



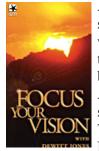
Volume 57, Issue 4

AAUW of Alabama

Spring 2008

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION - APRIL 4 - 6, 2008

# *Focus Your Vision* Opens State Convention



AAUW of Alabama state convention opens with *Focus Your Vision*, the newest DVD release by Dewitt Jones, one of Americas top professional photographers. Twenty years with National Geographic,

photographing stories all over the globe, has earned Dewitt the reputation as a world-class photojournalist. As a motion picture director, two of Dewitt's films were nominated for Academy Awards. His inspirational messages focus on creativity as a matter of perspective and that there is always more than one right answer. Publisher of nine books including *California!* and *John Muir's High Sierra*, his most recent book, *The Nature of Leadership*, was created in collaboration with Stephen R. Covey (*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*).



Guest Speaker Connie Hildebrand, AAUW Public Policy Chair, Bismarck, ND, will expound on AAUW's vision following the DVD viewing. Connie will also speak

to the student body at the University of North Alabama at the Friday preconvention workshop, *Ready to Run*, and interact with members, students, and guests throughout the weekend.

### Mary Lou Melley and Lilly M. Ledbetter to Speak at Legal Advocacy Fund Banquet

Meet the women on the front lines of AAUW Public Policy who lobby and testify before the United States Congress:

Mary Lou Melley, AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Chair, and Lilly M. Ledbetter, Plaintiff, Ledbetter vs. Goodyear. They will



share their stories at the Legal Advocacy Fund Banquet, Marriott Shoals Conference Center, Florence, AL, Saturday evening, April 5, 2008.

Whether fighting for gender equity in education, championing moderate jurists for federal courts, or supporting measures to improve economic security, AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps is on the scene continuing a 30-year AAUW legacy.

Once a week, volunteer members and college student interns give AAUW a voice and a face on Capitol Hill. Since its formation in 1972, the Lobby Corps has made tens of thousands of visits to congressional offices, making AAUW a familiar and respected name among



members of Congress and their staffs. Because of this corps, working hand in hand with lobbying staff, AAUW has had a significant political impact on legislation concerning issues such as education, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic security. Volunteers receive comprehensive training as well as briefings on key issues likely to be come before Congress.

SHOALS

Register now, \$45 per person, for an enjoyable evening in support of AAUW LAF. Network and socialize before dinner to the piano music of Sharon Howart, piano major, University of North Alabama. Sharon is the recipient of a Shoals Branch scholarship.

See page 7 for the AAUW of Alabama State Convention registration form. Register by March 24, 2008 to participate!

AAUW of Alabama Website: www.aauw-alabama.org

## FOCUSII UNITEII SUCCEEDII AAUW of Alabama State Convention

April 4-6, 2008

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa – Marriott Shoals Conference Center

800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence, Alabama 35630 Phone: 256-246-3600 Fax: 256-246-3690

Guest Speakers for State Convention Melanie Danielowitz, Prevention Educator, Rape Response Eileen DeHaro, Regional Director, Southeast Central Region Rosemary Gustin, Senior Program Director, Junior Achievement Connie Hildebrand, Chair, AAUW Public Policy The Honorable Tammy Irons, Alabama House of Representative, District 1 Lilly M. Ledbetter, Plaintiff, *Ledbetter vs. Goodyear* Mary Lou Melley, Chair, AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Barbara O'Connor, President, AAUW Educational Foundation Dr. Linda Searby, Leadership Development, University of Alabama at Birmingham Cathy Wright, President, Alabama Women's Initiative, and Principal, Clarus Consulting Group

