



# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

empowering women since 1881

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
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## May Branch Meeting



Our final Branch meeting of the 2014-2015 year will be held on **Saturday, May 16 at the Cross Creek Cafe (1221 Cross Creek Parkway NW) from 10am to 1 pm.** We will elect and install new officers and Talbots will be presenting a special AAUW fashion show featuring the latest trends in clothes. Some of our very own members will be modeling. Talbots will also be offer-

ing coupons for a 25% discount on clothing purchases at their Peachtree Battle location. For this event members will be ordering from the menu and there will be individual checks. Evites will be mailed soon, and please RSVP by Wednesday May 13th. And bring your check-books to pay your 2015-2016 dues (\$77 for most). See the below article from Kay Collins for more information about dues.

Directions: Coming from Peachtree Battle Avenue NW: turn left onto Bohler Rd and left onto Cross Creek Pkwy. The cafe will be on the left; there is a golf course in front of it.

*Please reply to the evite by **May 13th** or notify the hospitality committee at [hospitality@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:hospitality@aauwatlanta.org).*

## Dues Renewal Time!

**By: Kay Collins**

April brings dogwoods in bloom, pollen and AAUW dues renewal time!

All categories of dues are the same as last year: basic member-of-branch dues are \$77.00 (national, \$49.00, Georgia, \$10.00 and Atlanta branch, \$18.00). If you are a past Atlanta branch president, life member, honorary member or student your dues are different from this, but the same as last year. Email Kay to confirm amount: [membership@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:membership@aauwatlanta.org) Make out your check to *AAUW Atlanta Branch*. You may mail it to Kay, bring it to the Contemporary Literature group or the May 16 branch meeting. Also, check your listing in the Handbook and send changes in address, phone numbers, etc. along with your check. Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

# Women in STEM Occupations AAUW Promotes Engineering and Computing

By: Myra Carmon

AAUW has been a leader in efforts to promote STEM for women since 1881. In 2010 AAUW's research report, *Why So FEW? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, sparked national attention to the shortage of women in STEM, leading to initiatives in schools, colleges, and government. A new report, *Solving the Equation: Women's Success and Underrepresentation in Engineering and Computing*, was issued in March 2015. In addition to the written report, a PowerPoint presentation and fact sheet are available on the AAUW website. There is also a verbal summary introducing the report from co-authors Catherine Hill, AAUW Vice President of Research, and Christianne Corbett, AAUW Senior Researcher. The National Science Foundation Research on Gender in Science and Engineering award, AT&T, and the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle supported this research.

Some of the variables examined in this research were gender, race/ethnicity, workforce issues, and school and college acceptance and promotion. Although progress has been made in fields such as biology and chemistry, women remain a distinct minority in engineering and computing. In statistics from 2006-2010, women make up 26% of the computing workforce. White women made up 17%, black women 3%, while Asian women made up 4%. White men made up 51%.

Statistics on Engineering Workforce, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010 revealed that women make up 12% of the engineering workforce, a 1% increase from 1960. Of this 12%, white women make up 8%, Asian women, 2%, and others less than 1% of the workforce. These figures show that black and Hispanic women are even more underrepresented compared with their representation in the general population. Retention for women in engineering is lower than for men. Some reasons cited were: observed sexist behavior, experiencing undermining behaviors by supervisors, and experiencing undermining behaviors by co-workers. Retention was also related to the many hats that women wear such as caring for the children and family. It was noted that women in the field of com-

puting and engineering may delay marriage and having a family due to the number of hours expected to work in these positions.

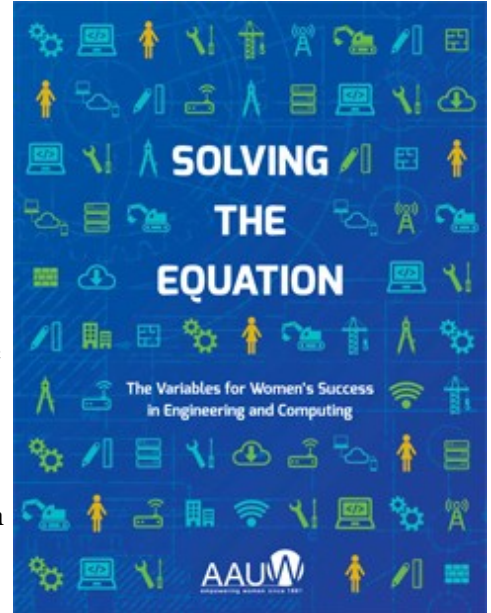
The report stresses the need to begin encouraging girls in elementary

school and throughout their education to be encouraged to think about careers in engineering and computing. Several authors, (Cech, Rubineau et al. 2011; Charles & Bradley, 2009) stated engineering has been described as the most sex-segregated non-military profession in the world.

