



Alumnae News

AAUW Lends a Hand

When Edith Isidoro-Mills first moved away from home to a small, rural community in New Mexico, she started to think her mother might be on to something with her long-standing AAUW membership. Edith realized the support provided by AAUW could be valuable as she pursued a career in horticulture, a field generally unreceptive to women.



Edith joined AAUW in 1981 and has been a branch member ever since. While completing her bachelor's degree, Edith interned with range conservationists, helping them manage resources on vast tracts of range land. She was told by colleagues that, because she was a woman and hadn't grown up on a range, she could never be hired full time in that position. After finishing her degree, Edith moved to Grants, New Mexico, and proved them wrong. Unfortunately, she still faced unwelcoming attitudes from colleagues in Grants, and after a year and a half she moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to pursue a master's in horticulture at New Mexico State University. Las Cruces was a place for Edith to heal from her difficult times in Grants, and AAUW branch members provided much-needed and restorative ears.

After completing her master's degree, Edith moved to Nevada and took a position with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. In 1992 she reached out to AAUW for a different kind of aid and was awarded an AAUW Career Development Grant to help fund her research. She later graduated with a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno.



Wildflower Garden with Shed. Photo by Edith Isidoro-Mills.

These days Edith is living in the town of Fallon, Nevada, where she writes and consults on horticulture projects, manages a nursery of native Nevadan plants, and maintains a flora and fauna photography blog. She confessed that she often feels isolated in her small community. In an effort to connect with other women academics, Edith recently joined the AAUW Alumnae

Exchange. Having relied on AAUW in the past as the "support place to go," she now sees the Exchange as a rich platform to trade ideas on how to grow professionally in remote environments.



Blog Series Highlight

Chrystal Bell, a 2002-03 Career Development Grant recipient, experiences in real life what most of us only know from crime shows like *CSI*. Since 2004 she has been working as a crime scene investigator in Oregon. Chrystal says that the job appeals to her fascination with "science, death, crime, and puzzles," and that her success comes from working as part of a team to solve violent crimes. "If I can help answer questions and figure out what happened, then I feel like I've done my job," said Chrystal. To read more about Chrystal and other fellowship and grants alumnae, please visit [AAUW Dialog](#).



Featured Donor

As the Royal L. Garff Presidential Chair in Marketing at the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah, Abbie Griffin, a 1988–89 American Fellow, brings to her students a wealth of experience. She has worked as a chemical engineer, plant manager, senior marketing analyst, and consultant. Abbie helps her students see the “numbers of marketing” and the importance of research and analysis in strategic marketing plans.

With a master’s degree focusing on technology and marketing, Abbie transitioned from engineering into

the business world, only to be inspired to pursue a doctorate in management with an emphasis on the management of technology innovation and marketing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. With her doctorate, she hoped to help companies with their technology management. While pursuing her Ph.D., Abbie was awarded an AAUW fellowship, which allowed her to dedicate more time to doctoral research. The long-term benefit of the AAUW fellowship, according to Abbie, was the honor of having the award on her curriculum vitae.

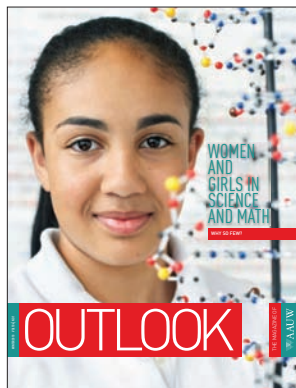
These days Abbie is inspired to give back to AAUW because “without the fellowship my life would have been much more difficult, and getting my Ph.D. could have taken another year, which we just could not afford with a child.”

AAUW Alumnae in Print

Outlook Magazine

The winter 2010 issue of *AAUW Outlook* focuses on women in science, technology, engineering, and math and includes stories about the power of mentorship, an interview Nobel Prize winner Carol Greider, and more.

Don’t miss the AAUW alumnae section feature, which tells the story of Carol Pletcher, former vice president of Cargill and current president of Pletcher Inc. Past and present photos of STEM-focused alumnae Cindy Moss and Wendy Kennicutt-Keeney, who work in science fields, accompany the story.



Publications and Awards Highlights

2009 brought many successes to AAUW fellowships and grants alumnae. Here are just a few examples of their recent accomplishments:

Mahlet Gessesse, a 2007–08 International Fellow, received the Black Student Achievement Award for 2008 and 2009.

Freda Bredy, a 2006–07 Selected Professions Fellow, was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army Reserve. She also welcomed her new daughter into the world in October.

In spring 2009 **Christine Filippone**, a 2007–08 American Fellow, graduated from Rutgers University with a doctorate in art history. She is currently an assistant professor of art history at Millersville University in Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Jo Plant, 2004–05 American Fellow, recently completed her book, *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America*, which will be published soon by the University of Chicago Press.

2002–03 Career Development Grant recipient **Emily Marsh** was recently promoted to assistant director of the Alameda Public Schools Outpatient Programs through Seneca Center. She now supervises satellite programs in nine schools, including 15 therapists and five mental health counselors.