#### AAUW of Alabama Leaders Presenting at State Convention

 Melinda "Mindy" J. Bicknell, AAUW of Alabama Educational Foundation Vice President Candice Rigsby Bressler, AAUW of Alabama Communications Director Jeris Burns, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute – Financial Literacy Chair Deidre Clark, AAUW of Alabama Public Policy Chair, Past Student Advisory Council Interim Chair Elizabeth Gilbert, AAUW of Alabama Membership Vice President, Auburn Branch President, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team, Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy Renea Gooch, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run Project Co-Director Dr. Elaine Hughes, AAUW Past Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Alabama Past President Keren McElvy, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute – Financial Literacy Chair, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team, Samford University Mildred Lanier, AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run Project Co-Director Stephanie Lenning, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute - Financial Literacy Committee, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council, Birmingham Southern College Dr. Linda Riddle, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute - Leadership Literacy Chair Kellie Slappy, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute - Financial Literacy Committee, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council, University of Alabama at Birmingham Kathryn "Katie" D. Smith, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Chair, University of North Alabama Dr. Thomasyne Smith, AAUW Director at Large, AAUW of Alabama Past President Carol O'Connor Spence, AAUW of Alabama Diversity Chair Tiffany N. Todd, AAUW of Alabama Leadership and Training Institute - Technology Literacy Chair Beth Wilder, AAUW of Alabama Children's Literacy Guild Liaison Megan Williams, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team, University of North Alabama

The key leader for State Convention is Yvonne Brakefield, AAUW of Alabama Program Vice President. Assisting her is Janet Smith, AAUW of Alabama Recording Secretary. Joan Hudiburg is Host Convention Chair with Jean Bock serving as Host Convention Registration Chair. The president of The Shoals Branch is Nancy Sanford. The State Convention would not be possible without the dedicated work and contributions of The Shoals Branch members. Thank you to them and everyone who helped in any way.

Submit Daybreak articles to Alison Stigers, Editor, astigers@vineyardbrands.com.

#### **President's Message**

"By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance." This is the Value Promise at the core of the Association and Educational Foundation boards as they met jointly to conduct business for the organizations in concert, carrying forward the mandate from the members to create a single, unified AAUW 501 (c) (3) organization.



When the AAUW of Alabama board of directors meets on April 4, 2008, I will ask them to adopt this same Value Promise as we plan for 2008-09 and beyond.

I want to thank the nominating committee for selecting a slate of officers that represents different branches in the state. Current officers with terms ending June 30, 2009 are Membership Vice President Elizabeth Gilbert, Auburn; Recording Secretary Janet Smith, Montgomery; and Veronica Bryant, Birmingham. I will continue to serve as your Past President. According to the bylaws, Jo Ann Cummings will notify the branch presidents of the nominees. Individual members and branch presidents are encouraged to present nominees from the floor at the annual business meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders will be held in Washington, DC, from June 5 – 7, 2008. AAUW of Alabama budgeted \$1,000 to assist one or more Alabama students to attend. Please consider selecting and sponsoring a student from a college/university in the geographical area of your branch. The students are our future.

Applications are arriving for the AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council. The first applications arrived from Jacksonville State University. They are sending six college/university students.

AAUW has made a commitment to an annual meeting in St. Louis, MO by June 2009. Let's all plan to make these travel plans to the national convention to see Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, AAUW of Alabama *Ready to Run* Project Co-Director, who is a professor, Missouri Western University, St. Joseph, MO. After all, she is flying here for our convention in April. See you in Florence.

Audrey L. Salgado

#### Nominations

The Nominating Committee submits the following AAUW of Alabama Slate of Officers for 2008-2010.

**President**: Jo Ann Cummings, Decatur Branch

**Program Vice President**: TBD **Education Foundation Vice President**: Melinda "Mindy" J. Bicknell, Birmingham Branch

**Communications Director**: Tiffany N. Todd, Birmingham Branch

The Nominating Committee includes Jo Ann Cummings, Decatur Branch; Judy Rogers, Montevallo Branch, and Jean "Tish" Hall, Huntsville Branch.

### **Branch News**

AAUW Montgomery (AL) Branch is reactivating! First meeting: Ryan's Steakhouse, Prattville, AL, March 12, 2008, 6:00 p.m. AAUW of Alabama President, Audrey Salgado, will be the keynote speaker. Agenda includes *Ready to Run*, 2008 State Convention, Florence, April 4 - 6; 2009 State Convention, Montgomery; and AAUW of Alabama Annual Lobby Day, Alabama State House, Montgomery, April 22 (Equal Pay Day). An invitation is extended to all current, former, and prospective members to join us for dinner, a salad, or dessert and coffee.

