

## UAHUNTSTVILLE WINS AAUW CAP GRANT



### Why So Few?

This year's CAP grants focus on issues raised by AAUW's new report on women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

UAHUNTSTVILLE  
JOINS ELEVEN  
UNIVERSITIES  
NATIONWIDE IN  
WINNING AN  
AAUW CAMPUS  
ACTION PROJECT  
(CAP) GRANT.



Dr. Kate Leonard of the UAHuntsville Engineering department was a key player in the project to support

UAHuntsville was one of twelve universities nationwide

to win a grant from AAUW for a Campus Action Project (CAP) in support of this year's theme, supporting women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Our project, "Strengthening the Chain: Encouraging Women in Engineering at UAHuntsville,"

was the brainchild of Dr. Nancy Finley, Director of Women's Studies, and Erin Reid, Staff Assistant for Women's Studies and an AAUW branch member. They worked with students and professors in UAH Engineering departments to determine what kind of project would be of greatest interest for women in Engineering at UAH. Dr. Kate Leonard, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Dr. Dawn Bardot, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, together with Engineering students Tamara Hill and Sara Jo Taylor have been key players from the College of Engineering. The Women's Studies student assistant, Kate Blake, has also been actively involved. Tamara Hill and Kate Blake will present the results of the project at this year's National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (see separate story on NCCWSL).

Thus far we have had two panels of speakers over the lunch

hour at UAH's Shelby Center. Over 30 students and faculty attended the January 23 luncheon, which was on the topic "Building Intergenerational Support Networks," with Kitty Davenport as speaker. Engineering students and faculty who worked on it have been greatly encouraged by the turnout and see it as an opportunity to build support groups that will assist their success and aid in recruiting other women, particularly non-traditional students into engineering. Attendees who completed the luncheon evaluation form expressed a high degree of satisfaction, particularly with the networking opportunities. Our March luncheon addressed "Choices and Resources for Non-traditional Women Students," and featured a variety of speakers on this topic. A UAH Career Services counselor described services her office offers students, two women Cooperative Education students in engineering placements described their positive Co-op experiences, a representative of the Society for Women Engineers described the work of that professional organization, and the Engineering student who attended last year's NCCWSL explained the value of that conference and encouraged students to attend.

CAP students hosted a booth at the March 31 Charged Up for Change! Expo at UAH, describing the work of the project and providing infor-

mation about it and about AAUW. Expo had 80 exhibitors describing a huge variety of activities for positive social change, from Forgotten Females to More to Life. At the CAP booth (and at subsequent events), we distributed copies of AAUW's brand new research report, *Why So Few Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, by Hill, Corbett, and Rose (February 2010). The grant provides us with 50 copies of that book that we are giving to professors, students, and administrators in Engineering.

April 20, 2010, we will host our last luncheon panel "Women's Experiences in Engineering." At that event, we will also be highlighting information on Pay Equity Day. State AAUW president Jo Ann Cummings, herself a professional engineer, has attended all of these CAP events and contributed to the program for each.

Women's Studies at UAH is largely based in the College of Liberal Arts, but has always had a connection to the College of Engineering. This is the first significant outreach activity involving students and faculty from both Colleges planning and executing activities. We hope that it will lead to many more productive collaborations. To read more about this project, see our website, [www.uah.edu/cap](http://www.uah.edu/cap).

Dr. Rose Norman  
UAHuntsville AAUW Rep.



## UAHUNTSMVILLE STUDENTS TO PRESENT AT NCCWSL



AAUW ■ NASPA

THIS YEAR IS THE  
25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE NCCWSL  
CONFERENCE,  
AND THE 10TH  
YEAR THAT AAUW  
HAS SPONSORED  
THE CONFERENCE.

Kate Blake and Tamara Hill will represent UAHuntsville at the state AAUW convention at the University of Montevallo April 16-18, and at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

(NCCWSL, "nickwhistle") at the University of Maryland, June 3-5. Kate is a senior majoring in English and Art History, and Tamara is a senior majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Both have actively contributed to the AAUW Campus Action Project (CAP) at UAH, "Strengthening the Chain: Encouraging Women in Engineering at UAHuntsville" (see separate story about this). At NCCWSL, they will present the results of their project, as will students from the other eleven universities in the nation that won AAUW CAP grants this year.



Tamara Hill and Kate Blake will present the UAHuntsville CAP grant project results at NCCWSL.

Each year, our branch provides NCCWSL travel assistance to women students from Huntsville universities. For the past few years, AAMU and UAHuntsville have recommended students, and this year we will also

be funding at least one student from Oakwood University, Sharon Dublin, who has been recommended by her faculty advisor Shushannah Smith. In a future newsletter, we plan to feature the AAMU and Oakwood students who attend NCCWSL.

