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*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.*

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## Our Future

Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Marietta Central Library

Our February program, "Our Future," will be held at the Marietta Central Library on Feb. 12th at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be for members only and not for guests. We will break into smaller groups in order to discuss what AAUW means to us, as well as why we are members of AAUW, in an effort to help determine where our future energies should be directed and how to prioritize our efforts. Those decisions will also translate into where our money will be spent in the future.

After meeting in these smaller groups for these discussions, we will then reconvene as a whole group in order to share ideas developed by our smaller groups. This is your opportunity to provide guidance to our Cobb AAUW branch's decisions.

## AAUW Progress in Equity Award Applications Due March 14

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes college and university programs that have resulted in significant progress for women on campus. For an application and more information about the award, which carries a stipend of up to \$10,000, please visit the [AAUW website](#).

## AAUW Represented at "If I Were President" Forum in New Hampshire

The *Every Woman Counts Coalition*, which includes AAUW and its *Woman-to-Woman Voter Education Campaign*, sponsored a bipartisan forum for presidential candidates in Manchester, New Hampshire, on January 5. Several AAUW of New Hampshire members attended, along with Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations.

## AAUW on NBC Nightly News!

AAUW's *Behind the Pay Gap* report and the subject of pay equity was prominently featured on the *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* special series "The Truth About Boys and Girls." The segment features Catherine Hill, author of the report and AAUW director of research, and Janet Conney, a former LAF plaintiff and an AAUW member.

## President's Corner

Carol Stephens  
770-427-8403

Welcome to two new members! Idorenyin Jamar who lives in Mableton has joined us from the Pittsburgh branch and Tracy Wofford has joined us from West Cobb.

Sedalia Park has 10 girls who need scholarships to attend the Jekyll Island science trip on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>! We will be collecting donations at our Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting (and we hope you do attend as it is an important one in determining the future directions of our local branch and how we spend our money), please feel free to send your donations to me at 1288 Rolling Oaks Dr. Kennesaw, GA 30152. Checks should be made out to Sedalia Park Elem. School. I will let the Social Worker there know how much we will be giving right after our Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The cost of the trip for each student is \$175. Obviously we cannot afford to sponsor all the girls, but if we could sponsor a few, we will have made a difference!

Thank you to Nancy Coakley for spearheading the Theater In the Square ticket fundraiser. We were able to raise \$150 from that effort. Is there anymore interest in ticket sales for that night, March 9<sup>th</sup>, or for the following Tues. evening performance? Please contact me if there is.

Need – We still need someone who is willing to put together a brochure about the Cobb AAUW branch via computer that can be printed and ready for the Poster Session of the Phenomenal Women's Conference April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are running out of time this year to get the GRITS effort off the ground. However, we would like to have the T-shirts designed and priced for use next fall. Nancy Coakley has been compiling a list of possible books to use and has gotten Border's to agree to a 10% discount for us. If anyone is interested in working with us on this, please let Nancy or myself know. If we have someone else interested, we could possibly conduct an after school book group in March.

I sent out an email regarding our State Convention. Please volunteer to help in some capacity and we hope that you can attend, at least part of it, since it is in "our own backyard"! The website for registering for the Phenomenal Women's Conference will be linked on our website within the next week.

See you Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marietta Central Library at 7:00 pm. If you can bring refreshments to that meeting, please contact Debbie Karvey.

## Cobb Branch hosted STATE CONVENTION Connects with KSU Conference

**Wed. April 2nd at Hilton Garden Inn (Town Center) from 1:00 pm registration to 9:30 pm** Dinner will be from 6:30-8:30 with a American Classis Buffet that includes salad, pot roast, fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, and vegetable medley, apple pie, and coffee and tea. There will be a vegetarian alternative for those who need it. There will be a van shuttle available on a first come first serve basis to KSU on Thurs. morning.

**Thurs. April 3rd at KSU Continuing Ed Center 8:30 am - 9:00 pm.** *This requires a separate registration on your part with separate payment directly to Phenomenal Women's Conference.* **Mayor Shirley Franklin will be the keynote speaker.** There will be Poster Sessions for our women's organizations to share about their organizations from 1:00-3:00. AAUW will have one that we need to support. A link to that registration will be put on our [aauwcobb.org](http://aauwcobb.org) website within the next few days. **You must register by March 3rd to receive the reduced rate.** *Be sure to check off that you are a member of a group sending 5 or more people to get another 10% reduction.*

## Branch Events for February

*Book Group Monday February 18, 2008, My Antonia by Willa Cather*

The EVENING group will meet at 7:30 PM at the home of Nancy Coakley, 3776 Clubland Drive, Marietta, GA 30068. Please contact Nancy at [Nance34@bellsouth.net](mailto:Nance34@bellsouth.net) or 770-971-8227 if you plan to attend.