> Janet Smith, Montgomery Branch, Membership Vice President

#### **Regional Director Message**

AAUW is now calling for applications and vitae for volunteers to serve on several national committees: Bylaws, Finance, Membership, Program Development, Public Policy, and Resolutions. The application form, supplemental questions, committee job description and working rules are available on the AAUW web site at *http://stageaauw.aauw.org/About/leadership/leadership\_opportunities.cfm* (scroll down to "Association vacancy listings"). The complete form and appropriate committee questions should be submitted electronically to the Executive Office. If a candidate is unable to download the materials, please contact the Executive Office at *executive@aauw.org* or by telephone 202/785-7788, indicating the position being sought. Each candidate can apply for one position only. Applications are due May 15, 2008. Volunteers are reimbursed by AAUW for their travel, hotel, and meal expenses when attending committee meetings and for expenses incurred (such as telephone and copying) in the exercise of the responsibilities of their position. Please consider serving on one of these national committees.

The 2008 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is coming! To find out about this year's offerings, Women of Distinction Awards, registration, and scholarship opportunities by visiting the conference website at *www.nccwsl. org.* Students can register online and members can spread the word about the conference by using the "Recommend NCCWSL" feature on the website. I would hope that branches would consider sponsoring a student to attend this conference.



### AAUW of Alabama to Partner Ready to Run with Rutgers University



AAUW of Alabama is proud to announce negotiations are in process with Rutgers University, Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, for a partnership in their *Ready to Run* program. This is an incredible opportunity for AAUW and AAUW of Alabama as the Center for American Women and Politics is the premier authority on Women and Politics. Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, is serving as AAUW and AAUW of Alabama negotiator.

In March, AAUW of Alabama President, Audrey L. Salgado, and AAUW of Alabama Ready to Run Project Co-Directors, Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix and Mildred Lanier, will receive training at Rutgers University at their Ready to Run pre-conference for women of color and a one day intensive conference for training women for government leadership. Following the training, they will meet with Debbie Walsh, Eagleton Institute of Politics Director, to review the memo of understanding.

Juliet Arrington, Mayor Loretta Spencer, Mildred Lanier

# is Up and Running!

The concept for *Ready to Run* is an outcome of AAUW of Alabama's Program Theme Team and Public Policy Committee. In the process of developing statewide programs to support the national theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," discussions revolved around the problems in Alabama. After much research, it was determined the problems affecting Alabama women and their issues are centered on the fundamentally flawed Alabama Constitution and the insufficient number of women participating in governmental processes. Therefore, the Program Theme Team and Public Policy Committee concluded that the voice of women in Alabama had to be stronger. Ready to Run was developed to prepare Alabama women to run for elected office. A grant was awarded by the AAUW Educational Foundation to develop the program.

Ready to Run is now in its third month of implementation. 25 women are participating in training sessions in Birmingham and Huntsville, held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail facilities in each city. Presented by members of the Ready to Run team, the first session in January covered Qualifying and Filing; February's topic was developing a Campaign Team; Networking is the theme for March. The topic for April is Fund-raising, and Your Campaign Message will conclude the program in May.



Each session features guest speakers who offer special insight on the topic of the day. Judging by the enthusiastic response from the participants the inventive curriculum, coupled with the presence of experts in the field, is truly helping to make Alabama women **Ready to Run!** 

*Ready to Run* Guest Speakers

January: Birmingham, Cary Page, Volunteer Lobbyist; Huntsville, The Honorable Hartwell Lutz, Retired Judge February: Birmingham, John T. Smallwood, Campaign Consultant; Huntsville, The Honorable Loretta Spencer, Mayor of Huntsville

March: Birmingham, Linda Verin, Marketing Consultant; Huntsville, The Honorable M. Lynn Sherrod, Presiding District Judge, 23rd Judicial Circuit, Madison County.

#### Ready to Run Announces **Next Training Sessions**

The next *Ready to Run* training sessions will be held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail locations in Mobile and Montgomery.

Mobile – Magnolia Grove – 9:30-3:00 Saturday, August 16, 2008 Saturday, September 27, 2008 Saturday, October 18, 2008

Montgomery – Capital Hill – 9:30-3:00 Saturday, August 2, 2008 Saturday, September:

Date to be determined Saturday, October 4, 2008

Two one-day intensive training sessions

- Locations and dates to be determined.

For more information, including a registration form and scholarship application, please visit www.aauwalabama.org and click on the Ready to *Run* link.





