

# AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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.

## HINGHAM AREA BRANCH      JANUARY 2008

### CALENDAR

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| January 8 ,Tuesday   | Supper and Book Discussion, 6:30 PM<br>Allerton House, Hingham<br>"A Thousand Splendid Suns"                |
| January 10, Thursday | Writers Group, 7:30 PM<br>Barnes and Noble, Derby Street, Hingham   |
| January 17 ,Thursday | Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM<br>Panera's, Derby Street, Hingham  |
| January 17, Thursday | Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM<br>Terra Brasili's, 1506 Hancock Street, Quincy                               |
| January 22, Tuesday  | Finance Meeting, 6:45 PM<br>Board Meeting, 7:00 PM<br>Home of Ginny Giordano                                |
| January 29, Tuesday  | Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM<br>Home of Sandy Carle  |
| February 2, Saturday | Winter Conference, 9:00 AM<br>"Challenges in a New Land: Immigration, Women and Families,"<br>U Mass-Lowell |
| February 5, Tuesday  | Book Group, 7:00 PM<br>"Thread of Grace" by Mary Donia Russell<br>Home of Jane Street                       |

### BRANCH MEETING.

Celebrate the New Year by joining us on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 6:30 PM. at Allerton House in Hingham. We will be sharing a supper of soup, salad, bread, and dessert followed by a lively discussion of "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. Even if you haven't finished (or even read!) the book, please come anyway! Lynn Howard will be coordinating the supper part of this meeting, so we are asking that you email Lynn (lynnphoward82@comcast.net) to tell her that you will be attending and what you would like to bring (soup, salad, bread, or dessert). That will help us to coordinate the food. As is the case at September's potluck, we ask that you bring your own dishes and flatware since Allerton House does not provide those. What better

way to spend a winter's evening than with good food, good company, and a wonderful book!

Elaine Cadogan and Priscilla Johnsen

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year as we begin 2008. We have great programs planned for the rest of the year including our Book Discussion and Supper on January 8th. Please join us at the Allerton House in Hingham at 6:30 PM. Also I want to let everyone know about the State Winter Conference and Board Meeting being held this year at UMASS-Lowell on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM. The topic of immigration and undocumented workers will be discussed. This is a very current and critical issue. We hope you will plan to travel to Lowell for a morning program that will examine the legal status and complexities, citizenship issues, threat of job loss and labor rights for these workers. A group of us will be going to Lowell so please feel free to call either Hollie (781.749.6274) or myself (781.848.8122) to arrange for car pooling. Information and the registration form will be in your *BayStater* in January. We hope to have a large group from Hingham represented there. Again, Happy New Year. I hope to see you all soon.

Sheila Doherty

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Happy New Year! May 2008 be filled with good health, good times and good friends. Among your New Year's resolutions please include introducing one new person to AAUW. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> dues are half-price through March 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring your prospective member to an AAUW event and if she joins "on the spot" the Shape the Future discount of 50% off Association dues also applies. Don't you just love a bargain!

Please let us know what we can do to help you in your recruitment efforts.

Hollie Bagley and Patricia McKay

## ChitChat: .

Congratulations to **Gwen Sayian** on her AAUW Corner column, "AAUW: Where everyone knows your name," which appeared in the December 27 edition of the *Hingham Journal* on the Op-Ed page. Send us a tidbit for inclusion next month.

**AAAUW: 'Where everyone knows your name' By Gwen Sayian Hingham Journal, Thursday, Dec 27, 2007**

HINGHAM - We have written before about what an interesting and stimulating group the local Hingham branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) is. As a new member, I want to tell you the real secret of what makes it such a wonderful group: nametags! Before you say "boring" let me clarify.

I'm not talking about the usual "Hello My Name is." You have to fumble for a pen, and decide if you should write just your first name, or both your first and last name. Don't you sometimes wonder what it means when one person writes her name big, yet someone else writes her name really small? Does script size correlate to ego size? Then there's the problem of some people feeling a little frisky. They write their cousin's name instead of their own, or decide this is the time to try an alias.

The AAUW-Hingham Area Branch (encompassing Plymouth to Quincy) uses pre-printed nametags. The tags are filed in a tasteful box, discretely placed in a corner of the room. You casually stroll over, pick your name out (or someone else's if you want to see if people are paying attention), and you're never name-less again. Conversely, you will always know everyone else's name! So along with AAUW being a great place for stimulating discussions and presentations, it's just like the bar in the "Cheers" television show where, "everyone knows your name."

