

AAUW Louisiana Student Advisory Council

Submitted by Anne Taylor, College/University Relations



A small, but enthusiastic, group of women students representing six colleges from around the state met with AAUW-LA on September 25 at the LSU Student Union. AAUW was represented by State President Debbie Freda, Past State President Anne Taylor, and Jan Koellen, Co-president of Baton Rouge Branch. Many thanks to Catherine “Cat” Hopkins, Director of the LSU Women’s Center, who arranged the use of the Union for us.

Eight of Louisiana’s colleges have appointed 25 students to the Council. The Council advises us on how we can serve the student community and helps promote AAUW on their campuses. We presented an “AAUW 101” program so they could get to know AAUW and all it has to offer. Jan showed the video of the “flash mob” dancing on Women’s Equality Day (August 26 at LSU).

Next, we challenged the students to help us with planning for their benefit. One group discussed the student component of our State Convention. They chose a \$tart \$mart workshop where they will learn to negotiate their first salary and will recruit other students to come. The second group discussed other ways they could be involved. They agreed to write short blogs about topics of interest to women students and requested another meeting. We agreed to meet again in early November at Tulane. Three students agreed to be the leaders.

AAUW-LA started the Student Advisory Council five years ago. Our SAC is modeled after a very successful SAC in Alabama. That one was modeled after the National SAC which helps to plan the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.



President's Message
State President - Debbie Freda

Hello To All!

Fall is here, including important State elections, which just concluded, and National elections in 2012! We must continue to have our voices heard through the **power of our vote!** Only 91 years ago, very courageous women (our grandmothers, per se) were tortured and brutally beaten...fighting for the right to vote! Let's never forget our history! Women wield great power in U.S. politics and constitute an important bloc of voters!

How important is voting? Diane Winston, former State Representative, recently witnessed and talked of the women in Iraq who experienced **voting for the first time...ever!** It was an emotional, exhilarating and empowering experience for them! *Do you feel that way about your voting experience?*

Don't let apathy set in... Remember, it took 72 years for women to get the right to vote in the U.S.!



CONGRATULATIONS TO LSU!

BECOMING OFFICIAL AAUW COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Being selected as a new 2012 training site to host "Elect Her – Campus Women Win" Workshop

Women's Equality Day Recap

Submitted by India Reddix, LSU Student

Monday, August 29, 2011

FLASH DANCE



ZACH BREAJUX / The Daily Reveille

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wanted to catch students' attention. With sponsorship from LSU's Women's Center, they organized a flash mob on August 26—the 91st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Students and AAUW branch members caused a small scene as they danced together to Beyoncé Knowles and Aretha Franklin to spread the message that young women should be active, vote, and be involved in women's equality. They also handed out informational brochures, spoke with interested students, and created an AAUW presence on campus.

Even a small number of women can make a BIG difference for students who want to be involved!

State and Branch News

National Girls Collaborative Project comes to Louisiana! In April 2011, the National Girls Collaborative Project received funding from the National Science Foundation to reach additional states identified as high priority areas. We are pleased to announce three new collaboratives in **Louisiana**, Arizona and New Jersey. The goal of the National Girls Collaborative Project is to maximize access to shared resources within projects, and with public/private sector organizations and institutions interested in expanding girls' participation in **S.T.E.M.**

Louisiana Women's Summit: AAUW-LA had an exhibit table at the Louisiana Women's Summit on October 14th in Baton Rouge. Membership brochures and information about ERA and Pay Equity were distributed. In addition, a number of people expressed interest in joining AAUW! Keynote speaker was **Lisa Leslie**, four-time Olympic Gold Medalist and three-time WNBA Most Valuable Player.



Baton Rouge Branch: A Membership Open House was held on Sept. 18, in conjunction with the community wide **Women's Week**, sponsored by the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Approximately 35 attended, with 5 new members acquired that day! This will be followed by the New Member Super Salad Supper on Oct. 16. Interest Groups will be in full swing (Book Groups, Film Group, Gourmet Group, Campus Study Lunch Group, and Travel Group) ...to be followed by Great Decisions in January 2012.