#### REGISTRATION FORM

women for Gougan
RR
READY · TO · RUN

READY TO RUN Training Alabama Women

for Government Leadership\*

Name:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:		
Work Phone:		ne:
Cell:		
Occupation		
Have you ever run for political	office before?	YesNo
If so, what position did you ru		
Please place an X in the box	to indicate ed	lucation level.
High School Diploma		
Associates Degree	Bachelors	Degree
Masters Degree	Ph.D. or H	ligher
Please place an X in the box	for desired tr	aining location.
Mobile Training Site		
Montgomery Training Site		
Saturday Trainings: Augus \$158 fee includes 3 all-day tra meetings, textbook, other ma Lunch on your own.	aining sessions	, electronic
Two one-day intensive trainin to be determined. For more information contac	0	ocations/date

cindy.bell@stvhs.com

Please make your check or money order in the amount of \$158 payable to AAUW of Alabama – *Ready to Run,* P.O. Box 383053, Birmingham, Alabama 35238

\*Ready to Run does not guarantee that participants will be elected or appointed. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation.



## March is Women's History Month

#### ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club

Book of the Month Club selections encourage members and nonmembers to open a dialogue of women and diversity in their communities.

**April** – Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders, by Mary Pipher (1999).

**May** – (Asian Pacific American Heritage Month) *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson.

June – (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month) Silent Partner: A Memoir of My Marriage, by Dina Matos McGreevey (2006).

Go to the AAUW website and buy your books from *Amazon*. *com* to support AAUW.

# AAUW Annual Lobby Day - Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mark your calendar. Save the date. Meet in Montgomery at the State House for the AAUW of Alabama Annual Lobby Day on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, Equal Pay Day. Speak with your Senator and Representative on this women's issue. For more information, contact Deidre Clark, Public Policy Chair, *vyrtuosity81@gmail.com*.



VOTE! Primary Election June 3, 2008.

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders June 5 – 7, 2008 Georgetown University | Washington, DC

#### Alabama Stars Deadline

Alabama Stars will receive their awards at the annual business meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008. Only submissions received by March 15, 2008 will be considered for an award. Submissions received late will be considered for honorable mention.

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

### Calling All Leaders! AAUWAnnounces New Leadership Development DVD Series

AAUW is pleased to announce a new series of leadership-focused DVDs created for distribution during the 2008 state convention season and other leadership events. As we work to strengthen and revitalize AAUW, all members must connect together as a community of active and effective participants. To fulfill our mission of advancing equity for women and girls, AAUW continues to need strong leaders who will make sure the AAUW legacy continues. In the past, only two members per state participated in national level leadership training. This new series of DVDs will provide leadership skills and strategies for all members.

Each state's leadership exercised their scheduling option to present the DVDs. States will make the DVD series available to branches after their state event. A representative of the national leadership, including AAUW or Educational Foundation board members and regional directors, will attend one event for each state to listen and hear from members across the country.

The DVDs are divided into modules which focus on leadership development as it relates to particular aspects of AAUW's mission. Each module includes a discussion guide for participants. It's vital that all of us can easily discuss AAUW's mission... with a consistent message which will enable us to retain our current members and recruit the new and diverse membership of tomorrow.

The leaders' introduction module features a conversation with AAUW President Ruth Sweetser, AAUW Educational Foundation President Barbara O'Connor, and new AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman. They chart an inspiring course for AAUW's future, with a mission-focused message that members will share with their local branches. Together, these three leaders

• provide a "state of AAUW" message;

• summarize the strategic process journey for AAUW's future;

• explain AAUW's mission and how it relate to members, branches, the future of our organization; and

• discuss the impact of AAUW mission-focused branch activities on their communities.

This first module will be featured at the AAUW of Alabama State Convention on Sunday, April 6, 2008.

The remainder of the DVD modules focus on specific areas of AAUW programming and business, as well as other topics. These modules describe how you can become involved in—or strengthen your current involvement with—vital areas of AAUW's mission.

To advance equity through advocacy, AAUW staff leaders describe

• how you can become an effective advocate for AAUW priority issues;

• how you can help mobilize women voters at the grassroots level in the upcoming elections;

• how you can stay current with issues that impact the higher education of women, and the subtleties of the politics involved, through AAUW public policy resources and updates; and

• how you can help eliminate sex discrimination on campus through the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

To advance equity through education and research, AAUW staff leaders

• introduce AAUW's latest research report—its findings and recommendations, media and promotional outreach tools, and how you can share this information with your branch;

• provide an overview on the National Girls Collaborative Project and how you can promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiatives in your community;

• describe how you can encourage women's leadership development through AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and Campus Action Projects; and

• report on AAUW's fellowships and grants, tell how you can meet local recipients, and hear their stories to motivate involvement and investment in AAUW philanthropy.

