethel in *On Golden Pond*, and she has been producer for Ibsen’s *The Lady from the Sea* and Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

This program is co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library. It is open to the community.

In Memoriam

Margaret Mier, a former member of the Columbia Branch AAUW, died January 5 at University Hospital. In addition to membership in AAUW, she was a volunteer for many local organizations, including the Columbia Catholic schools, Ellis Fishel Center, the Missouri Symphony and the Central Missouri Food Bank. She was 88 years old.

purposes, this change will be transparent to members and contributions will continue to be made payable to the 'Legal Advocacy Fund.'

"At this stage, legal filings and documents must be prepared and approved by both Boards to complete this transaction. Concurrently, the EF Board has appointed a Merger Committee to act on their behalf in the negotiation process with the entire LAF Board concerning the operational and transition details. We expect this process to be completed in the next several months. In this regard, you will be apprized of the date that the two Boards approve the final documents and the merger is effective. Current LAF Board members will likely serve the EF Board in an advisory capacity for the remainder of their terms through June 30, 2005.

"We will keep you updated as the merger continues forward."

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@coim.org
Website: <http://aauw.columbia.missouri.org>

Online Resources Help You Stay in Touch With What is Happening in Women's Issues

While educational gains for women are often credited with helping to shrink the gender gap in earnings, a new online resource from the AAUW Educational Foundation, *Gains in Learning, Gaps in Earnings*, reveals that there is still a significant pay difference between women and men with four-year degrees. Women are earning \$44,200, compared to \$61,800 for men – a gap of \$17,600 a year – or 71.5% of what the men earn. This information and links to more details about the research may be found in AAUW's new bi-monthly e-bulletin, *Mission in Action*, located at <http://www.aauw.org/ebulletin/mission/jan05/>. At the bottom of the page is a link where you can submit your e-mail address so that the bulletins will be sent to your e-mail address on a regular basis.

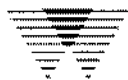
Other online links found on the Association's website that may interest you are:

Use the online *Two-Minute Activist* to tell your members of Congress where you stand.

Join AAUW's *Action Network* to receive e-mail updates on today's issues affecting women and girls. (The new *Action Network* replaces *Get the Facts*.)

Read the monthly *Action Alert* to learn about priority legislative issues under consideration. The January issue offers a comprehensive forecast for the 109th Congress.

This newsletter may be accessed on the internet at <http://aauw.columbia.missouri.org/newsletters/html>. If you would care to save the expense of having it mailed to you, please notify the editor, and you will receive e-mail notifications when newsletters are posted.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Columbia Branch AAUW
Mildred L. Prather-Garner
4701 W. Gibbs Rd.
Columbia, MO 65202-3292