

# Alabama Daybreak

Volume 56, Issue 1

AAUW of Alabama

Summer 2006

## Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security

Ruth Z. Sweetser, AAUW  
President and national



Leader-to-Leader Program representative, was the keynote speaker at the 2006 AAUW of Alabama State Convention in Mobile, AL. Her address, "Transforming Educational Equity Into

Economic Security: AAUW's Next Charge" moved the 129 attendees into plans of action throughout the weekend. The Honorable Lucy Baxley shared her experiences as Alabama Lieutenant Governor.

Dr. Thomasyne H. Williams, 2004-06 President, with Sweetser and Baxley were featured on CBS TV and other networks regarding Alabama Constitutional Reform and Pay Equity for Women.

AAUW of Alabama collaborated for success with the League of Women Voters, Alabama Arise, and Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. June Wilson, 2006-08 Program Vice President, was assisted by Marilyn Robertson, Huntsville Branch President, and Carol Roach, Huntsville Branch Program



Vice President, in leading a session on AAUW of Alabama's values and future plans of action.

"Risky Sexual Behavior," led by the University of South Alabama Peer Group, and "Leadership Development," led by the Leading Edge Initiative, were attended by 28 college university students.



Leevones Dubose, Mobile Branch President, Betty Gray Jones, Mobile Convention Logistics Chair, Cathy Hayes, Mobile Convention Registrar, Pam Ware, Mobile Public Relations, and Mobile Branch members hosted the event.



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## Transition in AAUW Leadership

*A leadership skill that inspires confidence and trust can be expressed in a variety of ways. It doesn't have to be charismatic. It can be pretty low key. But it has to be there. -Ray Gilmartin*



As AAUW celebrates 125 years, let us not forget its Legacy of Leadership. Let us not forget the Legacy of Leadership for the State of Alabama as we transition into a new leadership era. It has been an honor to serve as your state President for the past two years. It has been a wonderful, meaningful and educational experience. I want to thank all of you for your tremendous support. I had a wonderful leadership team and the success of our state is owed to EVERYONE. I was only the guide on this two year tour.

As many of you heard at the SEC/SA Joint Regional Conference held in Birmingham June 9-11, 2006, Alabama has been recognized as a Platinum State through the Association's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Recognition Program for the 2005-2006 year. I gave you my vision, you implemented it, and now we have our reward. We will receive our recognition at the Conference of State Leaders to be held in Washington, DC June 23-24.

Our new State President, Audrey Salgado, will be there on behalf of the state.

On June 9-11, 2006, as mentioned earlier, the SEC/SA Joint Regional Conference was held in Birmingham at the Embassy Suites. Barbara O'Connor, President of the Educational Foundation, was our Leader to Leader for the Conference. Alabama was well represented at the conference. I extended a warm Birmingham and Alabama welcome to all attendees as well as presented a workshop during the conference. I would like to thank Audrey Salgado and the Birmingham and Montevallo Branches for all of their hard work to make the conference a success. They were responsible for pre-registration, on site registration, and the pre-conference tour. Additionally, they were responsible for the compilation of the registration bags for the conference. They were there to greet all of the attendees with bright smiley faces. I would also like to send a special thank you to The Alabama Humanities Foundation for donating copies of the book "The Four Spirits" by author Sena Jeter Naslund to be used as door prizes for the conference. Thank you to Aubrey Ross,

Birmingham Branch for helping us to secure The Club for the EF Dinner. I have received numerous cards from persons who attended the conference thanking us for the hospitality.

The last two years have been phenomenal. As I transition into the Past President's position, I would like to thank Elaine Hughes for all of the support and mentoring she gave to me in her role as Past President. I hope that the experiences I had will be an asset as I move into this mentoring role. In this role I will also be looking at our Award Recognition Program and other various awards offered by the state. One of my goals is updating membership about the various awards that the Association offers. I accept this role and know that I helped AAUW of Alabama regain some of the recognition it deserves. We have become more visible in our communities and the state. Our membership has seen a slight increase. I now pass on the torch to Audrey Salgado who has many ambitious goals for AAUW of Alabama.

*Thomasyne H. Williams,  
Ed. D, CCC-SLP  
President 2004-06*

## President's Message



It is with pleasure I begin to serve you as AAUW of Alabama President. With you I hope to celebrate our past, cherish the moment, and plan for a successful future.

