



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

CARBONDALE BRANCH IN FOCUS

The Newsletter of American Association of University Women-Illinois, Inc., Carbondale Branch
Volume XXXIII, Number 1, Mary K. Wallace, 618-453-1961; email mreekat@siu.edu September 2005

HONORING THE WOMEN WE ADMIRE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, BUSINESS MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M. RECEPTION; PROGRAM 7:30 P.M. at the
SIUC FACULTY HOUSE,
GRAND & ELIZABETH STREETS, CARBONDALE
HOSPITALITY BY THE BOARD MEMBERS

Start the new AAUW year with friends and prospective members, to launch our Branch's 78th year. Our theme for the year, "Advocates for Women in Action," will showcase programs and projects about women, by women and for women and girls. University Women of Distinction honorees for 2005 will be among the honored guests.

VISITORS FROM RUSSIA SEPTEMBER 15-17 MEET THEM AT THURSDAY POTLUCK OR GIANT CITY LUNCH SATURDAY

We share a visit from four women school administrators with two branches in the Chicago area. They will be here Thursday through Saturday, and will be hosted in 3 local homes. We may need a few volunteer drivers for Thursday. Call Naseem Ahmed, 453-5774.

The Carbondale visit starts with Puka daycare, followed by a City Hall visit with Sheila Simon. After lunch, they visit the Women's Center and our new high school. The evening reception is a potluck dinner at 7 p.m. at the home of Sherrill and Donnie Evans. See box for directions.

Principal Linda Flowers has invited the group to the 9 a.m. Friday 2nd grade violin class at Thomas School, part of the John Thomas String Program. Lelia Marvin escorts them to a school and the Child Advocacy Center in Herrin.

Saturday we take them and their hosts to Giant City Lodge for scenery and lunch. You may join the group (on your own). They leave from there for St. Louis and early Sunday departure.

MEMBER PRIDE

Blanche Sloan has been chosen to be honored at a gala on Saturday, Oct. 8, on the SIUC campus. Launched a year ago, the Inspiring Women of Achievement program recognizes women from around the region whose accomplishments and conduct are inspirations to others. The program generates funds for scholarship endowments at SIUC.

Charlotte West continues to be recognized for her service to women's athletics. She is now on the Missouri Valley Conference Athletic Hall of Fame.

Anne Hill is now a member of the board of the Friends of WSIU. Ann Marie Shepherd has served on the board in recent years.

Sheila Simon: Gov. Rod Blagojevich has appointed Carbondale City Councilwoman Sheila Simon to serve on the Illinois Art Council, making her the board's only representative south of Springfield.

Edith Spees has been named president of the Science Center Board.

Directions to Evans home, 610 Anderson St., Carterville: At Carterville crossroad, Rt. 13 and Division St., go north on Division St. to Anderson St. (past the fire house). Turn Left on Anderson for 4 blocks past grade school and ball diamond. 610 is on Right. Phone 618/985-2192.

WHERE DO LEADERS COME FROM?

We have given the students an incentive to look at Southern Illinois women, and they have seen them as women to admire. Their essays are pointing out new community leaders. We will bring them to your attention each month in this year's *IN FOCUS*. Because she has invited our Russian visitors to her school, we begin with Linda Flowers, as introduced by her 7th grade daughter Courtney.

The Woman I most Admire: Linda Flowers

"Eleven kids always had food, clothes, and a good time," says long time educator Linda Flowers. She was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and raised in Chicago, Illinois. As a child she played school with her brothers and sisters, while the older kids were playing outside. After she finished 2nd grade she knew she wanted to be an educator. To prepare and pay for college she got financial aid, worked two jobs in Carbondale, and then moved back to Chicago for a while where she worked at a local post office.

Mrs. Flowers has received many awards; some include the most recent Spirit of King 2005. This award goes to people that contribute to the community. She won the NAACP Freedom Fund 2004 and this award goes to people that work with the NAACP. In 1990 she was given the Those Who Excel Award as one of the Top 10 teachers of Illinois.

Mrs. Flowers is part of NAACP. She was the first female president of the Carbondale council. Mrs. Flowers started the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest and has coordinated it for the past 20 years. She is also very active in her church. She sings in the choir, teaches music in Vacation Bible School for the children, and she is an usher and a trustee.

Linda Flowers has worked in the Carbondale School District for 26 years. She has taught the 1st, 3rd, 7th and 8th grades, Reading Recovery, and Title 1. She was also an assistant to the principal and is now principal at Thomas School, Carbondale.

Mrs. Flowers is a doctoral candidate and has a Master of Science degree. She is a daytime educator and a nighttime student. Not only is she an educator and a student, she is a loving mother of two. Mrs. Flowers is also active with her family. She gave one of her kidneys to her youngest sister, Jackie, in 1995. Without that transplant Jackie would have died and she is very grateful for it today. She is now a healthy person. Mrs. Flowers is the woman I most admire because she has done a lot for the community that I live in, and she has inspired me to be an educator.

Excerpted from SIUC SPOTLIGHT

Four named "Inspiring Women of Achievement"

**Elaine H. Melby
Margaret Nesbitt
Blanche Carlton Sloan
Gloria Celesia Tison**

The University will honor four "Inspiring Women of Achievement" for outstanding contributions to their communities at a gala on Saturday, Oct. 8, on campus. The list of honorees also includes three scholarship winners and the first-time presentation of a new alumni achievement award.

Launched a year ago, the Inspiring Women of Achievement program recognizes women from around the region whose accomplishments and conduct are inspirations to others.

The program generates funds for scholarship endowments at SIUC. After awarding one scholarship in 2004, the program will award three scholarships this year, thanks to the program's success.



