



Green Mountain AAUW

American Association of University Women of Vermont

Volume XXXIV No. 2

April 2010

Celebrate the 90th Birthday of AAUW of Vermont With Us!

***The Burlington Branch of AAUW
and the
Women's Center of St. Michael's College
Welcome you to the Statewide Meeting
on Saturday, April 24, 2010
11:15 am – 3:45 pm***

The focus of the conference will be “Breaking Barriers for Women through Advocacy, Education, and Research,” and the celebration of 90 years of AAUW in Vermont. The topic of the day is a slight twist on AAUW’s Mission Statement and Value Promise (top right of this page).

Exploring where we have been, we will look at the barriers that our foremothers encountered as we hear about our own Vermont AAUW history of ninety years. In addition we will hear what Gail Collins, a columnist for the New York Times, has to say in her book *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*.

What barriers have you encountered in your own life? Who were some of the people or institutions who helped you overcome these barriers? Are you or someone close to you facing barriers today? Have the barriers in your life changed over time? Do men encounter any of these barriers? How would it be different for them if they did? We hope you will explore some of these questions with other AAUW members during lunch.

How about the future? Our panel will take a look at barriers that may be encountered in the next twenty-five years. Will women and girls continue to make gains? How will the barriers change?

AAUW Mission: Advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Value Promise: As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Carmel Quinn, Director of Advocacy for the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, has been running a number of programs that connect girls with their legislatures in New Hampshire and Vermont. (A previous issue of this newsletter reported on “Girls Rock the Capitol,” and a student sponsored by the Burlington Branch). We will get Carmel’s perspective on why, despite women having gained the right to vote in 1920, the number of women legislators is relatively small. What are the barriers that keep us from gaining ground? Will it be better in twenty-five years?

Kathy Johnson, current AAUW Career Development Grant recipient, has spent her whole personal and professional life promoting equity and education for women and girls. She has been Research Director for the Vermont Commission on Women, President of the Central Vermont Branch of AAUW, Gender Equity Coordinator at a technical center, and a girls’ basketball coach. With her AAUW grant Kathy is focusing on enhancing her skills to mediate and to teach about conflict resolution and how to negotiate.

Karen Lounsbury, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Vermont, runs a laboratory that uses a multi-disciplinary approach to studying normal, injured and malignant cells. She utilizes techniques from biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology. Dr. Lounsbury will help us to understand the world of women doing research, where she has been, and what the future holds.

Breaking Barriers for Women Through Advocacy, Education, and Research
Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 11:15 am to 3:45 pm
Farrell Room, 315 St. Edmunds Hall, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont

Schedule for the Day

- 11:15 Registration, Social Time
- 11:45 Welcome and Introduction of Guests
- 12:00 Program Introduction from the Historical Perspective
- 12:30 Lunch with Participant Discussion of the Topic
Buffet of sandwiches, pasta, green and fruit salads, coffee, tea, and water.
- 1:15 Break
- 1:25 Panel Discussion
Barriers to Women in Advocacy, Education, and Research: Looking Forward Twenty-five Years
Moderated by Barbara Stearns and Featuring:
Carmel Quinn, Director of Advocacy for the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. "Girls Rock the Capitol" Program.
Kathy Johnson, AAUW Career Development Recipient, former Central Vermont Branch President, Educator and Mediator.
Karen Lounsbury, Ph.D., Cell Researcher and Professor, University of Vermont, Department of Pharmacology.
- 2:25 Group Questions and Follow-up Discussion
- 2:40 Birthday Cake and Ice Cream
- 3:00 State Business and Elections
- 3:15 National AAUW Update
Linda Tozier, AAUW Director at Large.
Linda, who lives in Pennsylvania, will present a number of Breaking Barrier topics including the newest research report "Why So Few?" She will discuss the new Breaking Through Barriers awards, the new virtual AAUW community, and the One Member One Vote process for the 2011 Convention.
- 3:45 Adjournment
State Board Members are asked to stay for a short meeting.

