



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

# CARBONDALE BRANCH IN FOCUS

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The Newsletter of American Association of University Women-Illinois, Inc., Carbondale Branch  
Volume XXXIV, Number 3, Mary K. Cook-Wallace, 618-453-1961; email [mreekat@siu.edu](mailto:mreekat@siu.edu) November 2006  
AAUW website: <http://web.coehs.siu.edu/wed/wallace/AAUW%20page.htm>

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**SOUP & SALAD BENEFIT LUNCHEON**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**at the SIUC FACULTY HOUSE, 1000 S. ELIZABETH ST.**  
**GRAND & ELIZABETH STREETS, CARBONDALE**  
HOSTED BY AAUW CARBONDALE BRANCH

**PUBLIC WELCOME TO  
SOUP & SALAD LUNCHEON**

Enjoy lunch and do some early holiday shopping of pre-priced treasures for sale. Proceeds will benefit local AAUW Scholarships and Legal Advocacy Fund. For only \$5.00 you can enjoy homemade soup, salad, bread and a drink.

**WHY WE SHOULD HOLD A FUNDRAISER  
LUNCHEON FOR THE LEGAL  
ADVOCACY FUND**

The Legal Advocacy Fund celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. This fund is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on providing funding, support, and technical assistance to individuals challenging sex discrimination in higher education.

In the late 1970's the Ithaca, New York, Branch of AAUW reached out in support to 11 Cornell University women professors and coaches who had taken action against the sexual discrimination they had experienced. This branch provided money and volunteers to five of these women who sued the university in the Zaborik vs Cornell case. This branch also petitioned the national AAUW organization for financial support

in this litigation. As a result in 1981 the AAUW board established the Legal Advocacy fund.

Since 1981 AAUW has contributed more than \$1.3 million in support of more than 1090 cases. More than 80 of these cases involved tenure. At present the Legal Advocacy Fund supports 16 lawsuits. In June, 2006, AAUW awarded \$11,000 in support of ongoing cases. The State of Illinois had one ongoing case, Whittaker vs. Northern Illinois University.

As members learn personally of the women involved in litigation, active support and genuine concern for these plaintiffs increases greatly.

**POVERTY AND HUNGER IN AFRICA:  
THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY**

Next month's program is at the SIUC Law School Courtroom Tuesday, **December 5** at 7:00 p.m.

Learn about global poverty with a focus on Africa, as part of AAUW's One Shared World Campaign. A panel discussion led by Dr. Ella Lacey will include women from several African countries. A "poverty meal" will be served. A toy drive will be part of our local response; all donations will be sent to a grassroots African organization working with impoverished children. Co-sponsored by International Programs.

## OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

### *December 15*

Deadline: Branch EF and LAF contributions due to AAUW-IL: EF Director and LAF Director (please don't mail to Washington, DC)

### *December 31*

Deadline for the Illinois EF and LAF and Association contributions to be applied to the recognition year.

### *January 23, 2007*

The B-Word: Language, Culture & Consciousness is the topic of the Brown Bag Luncheon. Melinda Yeomans, Instruction in Women's Studies and doctoral student in Speech Communication will be the speaker. Program begins at 12:15, following 11:30 business meeting.

### *February 13, 2007*

February is Black History month. Celebrate it by vicariously meeting the widows of slain civil rights leaders, as they share their experiences, their sorrow, and their hope for the future of America. Three women will portray the wives of Medgar Wiley Evers, MalcolmX and Martin Luther King, Jr. Hear how they became A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS- A CIRCLE OF LOVE.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The person who never makes a mistake probably isn't doing anything. (Anonymous)

With the above quote in mind at the time of this writing, I have been quite busy doing anything. You see that is exactly the question to ask when you fail, or perceive that you have failed or made a mistake. Mistakes teach us that there is (must be) another way to do something that needs to be done. Supposedly, Thomas Edison had 1,600 experiments fail before he invented the light bulb. When a friend asked him why he was wasting so much time on the project when he was not accomplishing anything, Edison replied, "Of course I am accomplishing something. I have learned 1,600 ways it doesn't work!"

However, so many of us have such an overwhelming fear of making a mistake. We possess such an internal terror of not being able to do something as well as we think we should, or others think we should, that we choose to do

nothing at all. Nothingness this can be quite boring. I have decided to allow the possibility of mistakes to turn me into a possibility explorer who accepts mistakes as just glitches in my plans. I like glitches. Glitches always point out when it is time to change my course or change my pace or change my pants or change my mind. Long live the glitches!

*Jeannie*

## THE POET



Allison Joseph.