OK, I'm being tongue in cheek, but since I joined AAUW Hingham about a year and a half ago, I am struck by how welcoming and sincere the members are. In my first year, I attended only two presentations, though I was active in the Writers Group. At the meetings that I attended, I always felt welcomed and valued. We all know the feeling of dread when you go to a get-together where you either know one person or maybe no one at all. You feel like you're alone in a forest of

faces, traveling an unknown route through dark woods, hoping someone will be your guide, your friend to help you navigate this new experience, or at least show you which table to sit at.

I have never felt lost at an AAUW event. Maybe it's maturity or perhaps the quality of the members, drawn together for the purposes of life-long learning, supporting other women in education and the desire to keep involved in stewarding women's equality. I was attracted to the mission and goals of AAUW: to continue to advocate for women, our daughters, granddaughters and following generations. Although these issues are not always the focus of the meetings, you can receive alerts by email of upcoming important events as well as become more directly involved if you wish.

To promote life-long learning, AAUW sponsors monthly events, such as October's parenting presentation given by local author Lynn Reeves Griffin. In November, AAUW hosted a gathering featuring a visiting Chinese scholar who talked about women's role in Chinese culture. Social worker Barbara Tortarella will speak about humor's role in our mental health in February. In honor of women's history month in March, Dr Margaret Bendroth will discuss "The Nineteenth Century Woman: A View from the Twenty-First Century." April's meeting features former Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy discussing the continuing issue of Pay Equity for Women. All of these events are free and open to the public.

On a more personal level AAUW sponsors several special interest groups such as the Writers Group, Adventures in Dining, Girls' Game Night, Book Group and the De-clutter Bugs. Our next event will be in January, when we'll have a potluck supper at the Allerton House in Hingham, combined with a book discussion of "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini.

AAUW is a national organization formed more than 125 years ago, with a current membership of more than 100,000. Here, our membership is close to 60 women. We're a diverse group of teachers, social workers, writers, poets, librarians, stay-at-home moms and businesswomen. Some are retired, some not, but all share a mutual interest of friendship, learning and advocacy.

No, the AAUW Hingham Area Branch isn't really all about the nametags, although they do make things a lot easier for a new member to feel at home. Come to think of it, maybe at the February meeting I'll try switching nametags to see what role humor does play in our mental health. To me, AAUW represents good friends, interesting topics, education and the opportunity to continue working toward women's equality. We invite you to join us for any of our upcoming events. Nametag optional (but recommended).

*Holders of associate's or bachelor's degrees who live in the South Shore towns from Plymouth to Quincy are welcome to join the Hingham Area Branch. To learn more about AAUW, call Patricia McKay at 781-337-3375, or e-mail: [hollie@gallivan.org](mailto:hollie@gallivan.org). Visit the branch Web site at [aauw-ma.org](http://aauw-ma.org) and follow the links to the Hingham Branch.*

*Gwen Sayian. is Hingham resident and member of AAUW.*

## **PAMELA J. LINCOLN RECOGNITION AWARD**

If you know a young woman who is an outstanding student and who has been involved in school and/or community service, she is a candidate for the Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award. This student may be a high school student (usually a senior) or a college student. Applications for this award are available now. To receive an application please contact Patricia McKay (781-337-3375) Applications are due by March 1, 2007.

## **HINGHAM AAUW PUBLIC POLICY BULLETIN**

***With primary elections and caucuses as soon as January, you'll need to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008. Please make sure that you are registered to vote and that your voter information is current. If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to re-register as many as 30 days before the election - C. Schindewolf***

## **AAUW Supports National Women's History Museum's Bid for Space on the National Mall**

AAUW has sent a letter to Dr. Cristian Samper, Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to express support for the National Women's History Museum's bid to occupy the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall. For eleven years, the NWHM has been working to obtain a permanent Washington, DC site for

exhibits recognizing women's contributions to American history. Although the Senate passed S.501 in July 2005, permitting the NWHM to enter into a lease for the Pavilion Annex in downtown DC, corresponding House legislation was not passed before the end of that Congress, and the NWHM remains without a home. The Arts and Industries Building, an 1879 Victorian structure next to the Smithsonian Castle, has become available, and the Smithsonian is currently accepting inquiries from interested parties. Some of the organizations submitting inquiries will be invited to submit more detailed proposals.