Blanche Carlton Sloan, former director of development and executive director of the John A. Logan College Foundation, holds an influential position in resource development initiatives nationwide.

As a life member of the Council for Resource Development, Sloan has served on its board of directors and task forces and edited and reviewed publications and applications. At John A. Logan College, she wrote more than 400 successful proposals/applications for federal and state funding that totaled more than \$10 million.

Sloan is a charter member and former president of the Carbondale Rotary Breakfast group and is a former district governor, among other positions, for Rotary International.

Within the community, Sloan is or has been a member of Southern Illinois Arts, the Carbondale branch of the American Association of University Women and an active supporter of the arts in Southern Illinois and the SIUC University Museum.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Karyn Endrezzi, John A. Logan College
Kristine McGuire, Library Affairs at SIUC

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A hearty thanks to all the renewing members! We have an excellent retention rate from last year, as you will see when perusing all the continuing members' names (as well as seven new members) in the Branch Yearbook. The 2005-2006 Yearbook with a schedule of planned programs will be distributed by editor, Martha Ellert, at the September 13 program.

Membership eligibility expanded: The Association delegates voted at the June AAUW Convention to expand membership to include "a graduate holding an associate or equivalent...degree from a qualified educational institution."

The AAUW Bylaws define qualified institutions as "educational institutions that offer recognized associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that have full regional or appropriate professional association approval."

Yearbooks: Please inform Martha Ellert of any change for your Yearbook entry. We have new board and committee members and the full program will be in the new Yearbook.

AAUW Educational Foundation offers several Fellowships, Grants and Awards

It is that time of year again... Application deadlines vary from 11/15/05 – 01/15/06. Applications are available online at www.aauw.org. For more information on specific requirements, click on fellowships/grants or contact Kem Howze at 549-9196.

SMART WOMEN/SMART MONEY SEPT. 27

The Carbondale Business and Professional Women are hosting the conference, sponsored by Illinois treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. The conference is free, but reservations are required.

This is one of a series of such conferences throughout the state, and includes exhibits by a number of local businesswomen, as well as featuring Topinka as the first speaker. Guest speakers included Annette Vaillancourt of Carbondale, a psychotherapist, presenting "Stress SOS."

For more information, call Kathy Benedict at 549-2299.

From the President's Pen...

Thanks to the officers and other members who have put so much effort into planning our 2005-06 year, communicating about our branch, and increasing our membership. In our 78th year, our branch will spotlight programs promoting education, equity and diversity for women and girls as we advocate for women in action.

Lelia Marvin

More On Inspiring Women

There were 37 nominations for this year's award.

The Inspiring Women program will present a \$2,000 Margaret H. Steele Scholarship to **Justine Pruemer of Dieterich**, a transfer from Lake Land College, and renew the scholarship for a second year for **Diana Billingsley of Carterville**, who transferred to SIUC from John A. Logan College. The Steele scholarships, which honor a woman who spent 39 years as a teacher in Southern Illinois, go only to transfer students.

The third scholarship, funded by donations during the program's inaugural year, is the Inspiring Women Scholarship and is worth \$5,000. The first recipient will be **Sarah Panici of Dongola**, an incoming SIUC freshman.

A new award, the 2005 Alumna Achievement Award, will go to **Beth A. Hinchee**, a 1995 SIUC graduate in mechanical engineering and energy processes, who is now engineering recruiting manager for Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria. Hinchee, who began her tenure at Caterpillar as a student intern, is the recipient of several awards for quality improvements and owns three U.S. patents for her innovations.

Serving others is among the goals of Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment, the blueprint for the development of the University by the time it celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2019.

The Oct. 8 gala begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. In addition to the dinner and program, the evening's festivities will include silent and live auctions. For reservations, call 618/453-2461.

OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m.

**At the SIUC Faculty House, Grand & Elizabeth
Streets, Carbondale**

Program: Two area women who serve on the state boards of education will speak to us on Formulating Educational Policy," Lucy Sloan (our own branch member) serves on the Board of Higher Education. Andrea Brown of Belleville is on the state Board of Education. In Carolyn Snyder's guest essay in the southern Illinoisan this was announced for November, but has been moved to October because of a schedule conflict for the speakers.

Humor: Jest for the Health of It!

Jeannie Killian, AAUW, Vice President-Program

The creation and enjoyment of humor have long been scientifically proven to be both mentally and physically beneficial. Therefore, I respectfully submit a column for the AAUW Newsletter entitled, Humor: Jest for the Health of It!

It should come as no surprise that our lives have always been filled with humor. Humor often emerges as a tool for survival in the social and professional jungles, and as a weapon against the absurdities of injustice. It has long been a risk for women to use humor either because their "femininity" might be called into question or lest they appear as "not serious" and "unprofessional." However, humor takes intelligence, courage, insight, and a sense of confidence not necessarily associated with good spelling or even good penmanship. The short humor excerpts that will appear in this newsletter, hopefully, will provide and promote a sense of comfort and comradely among AAUW women from all jumps, runs, trots, steps, and walks of life. So I leave you with the following food for thought...

A friend told me the longer you keep Romano cheese, the better it gets. So, I kept it three years. And that thing turned mean. Now and then I'd open the refrigerator door and throw it some food. I had to walk it ever so often. And then it grew this one leg. And it's got this ugly fuzz all over it. And the dogs won't run with it. I sold the house, moved to Makanda, and now I have a new refrigerator with Mozzarella.

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.

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See you Tuesday, September 13.
Business at 6:30, program follows 7 p.m. reception.