The DAYTIME group will meet at 10 AM at the home of Debby Shonka, 5199 Sandalwood Court, Marietta, GA 30068. Please contact Debby at [DBShonka@Shonka.com](mailto:DBShonka@Shonka.com) or 770-587-2537

For group information please contact Joanne Gareau at [gareau109@comcast.net](mailto:gareau109@comcast.net)

### ***Roving Gourmet***

**Roving Gourmet** meets Friday, February 1, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at Chicago's, 4401 Shallowford Road (at intersection with Johnson Ferry Rd) , 770-993-7464.

Reserve by calling Barbara Blue, 770-971-6550 by Wednesday, January 30.

*In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. A college or university degree is a requirement for full membership.*

#### **2007-2008 Branch officers**

Carol Stephens	President	770-427-8403
Arden Stone/Pam Flournoy	VP Program	770-499-9171 / 770-427-1724
Carolyn Freeman/Rita Neal	VP Membership	770-499-9614 / 770-428-8427
Karen Peters	Secretary	770-971-4087
Shirley Mills	Treasurer	770-973-4498.

Deadline for the March Cobb Update is February 22, 2008. Please email information to Sylvia Goodyear, [smgoodyear@mindspring.com](mailto:smgoodyear@mindspring.com)

We extend our sympathy to Bonnie Williams on the death of her mother.

## **Introducing LAF Plaintiff Melissa Jennings**

Melissa Jennings is a recent recipient of a grant from the Legal Advocacy Fund case support program for Jennings v. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She attended UNC in the late 1990s. UNC has the premier women's soccer program in the United States, and the coach, Anson Dorrance, has one of the most successful coaching records in any sport. World Cup stars Mia Hamm and Kristine Lilly both graduated from UNC and played under Dorrance.

Jennings was thrilled when Dorrance recruited her to be a walk-on for the team in 1995. By being part of the team, she would not only play soccer for a nationally recognized program but would also make a new group of friends and travel around the US to different colleges and universities. She soon learned, however, that participating on the UNC women's team was not as glamorous as she had once thought.

During pre-practice warm-up sessions, team members often engaged in personal conversations. According to Debbie Keller, team captain, Dorrance occasionally joined in, asking about his players' sex lives. In her complaint, Jennings stated that Dorrance's remarks were often crude and that he made comments about the players' weight, legs, and chests.

In the fall of 1996, Jennings met with Susan Ehringhaus, assistant to the chancellor and senior university counsel. Jennings told her that Dorrance made sexual comments at practice, such as asking players who was "shacking up". Jennings was told to talk things over with Dorrance.

In December 1996, Jennings met with Dorrance for a routine end of the year meeting. In this one-on-one Jennings said Dorrance asked her about her social life, inquiring "who are you [expletive deleted]?"

After two more seasons, Dorrance cut Jennings from the team, citing her attitude and fitness level. Jennings' father wrote Ehringhaus a letter complaining about Dorrance's sexual comments. Ehringhaus forwarded the letter to the athletic director who began an investigation into the allegations.

In a meeting with Jennings, her father, Ehringhaus, and the athletic director, Dorrance denied discussing players' sexual activity in a one-on-one meeting with any player but admitted he had joked around with players during practice. The athletic director told him it was inappropriate to talk to his players about their sexual activity. Dorrance was not punished in any other manner.

On August 25, 1998, Jennings filed suit against UNC and Dorrance for creating a hostile environment in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. She alleged that Dorrance denied her the benefits of college sports and that the university acted with deliberate indifference in failing to address her complaints. After filing suit, Jennings began receiving threats and transferred to another university to complete her degree.

In 2004, the U.S. District Court for North Carolina, rejected Jennings' claim. She appealed. In April 2007, the circuit court remanded Jennings' case to a lower court for trial. In October of 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear UNC's appeal. The trial is scheduled to begin April 7.

AAUW believes in the benefits of college athletics and that all women should have the opportunity to participate in a sport without sexual harassment. A positive ruling for Jennings will put pressure on college coaches, as well as universities and colleges, to take the issue of sexual harassment serious.