### **Hearing Calls for Alternatives to Four-Year Colleges**

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, convened a hearing in her home state to address the growing gap between job openings and qualified workers. According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, speakers at the hearing called for increased awareness of and support for alternatives to four-year college degrees, including apprenticeships and vocational educational and training programs. Sen. Murray voiced her intention to hold similar hearings throughout the state in the next session of Congress on behalf of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and said she will develop federal legislation to support needed changes.

The new global economy increasingly demands more high-skilled and better educated workers than ever before. While more women are working than ever before, many do not have the skills necessary to obtain the high wage jobs needed to adequately support themselves and their families. AAUW believes that career and technical education (CTE) is increasingly important for women and girls seeking to earn their way in a competitive marketplace.

### **Math Teachers' Preparedness Put to the Test**

The Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education at Michigan State University recently released the results of an international study of preparation programs for mathematics teachers in the U.S., Taiwan, South Korea, Bulgaria, Germany, and Mexico. The Mathematics Teaching in the 21st Century study found that mathematical knowledge among future teachers was highest in Taiwan and South Korea in all five areas of math studied. According to the Detroit Free Press, the U.S. ranked no higher than the middle of the six countries in any of the areas studied. The study suggested that middle school teacher preparation in the U.S. focuses more on the art of teaching as opposed to mathematical knowledge, finding that U.S. teachers-in-training studied just 43 percent of advanced areas of math while Taiwanese and Korean future teachers on average covered 79 percent to 86 percent.

**ACTION:** AAUW remains committed to strong academic principles that will adequately prepare all students for success. In addition, AAUW strongly supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. Teaching about science during middle school is critical to not only improving subject matter competency but also sparking and maintaining students' interest in these fields. This is especially valuable for women, who have been shown to lose interest in STEM subjects early on. Visit the AAUW website to learn more about AAUW's position on No Child Left Behind, which governs elementary and secondary education.

### **More States Refusing Federal Abstinence-Only Funding**

The number of states opting out of federal funding for abstinence-only education has jumped from four to at least 15, the Washington Post reported. The number of states that have either already notified the federal government that they will no longer be requesting funds or are not expected to apply adds up to foregoing more than \$15 million of the \$50 million available. Two other states have applied but stipulated that they would use the money for comprehensive sex education, making themselves ineligible for the funds, and other states are said to be still considering withdrawing as well. New Mexico added themselves to the list of those states opting out.

**ACTION:** AAUW believes individuals should have complete and accurate information about their reproductive health and family planning options. Only with complete reproductive health information can young people make informed and appropriate decisions. Use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative to get REAL about sex education by cosponsoring and supporting the Responsible Education About Life Act (H.R. 1653). This bill would authorize federal funds for states to offer comprehensive and medically accurate sexual education in their schools. The REAL Act is a comprehensive approach to sex education—education that promotes abstinence but includes information about contraception.

### Appropriations Package Heads to the White House

Congress passed (272-142 in the House, 76-17 in the Senate) a \$555 billion omnibus package that included the 11 remaining FY08 spending bills, Congressional Quarterly reported. The package (H.R. 2764) was closer to the president's requested levels of funding, as Democrats' proposal to spend \$23 billion over that had drawn repeated veto threats from the White House. However, the omnibus package funds Democratic domestic priorities at higher levels than the president's budget proposed while lowering the level of funding for the president's priorities. With the fiscal year almost a quarter of the way over, only the Defense appropriations bill has yet to be signed into law, although the president is expected to sign the omnibus bill. While Inside Higher Ed said that the bill disappointed college officials who had hoped for more funding on education programs, Democratic leaders pointed to increases in elementary and secondary education, vocational education, and student aid in the current bill over the president's proposed budget.

The House and Senate also passed (voice vote in the House, unanimous consent in the Senate) another continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 72) to keep the government running through Dec. 31. The president signed the legislation, which will give him time to review the omnibus bill.

### Keep Families Healthy this Holiday Season

Across the country, this holiday season also means cold and flu season. However, millions of Americans still do not have the option of taking a sick day to care for family members or themselves without putting their jobs, their healthcare benefits, or their family stability at risk.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly half of American private-sector workers, including 21 million women, have no paid sick days. Only one in three has paid sick days for doctors' appointments or to care for a child. ***Low-wage workers are especially hard hit, with three in four workers without any paid sick days.*** A study published by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 27 percent of low income workers put off getting health-care because they cannot take time off from work, and ***18 percent of women at all income levels face this situation (almost 1 in 5).***

Half of working mothers, who most often provide the lion's share of family care giving, report that they must miss work and often go without pay when caring for a sick child. With more than a third of Americans already experiencing significant elder care responsibilities, coupled with the aging of the baby boomers, the problem is likely to worsen in the years ahead.