Overnight Accommodations Requests
Deadline April 15

If you would like to stay a little longer in the Burlington Area, a few Burlington Branch Members are offering Bed and Breakfast hospitality on Friday or Saturday in return for a \$25 donation to AAUW Funds (formerly the Educational Foundation). The check, payable to AAUW Funds, should be given to the hostess. If you would like to stay overnight please contact Linda Jackson by telephone or email. Telephone 802-985-2829 email: LindaRBJ@aol.com

Please let Linda know your preferences and whether or not you are traveling with someone else who also desires accommodations. Linda will serve as the clearing house and match up members as well as possible. Your hostess will contact you to confirm your request and give you directions to her home.

Conference Registration Form

Please clip and mail with check for \$14, payable to AAUW to:

Linda B Jackson, 57 Drew Lane, Shelburne, Vermont 05482.

Deadline April 15. If time is short, please contact Linda by email or telephone to see if arrangements can be made, and pay on-site.

Tel. 802-985-2829 email: LindaRBJ@aol.com

Name _____

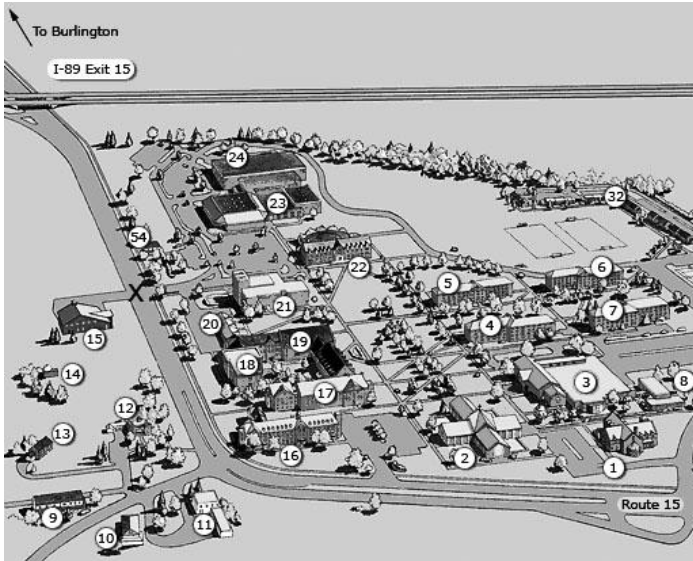
Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Branch _____

Check if you would like to stay over on Friday or Saturday and contact Linda for arrangements.



St. Michaels College Campus Map

***Additional Vermont AAUW History:
Eight Local Vermont Branches Were
Established in the 1920's!***

Gudrun Hutchins, Communications Chair

National AAUW was founded in 1881 as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae by a group of female college graduates. Their purpose was to bring college educated women together and to foster educational opportunities for women. They restricted membership to those who had graduated from an institution of higher education which had, in their judgment, not only maintained high academic standards, but had encouraged and recognized women in their programs and provided suitable facilities for them. The list of institutions "accepted" for membership in AAUW existed well into the 1960's and was still active when I joined AAUW in 1962.

In 1920, the University of Vermont received accreditation from ACA. In the spring of that year, UVM's first full-time Dean of Women, Pear Randall Wasson (1878-1922), met with a group of other eligible college alumnae in Vermont to discuss the formation of a Vermont Branch. (The circumstances of this meeting and its connection to the women's suffrage movement were detailed in the fall 2009 issue of *Green Mountain AAUW*.) On October 6, 1920, sixty seven women met in Burlington High School and formally initiated the Vermont Branch of the ACA. The national organization changed its name to the American Association of University

Meeting Location and Diving Directions

Driving Directions from Exit 15, Interstate 89 Bear right off exit 15; stay in left lane. At the first set of lights (marked x on map), turn left into parking lot. Parking is in the large lot surrounded by buildings 21, 22, and 23 on the campus map.

From the parking lot, with your back to the highway and the McCarthy Arts Center (building 21) on your right, walk to the walkway behind the arts center. Go to the center of the next building and enter through the double doors (St. Edmunds Hall, building 19). Follow the hallway to the right and take the first left. The elevator will be immediately on your left. Leaving the elevator on the third floor, turn right and the Farrell Room is immediately in front of you.

Women in 1921 to bring it into line with other groups belonging to the International Federation of University Women. By 1921, Vermont membership had reached 100; Grace Coolidge, wife of President Calvin Coolidge, was the 100th member.