To build a stronger community, AAUW staff leaders in the membership, fundraising, communications, and marketing DVD modules discuss

• why it is so important to tell the AAUW story and marketing (it's not a bad word!) is every member's responsibility;

• why effective communication and information sharing are important to building a community as AAUW moves into the future;

• how branch and individual contributions make a difference;

• how you can use AAUW's website, videos, DVDs, and other materials to advance our mission in your branch.

The last three hours of this leadership development module will be featured at the AAUW of Alabama leadership conference in Birmingham, AL, on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

At this critical stage in our history, AAUW needs the active engagement of all members delivering the mission to advance equity for women. With leadership training through the DVD series, all AAUW members will be better prepared to focus their mission-based efforts, recruit new members, and further develop their leadership potential...because equity is still an issue!

#### AAUW of Alabama Leadership Conference

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Oxmoor Valley, Birmingham, AL Saturday, June 7, 2008 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Keren McElvy, White House Intern

Challenges are obstacles to overcome, not barriers by which to be burdened. This concept taught me to reach for my dreams. As a result, this past semester I had the privilege of interning for the White House and traveling to Europe.

On a hot, July day my dream to become a White House intern came true. On the other line was the woman who was soon to be my supervisor as I interned for the White House Office of Media Affairs. This experience provided the opportunity to learn from disciplined, persevering people who were committed to working long hours in order to serve the country. Being in the D.C. environment challenged me to give my best in my vocation and have a goal outside myself to motivate my actions.

In January, my school offered the opportunity to take an art and theater appreciation class in Europe. For the first two weeks, I traveled to Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria. The last two weeks I spent taking the class where I was exposed to incredible art museums, majestic cathedrals, and phenomenal plays. Witnessing the beauty of Europe in light of two world wars gave me a great respect for the accomplishments of Europeans and their ability to press on despite the emotional and physical challenges of rebuilding their countries.

The reward of having these experiences has taught me to always keep my eyes on the prize and to not allow adversity to distract me from accomplishing my goals. Don't let challenges prevent you from pursing your dreams, rather use them as stepping-stones to conquer your fears and achieve your greatest passions.

> Keren McElvy, Samford University Student, SAC Development Team, LTI-Financial Literacy Committee

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	ve any special needs or require a vegetarian	Convention Fee (includ	Number Total les lunch on Saturday) , <b>\$65 student affiliate</b>
Please make your AAUW Shoals Br	<b>r check payable to:</b> <b>anch</b> and mail to Jean Bock, levard, Florence, Alabama 35630	EF/LAF Banquet <b>\$45</b> Convention & Banquet <b>\$115 / \$110</b>	

#### **AAUW Calendar of Events**

March 15, 2008 Alabama Stars (Branch Recognition Award) Application Deadline

**To Be Decided** Executive Committee Conference Call

March 24, 2008 – Convention Registration Deadline

April 4, 2008 – Pre-Convention Workshops

April 4, 2008 – Board of Directors Meeting

April 4-6, 2008 State Convention, The Shoals Marriott, Florence

April 6, 2008 – Annual Business Meeting

April 19, 2008 *Ready to Run* Training – Birmingham

April 22, 2008 Lobby Day / Equal Pay Day, State House, Montgomery

> April 26, 2008 *Ready to Run* Training – Huntsville

May 1, 2008 Board Year End Report Deadline Branch Year End Report Deadline

May 17, 2008 Ready to Run Training – Birmingham

May 31, 2008 - Ready to Run Training - Huntsville

June 1, 2008 State Officer Report Deadline Branch Officer Report Deadline

June 1, 2008 Daybreak Summer Issue (July/August/September) Deadline

June 3, 2008 – Primary Election

June 5-7, 2008 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Washington, D.C.

June 6, 2008 2008-09 Executive Committe Meeting, Birmingham

June 7, 2008 AAUW of Alabama Leadership Conference, Birmingham



American Association of University Women

Jeannine Spann President Birmingham Branch 937 Essex Road Birmingham, AL 35222-4340 Address Service Requested Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 2459 Birmingham, Alabama

AAUW of Alabama State Convention April 4-6, 2008 Details Inside