Right now, we have branch funding to support one student each from AAMU, Oakwood, and UAHuntsville to attend NCCWSL. Funds for supporting these students come from proceeds of the Carrabba's luncheon, other Education Foundation fundraising events, and from additional donations from AAUW members. This year, the CAP grant will pay for one additional UAHuntsville student to attend NCCWSL, and donations from AAUW members at UAH will pay for Tamara and Kate to attend the state conference. The cost for NCCWSL is about \$800 per student, depending on mode of transportation. About half of that is the registration fee, which covers two nights and several meals as well as all conference activities. The national Association offers a limited number of scholarships to cover that fee, if students apply before April 16. We are recommending that students at the three Huntsville universities apply for these AAUW scholarships. If some of them win the scholarships, our fundraising efforts will perhaps assist more than three students.

About the UAHuntsville Students:

**Kate Blake** is a senior double majoring in English and Art History, and expects to graduate in 2011. She is a member of both Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and Kappa Pi, the Art and Art History Honor Society, and recently became a student affiliate member of AAUW. As student assistant for Women's Studies, she designed the CAP project Website, among other things. She learned about AAUW through Women's Studies. She says she became interested in women's issues because of "my own experiences as a woman—the conflict between the beliefs about women and women's roles I was raised with and the way I actually experienced those roles in life." She enjoys writing, cooking, and playing guitar. This spring, Kate won first place in the creative writing category of the Kathryn Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition at UAH (last year she won honorable mention for a scholarly essay). She is a long-time staff writer for the *Exponent*, the UAH student paper, and is currently *Exponent* copy editor. After graduation, she would like to work as a copy editor, and to eventually run her own literary magazine.

**Tamara Hill** is a senior majoring in Civil and Environ-

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NCCWSL *CONTINUED*

mental Engineering. She is a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and AAUW. Tamara loves running, crocheting, knitting, reading, and listening to music. She is working her way through college as student assistant in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department main office, performing office duties and sometimes assisting Engineering professors. She says that her professors "take a high level of interest in their students, and I love working for them." Tamara got involved in the "Strengthening the Chain" AAUW CAP project through her advisor, Dr. Kate Leonard, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and long-time member of

the Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee. Tamara says of this project, "I love the idea of encouraging more women to choose an engineering field, especially non-traditional women. I love my major and I hope every woman will choose (without fear) what fascinates her so her career will be fulfilling no matter what time in her life she decides to take charge of her future and make a difference for herself." Tamara is herself a non-traditional student who returned to college after leaving a 17-year marriage. She expects to graduate in December 2011, after which, "my career plans, hopes and dreams are all negotiable. I picked a field with so many global applications that I am just keeping my options open. I would like to

work with the Peace Corps and Engineers Without Borders in providing potable water to communities with a contaminated supply. Natural resource reclamation and sustainability is my area of interest. My short term dream is to graduate and have the opportunity to work abroad. My long term dream is to design and build a subterranean green home." She is especially grateful to her college advisors, Mr. David Pylant and Dr. Kate Leonard, and for the love and support of her parents and her fiancé.

*Dr. Rose Norman*  
*UAHuntsville AAUW Rep.*

**Huntsville Branch  
Appointed Chairs**

**Reservations**  
Lois Guendel  
880-8643  
Herb.Guendel@knology.net

**Events Notification**  
Lyndsey Torok

**Friendship**  
Rebecca Harbor Jones  
971-1929  
RebHarbSTP@mindspring.com

**Diversity**  
Renee Gooch, Erin Reid, Alanna Frost

**Public Information**  
Evelyn Sabino  
882-7726  
Evelyn\_Sabino@yahoo.com

**Public Policy**  
Wanda Foster, Ellie Lienau

**By-Laws**  
Open

**Hospitality**  
Pat Johnson

**Yearbook/Directory**  
Lyndsey Torok

**Historian/Archivist**  
Open

**Branch Briefs Newsletter**  
Tish Hall  
379-4209  
Tish@tishathome.com

**AAUW Web Site**  
Lyndsey Torok  
Lyndsey.Torok@uah.edu

**College/University  
Representative**  
Dr. Rose Norman, UAHuntsville

## GEARING UP FOR 2010/2011

The AAUW Huntsville Branch officers serve for a two-year term. However, the terms are staggered to provide continuing leadership, so we elect part of the executive board every year. Elected to the board for 2010/2011 are Peggy East, Membership Vice-President, Lenore Dunn, Treasurer, and Lorraine Mullin, Secretary. Continuing board members are Sarah Barbre, President, Dr. Rose Norman, Program Vice-President, and Cindi Branham and Ruth Jurenko, Vice-Presidents for AAUW

Funds. All officers will be installed at the May meeting.

The Huntsville Branch does not meet over the summer, but the board will be busy getting ready for the beginning of the new program year in the fall. Cindi Branham has offered to host and facilitate a planning session for the board, with outgoing and incoming board members attending. The program committee, headed by Program VP Dr. Rose Norman, will also be getting together to plan programs for next

year. Any suggestions are appreciated, and can be directed to Rose or to Sarah Barbre.

Committee positions are open for 2010/2011 as well. See page 9 of this newsletter for a partial list of committee positions, and contact Sarah if you are interested in serving as chair, or as a member of any branch committees. We also have short-term projects for those who feel they don't have the time for a full-time position.