The AAUW of Alabama State Conventions highlighted my 2004-06 term as your Program Vice President. I would like to express my appreciation to the Program Development Team and both the Decatur and Mobile Convention Committees for their leadership and cooperation in promoting the AAUW mission through these events. A special thanks to the AAUW of Alabama Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their support in implementing new ideas such as the Student Advisory Council.

Living in Alabama for the last seven years, I have observed AAUW members in the state accept national, regional, and state leadership roles. In each case, I notice them calling on their local branch for support, and their respective branches have answered the call.

Therefore, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of my local branch in Birmingham over the last two years. Over the next two years when checking your caller ID, I do hope every AAUW member in the state will accept the call for help from each state and branch leader.

I cherish your vote of confidence in me to lead the AAUW of Alabama membership, your precious individual time you spend at AAUW meetings/events, and your willingness to share your talents for AAUW. I truly believe in my 23 years in AAUW, the 2006-08 AAUW of Alabama Executive Committee and Board of Directors is the BEST. Thank you for saying, "YES to AAUW." After the Board of

Directors meets on August 12, 2006 and defines and approves 2006-07 goals and objectives, I request branches and individual AAUW members cooperation in meeting these goals and objectives. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of Alabama's women and girls.

I have a vision for AAUW of Alabama. I see AAUW of Alabama members thinking outside the box, opening their minds to new ideas, and expanding their horizons. I see AAUW programs, projects, and public policy impacting Alabama. I see AAUW collaborating with other like-minded organizations as positive change agents. I see a younger generation accepting the AAUW challenge of equity for all women and girls. I see the best of the past merging with the best of today for the best tomorrow.

*Audrey Salgado  
President 2006-08*



## Expanding a Legacy of Leadership...

The 2006 South Atlantic/Southeast Central Joint Regional Conference in Birmingham, AL, was kicked off with a reception celebrating AAUW's 125th anniversary, 1881 – 2006. The national leaders for the weekend event, "Expanding a Legacy of Leadership,"



included: Barbara O'Connor, AAUW Educational Foundation President; Ann Terry, AAUW Executive

Vice President/Secretary; Betty Bayless, AAUW Director-At-Large; Nancy Shoemaker, AAUW Technology Usability Advisory Group and North Carolina President Elect; Dr. Elaine Hughes, AAUW Public Policy Chair; Trish Johnson, AAUW Program Development Committee and South Carolina President; Dr. Thomasyn H. Williams, Alabama President; and Bonnie Oppenheimer, Starkville, Mississippi Branch President. Leslie Henderson, South Atlantic Regional Director, and Eileen deHaro, Southeast Central Regional Director, planned the conference.

Candice Rigsby, graduate of University of Alabama at Huntsville, and Stormy

Miller, graduate of University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, discussed the AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council, and Laura Dicapo, Louisiana State University (LSU) Freshman, and Jennifer Rickerby, graduate of Howard University and Washington University in St. Louis, explained the LSU Campus Action Project Grant awarded as part of AAUW's new initiative, Building a Harassment-Free Campus.

The Birmingham and Montevallo Branch served as hosts on behalf of AAUW of Alabama.

The ideas from the conference will be implemented as projects in Alabama in 2006-07. Talk with your state leaders to learn more.

## Building a Strong and Diverse Membership in AAUW of Alabama

As state membership chair, I want to thank everyone for all of your work during the previous year to help build membership in AAUW of Alabama. We can be very proud of the membership efforts of our active branch members who together make up a great network of educated women committed to AAUW's mission.

Membership for our eight active branches grew from 531 to 559, a growth rate of

5.5%, and by February 22, 2006, the overall membership increased by ten to 569.

Branch Awards for Membership Growth as of 2/01/06 presented at the 2006 State Convention include: Huntsville Branch, 32% increase, 101 to 133; Montevallo Branch, 21% increase, 68 to 846; and Mobile Branch, 21% increase, 41 to 49. Branch Awards for Membership Retention include: Marion, holding steady at 14 members, and

Decatur, with a continuing membership of 39 members.

**Every Member Bring a Member** I want to challenge everyone to redouble our efforts in the coming year so that Alabama can continue to reverse the national trend of declining memberships. Consider Every Member Bring a Member as a way to build membership.

**Diversity** Remember the importance of diversity in our

recruitment efforts. Keeping AAUW's diversity statement clearly in mind, let's challenge all of our branch members to recruit new members from diverse backgrounds, with different age levels, different racial and ethnic backgrounds, and different socioeconomic backgrounds. We will all gain from having members with different life experiences. This kind of strong and diverse membership will enable us to work more effectively to reach our goals of equity, lifelong learning, and positive societal change. Only together can we hope to create better

communities and a better world.

