

From the Presidents

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund recently announced an important victory in the ongoing battle to prevent sexual harassment and assault on university campuses with the settlement agreement between Lisa Simpson and the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU). In addition to the money paid to the plaintiff it requires the university to create a new position in the Office of Victim Assistance and hire an independent adviser to monitor the school's compliance with federal sex discrimination laws. The AAUW LAF adopted the case in February 2005 and provided over \$35,000 in financial support. This is a good example of how our contributions to LAF are used. More details about this lawsuit can be found at www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf.

There are two positions on our board that are open for next year—Treasurer and Secretary/Communications. Donna Weidman has graciously agreed to serve a second term as Treasurer so an informal nominating committee is looking for someone interested in the Secretary/Communications position. This is an opportunity for you to become involved and learn more about AAUW at the local, State and National levels. Call Cleo or Dawn for details on the time commitment and other duties of this very important board position.

Isn't winter in Wisconsin fun?!! In spite of the cold over 30 hardy members bundled up to attend the January soup and a movie meeting. We had several delicious soup choices and desserts (including Mark's famous cookies warm from the oven), watched a thought provoking movie and

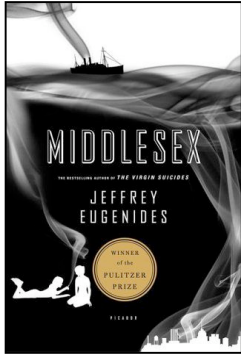
followed that with a lively discussion. A special thank you to Lois and Mark Helland for the use of their home. It was an enjoyable afternoon and all agreed it was well worth the trip in the subzero temperatures.

As we look ahead we have several great programs planned for this spring. We hope to see many of you at our upcoming meetings.

Cleo Powers (powers@uwec.edu) 834-0794
Dawn Bosold (dbosold@hotmail.com) 835-4055



Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe & Chili



Book Group: Middlesex

The Book Group will be discussing *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides on March 4th, at Ginny Jordan's. Book group begins at 7:30 and is always on the first Tuesday of the month.

Future books and locations for the book group:
April 1st – *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen at Ginny Wright's
May 6th – *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines at Marge Quaid's

If you are new to the group please call Chris Kondrasuk (835-1638). Books are available through the library.

Younker's Fundraiser

We will be participating in the **Younker's Community Day** to be held March 1.

Coupon booklets are being sold for \$5. Every \$5 you spend on a coupon booklet stays with our Branch. It is an easy fundraiser for us. The booklets will be available for purchase at the February 19 Branch meeting or you may contact Cleo at the numbers/email below.

Cleo Powers
715/834-0794 powerscj@uwec.edu



What's this about Financial Literacy?

Women today live longer than men do. Women who retire at 65 can expect to live for at least another 20 years. This longer life span means women will exhaust their retirement reserves. In 2005, 12 percent of women 65 and older were living in poverty, compared with 7 percent of men in the same age group (U.S. Census Bureau). Because women live longer than men, they spend more money on health care, including nursing home costs, health insurance, etc.

A woman earns 75 cents for every dollar a man earns. Even though women are going to college in higher numbers than men and are succeeding in greater numbers, women still earn less than men, leaving them with less money to save. In 2004, college-educated women 25 and older earned 75 percent of what their male peers earned. This pay gap appears within the first year after college and widens in the first ten years in the workforce (US Dept. of Ed).

AAUW is sponsoring three important financial literacy programs:

February 19, Tuesday, 7 pm
Investments and Long Term Care
RCU Corporate, Phoenix Park

March 26, Wednesday, 6 pm
Credit Card Management
Chancellors Hall

April 8, Tuesday, 7 pm
Annual Meeting & Pie Social
Book Discussion, Make \$ Not Excuses
Sandy Hume – 935 N. Moonlight, Altoona

\$

THE MS ADVENTURE GIRLS!

The Ms Adventure Girls Program at DeLong Middle School is a continuation of Adventure Girls from Longfellow Elementary School. Girls at Longfellow were identified as “under resourced” by their 4th grade teachers and invited to participate in Adventure Girls as 5th graders. Then they were automatically invited to be a Ms Adventure Girl upon arrival at DeLong as a 6th grader. Faculty (Deb Pattee and Lance Dalleck) and students in the Departments of Curriculum & Instruction and Kinesiology began collaborating last fall on the Ms Adventure Girls Program. Presently there are 14 girls who meet for eight weeks on Wednesday afternoons from 2:50 – 5:00. They meet every semester so that girls can participate in all three years of their middle school experience. Each girl is paired with a Kinesiology student, called a buddy, who visits her once a week to see how she is meeting her goals. Kinesiology students focus on nutritional and physical activity issues with the Ms Adventure Girls, while students from Curriculum & Instruction discuss topics such as bullying, peer-pressure, and substance abuse.



Each year starts off with team building and a visit to the Ropes Course at UWEC. There is also a camp out each semester at Camp Phillips in Rice Lake. The next weekend will be April 25/26. Each semester ends with a culminating program where the girls share what they have learned that semester with friends and family members.

The program is supported through fund raising and grants. Ms Adventure Girls is very grateful to AAUW for the financial gifts they have given!

-Deb Pattee

New Member: Claran Ramsdell

Your membership team wants to remind you to keep thinking about potential members and bring guests to meetings. Every meeting/event so far has been fantastic and we have several more opportunities to impress before the year ends. Here is a little background on one of our terrific new members that Dee Schoor was kind enough to share with all of us.

Claran (pronounced Claire Ann) moved to Eau Claire after spending 30 years living on Lake Wissota. Prior to her retirement, she taught with Dee Schoor in Fall Creek.

Her masters degree from UWEC is in special education. She worked with children with learning disabilities from kindergarten thru high school. Before teaching in Fall Creek, Claran taught in Lake Holcomb.