The poet and head of SIU's master's program in Creative Writing, Allison E. Joseph is one of four artists profiled in the film "Beauty Rises: Four Lives in the Arts." This

new original film commissioned to promote the public value of the arts in Illinois and celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Illinois Arts Council is an affirmation of art's power to transform, give meaning to and sometimes even save an individual's life.

This film is an emotional story of four focused and giving individuals who believe beauty rises to greet them each and every day. Although the documentary release has passed, you can view a clip at:

<http://www.wttw.com/main.taf?p=0,2,18,17>

*Allison Joseph Photo from Perspectives, spring, 2003. Retrieved Nov. 7, 2006, from: <http://www.siu.edu/~perspect/>*

## DID YOU KNOW

AAUW is a powerful network. Whether in spirit, online, or in person, you belong to a community of people who value education and equal rights and who believe in taking action. Wherever you go, you will find a community of friends and professional contacts. Locate AAUW colleagues around the world through the AAUW Membership Directory at: <http://svc.aauw.org/about/branchlist.cfm?stateid=IL>

## A NOTE FROM MARY LOU MCLAUGHLIN DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

Just a little e note to say I have the current state directory for Carbondale. I missed all of you @ the Fall Conference recently held @ SIUE. As always, I would love to drive down and personally deliver this current directory....as Mary will remember, setting up a time was a challenge, though finally meeting was absolutely GRAND! Please let me know your preference.

Piasa Area Council AAUW branches will be celebrating Association's 125th birthday on the 27th...should a miracle happen and you find your way to this area...please come. My house is an empty nest home w/ lots of ROOMS!

Hoping for an opportunity...

Peace,  
Mary Lou McLaughlin, District 1 Director

## DRAWING THE LINE



October's program, Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus, drew a large group of AAUW members. Very

interesting conversation was heard regarding the climate of sexual harassment on the SIUC campus and the AAUW findings.

Researchers analyzed findings from a nationally representative survey of undergraduate students. This is the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment on college campuses.

### Overview of Research Findings

Researchers found that sexual harassment is widespread on college campuses. Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of undergraduate students say they have encountered some type of sexual harassment and nearly one-third of students (35 percent of female students and 29 percent of male students)

say the harassment is physical, such as being touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual way.

Sexual harassment takes an especially heavy toll on female students. More than two-thirds (68 percent) of female students who experience sexual harassment feel very or somewhat upset as a result. Conversely, only one-third (35 percent) of male students admit to being very or somewhat upset. Among female students who encountered sexual harassment, one-third (32 percent) said they felt afraid and about one-fifth (18 percent) said that they felt disappointed in their college experience as a result of sexual harassment.

Most harassers think sexual harassment is funny. Half of male students (51 percent) and almost one-third of female students (31 percent) admit to harassing someone in college. A majority of students (59 percent) who admit to harassing another student say they did so because they thought it was funny, as opposed to nearly one-third (32 percent) who thought the person liked it, and less than one-fifth (17 percent) who wanted a date with the person.

Students rarely report sexual harassment to a college employee, yet many would like a way to report incidents. Only 7 percent of students say they reported sexual harassment to a faculty member or other college employee. More than half of students (57 percent) would like their college or university to offer a confidential, web-based method for submitting complaints about sexual harassment. Nearly half (47 percent) would like their college or university to designate an office or person to contact about sexual harassment.

For additional information on *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, including a PDF copy of the report, visit [www.aauw.org/dtl](http://www.aauw.org/dtl)

## NANCY PELOSI

As keynoter at the 2005 National AAUW National Convention, Congresswoman Pelosi, now Speaker of the House of Representatives, said this, "No organization has done more for a longer period of time than the AAUW to open doors that had been barred shut; to smash through the glass ceilings and marble ceilings that still exist in far too many

places; and to heed the words of Elizabeth Cady Stanton at Seneca Falls, nearly 160 years ago: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal.' "

"In 1955, AAUW was behind the first piece of legislation aimed at promoting equal pay. Today, we're working to pass Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Paycheck Fairness Act to finish the unfinished work of the 1963 Equal Pay Act. Last month, we celebrated equal pay day. Together, we're going to keep working until every day is equal pay day for America's families."

"Know thy power, and together, we will expand opportunities, strengthen our families, and ensure that our work makes this country work better for women and all Americans. Know thy power, and together we'll build an America that is safe, strong, and respected in the world. Know thy power, and together, we'll bring America closer to the ideal of equality that is both our heritage and our hope."

"Thank you, AAUW."

*Press Release; Monday, June 27, 2005; Contact: Brendan Daly/Jennifer Crider, 202-226-7616; Washington, D.C.*

#### **OUR AAUW MISSION**

**AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and societal change.**

#### **EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**AAUW's Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women, and to foster equity and positive societal change.**

#### **LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND**

**AAUW's Legal advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.**

#### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

**In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.**

**See you on the 14th!**

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