Unlike most states, which organized local branches before a state organization, Vermont started at the state level. In 1921 two local branches were formed in Burlington and Middlebury. They were joined by Montpelier in 1922, Rutland and St. Albans in 1923, Bennington and Brattleboro in 1927 and Randolph in 1928. Barre separated from the Montpelier Branch in 1949. St. Albans became inactive for a number of years and re-formed a branch in 1973. The Windsor Branch was established in 1978. In the 1970's and 1980's Vermont had 10 branches and more than 600 branch members. The Brattleboro and Burlington branches each had more than 100 members. Although we have only 5 branches left; all have 90th birthdays coming up between 2011 and 2018. Let's have a lot of birthday parties and celebrate our continued existence!

Early on, AAUW of Vermont established standing committees to address important issues in Vermont education. From 1924 to 1952 members also held an annual "College Week" which was a

(continued on next page)

AAUW of Vermont History

(continued from page 3)

combination of an AAUW issues and planning meeting, a reunion of alumnae of various colleges, and a seminar with speakers on relevant topics of the day. College week was held on college campuses throughout Vermont and speakers included educators and state government leaders from Vermont and other states. College Week served as an inspirational source for Vermont AAUW members; it promoted the "forming of new friendships, renewing of old ones and above all the feeling that college women should and do work together."

The archives contain a detailed program for the 1932 College Week which I "inherited" with the Vermont AAUW president's papers in 1986 and have added to the collection. The four day conference was held at Breadloaf of Middlebury College. Instructions on travel to Middlebury by train, and arrangements for transportation from the train station to the conference site, were included with the program of speakers and college reunions, as well as the prices for overnight accommodations and meals. Two college week programs from the 1940's exist and will soon join the archives.

One of the first priorities of Vermont AAUW members was to encourage young Vermont women to enter college. Members worked with their high school alma maters to improve college preparation. They also concentrated on the improvement of Vermont's rural schools. In 1922, members began working with the Vermont State Board of Education to assess the quality of the state's 1100 one-room school houses. The Better District Schools Association (BSDA) was established in 1924 to campaign in towns and in the Legislature for better support of these schools. They awarded scholarships for continuing education, and enlisted the Federated Women's Clubs, the DAR, and their friends to adopt needy schools. (More details are in the lead article in the fall 2009 issue of *Green Mountain AAUW*.)

In 1941 Vermont AAUW members established the Gary-Tupper Fund in memory of two active charter members who had died that year. The fund made loans to rural school teachers who wished to further their education. It also gave an annual award for teaching excellence to one or more one-room teachers in the state. This award continued

until 1975 when the demise of rural school made it obsolete. It was replaced by the Hazel Wills award for an outstanding Vermont elementary or high school teacher which continued into the 1990's. (I still remember paying the \$2 fee that was collected for the Gary-Tupper Fund from every member; it was paid together with state AAUW dues.)

In 1988, AAUW of Vermont and also National AAUW, selected Vermont Technical College for the Progress in Equity Award for its innovative "Women in Technology" program. The program operated on several levels with projects to earn Girl Scout badges, a summer technology camp for middle school girls, and a speakers bureau and job shadowing for high school girls. Vermont AAUW branches raised money so that needy girls from their area could attend summer technology camp at VTC.

From the beginning, AAUW of Vermont has exerted considerable influence as a lobbying organization on the local, state, and national levels. Education issues have remained important; others have changed over the years as the times and issues have changed. Some of the major issues supported include: maternal health and child welfare legislation in the 1920's, the neutrality of the United States in the 1930's, social welfare and aid to refugees in the 1940's, consolidation of Vermont schools in the 1950's, and civil rights legislation in the 1960's. In more recent years, Vermont branches and Vermont AAUW have taken stands on the environment, the Equal Rights Amendment, CEDAW, gender neutrality of the Vermont Constitution, pay equity and other equity issues of working women.

Many of Vermont's prominent women have been members of AAUW. In the early years Mary Jean Simpson (one of Vermont's first female Representatives), writer Dorothy Canfield Fisher, UVM Dean Wasson, and UVM professor Sarah Holbrook were charter members. Members in more recent times have included Madeleine Kunin, and the spouses of several governors and members of Congress.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher was a speaker at the first New England AAUW conference held at the University of Vermont in 1922. She warned members "not to try to do everything at once, dissipating energy like quicksilver from a broken thermometer." That advice is still valid today.