For these reasons, AAUW strongly supports the Healthy Families Act (S. 910/H.R. 1542). The bill provides full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a child, spouse or parent. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rated share of paid sick days.

AAUW members have been very supportive of the Healthy Families Act in the past, and many of you have already contacted your representative and senators about this legislation. However, until this law is passed, we need to keep the pressure on Congress to ensure that American workers will be able to care for themselves and their families.

For more information, read AAUW's position paper on family friendly workplaces.

## Hate Crimes Decrease at Schools but Increase Overall

According to Inside Higher Ed, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported last week that 12.2 percent of hate crimes in 2006 took place at schools or colleges, down from 13.5 percent the year before. However, the overall number of hate crimes was up 8 percent, to 7,722.

As reported in the September 28 edition of Washington Update, the Senate passed the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act as an amendment to the Department of Defense authorization bill (H.R. 1585) on Sept. 27 and passed H.R. 1585. While the House passed similar stand-alone hate crimes legislation (H.R. 1592) in May, the House version of the defense bill did not contain these provisions. When Congress returns next week, House and Senate conferees will meet to reconcile the differences in the defense measures, and there is concern about whether or not the hate crimes language will be retained. The bill could come to the House floor in December.

AAUW members and our Capitol Hill Lobby Corps were in the thick of things calling and visiting senators to push this legislation through the House and Senate. AAUW and coalition partners also recently sent letters to the leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees urging them to retain the Senate-passed hate crime provisions as part of the final Department of Defense authorization conference report.

In addition, the House Education and Labor Committee recently passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), a bill to reauthorize and reform the Higher Education Act. Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and coalition partners, we are pleased to announce that the bill addresses many of the priorities that AAUW has been working on for years to make the dream of a higher education a reality for more women, including expanding the definition of hate crimes on campuses so that the statistics campuses collect and report match those of the FBI.

## New Books Consider the Future of Title IX

According to the Chronicle of Higher Ed, a new book about Title IX is poised to stir up debate about gender equity in schools. *Playing With the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports*, by Eileen McDonagh and Laura Pappano, suggests that the law reinforces the idea that women are physically inferior to men by creating a sex-segregated structure for competition. The authors maintain that sports team at all levels should be integrated by gender and should be more aligned with co-ed sports, where males and females play on the same team together and teammates are selected on their playing ability rather than on their gender. While they credit Title IX with giving women more opportunities to play sports, they argue that "Title IX has created some limitations, and we're bumping up against them."

Two other Title IX books have also recently been released. *Equal Play: Title IX and Social Change* contains a collection of previously published articles on gender equity, key court opinions, and federal laws and regulation that have shaped the implementation of the legislation. *The Encyclopedia of Title IX and Sports* is a reference book containing information on the people, organizations, and court cases that have played a role in the 35 years since the law's passage.

AAUW believes that Title IX's impact on women's athletic participation is one of the country's greatest success stories. It has changed the playing field dramatically for girls and women in sports. For more information, read AAUW's position paper on Title IX in school athletics.

## Women's Enrollment in Graduate School Increases

The Council of Graduate Schools this week released their Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1996-2006 report, which found that while graduate enrollments increased by 2 percent this year, most of that growth came from increases in the number of women (2 percent), minorities (3 percent), and students from overseas (2 percent). Inside Higher Ed reported that the survey found that *female students now make up 59 percent of graduate*

*students and 65 percent of those at master's level institutions*, and that full-time graduate students represented a majority (67 percent) over part-time students only at the largest doctoral universities. ***The report also showed that 74 percent of students studying education were female, and that while 53 percent of international students were studying science or engineering, only 16 percent of U.S. citizens or permanent residents were doing so.***

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for women and other underrepresented populations in the fields. A recent National Academies report, *Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*, found that women repeatedly face biases in academia in the science fields, and that these barriers to success discourage them from careers in these areas.

**ACTION:** If you haven't yet done so, please use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative to support the Gender Bias Elimination Act (H.R. 3514). This critical piece of legislation will help increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from entering the STEM fields.

### A December to Remember for Congress?

While Congress was out for the Thanksgiving recess, the Senate returned to finish its business for the year. No final adjournment date has been set yet, although rumors report that they may be in session until Dec. 21, with Jan. 15 mentioned as the possible return date for the start of their next session. The agenda for the upcoming three weeks is still somewhat up in the air as well. Only two of the required 12 appropriations bills have been sent to President Bush for his signature and one of those has been vetoed. Most agree that Congress will focus on finishing up the appropriations process, but a new Senate rule allowing Republicans to separate unrelated spending bills that the Democrats may try to combine in conference negotiations could mean that any bills packaged together will need strong bipartisan support.

