



Upcoming Events

Feb 17, 7 pm – Clear Vision Eau Claire Diversity Efforts, Hmong Mutual Association

March 3, 7pm – Creanna Cote on *Why So Few?* and STEM efforts, UU Church (subject to change)

AAUW - Eau Claire

May 2010

In December, my mother went into the hospital for what turned out to be a long stay: 18 days. She had a freak infection that had her doctors stymied. My father and I, fans of the TV show *House*, kept hoping that Dr. House would come smashing his cane against the door and solve my mother's case.

She went through more CT-scans and blood draws than a person should have in a lifetime. Then one day, Dr. Adam was put her case. Dr. Adam was a thoracic surgeon who was going to "punch" (in the delicate words of the infection disease specialist) a drain in mother's side. Dr. Adam was a rarity – a female thoracic surgeon in a field totally dominated by men. In her cardiothoracic practice, she is one of two women among over twenty men.

Dr. Adam quickly became the family's favorite. Sure, she was performing procedures on my mother that brought severe pain and inconvenience, but her bedside manner was second to none. She knew my mom couldn't see very well, so she bent in close and spoke to her one on one. She answered all my mother's questions before she turned to my Dad, my sister, or me. She was detail oriented – she saw everything. And she took the time to explain things, sometimes three times.

Now, I don't want to be essentialist and say it was because she was a woman that she was so good at the bedside stuff. But my mother and I did wonder about this tough little woman with a heart of gold, who was known to check in on her patients on her days off.

One day, my mom asked her: was it because of the old boys' club that there were so few female lung and heart surgeons? Dr. Adam said that that was part of the story, but she pointed out other areas of medicine where women had turned the boys' club coed. I was thinking about the *Why So Few?* report as she spoke – how it talked about how the effect implicit bias lingers, even after stereotypes have been effectively challenged. But what she said next surprised me. She said that in both thoracic and cardiac surgery, you regularly are faced with acknowledging that a life cannot be saved. Most women, she argued, prefer medical fields with a higher percentage of life, not death.

It was just one woman's opinion, based on her own medical school experience, but it did make me wonder whether there is a way to identify the sources of these gender-based preferences. Are they part of the set of implicit biases we all carry with us? Are they changeable? Are they worth changing?

-Kate Hinnant, President



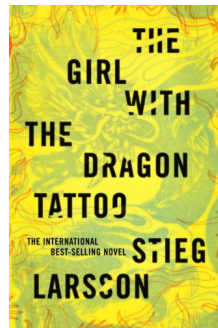
Book Group

The AAUW

Book Group met in January to discuss *The Girl in a Blue Dress* by Gaynor Arnold. Other books and dates are:

Tuesday Feb.1st 7:30 pm at JJ's to discuss *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls. Lois Helland will lead the discussion.

Tuesday March 1st 7:30 pm *The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo* (review Ginny Jordan)



Tuesday April 5th 7:30 pm -- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot at Pam Hicks' home. Judy Blackstone will lead the discussion.

Tuesday May 3rd 7:30 pm -- May 3rd will be *The Help* with Jenn Von Klein leading the discussion. Place TBA.

Tuesday June 7th 7:30 pm-- *My Life in Pictures* by Temple Grandin at Ginny Jordan's.

Please let the hostess know if you are planning to attend.

AAUW-Eau Claire Board 2010-2011

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<http://aauweauclaire.org/>

email: aauweauclaire@gmail.com

To cut down on spam, we will avoid including individuals' email addresses in *Foliage*. Please check your membership booklet for contact information.

Nominations needed by Feb 11th:

- President
- Membership Chair

Also needed, Foundation Chair (appointed, deadline May 1st)

Urgent

CLEAR VISION EAU CLAIRE'S DIVERSITY EFFORTS

Thursday, Feb 17th at 7pm

Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, 423 Wisconsin St., Eau Claire

Guest speakers:

Catherine Emmanuelle and Julie Keown-Bomar are well known activists and gender and racial equity advocates in our community. Catherine is a student, parent and recently ran for public office. Julie has worked for UW-Stout and UW-Extension promoting gender, family and Hmong issues, among others.