State President's Message

Andrea Weisberg, President

Just after I became Vermont State President in July of 2006, the world of AAUW went into a state of flux. In order to survive as an organization, we had to work on changing our structure. We took a leap of faith, but the AAUW that has emerged is a more streamlined, professional and vibrant organization. What impresses me the most is the commitment of our members to the AAUW Mission. "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research." Our branches have adopted the mission and in most cases translated it into action.

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today with more than 100,000 members, 1,000 branches and 500 college/university partnerships, AAUW provides a powerful voice and a more promising future for women and girls.

AAUW's voice has influenced legislative debate on critical social issues; education, sex discrimination, civil rights, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare rights, pay equity, family medical leave and health care reform. Our fellowships and grants advance educational and professional opportunities by awarding millions of dollars to outstanding women and for community action projects. Our leadership programs help women and girls assume pivotal roles in their professional and personal lives

In my travels around the state, I have been impressed with the efforts of the branches to have interesting and informative meetings for themselves and for their communities, to work hard at fundraising for state and local use, to provide scholarships to needy young women, to offer workshops such as Sister-to-Sister, and a host of other worthwhile activities.

No one person can do the job of president. It takes partners and allies to get things done. All of you on the state board and in the branches have contributed to the success of AAUW in Vermont. I've been blessed to have had invaluable mentors, including Dot Hart and Gudrun Hutchins who helped me develop my own leadership style. The members of the state board including Jennifer Kern, Membership, Louise Loring, Public

Policy, Jenifer Ambler, Treasurer, Diane Telford, Programs, Gudrun Hutchins, Communications, Kathy Corrao, Educational Foundation, Mary Feidner, LAF and Peg Galgano, International Affairs have been valuable sources of ideas and have worked with me and each other to keep us moving forward.

We have much to be proud of. We are generous with our time, we are leaders in our communities, we stand up and voice our opinions about inequalities, we inspire and motivate young women and help women students by funding scholarships that assist them to continue their education.

The following are a number of things that we have achieved during the last four years:

- We developed and implemented a mission based strategic plan.
- We reached out and mentored young women promoting leadership development for college students, supporting girls in technology programs, and establishing college/university partnerships.
- We have collaborated with other organizations, such as the Girl Scouts, the YWCA, Business and Professional Women, to promote the mission of education and equity for women and girls.
- We have been tireless advocates for equity related government bills and programs.
- We contributed many dollars to the Educational Foundation, LAF and the Leadership and Training Institute.

We have done well.

To Peg Galgano, our incoming president, may I say that you will not be alone in your new position. There are many of us who will be there if you need us. Congratulations to you and best of luck.

And to all of you..... thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve as your state president. Thank you for what you do to fulfill the value promise of AAUW, "a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance." It has been an interesting and exciting four years.

Andrea

From Our Incoming State President

Peg Galgano, Incoming State President

As many of you know, plans change, and the person who we were hoping would be taking over as state president is not expected to be available.

Rather than leave the state organization without a president, I decided, with the wonderful offers of help from our talented board, that I would do my best to fill the position. Andrea and Gudrun will be guiding and helping me to learn the job, so with all of your help and patience I will be assuming the position, unless of course, one of you would like to step forward.

It is very daunting to follow the fantastic state presidents we have had in the past. Dot Rand, who I know from Middlebury, is a remarkable woman, who is incredibly hard working and competent. Andrea Weisberg, always unflappable and with so much personal warmth, has been steadily guiding us in the most recent years. She almost makes the position look easy! Both have soldiered on through health issues without missing a beat.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year. I hope to see you on April 24th at the state meeting in Burlington.

National Dues for 2010-2011

National dues payable in June 2010 remain at \$49 (\$46 is tax deductible; \$3 goes to the AAUW Action Fund for lobbying activities.)

The dues branch members pay will consist of
National dues \$49
State dues \$7 and
Branch dues (determined by branch).

Student dues will consist of
National dues \$17
State dues \$3 and
Branch dues (determined by branch).
Most Vermont branches waive branch dues for students so that they pay \$20.

Community members pay only state and branch dues.

Standing Up for Women and Girls

Jennifer Kern, Membership Chair

All Women and Girls deserve: OPPORTUNITY
JUSTICE
EMPOWERMENT
RESPECT
AUTONOMY
EQUALITY

Since 1881 AAUW has been working diligently to achieve this goal through:

- Research papers,
- Lobby corps and grassroots advocates,
- Educational grants and fellowships,
- International partnerships,
- National Girls Collaborative Project,
- LAF outreach programs on college campuses and in workplaces,
- While also protecting hard earned victories and achievements like Title IX and reproductive choice.