A major question discussed was why women's representation matters. The main reason cited was innovation. Women are not represented on committees finding solutions to big problems of the century such as climate change, universal access to water, disease, and renewable energy. Women would bring diverse participation. Women need to have a voice!

AAUW has been a leader in efforts to promote women in STEM since 1881, through fellowships, programs, advocacy and research. Progress has been made, but the research efforts must continue. The Atlanta Branch has an opportunity through student organizations and Cool Scholars to promote STEM.

If anyone would like the 159-page synopsis of the program *Solving the Equations*, let me know and I will email to you.



## Twenty Years After the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference

By: Blondie C. Wilson



I was delighted to be a delegate at the 2015 African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. “Year of Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”. The Chairwoman of African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dhlamini Zuma indicated that access to education has increased for girls at all

levels in Africa. She added that progress was made at all levels in many countries to protect women and girls from violence, including eliminating discrimination against women and girls. The African Union Heads of State declared readiness to effectively invest on the education of girls. The stories of women’s lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience. In addition, knowing women’s achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who women are and what women can accomplish today. It also shows that our tireless work at AAUW advancing equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and research is getting results around the world. This brings me to revisit the definition of empowerment.

Empowerment means moving from enforced powerlessness to a position of power. The empowerment of women was essential to the declarations and platforms for action of the 1990 World Conference on Education for All. Many women would agree that education is an essential means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. Sustainable development is only possible when women and men enjoy equal opportunities to reach their potential. This makes education an important tool for everyone. This is not only because education is an entry point to opportunity but also because women’s educational achievements have positive ripple effects

within the family and across generations. Education is much more than reading and writing. It is an essential investment countries make for their futures, a crucial factor in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development.

This year’s commemoration theme of International Women’s Day is “Make It Happen”! Let’s look at the accomplishment made 20 years after the Beijing Conference:

- 1996 Madeleine Albright became first US secretary of state.
- 2000 Resolution 1325 which calls for member states to protect women against violence.
- 2003 Shirin Ebadi awarded 2003 Noble Peace Prize for her efforts for democracy and human rights.
- 2005 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first woman president of Liberia.
- 2009 Angela Dorethea Merkel was elected to serve second term as a Chancellor of Germany.
- 2010 Former President of Chile Michel Bachelet was appointed head of UN women.
- 2011 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman were awarded jointly for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work.
- 2012 First-ever United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP) awareness.
- 2015 *Let Girls Learn*, to help dismantle the barriers – economic, political and cultural – that stand in the way of girls who want to learn.

Indeed, we are proud that, after decades of dedicated research and technological advances, the stories of women from all cultures and classes are accessible and visible as never before. Numerous scholars and activists continue to help and shape the advancement of women and girls.



## A Great Year with Cool Scholars

By: Cele Covatta

There is an elegant intersection between AAUW and Cool Scholars, our well chosen signature philanthropy project. Much energy and investigation went into selecting Cool Scholars, an extension of Cool Girls, Inc. Cool Scholars serves girls in 8th through 12th grades, focusing on service projects, college prep, job shadowing and teen pregnancy prevention. In the mission to provide possibilities for self empowerment and self awareness, the inspiration to change their reality and indeed to begin to change the world is born.

Cool Scholars has been at this task since 1989. AAUW has embraced the mission of empowering women and girls since 1881, and we are not about to stop efforts now. This year has been full of firsts in our joint effort. We provided each girl with a journal, and taught journaling skills at each monthly meeting. We sponsored an essay contest on "Your Personal Motto" with great results, and the first prize will be awarded at our May meeting (see the next page to read the winning essay written by Cool Scholar Jalyn Cooper). The submissions exceeded expectations, and we will repeat a similar activity next year certainly. Give us your ideas for the topic.

The overall theme for this year was empowerment through self awareness. We invited the girls to look inward, and use the inner strength that they found to improve and enhance the outer self. We had fun with fashion and fitness, inner beauty manifested outward, and learned to meditate. It was all about becoming your best YOU. We explored financial literacy with the help of the SunTrust Women's League, investigated the college selection process, and participated in job shadowing at Delta Airlines' training center. AAUW sponsored a trip to the Museum of Design, and a college tour to Agnes Scott, led by a Cool Scholars alumna, Samantha Thomas. We will sponsor a "Slow ride thru Savannah" excursion when the girls take their college road trip in June.

We are grateful to SunTrust for hosting us. AAUW provided lunch for each meeting, and we were so fortunate to have members at meetings to help out. Special thanks to Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Mary Lynn Merkle, Dr. Blondie C. Wilson, Nalat Phanit, Amira Saleh, and our president, Dr. Myra Carmon.

We served 32 girls! This year was better than last, but not as good as next year promises to be. Please contact me to help out. We need to be "hands on" with these young women, who will next lead us in carrying out our collective mission to empower women and girls. What better work can we do?