Covington-Mandeville and Greater New Orleans: Eileen deHaro provided three special book reviews of the New York Times Bestseller book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This book is the true story of the development of the HeLa cell line, the world's first immortal human cell line, and the woman who unknowingly donated the cells to create it. These cells forever changed medical research and launched a multimillion-dollar industry, unbeknownst to the Lacks family, who never were compensated for their use. Eileen brought an inverted microscope and a flask of living HeLa cells - the very cell line which originated from Henrietta Lacks in 1951! All attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to actually view these amazing cells with the microscope.

Greater New Orleans: The branch attended a speech on **Human Trafficking in the U.S.**, by **Shamere McKenzie**, empowerment speaker and American survivor of modern-day slavery. The event was held on the Loyola University New Orleans campus and was sponsored by the Loyola Women's Resource Center and other women's groups. Ms. McKenzie gave an eye-opening, interactive and inspiring talk to a standing-room only crowd. 100,000-300,000 girls are trafficked in the U.S. each year! To learn more, go to www.polarisproject.org, or call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) toll-free hotline at **1-888-373-7888**.



SCIENCE STAND-OUTS!

Sharon and John Vercellotti -- Covington-Mandeville Branch



Sharon V. and John R. Vercellotti were inducted as a Fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS) at the National ACS Meeting in Denver CO in August 2011. The ACS Fellows Program was “to recognize members of ACS for outstanding achievements in and contributions to Science, the Profession, and the Society.” The American Chemical Society, the world’s largest scientific society, was founded in 1876. Currently there are 163,000 members of the Society.

Sharon and John were nominated by different divisions of the Society. John was nominated by the Division of Carbohydrate Science, and Sharon was nominated by the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry. Both are members of the AAUW Covington-Mandeville Branch. More information on Dr. and Ms. Vercellotti and V-LABS can be found at www.v-labs.com

Anne K. Taylor , Baton Rouge Branch



Dr. Anne K. Taylor was only the second woman since 1958 to receive the coveted Charles E. Coates Memorial Award. This award is for outstanding contributions to the professions of chemistry or chemical engineering, the corresponding professional society, and the community. It was established by the Baton Rouge Sections of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) to honor the memory of Charles E. Coates.

Anne is currently a writing and documentation consultant to the pharmaceutical industry with 14 years of consulting experience. Her real passion, however, is sharing the joy of chemistry with children, especially girls. Anne has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. She has been both State and Branch AAUW President, and currently acts as an advisor and mentor to the College/University women students.

Super Science Saturday

In honor of National Chemistry Week, AAUW Baton Rouge and Covington-Mandeville members participated in Super Science Saturday on Saturday, October 15. It was held at the LSU Pete Maravich Assembly Center and was a hands-on event with chemistry and science demonstrations -- fun and educational for all ages!

Monster Mash “Spooky Science”

In an effort to get young girls interested in Science, AAUW Covington-Mandeville had a booth and participated in “Monster Mash” on Saturday, October 29. The event was sponsored by the St. Tammany Parish Hospital’s Parenting Center. With the theme of “Spooky Science”, experiments and demonstrations of “slime” and “jelly eyeballs”, “waterlock”, and “boo bubbles” drew lots of attention to the booth! AAUW was assisted by Iota Sigma Pi, National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry.

State and National Activities

Nov. 5, 2011: AAUW-LA State Board Meeting, Baton Rouge

March 31, 2012: AAUW-LA State Convention, Baton Rouge

May 31 - June 2, 2012: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, University of Maryland

June 9-12, 2013: AAUW National Convention, New Orleans, LA

ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE

2011 Theme: *Architectural Trends*

September 28 Speaker: Doug Ashe, Architect. Designer of Visitor's Center, St. Landry Parish
October 26 Opelousas Visitor's Center, Guided Tour

2012 February 22 Fort Randolph on Red River, Guided Tour
March 27 Dairy Barn on Central Hospital Grounds, Guided Tour

BATON ROUGE

2011 Sept. 16 – 25 Women's Week
September 18 Membership Event, Open House
October 16 New Member Welcome, Salad Supper
November 8 130th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at D'Angelo's
2012 January 7 Holiday Happening
February 26 Readers and Writers at Hemingbough
April 30 or May 14 Annual Meeting

COVINGTON-MANDEVILLE

2011 September 20 Salad Supper - Dr. Barbara Forrest, Co-Founder of Louisiana Coalition for Science
October 29 "Spooky Science" Event
November 12 Financial Documents That Women Need
December 10 Holiday Social
2012 January 21 S.T.E.M. Presentation
February 23 Cyber-bullying, Panel Discussion
March 13 Affordable Housing in St. Tammany Parish
May TBD Annual Meeting, End of Year Luncheon