This is why over 100,000 women and men belong to AAUW.

This is why a few strong women in Vermont started AAUW 90 years ago.

This is why many of us are doing community activities to work with and support women and girls.

This is why branches are committed to meaningful community projects like scholarships, achievement awards, sister to sister, Eureka and others.

This is why AAUW of Vermont sends 1 or 2 students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders each year.

STRONG GIRLS EQUALS STRONG WOMEN

What a great calling card!! Let's use it to widen our circle of members and college affiliates.

We are 156 branch members strong
at 90 years
(Happy birthday AAUW VT!)

Will we be 156 branch members strong and more
at 100 years?

WE KNOW WE WILL!

Women in Vermont's Prisons: The Children They Leave Behind

Louise Luring, Public Policy Chair

What happens to children when their parents -- especially mothers -- are put in jail?

That is a question Vermont's Commission on Women has been investigating this year. Commission members held a listening forum in November with former female inmates, their family members, and the social service agencies who work with them. More recently, Commission members visited a women's correctional facility and spoke to inmates about their concerns for their children.

The Commission found there is no consistent policy of dealing with children when a parent is arrested and taken away and, indeed, the arresting officers don't necessarily know that there are dependent children who will come home from school or wake up in the morning to find Mom gone. Also, policies about whether prisoners are allowed to hug their minor children during visits have been inconsistent, and prisoners can be sent to out-of-state prisons without consideration for the effects on family stability.

A number of bills have been introduced into the Legislature this year to deal with the issue of protecting the rights of children in these circumstances. With women in and out of Vermont's prison 1,000 per year (including multiple imprisonments), and with the majority of women having children and being the primary emotional and financial support of those children, the issue is an important one for the social fabric of Vermont.

The following three bills in particular have been put forth to deal with the problem. They have had first readings in their respective committees, but are languishing there at this time.

H.291 Bill of Rights for Children of Arrested and Incarcerated Parents (Human Services Committee)

This bill proposes to establish a bill of rights for children of parents who are arrested or incarcerated. The bill says, in part:

"These children have committed no crime, yet they pay a steep penalty. They often forfeit their homes, their safety, their public status and private self-image, and their primary source of comfort and affection. Their lives are profoundly affected by multiple agencies involved in the criminal justice

system, including the department of public safety, courts, prosecutors and defenders, the corrections system, the child welfare system, and probation and parole officers. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the state of Vermont that criminal justice and child welfare agencies shall take responsibility for the care of minor children at the time of arrest and incarceration of their parents."

"A minor child of an arrested or incarcerated parent shall have the following rights:

- To be kept safe and informed at the time of the parent's arrest.
 - To be heard when others are making decisions about the child.
 - To be considered when others are making decisions about the parent.
 - To be well cared for in the parent's absence.
 - To speak with, see, and touch the parent.
 - To be supported during the parent's incarceration.
 - To be free of judgment, blame, or labeling due to the parent's incarceration.
- To have a lifelong relationship with the parent."

H.295 Training law enforcement personnel regarding protection of minor children of arrested parents (Government Operations Committee)

This bill proposes to require that law enforcement officers are trained in the proper procedures and practices for discovering and dealing with minor children when their parents are arrested.

H.296. An act relating to Children of arrested and incarcerated parents (Corrections Committee)

This bill proposes to require the court to consider the impact of sentencing on any children of the defendant; direct the commissioner of corrections to consider family connections when determining placement of an inmate; direct the department of corrections to ensure that minor children are cared for adequately when a person enters the corrections system; direct the commissioner to gather data regarding children of incarcerated parents; direct the commissioner to review and revise, as appropriate, department policies regarding contact between inmates and their children; and require various agencies involved in the criminal justice system to establish procedures which require consideration of children at every step in the process of arresting and incarcerating parent.

Follow the bills on the legislative tracking system <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/database2.cfm>

LAF's New Case Support Criteria

Mary Feidner, LAF Chair

AAUW works to break down educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. This Value Promise guides case support decisions for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's expansion from a focus only on cases in academia to those that arise in any workplace. Along with this expansion, LAF is concentrating on identifying strategic cases that may provide significant protection for women in the future. (For details, please read the updated LAF briefing on the AAUW website.)

