



CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4 APRIL 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I near the end of my five-year stint as president of the Columbia Branch, I look back at what we have accomplished. We've continued our support for women and girl's education through the funding of our Eva Johnston scholarship, our participation in History Day, and the publication of biographies of notable women of Missouri. We've acted as a Partnership Friend with Field Elementary School, promoted membership in AAUW by Stephens College and MU, and provided varied and informative programs for members and the general public. Although membership in our branch has not increased, we are in better shape than some other branches in the state, and I have a firm belief that the branch will continue to thrive.

Our April and May programs will end the 2006-07 year in a fitting way. They relate to education and advocacy, two components of AAUW's new mission statement, which now reads as follows: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.* At the April meeting Professor Sheryl Tucker will describe her work mentoring girls in chemistry. Equity for women and girls cannot be achieved without education of girls in the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In her keynote address at the Regional Convention in St. Louis in April 2006, AAUW President Ruth

Sweetser emphasized AAUW's commitment to the importance of STEM as a component of its mission.

The work of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) remains vital for support of AAUW's mission. A list of recent and current cases funded by LAF is divided into the following categories: denial of tenure and promotion, pay equity, retaliation, sexual harassment, and Title IX discrimination. One of these cases was recently settled. Janet Conney, a former assistant clinical professor at the University of California-Los Angeles Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, sued the UC-Regents and UCLA in 2003 for sexual harassment, retaliation for complaining about discrimination, and pay equity. She has just received a \$4.07 million jury award. The program at the May branch dinner meeting, *LAF All the Way to Equity, A Readers' Script*, will illustrate the importance of LAF's support for women who face discrimination in the academic world.

Plan to attend these two meetings and show your support for AAUW's mission and the health of the Columbia branch.

Jane Biers
President

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate The 100th Anniversary of
the Columbia, Missouri Branch

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2007-2009

At the April 17th annual meeting, we will be voting for three officers. In accordance with the Branch By-laws a president, membership vice president and assistant treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Following is the slate that will be presented at the meeting:

President: Christine Roberson

Membership Vice-president: Jane Biers

Assistant Treasurer: Marianne Fues

Marianne Fues has agreed to stand for a second term.

NEW BOOKS FOR A NEW YEAR

Please bring books, both hardcover and paperback, to meetings as a fundraiser for LAF. We want to start raising funds for our 2007 contribution. Hard covers sell for \$1.00, paper backs for 50 cents. Our stocks are low. We need the books you have read and no longer want to keep. Betty Burchett is the LAF chair and will accept your donations



STATE HISTORY DAY APRIL 14 JUDGES NEEDED

The theme of the 2007 History Day is "Triumph and Tragedy." AAUW-MO will again be presenting two awards of \$100 each, one for individual performance by a junior, the other for an exhibit, also by a junior.

The Columbia, Missouri Branch will provide judges for these awards.

The event will be held on the University of Missouri campus from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 14. Judges will meet and pick up their information packets on the evening of April 13.

If you would like to be a judge but are unable to attend the informational meeting, you can still act as a judge on the 14th.

If you are interested in acting as a judge, please contact Holly Burgess, 449-0625

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 17, 2007 - Annual branch meeting & election

April 20-22, 2007 - Missouri/Kansas Joint State Conference, Parkville, Missouri

May 15, 2007 LAF reader's script "All the Way to Equity"

June 29-July 2, 2007 - AAUW Association Convention, Phoenix

OCTOBER 13, 2007 - COLUMBIA BRANCH
AAUW CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2008 - AAUW Southwest Central Regional Conference,
Overland Park, Kansas

2009 - AAUW ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, ST.
LOUIS, MISSOURI

TUESDAY, APRIL 17
“SHARING THE ‘MAGIC OF CHEMISTRY’
WITH GIRL SCOUTS”

WINDSOR LOUNGE
IN THE COMMONS AT STEPHENS COLLEGE
7:00 P.M.
PROFESSOR SHERYL TUCKER

Professor Tucker will talk about her program, the ‘Magic of Chemistry,’ which she started in Missouri in 1998. The aim of the program is to keep girls in the fourth through sixth grades interested in science. National studies have shown that girls often lose interest in experimental science before reaching high school. The program, which is given in collaboration with the Girl Scouts Heart of Missouri Council, offers girls the opportunity to do hands-on experiments in all-girl settings. Professor Tucker received a \$10,000 grant in 2005 as one of 10 winners of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

The annual meeting will follow Professor Tucker’s talk. Election of officers will be held, and there will be a vote on the Eva Johnston scholarship proposal. Grace Butler will give a short presentation on the speleologist Luella Agnes Owen, one of the women written up in *Notable Women of Missouri*.

This meeting is an excellent one to which to bring guests. Access to Windsor Lounge, where the meeting will be held, is easy. The Lounge is on the east side of Stamper Commons, which is located on the southeast corner of Broadway and College Avenue on the Stephens campus. Parking is available south of the Commons, off Willis Avenue. From the parking lot, you enter the building up a ramp on the east side of the building. Windsor Lounge is immediately to the right as you enter.

TUESDAY, MAY 15
“LAF ALL THE WAY TO EQUITY”
A READERS’ SCRIPT

DINNER, BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGRAM
BOONE TAVERN
811 E. WALNUT
5:30 P.M.

Join your fellow branch members at Boone Tavern for the final meeting of the 2006-07 year and bring a guest. The menu for dinner will feature a choice for the main course (fettucini Alfredo, chicken Dijon, or sirloin steak) followed by dessert. Your caller will ask you for a firm commitment. If at the last moment you are unable to attend, please find a substitute to take your place. Otherwise we will have to send you an invoice for the cost of your meal.

After dinner there will be a 20-minute program, an educational readers’ script that describes and promotes AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). The script features the moving stories of plaintiffs supported by LAF. A moderator will preside, and five to six women will read the roles of the plaintiffs.

A short business meeting will conclude the evening. The main feature of this will be installation of new officers.

This would be an excellent meeting to which to bring a friend and introduce her (or him) to AAUW and our branch.

AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN
Christine Roberson
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NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA,
MISSOURI BRANCH OF AAUW

Save a few trees, and save the branch a lot of money in the process!

You can access *CONNECTIONS* at <http://aauw.columbia.missouri.org/newsletters/html>.
If you are willing to choose this option, please inform the editor. You will receive email notifications when the newsletter are posted, so you will not miss any branch news!