In addition to the appropriations work, the House may continue its work on the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill. The College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), which passed (44-0) the House Education and Labor Committee on Nov. 15, could come to the floor of the House in December, but it could also be held until the new year. Legislation to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act, still mired in controversy, is not expected to move until 2008 at the earliest.

**ACTION:** Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and coalition partners, we are pleased to announce that the House version of the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill addresses many of the priorities that AAUW has been working on for years to make the dream of a higher education a reality for more women. Now it's time to make sure our elected officials know it's important to keep them there. ***If you haven't yet done so, please use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative to support the College Opportunity and Affordability Act.***

### New Hampshire, Others Set Primary Dates

Keeping their status as the "first in the nation" primary, New Hampshire finally set Jan. 8 as the date for their 2008 presidential primary. According to CQ Politics, this will follow five days after the Iowa caucus, scheduled for Jan. 3, and 3 days after Wyoming's Republican caucus, scheduled for Jan. 5. New Hampshire was able to finalize their date after Michigan's Supreme Court cleared the way for that state to set a Jan. 15 primary. All major Democratic candidates except Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY) and Christopher Dodd (CT) have withdrawn their names from the Michigan ballot to support rules set forth by the Democratic National Committee barring states other than Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina from holding primaries or caucuses prior to Feb. 5. Democratic candidates have also cut back their campaigning in Florida, whose

primary is scheduled for Jan. 29. CQPolitics.com has an election timeline that lists all debates, primaries, and caucuses.

## Congress Heads Home for the Holidays

Members of Congress headed home after wrapping up the omnibus appropriations bill. While the House adjourned and officially closed the first session of the 110th Congress, the Senate will remain in a pro forma session until they return in full in January. To prevent President Bush from making recess appointments, one senator at a time will return to gavel the chamber into session for a few minutes every few days. The full House is expected to return in full on Tuesday, January 15, with the Senate returning the following Tuesday, January 22. The president's State of the Union address will take place on Monday, January 28.

## Every Woman Counts Poll Shows AAUW Issues Are Top Priorities

A new poll released by Lifetime Networks' Every Woman Counts campaign and Zogby International shows that women across the nation are concerned with the issues AAUW works on year round. Nationally, education is the number one concern for likely women voters, followed closely by jobs and the economy. In addition, 93 percent of women surveyed said they planned to vote in November, a potential record-setting turnout if it holds true. The poll also found that while only one in five women nationally has considered running for elected office, three in five would want their daughter to run for president. Lifetime will be hosting an "If I Were President" forum in New Hampshire on January 5 in partnership with the Every Women Counts coalition. As their press release on the event mentions, the coalition includes Redbook, CosmoGIRL!, Marie Claire, as well as AAUW and other national women's groups.

With primary elections and caucuses as soon as January, you'll need to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008. Encourage other women to vote by forwarding AAUW's e-card to other women and encouraging them to register to vote and get involved. Read AAUW's Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote for tips on how you and your branch can help get more women to the polls. ***Also, be sure that you are registered to vote and that your voter information is current. If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to re-register as many as 30 days before the election.*** Finally, get informed by reading more about AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, and read AAUW's Congressional Voting Record for the 109th Congress to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.

## UNIQUELY AAUW

### 2007 Every Member Poll

The 2005 Every Member Poll received a record number of responses from members. All members are encouraged to make their voices heard again as a continued important investment in AAUW's future. ***Simply complete the 2007 AAUW Every Member Poll, now available online at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/poll/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/poll/index.cfm).***

## LAF Honors Progress in Equity Award Winners

Lauren Kamnik, director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, joined in a ceremony last week honoring the 2007 Progress in Equity Award winners. The Women in Transition Program of Charter Oak State College in Connecticut was granted the award for their work in providing higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to earn their college degrees through online courses, which allow them the freedom to work and care for their children while minimizing travel costs. A member of Rep. Christopher

Murphy's (D-CT) staff was on hand to present a certificate from Rep. Murphy to the college president and the WIT program director, and speakers included the Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education and a representative from the lieutenant governor's office.

Each year the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus and provides a model for other institutions. Recipients receive a stipend of up to \$10,000 and public recognition throughout their communities, campus, and AAUW.