Consistent with these transitions, and after lengthy discussions with AAUW members, the AAUW Educational Foundation Board of Directors has published and disseminated procedures for establishing LAF case support eligibility. To be eligible for LAF support, cases must:

- Address a workplace issue within AAUW's mission such as discrimination related to economic security, education, civil rights, or Title IX. The workplace can include college and university campuses.
- Have the potential for significance with respect to future cases and the likelihood to set or reinforce precedent that will discourage gender discrimination and benefit women.
- Be filed in state or federal court, preferably at the appellate level.
- Request support to advance the legal case. Financial support will not be provided to reimburse personal expenditures.
- Have litigants who are willing to engage in branch visits and make appropriate public appearances with AAUW.
- Allow AAUW to publicize support for the case internally and externally, including in the media, on the website, and in electronic and print communications.

AAUW offers both financial and nonfinancial support to selected applicants, including funding for

- Court filing fees
- Preparation of briefs, filings, and other case-based costs
- Plaintiff court travel
- Specified immediate, essential plaintiff needs

AAUW can also offer nonfinancial support, including

- Signing an *amicus* brief
- An official statement of support
- AAUW members at the court
- AAUW members at a rally

Case recommendations are welcome from many sources, including collaborating organizations, lawyers familiar with appropriate cases, AAUW members, and AAUW affiliates who have knowledge of important cases. If you would like to make a recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org to receive a case recommendation form. If the case meets the initial case support criteria, applicants will receive a more thorough application to complete and submit. Cases will undergo a review process to determine their suitability for LAF support.

AAUW Funds:

Following Past Fellowship Recipients

Kathleen Corrao, Fellowships and Grants Chair

More than 10,000 fellowships and grants have been presented to women in more than 130 countries since the first award in 1888.

To read articles about fellowship and grant recipients and their current activities, go to AAUW Dialog. Mandy Toomey has shared the stories of more than 60 grant recipients since the summer of 2008; she posts a new article about a fellow or project every Wednesday. The Bennington Branch Eureka Project was featured last year and is still part of the data base.

The easiest way to find AAUW Dialog is to go to www.aauw.org and click on "site index" in the upper right corner. AAUW dialog is one of the links listed under "About AAUW". Once you reach AAUW Dialog, you can choose a category or month in the bar on the right or enter a word or name in the search box on the upper right corner.

Try entering the word "bats" in the search box and you will read the fascinating story of Cynthia Moss posted on March 5th. She is a professor of neuroscience and a researcher on the echolocation of bats. She was a 1986-87 American Fellow and has studied bats every since.

2009 Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Ashley Cheung, Middlebury College Student

(Ashley attended the NCWSL with partial support from AAUW of Vermont. This is a very abbreviated version of her report.)

“Hold out your hand. These women are torch bearers, and they will give you fire.” This is how the five accomplished women being honored at the 2009 Women of Distinction Award Reception were introduced to a room full of eager and awe-struck conference attendees. The award ceremony paid tribute to women leaders in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to the lives of women and girls across many fields, and this evening was one of the many highlights of my experience at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders held at the University of Maryland last June. We heard from Diane Rehm, who began her career as a volunteer producer and is now the host of her own nationally broadcasted radio show. She encouraged us to be persistent, flexible, and practical while following our dreams.

The following speaker was Martine Rothblatt, founder and CEO of United Therapeutics, and she is a remarkable woman who has had many accomplishments in satellite technology and biotechnology. She spoke about her deep appreciation for the support from her loved ones and how she could not have achieved all that she did without them.

The woman of distinction that I was most motivated by was Melissa Poe Hood, founder of Kids For a Clean Environment. As an Environmental Economics major at Middlebury College, I was honored to have the opportunity to speak with Melissa Poe Hood after the ceremony and hear more about how she has been an active environmentalist since the age of nine and her current work with grassroots organizations. She encouraged us to take advantage of the opportunities and circumstances that we come across and said that the biggest obstacle on the journey of life is yourself.

One of the women of distinction said, “When we are amongst women, we are amongst family,” and this sentiment held true for the entirety of the conference. Throughout all of the networking sessions, workshops, and speakers, there was an overwhelming feeling of support, unity, and sisterhood connecting all the female participants. Meeting and developing

friendships with women from different schools gave me the opportunity to hear varied opinions and points of view on issues concerning women.