**AAUW Membership Programs** Use membership recruitment programs such as Give a Grad a Gift and Shape the Future, and to reach out to Members at Large, Student Affiliates, and potential College University Partners. For more details, attend the Leadership Conference.

I realize we all face a number of challenges as we work for increased membership, and I want everyone to know that I want to support branch members in any way that I can. I would be glad to come

to meet with branch members to talk about strategies for building membership. I will also be happy to consult by e-mail or telephone as well. As Membership VP, I welcome your ideas and suggestions, and I very much hope in the coming months we can be successful in our efforts to increase membership. Thanks again for all of your good work.

*Sandra Lott  
Membership VP 2005-07  
jlott285@charter.net  
(205) 665-2127*

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### **Important Dates: EF Fellowships, Grants, and Awards**

I am very excited to be your Educational Foundation (EF) Vice President 2006-08. Originally from Ohio, I earned a MA in Public Administration from University of Illinois and a BA in Liberal Arts Music from Miami University of Ohio. With current and previous membership in the AAUW Birmingham Branch and Huntsville Branch, respectively, I also have experience working with Annual Giving, Endowment Campaigns and Special Events. Attending the AAUW State Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, June 23-25, 2006, was a great learning experience! I look forward to using this knowledge about

the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund (now under the EF umbrella) to propel Alabama forward with our fundraising efforts.

Joining the EF/LAF team in expanding the horizons of AAUW of Alabama are Mildred Sanders, EF Chair, graduate of Samford University, The University of Oklahoma, and Birmingham-Southern College, and Mary K. Braddock, LAF Chair, graduate of Radford College.

The AAUW Educational Foundation 2007-08 Grant applications will be available August 1, 2006. The postmark deadlines for submission are:

- American Fellowships:

11/15/06

- Career Development Grants: 12/15/06
- Selected Professions Fellowships Master's/First Professional: 1/10/07
- Engineering Dissertation: 12/15/06
- University Scholar-in-Residence letter of intent: 1/15/07
- Community Action Grants: 1/15/07
- International Fellowships: 12/01/06

Deadlines for AAUW grants are firm. To ensure that the application process is fair and equitable for all applicants, they make no exceptions to

this policy.

Applications are available from the website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). For all application questions contact AAUW Educational Foundation c/o Customer Service Center 301 ACT Dr. Dept. 177, Iowa City, IA

52243-4030 (319) 337-1716 ext 177.

Awards received at the AAUW State Leaders Conference included 2005 Top State & Branch Contributions Award for Contribution Growth over the Previous Recognition Year &

Per Capita Contributions. Huntsville, AL received 2005 Top State & Branch Contributions Award for Total Contributions & Per Capita Contributions.

*Mindy Bicknell  
EF VP 2006-08*

### AAUW of Alabama Nominations

2007-09 openings on the AAUW of Alabama Executive Committee include: Membership Vice President, Finance, and Recording Secretary. Suggestions from the branches for nominees shall be submitted in writing to the co-chairs of the

nominating committee by December 1, 2006. The nominating committee shall present a list of nominees to each branch at least one month prior to the 2007 state convention. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election, provided

the written consent of the nominee has been obtained. Contact Nominating Committee Co-Chairs, Tish Hall, [tish@tishathome.com](mailto:tish@tishathome.com), and Michal Robinson, [mgrcells@aol.com](mailto:mgrcells@aol.com).

### New Fiscal Year

Welcome to a new AAUW fiscal year. Each branch should have received a Branch Dues Report (BDR) from the Association with the names of last year's members. This was sent via e-mail to the branch president, membership vice president, and the treasurer if an email address was supplied to the Association. If your branch did not get a copy of the report, please call the AAUW Helpline to request one.

A copy of the BDR as well as an Additional Dues Report (ADR) for the dues for new members or those not listed on the BDR should have been

sent to the Association and to the state treasurer with the appropriate amount of dues on July 1st, or as soon as possible. An ADR can be downloaded from the AAUW website in the member center and can be filled out on the computer. Make sure that you keep a copy of any BDR and ADR for your records. And don't forget to continue to send the forms throughout the year. I will send receipts for the dues. Please be sure to check to see that the totals are the same as your official branch membership.

There are no dues for Honorary Life members.

Student Affiliates pay \$5 in state fees and everyone else pays \$10 state dues including College University (C/U) representatives in your branch.

Let me know if you have any questions about the dues/fees process. I look forward to seeing branch treasurers at the State Leadership Conference so that I can put a face to a name.