Claran loves to garden, read and research her families genealogy. She has written books for her family (3 children & 4 grandchildren) on her family history. She recently made an exciting discovery on what became of a grandmother who she had been unable to trace.

The Kolap Mao Project

I would like to tell you about an amazing young woman I met recently. Kolap Mao is currently on the UW-Eau Claire campus for only one semester attending the English Language Academy through UWEC Extension and hopefully on her way to pursue a library degree at UW-Madison beginning in the Fall of 2008. I was introduced to her by Deb Freund, who met her while in Cambodia last summer, working with a group called "Teachers Across Borders".

Kolap started her work at Penasastra University before she had even begun her undergraduate program. She was only taking a class or two to improve her English in order to have a job teaching English to children. The University gave her a full scholarship, but she was told, "There is no free lunch. In return for the scholarship, we expect you to help set up our library." She was given many boxes of books and an empty room in which to arrange them. Kolap started the library using books brought to Cambodia by individuals returning from the US after exile during and after the civil war instigated by Pol Pot and his Khymer Rouge followers.

Subsequently, she returned to Penasastra (a private university in the capitol city of Phnom Penh) as a college student, completed her undergraduate degree and continued to work in the library. She also started to work in "The American Corner", a nook in the American Embassy that is open to Cambodians and gives them access to American books, magazines, newspapers, and even the internet. She volunteers to help high schools and elementary schools set up, organize, and maintain libraries. The vast majority of schools and communities in Cambodia have NO libraries at all. Books written in Khmer for Cambodian children are almost non-existent. Kolap's dream is to expand libraries across Cambodia and hopes to develop them in schools and keep them open in non-school hours so that they will become resources for everyone.

At the moment, there are no librarians in Cambodia with any formal library science education. Kolap would like to be the first degreed librarian in Cambodia.

Kolap has been the primary financial support for her mother and two siblings. As teachers and university employees are paid very low wages in Cambodia (typical teacher's salary is about \$40) it would not be adequate to cover housing, food, and transportation costs. This makes it very difficult for someone like Kolap to come to the U.S. for an education. Her University has helped her by paying for her air fare here, but they cannot afford to do any more than that.

For this semester, she has been given some local support. She is being housed by Dan and Deb Freund and has been offered some employment at UWEC's McIntyre Library. The tuition to UWEC has not been fully covered, and when Kolap is admitted to Madison's MLS program, she will need funding to cover tuition and living expenses.

If you want more specific information, contact Deb Freund freundda@uwec.edu (715-877-2228) or Janice Bogstad bogstajm@uwec.edu (715-836-6032).

We would like to encourage your support of Kolap. Teachers Across Borders has set up a scholarship fund for her, and because TAB is a non-profit organization, any donations are tax deductible. Go to the TAB web site (www.teachersacrossborders.org) to complete and print out a contribution form. Please note on the form the contribution is for the Kolap Mao Scholarship Fund. TAB will issue you the necessary receipt for tax purposes.

Janice M. Bogstad, UWEC McIntyre Library and Deb Freund, CVTC

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 1, 2008, there is a balance of \$12,130.55 in the checking account. The following represents the income/expense report of the 2007 Book Sale.

2007 Book Sale

Income

Friday	\$ 7,014.70
Saturday	2,741.35
Sunday	1,568.50
Total Income	\$11,324.55

Expenses

Eau Claire Expo Center	\$ 1,144.90
U-Haul Rental	71.87
Labor-Moving	71.64
Books	
Setup & Cleanup	50.00
Supplies	62.87
Postage	162.17
Flyers	168.13
Advertising	520.50
Total Expenses	\$ 2,252.08

Net Income \$ 9,072.47

Donna M. Weidman, Treasurer

Public Policy Autism Advocacy: Claudia's Story

The January Soup luncheon and viewing of Michael Moore's most recent release Sicko ended in a lively discussion about health care. We learned about the health care issues facing women and children in our state where health care benefits are becoming less and less affordable. In 2008 it is estimated that 9% of the Wisconsin residents will be without health insurance. But lack of coverage can also affect those of us who have health insurance. Staying informed and taking action in support of women and girls can make a difference.

I encourage all of you to take a moment and view Claudia's Story, about the lovely four-year -old daughter of two devoted parents. Even with health insurance, the care she requires is not covered. What is more alarming is unrelated medical expenses for Claudia and other children with autism are also denied. The video created by her mother tells her story:

<http://www.whatkindofworldyouwant.com/videos/view/id/408214>

The state of Wisconsin currently has a bill (Senate Bill 178) stalled in committee that will require insurers to cover the costs associated with treating autism. Supporters of the bill are advocating that insurance companies cover the costs of the necessary treatments and therapies for treating autism. You can lend your support for this bill contacting your representatives.

Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe
Public Policy Co-chair

Email:

Find your state representatives:

<http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear _____,

I am writing you to communicate my support for the current bill requiring insurance companies to cover treatments and therapies used for treating autism.

As you know, a diagnosis of autism translates into a heavy economic burden for the families of these children. Yes, the state of Wisconsin has programs in place, but there is a huge gap between what these programs provide, and what these families need. Requiring insurance companies to cover these related costs allows for another path for families to cover these extraordinary costs.

I understand you are aware of the proposed bill to support Claudia Bolle and other children with autism. I am guessing you have also seen her slide show advocating for such legislation. I encourage you to do all you can to support this bill. You have a chance to make a difference with the position you hold, now let's see it happen!

Regards,



Upcoming:

February 19, Tuesday, 7 pm
Investments and Long Term Care
RCU Corporate, Phoenix Park

March 26, Wednesday, 6 pm
Credit Card Management
Chancellors Hall

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701