The conference also included workshops that ranged from discussions of body image to the Peace Corps to the semantics of being female. There were many choices that interested me, so it was difficult choosing only four, but I ended up attending workshops on business etiquette, planning for financial success, networking in a woman’s world, and women and environmental stewardship. Each of these workshops was informative and taught me practical life skills that will help me be a strong female leader. We discussed topics such as negotiating salaries and closing the wage gap, identifying your personal values, empowering women to take control of their futures, making connections with other women, and networking to have contacts in all types of fields. As an Environmental Economics major, I especially enjoyed the workshop on women and environmental stewardship where we discussed ecofeminism, which is a term that was created in 1974 by Francoise d’Eaubonne. This topic deals with the oppression of women and humans as related to domination of nature. We had an interactive discussion about a feminist approach to environmental ethics and the slow food movement, and it was great to see how many young women were knowledgeable and interested in these important topics.

Sydney Alfonso, the other Middlebury attendee, and I concluded the conference by brainstorming ways we could use what we learned to bring change to Middlebury College and particularly to our Sister-to-Sister program. We threw out ideas such as having STS do volunteer work with Women Safe, the Parent Child Center, or a women’s shelter in the area, and asking Jyoti Daniere from the Health and Wellness Center to teach us how to talk to middle school girls about more serious issues that women deal with. Sydney and I were able to learn a lot about leadership, women’s issues, and ourselves through this conference, as well as get to know each other and other young women in a different context. We greatly appreciate the support and sponsorship of the Vermont AAUW, and we would like to thank you for all your help in making this opportunity possible.

Do You Have Historic AAUW Materials In Your Closet?

Gudrun Hutchins, Communications Chair

Many state and branch AAUW papers were passed from officer to officer over the years without consideration of the potential future historic significance. Periodically, an efficient woman sorted through the five large boxes she received from her predecessor and passed on only one box full of materials. In the process many materials that would now be considered historic were lost. We can research the activities of the early Vermont AAUW members only because they saved their papers and someone found a place to archive them.

The older Burlington Branch papers are in the archives, but there are no other branch papers. If you have early papers from your branch and other more recent materials, please donate them to the collection to document your branch activities. Especially helpful are sets of branch newsletters or program booklets. They document the branch interests during a specific period of time and a future researcher on women's history will find them valuable.

I have been as guilty as anyone of throwing out materials that might be of interest in the future. For example: I have edited or co-edited the monthly Bennington Branch newsletter since 1975, but discarded the 1975 – 1990 issues ten years ago because “they didn't look as nice” as the newer issues formatted with a computer. I also needed file space for the new issues. I now realize that a complete set covering 35 years would have been of interest to a future researcher. I kept state papers and photos from the 1980's only because I visualized making some sort of scrapbook from that very active period of my AAUW life. They include letters to Senator Aiken encouraging him to vote against Robert Bork for the Supreme Court, materials associated with the Summer Technology Camp at VTC, and some of my speeches about women in science. The scrap book will never happen, but I intend to add those materials and a complete set of 1985 - 2010 state newsletters to the archives.

The AAUW papers are in the Special Collections Section of the Bailey Howe Library at UVM. The address is 538 Main Street, Burlington VT 05405-0036. Please telephone 802-656-2138 for sorting and mailing suggestions.

AAUW of Vermont Officers To Be Elected On April 24, 2010

President: Margaret (Peg) Galgano
Middlebury Branch

Program Chair: Diane Telford
Burlington Branch

Membership Chair: Jennifer Kern
Bennington Branch

Treasurer: Jenifer Ambler
Brattleboro Branch

Public Policy Chair: Louise Luring
Brattleboro Branch

Communications: Gudrun Hutchins
Bennington Branch

Fellowships and Grants Chair:
Kathleen Corrao
Randolph Branch

Legal Advocacy Fund: Mary Feidner
Bennington Branch

Special Projects: Andrea Weisberg
Bennington Branch

We are looking for a volunteer to fill the
International Relations Position

We are looking for a second volunteer
to take over the College/University
Partners Chair position. Kim Swartz
would like a someone to replace her as
chair but will continue to represent St.
Michael's.