*Ellie Lienau  
Treasurer 2005-07  
12006 Northgate Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35810  
(256) 852-4802*

### AAUW College University Partners

Sandy Hines, AAUW of Alabama College University Relations, reports the following AAUW College University Partners in Alabama: Northwest-Shoals Community College, Samford University, University of

Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Montevallo, and University of North Alabama. The Decatur and Huntsville Branches are making the connection with Calhoun Community College

and Alabama State University. If you are interested in recruiting a College University Partner in your area, contact Sandy at tom62836@aol.com.

### AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council

Diedre Clark, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; Tiffany Ellis, Judson College; Laura N. Holder, Judson College, and Katie Smith, University of North Alabama, have

volunteered for the AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Development Team. Stormy Miller, AAUW of Alabama Student Advisory Council Chair, graduate of

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, will lead the council on her return from a summer program in London, England. Interim Chair is Diedre Clark.

### Expanding the Legacy of Leadership for a New Tomorrow – AAUW: Mission Possible!

As we kick off our 125th anniversary, we salute our past and, more importantly, we begin to make some hard decisions about what AAUW will become in the future. In the opening session of the AAUW Conference of State Leaders, Ruth Sweetser, AAUW President, and Barbara O'Connor, AAUW Educational Foundation President, asked "What will enable our organization to survive (even thrive) in the 21st century? Survival will involve new approaches and new ways of doing things – in other words, a new look for AAUW. Can we see clearly? Will we embrace the

changes?"

Like our founders, we find ourselves at a watershed moment in AAUW's history. We can no longer rest on our legacy and our laurels. We are losing members, and we have not reached out in ways that make younger women want to join or lead our organization in the future. Many businesses today need to change with the times or find themselves closed. **AAUW must also change or it will not be around for another ten, five, or even two years.** Can you imagine a world without AAUW fighting for education and equity for women and

girls? We must ensure now that AAUW will be here when it's needed.

During this pivotal time in our history, state and branch leaders are critical to defining AAUW's future. The AAUW Conference of State Leaders focused on AAUW's new theme and other current program components to illustrate how change can happen – with a new mindset as the most costly investment. The means are capabilities we already have. The time is NOW. We could say AAUW must change or die: Instead we say AAUW will change, and thrive.

## Effective Programming is the Key to Success!

At the AAUW of Alabama State Convention, we had the opportunity to help shape the future of our AAUW programming efforts during the Collaborative Leadership: A Plan of Action Workshop. Let's continue this effort towards implementation of the AAUW mission.

I encourage all AAUW of Alabama members, especially branch and state leaders, to attend our **Leadership Conference in Birmingham at Samford University,**

**Dwight Beeson Hall, Room 204, on August 12, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

We will learn more about AAUW: Mission Possible, define goals and objectives for 2006-07, continue the Plan of Action developed at the 2006 convention workshop, and address effective programming that can be accomplished by branches and individual members. Leadership Conference details will be posted on the AAUW of Alabama website, [www.aauwalabama.org](http://www.aauwalabama.org), after

the first executive committee meeting on July 22, 2006.

All state leaders are invited to meet potential members at a pre-conference reception hosted by the Birmingham Branch at the home of Mindy Boggs, 4013 Greystone Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242, on Friday, August 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. RSVP required.

*June Wilson*  
Program VP 2006-08  
[junewilson@aol.com](mailto:junewilson@aol.com)

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### Registration Form

**AAUW of Alabama Leadership Conference**  
**Samford University**  
**800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229**  
**Saturday, August 12, 2006**

\$5 Conference Fee~ Registration Deadline: August 4, 2006

Yes, I will attend the Conference!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone (Area Code): \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (Area Code): \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch: \_\_\_\_\_  
If applicable:  
Branch Board / Office Held: \_\_\_\_\_  
State Board / Office Held: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Advisory Council: \_\_\_\_\_

**To register** please prepare a check for \$5 made payable to "AAUW of Alabama" enclosed with this registration form. Mail to: Eleanor "Ellie" S. Lienau, Treasurer, 12006 Northgate Drive, Huntsville, AL 35810. Questions [elienau@yahoo.com](mailto:elienau@yahoo.com), 256 852-4802

Lunch is on your own. No food or beverages are permitted in the classrooms. **If you would like to eat lunch at Samford Cafeteria, cost is \$6.25 for each person, and you pay at the door.**

**Please circle here to confirm a lunch in the cafeteria: YES NO**