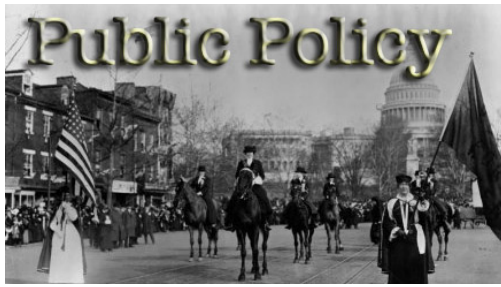
Julie Keown-Bomar earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology in 2003 with concentrations in gender studies, family diversity and applied research. She is the author of *Kinship Networks Among Hmong-American Refugees* (2004). Her current work focuses on poverty reduction and building community capacity to support and work with underserved families. She has taught a variety of classes and workshops including: Families in Poverty, Rural Poverty and Its Barriers in Education, Social Problems, and Race/Class/Gender.

Catherine Emmanuelle is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, majoring in Women's Studies and a topical minor in American Minorities, Inequalities, and Economics. She is a former candidate for the Eau Claire city council and a recipient of the Wisconsin Women in Government Future Leader Award Scholarship and an American Association of University Women Scholarship. She is a civic engagement coach and on the board of directors for Clear Vision Eau Claire. She will be a featured presenter for UW-EC's Women's History Month with the national theme of "Our History, Our Strength" in the Spring of 2011. She's also a mother to a spunky 6 year old who was named after her favorite lipstick color.



State Convention – April 8-10 – Neenah, Wisconsin

You know you want to go, but have you told a board member?
(The branch subsidizes the registration of members. The convention is invigorating. Eau Claire is the “funnest” branch to travel with. What else could a member want?)



Entries From the *AAUW Mission & Action E-newsletter*

If you did not receive the January issue of this newsletter in your email, it means that our national association does not have your correct email

address. Go to <http://www.aauw.org/learn/publications/mission/index.cfm> and click on "update your member record."

AAUW Election Materials Online

Visit the [One Member, One Vote](#) section of AAUW's website for complete details on this year's historic AAUW election. For the first time ever, all current AAUW members in good standing will be able to vote in the election. The website features information on the proposed [amendments to the AAUW Bylaws](#), the proposed [Public Policy Program](#), and the initial slate of [candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors](#). The final slate of candidates will be posted in March. The website also includes links to discussion sites on the AAUW Facebook page for each of the proposed bylaws amendments and Public Policy Program proposals. Online voting begins May 1; a paper ballot will also be mailed to all members in mid-April.

Coming Soon: New AAUW Reports on Administration and Congress

AAUW will soon release two new reports, both of which will be available online. One [report](#) will detail the Obama administration's progress on AAUW's priority issues. A second report — the first-ever *Congressional Voting Record: Equal Pay Supplement* — will provide a record of how your elected officials voted on critical pay equity issues.

Elect Her – Campus Women Win to Reach 20 Campuses

This spring, [Elect Her – Campus Women Win](#) will train college women across the country and in Jamaica to run for student government. A list of [sites and dates](#) is available on the website. The Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle is the sponsor of the 2011 Elect Her – Campus Women Win trainings at Mt. San Jacinto College and Western Washington University.

ELECT HER





BRANCH NEWS

The Dawn Bosold scholarship: At the January meeting, the branch approved combining our \$1750 in scholarship funds, plus an additional \$250, with other funds raised in Dawn's honor at CVTC. The CVTC foundation will administer a scholarship **for non-traditional student majoring in business or accounting**. The branch further approved investigating whether an AAUW member could serve on the scholarship committee.

The fund will be endowed when it reaches \$5000 (needs an additional \$900), but an award of \$500 will be given this spring. CVTC will administer the scholarship. By making this scholarship a CVTC foundation based scholarship, it will allow us to attract more applicants. If you are interested in helping with the endowment, contact Linda Spaeth.

Scholarship committee: Bette Wahl and Robin Miller have agreed to serve on this year's scholarship committee.

NCWWSL – National Conference for College Women Student Leaders: The branch approved applying the \$1000 Education Foundation, as well as an additional \$800, towards sending two students from UW-Eau Claire and/or CVTC to this year's conference.

Book Sale – Thank you, Margot Bouchard and Mary Hayden, for agreeing to chair the 2011 Book Sale!

Pay Equity Day needs a coordinator! It's a short-term commitment and a lot of fun.

Curl up with a nice beverage and [“Why So Few?”](#) before our March 3 meeting.

And don't forget [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#), which we discuss at our March 29 meeting.



AAUW VISION STATEMENT - *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls..*

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

FOLIAGE - *Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch*

Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.hinnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



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