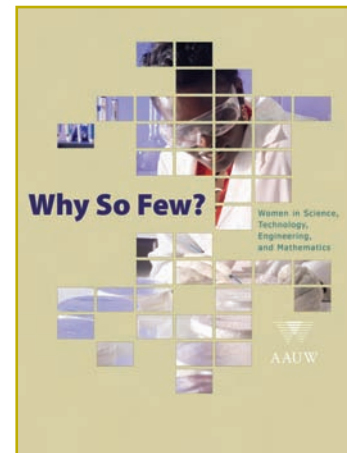
Financially Savvy

AAUW and the WAGE Project are bringing \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Workshops to colleges and universities around the United States. To learn more about becoming a workshop facilitator or to get information for students about nearby workshops, visit the AAUW website.

Sign Up for the Exchange!

Thanks go to all the alumnae who have already joined the AAUW Alumnae Exchange over the past few months! For those of you who aren't yet connected to the wealth of opportunities and resources available on the Exchange, we'd like to invite you to join today.

The AAUW Alumnae Exchange is an exclusive online community for former AAUW fellows and grant recipients to share resources and engage in meaningful discussions. The Exchange offers the perfect opportunity to look for job and funding opportunities, share ideas, meet new people in your field of interest or geographic region, advertise events, and more.



AAUW Examines Women in STEM

In March, AAUW released a new research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, which examines factors related to the underrepresentation of women in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. The report draws on a large and diverse body of academic research on women in science and math and profiles eight different research projects that offer compelling evidence on how social and environmental factors including stereotypes, the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities, and bias act as barriers to women's full participation in these fields.

Opportunities to Grow through the AAUW Alumnae Exchange

Are you looking for your next career move or funding for your next project or plan? Check out what's being posted on the AAUW Alumnae Exchange.

Job Posting

City College of New York is looking for a distinguished lecturer in power engineering. Compensation ranges from \$40,844–114,104 and is commensurate with education, accomplishments, and experience.

The candidate should have extensive knowledge and significant practical experience with a history of leadership in the area of power engineering. S/he is expected to have superior teaching skills. A master's degree and several years of relevant experience are the minimum qualifications required. A Ph.D. is desirable. The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching. The position will remain open until filled. Review of applications began March 1, 2010.

To learn more about this position and other job or funding opportunities, be sure to sign up for the AAUW Alumnae Exchange and check out the opportunities tab.

Money-Saving Deals with AAUW Affinity Partners

We'd like to thank the AAUW Alumnae Exchange sponsor FiledBy. FiledBy is the perfect place for accomplished AAUW authors to build their online marketing platform and web presence and to market, promote, publicize, and sell their books. Check it out today!

President Obama and Congress under the AAUW Lens

AAUW recently released a comprehensive report on President Barack Obama's first year in office, as well as the *AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record* for the first session of the 111th Congress. The two documents outline AAUW priority issues that became law in 2009 and demonstrate the real progress being made on the issues that matter most to women and their families.

AAUW at the U.N.

AAUW has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council as well as a U.N. representative to engage AAUW in a variety of the U.N.'s activities. In March 2010 the U.N. held the 54th Commission on the Status of Women, an annual event that examines the state of progress of women around the world. AAUW members from around the country were in New York to attend meetings and a special NGO forum and to mark the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. This platform outlines 12 critical areas of concern for women and actions needed to address them and is reviewed every five years. Women from around the world came together to share successes and strategies and to challenge their governments to improve the rights of women and girls globally. For more information, visit www.ngocsw.org or www.un.org/womenwatch/daw.

AAUW Supports Campus Projects in STEM

In December AAUW announced the winners of 2009-10 Campus Action Project grants. The theme this year is Breaking through Barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The 12 teams were selected to implement projects based on recommendations from AAUW's 2010 research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*. The projects include mentoring girls in grades K-12, roundtables and lectures for current college students, and professional development and networking opportunities for girls and women of all ages.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

AAUW and NASPA are pleased to present the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, June 3-5, 2010, an annual gathering that gives young women the skills and information they need to tackle leadership issues. With sessions designed to inspire and educate both current and aspiring leaders, NCCWSL offers something to all women students. Visit www.nccwsl.org to find out more.

25th Anniversary



AAUW ■ NASPA



National Girls Collaborative Project: Dedicated to Supporting Women in STEM

Are you a teacher, scientist, engineer, or professor? Sign up as a volunteer or mentor for National Lab Day, an effort to bring hands-on learning to 10 million students, supported by AAUW, NGCP, and more than 200 other organizations. The celebration of science is just one of the many thousands of programs brought together through the National Girls Collaborative Project, a nationwide network supported by AAUW and dedicated to encouraging girls in science- and math-related fields. Join the e-mail list to receive the NGCP newsletter and learn about upcoming activities across the country.

Please Stay in Touch

If you haven't updated us yet on your recent accomplishments, please fill out the online contact update sheet.

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