## Bookfair 2015 Dates and NEW Location!

By: Kay Collins

### Plan a day in Alpharetta!

The 2015 Bookfair will move to North Point Mall. Renovations continue at Perimeter, but owner General Growth



Properties is so enthusiastic about the AAUW Bookfair that they have arranged to accommodate us at North Point. North Point is a very well travelled mall, and we will be on the wing with Dillard's and the AMC Theatres with more floor space than last year.

The schedule of activities includes the move in on Sunday, September 20, followed by opening night on Monday, September 21. Bookfair will close the evening of Sunday, September 27.

While we understand that this is a long drive for some of you, consider working two shifts on one day (or two!) instead of only one shift per day on several days. Gather friends to carpool and make a day of volunteering at Bookfair, and have a meal in the mall or nearby. Work a shift, see a movie, grab a meal, and work a second shift. The Steering Committee will provide suggestions for alternate routes for those of you who don't want to drive 400.

**Explore!**

**Stretch!**

**Tour Alpharetta!**

# Without Hard Work, Nothing Grows but Weeds

By: Jalyn Cooper

*Editor's note: AAUW Atlanta Branch sponsored a Cool Scholars essay contest, in which the girls were asked to write about their own personal motto, a saying that inspires and motivates them in their daily life. The following essay, written by Cool Scholar Jalyn Cooper, won first place.*

The quote I chose and the quote that I use every day to keep myself grounded and focused is "Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds"-Gordon B. Hinckley. I came upon this quote in my Literature and Composition class. Everyday my teacher, Ms. Ray gives us quotes to write in our journals and this quote by Mr. Hinckley became very clear to me because I utilize it in my everyday life. This quote helps me at school, home and also it can help me in my future. The meaning of this quote is saying that you can't achieve anything by taking shortcuts or going about things the wrong way. You have to do it the right way or nothing would grow but weeds which are referring to problems.

This quote really relates to me at school because there are a lot of ways to go about things in the wrong way. In my dance class, my teacher Ms. Collins tells me that you can't get things unless you try to work hard to get them. For the longest time, I was trying to get my fish roll for this modern piece that we were doing. I began to get frustrated because it seemed that everybody was getting it but me. Then I realized nothing is going to come unless I put in hard work, eventually I kept going. I got a little better, but I'm still working to perfect it. In academic classes, I become frustrated if I get a bad grade, but I have to think...Did I put in the hard work? Did I study or ask questions? I just think back to the quote and realize nothing grew but weeds which was my bad grade.

Using this quote in context while I'm at home involves me staying focused even with distractions. When I do my homework, I try not to let the weeds, the T.V. and my phone, distract me from what I'm trying to accomplish. I have a problem

with focusing; one minute I could be doing my work and then the next—I could answer the ringing telephone. That's when I remember the quote, put the phone down, and continue with my work.

When I grow up, I want to be a lawyer and this quote will mean a lot to me. In order to be an effective lawyer, it is required that you be focused and hardworking. To become a lawyer I cannot take any shortcuts or let the weeds get in my way. When things get tough and I feel like I can't complete a task, I just have to remember the outcome will be worth the trials I had to overcome.



## 2015-2016

### Nominated Officers

The 2015 Atlanta Branch nominating committee of Betty Slater (Chair), Betty Arden, Susan Diffenderfer, Billie Collier and Sharon Bevis-Hoover present the following slate of officers for 2015-2016:

President Elect : vacancy

Board Secretary: Marcy Nader

Branch Co Secretaries : Susan Diffenderfer and Sarah Rondeau

Nominating Committee for 2016:

Karen Ludwig  
Mary Lynn Merkle  
Bea Meyer  
Diana Witt  
Mary Womack

Nominations from the floor will be accepted if the person being nominated has given consent.

## Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden



The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on May 14 at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to carpool to the Krog Street Market (99 Krog Street) in the historic Fourth Ward. At this former stove factory (and movie studio) are a variety of food stalls and restaurants as well as eclectic market stands and The Collective.

The Collective is a collection of local artists, crafts-people and entrepreneurs offering home and garden, vintage clothing, antiques and collectibles, fabulous jewelry, local gourmet foods, hand made hats, and many more amazing finds.

Call Betty Arden for further information.

## Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

Contemporary Literature will meet Monday, May 4, about Noon for discussion of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Please bring your own lunch. Gillian Horsley will host. If you have questions, contact Kay Collins or Gillian Horsley.

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## Calendar

Contemporary Literature Group – May 4

Branch Board Meeting – May 9, 1pm Northside Library

Travel Group Outing– May 14

Atlanta Branch Meeting – May 16

AAUW National Convention, San Diego – June 18-21, 2015

## Welcome New Member

By: Kay Collins

Please welcome our new member and update your handbook.

Dr. Jo Galle