GREATER NEW ORLEANS

2011 October 4 Human Trafficking in the U.S.
November 14 One Woman's Journey from Bosnia to America
December 12 Holiday Dinner / Silent Auction
2012 January TBD Book Review
February TBD St. Alphonsus Church
March TBD Cyber-bullying
April TBD Botanical Garden and New Orleans Museum of Art Tour
May 14 End of Year Dinner

NORTH LOUISIANA

2011 September 16 Membership Expo
October 18 ERA & Pay Equity – Information and Policy
November 15 Educational Foundation, "White Elephant" Sale
December 13 C.A.S.A. - Celebration of Giving
2012 January 17 Recognition of Outstanding Girl Graduates: Lincoln & Ouachita Parishes
February 21 Book Review: *"The Help"*
March 20 The Role of Women in Diverse Cultures: A Panel Discussion
April 17 Spring into Spring
May 8 Evaluation and Spring Round-up

In Her Own Words --- A Student's Journey to NCCWSL

Jill Tatarski, Loyola University New Orleans



I embarked on a journey to the University of Maryland College Park at the beginning of June. I headed to NCCWSL, the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**. Women leaders from all around the United States and other countries were coming together to empower each other and gain inspiration from fellow peers. There were various lectures, events and workshops to attend and participate in as well as having the opportunity to explore the Washington D.C. area.

A workshop that I enjoyed a great deal was delving into the “F” word...meaning **feminism**. People have a difficult time accepting this word, especially since there are stereotypes that surround it. In the workshop, everyone who attended proclaimed why they were a feminist and what it meant to them. I think it helped everyone in attendance realize that being a feminist is something that should be a natural part of everyone's life. Attending this workshop helped me embrace my own proclamation as a feminist even more.

A truly wonderful event was the **Women of Distinction** ceremony. **Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Connie Chung, Swanee Hunt, Lisa Jackson, and Natalie Randolph** were the five prestigious women who received these awards in honor of their leadership roles. To see these women up on the stage gave me a personal aspiration to follow in their footsteps. As a woman in several student leadership positions, I highly recommend attending this conference in the future. It is a learning experience and a fantastic space to meet with other women who are just as passionate as you are about pursuing future endeavors and establishing equality for both genders.

Public Policy

Submitted by Camille Moran, Public Policy Chair

Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of women's suffrage, is celebrated annually on August 26th. This is also the day that advocates spotlight the continuing need for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Special emphasis this year was placed on passage of **H. J. Res. 47, the national ERA resolution to eliminate the ERA ratification deadline and reintroduce the Three-State Strategy**. AAUW Louisiana is a sponsoring organization for H. J. Res. 47.

United 4 Equality (U4E), partnered with AAUW Louisiana, The Louisiana Movement, and other AAUW Louisiana coalition partners to hold Women's Equality Day events across the state. Among these events was a flashmob dance sponsored by AAUW Louisiana and the LSU Women's Center. The event was filmed by Hometown Productions, Inc. and broadcast on 31 TV stations across the state, as well as YouTube, Facebook and various websites.

Another celebration was held by the Covington-Mandeville branch at Corks-n-Canvas. In addition to commemorating the 91st anniversary of women's right to vote, a fundraiser entitled “Painting with a Purpose” was held, recreating a featured painting, “The Pelican.” Proceeds went to a local woman's scholarship.





AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTO RECAP

2011-12 AAUW LOUISIANA GOALS

- **S.T.E.M. INITIATIVES:**
Focus on increasing the number of women and girls interested in Science, Engineering, Technology and Math. Utilize the findings from AAUW research book "Why So Few."
- **PAY EQUITY:**
Advocate for better-paying jobs for women. Encourage women to go into the S.T.E.M. fields, where salaries are typically higher. Continue awareness that women in Louisiana earn 68 cents to a man's dollar, vs. 77 cents nationally.
- **ERA 3-STATE STRATEGY:**
Continue to advocate for passage of House Joint Resolution 47.
- **ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO RUN FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL OFFICE:**
Most women run because they were asked by someone they know. Change happens faster if we have the right people (women & men) in place, fighting for our cause.