



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# Branching Out

## *Breaking through Barriers*

Vol. 1 No. 9

Tahlequah (OK) Branch Newsletter

April/Spring/2009

### **Woman To Woman Conference “Dare to Live Your Dreams”**

The Woman to Woman conference was a great success! Everyone who helped is greatly appreciated. For those who were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful conference. Approximately 90 people were in attendance and we have four new members!

Every speaker was awesome! The food provided by Talking Leaves Job Corps and NSU Sodexo was wonderful! There were great door prizes and exhibitors, and the Indian Capital Vo-Tech is a beautiful facility.

We are already looking forward to next year’s “Woman to Woman Conference”.



### **AAUW Applauds Formation of White House Council on Women and Girls**

Last week, Reps. John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced the **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 1913)**, and the House is expected to vote on it at the end of April. This critical piece of legislation will provide much-needed protections and

tools to combat-and help eliminate-hate and bias crimes. Help protect women who are not currently protected under the justice system by urging your representative to cosponsor and support this important legislation.

Current law only allows federal involvement in the prosecution of non-federal hate crimes when the victim was targeted because of race, color, religion, or national origin. This legislation would fill a gap in the law by also allowing the Department of Justice to take on cases motivated by the victim’s actual or perceived gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

While progress has been made in responding to crimes such as domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault, more can be done. The **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act** is necessary to ensure an appropriate response when local law authorities cannot or will not give gender-based hate crime victims the protection they deserve. By strengthening protections against bias-motivated crimes and removing some restrictions on when the federal government can assist local authorities in the prosecution of such hate crimes, fewer of these disturbing cases will slip through the cracks.

The bill passed both the House and Senate during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, but a presidential veto threat kept it from being enacted. AAUW Action Network and our Capitol Hill Lobby Corps members have supported this bill in the past, and we ask you to join AAUW again now in sending a clear signal that hate-motivated violence carried out against any individual will not be tolerated.

### **Take Action!**

To urge your representative to support the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, click on the “Take Action” on the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website, or copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser. Then, follow the instructions to send an email to your representative.

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=13107436>

### **Report Shows No Gains in DC Voucher Program**

On April 3, the Department of Education released a report that found no improvement in academic achievement for those students receiving vouchers from public schools in need of improvement – the target audience of the voucher program. This five-year pilot program is the nation’s

only federally-funded voucher program. The program funnels taxpayers' dollars to private schools. The D.C. program, which currently receives approximately \$15 million, provides vouchers of up to \$7,500 apiece to about 1,900 students. Previous Department of Education and GAO reports found no gain in academic achievement and numerous problems with the program such as participating schools conducting classes in unsuitable learning environments taught by teachers lacking bachelor's degrees.

AAUW maintains opposition to all private school voucher programs and favors sending resources to improve public schools rather than diverting public funds to private institutions.

### **AAUW Member named 2009 DaVinci Fellow**

Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at NSU was honored as one of the 2009 DaVinci Fellows at the DaVinci Institute's annual awards banquet on March 27.

The DaVinci Institute, Oklahoma's Creative Think Tank, annually recognizes creativity in higher education faculty from across Oklahoma. The award is based on the premise that creativity is not bound by place or time and exhibits itself across all disciplines in a variety of ways, from engineering to ballet, from social sciences to opera.

Dr. Sanford was selected for the honor after developing for her students unique symposia which are distinct from typical student requirements.

In addition to being honored in Oklahoma City, DaVinci Fellows receive a \$1,000 award from the DaVinci Institute. Congratulations Amy!

### **Calendar**

#### **APRIL**

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.  
Program: Mentoring Report:  
Bell, Maryetta, and Watts  
Place: Vidalia's  
Business: Election of officers

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.  
Mentees Presentation  
Place: Maryetta Schools

April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Equal Pay Day

#### **MAY**

May 7, 1:00 p.m.  
Reception/Sequoyah HS girls  
Part of Mentoring Program in  
conjunction with Seminary Day  
Place: NSU Seminary Hall  
Conference Room

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.  
Program: Women's Health  
Issues  
Place: Tahlequah City Hospital  
Business: Installation of  
officers

#### **JUNE**

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.  
Potluck Picnic  
Place: Sara Dunlap Cabin

June 26-28  
AAUW Association Convention  
The Renaissance St. Louis  
Grand and Suites Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri

### **REASOR COUPON BOOKS**

Let's all try to sell all Reasor coupon books we have in our possession in the next 3-4 weeks. We also have about 35

additional books that need to be distributed to members for sale that will be available at the April meeting.

The coupon on the back of the book is for \$5 with a \$50 purchase from Reasor's. Other coupons in the book are generally for \$1 each for the product listed.

Remember, you pay only \$5 for the book so you can easily get your money back and it really helps AAUW with expenses.

### **President's Message**

Thank you to all who participated in the March meeting. We had fun learning about famous women of the past and showcasing our acting talents.

Also thanks to all AAUW members who helped with the Woman to Woman Conference. Special thanks to the Woman to Woman Committee which included Lela Stowers, Irene Wickham, Joyce Rose, Norma Stopp, Linda West, and Mona Holt. Thank you to Talking Leaves Job Corps for lunch and NSU/Sodexo for muffins, coffee and juice. Thanks to all who arranged for the speakers (especially Isabel Baker who got it all started by suggesting Teresa Miller as keynote speaker). And also thanks to all who helped with goody bags and door prizes. Please forgive me if I left anyone out.

Please mark your calendars to attend the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. It will be interesting to hear what Patsy Morton and others are doing in the mentoring program.

**American Association of University Women**

1111 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

AAUW website	<a href="http://www.aauw.org">http://www.aauw.org</a>
AAUW phone numbers	800-326-AAUW or (202) 785-7700
Helpline email address	<a href="mailto:helpline@aauw.org">helpline@aauw.org</a>
Fax number	202-872-1425
TDD number-hearing impaired	202-785-7777
AAUW Education Foundation	<a href="mailto:foundation@aauw.org">foundation@aauw.org</a>
Fellowships and Grants (for applicants only)	<a href="mailto:aauw@act.org">aauw@act.org</a>
AAUW Oklahoma Division	<a href="http://www.aauwoklahoma.org">http://www.aauwoklahoma.org</a>
AAUW Tahlequah Branch	<a href="http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~aauw/">http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~aauw/</a>

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

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

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Email inquiries to: [AAUWTahlequah@yahoo.com](mailto:AAUWTahlequah@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Debra Lack



AAUW Tahlequah Branch  
1002 Callie Avenue  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

*Breaking Through Barriers*

*Promoting education and equity for all women and girls.*

If you wish to receive an email copy only please email  
[aauwtahequah@yahoo.com](mailto:aauwtahequah@yahoo.com)