



From left, Mary Lou Hile, Evelyn Mercer, AAUW NC membership vice-president; Thais (pronounced Tay Eez) Cordoba and Charlotte Branch artist Margaret Mordecai.

Below: Thais during book signing in Hendersonville, *The Significance of Costa Rica in Taiwan's diplomacy and the Competition from Beijing*.

Thais Cordoba, the Costa Rican AAUW member of unlimited energy, took time out to meet members of Charlotte Branch before returning home after visiting Hendersonville and Greensboro. In an informal reception hosted by Mary Louise Hile, Thais spoke about the importance of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW and AAUW, stressing how the connection is vital for educating women in third world countries. Her stories and ideas prompted numerous discussions, zeroing in on how AAUW could best help Latino women living in our area. From Diane Johnston, Charlotte Branch



From left, Bonny Marsh (President, Hendersonville Branch), Sue Hammer, Thais Cordoba, Priscilla Burch.



### AAUW Charlotte at Night

Diane Johnson  
AAUW NC Charlotte Branch Co-President

Okay. Women got what they wanted, more or less. There are still issues, like glass ceilings and unequal pay for equal work, though the old boys' networks are crumbling at various rates.

The thousands of young women who graduate from universities every year, however, are meeting up with opportunities way above the radar of 40 or 50 years ago. And, they are not stopping at four years. Nearly half of all medical students are women, law schools (if not yet the Supreme Court) have a high percentage of women students, and the story goes on. My own daughter received her master's of physical therapy in a demanding three-year course at Emory and is now juggling a night-powered job, a new husband, and studying for her doctorate.

With all this success, however, AAUW meetings are often down the ladder, especially if mom works, then spends all her available time being a taxi driver, soccer mom, and mentor, not to mention being a wife.

With or without children, however, working women find nighttime is often the best time for AAUW meetings. They want to socialize, have literature, international, and other groups, but often their weekends are jammed up. Personally, my children are grown, but I spend a great deal of weekend time doing volunteer work, in addition to getting by act and my house together (shopping, cleaning, etc.)

Not known that Hendersonville (as well as other chapters?) decided to take action several years ago, 84-year-old Charlotte Branch has elected co-presidents to work in tandem for its monthly Saturday morning meetings and to start a monthly nighttime meeting. Bess Burns, a long-standing member, is a fireball of enthusiasm and is working on energizing the morning group. Many of the long-standing members can no longer drive at night and often need rides to meetings, but participate in bridge, literature, harden, and international groups that meet on weekdays.

So far, the nighttime group has several new members who are interested, and we have begun to publicize AAUW Charlotte at Night meeting ideas, including Carolina Walks and Talks, to learn more about the area by visiting local colleges and universities such as Queens, UNCC, Davidson, Johnson C. Smith, Johnson and Wales, to mention a few, as well as Stowe Gardens, the Mint Museum, and even places out of town.

Charlotte branch would like to know more about what other branches have tried. Contact Diane Johnston, 704.847.5144 or [dianej@wkhile.com](mailto:dianej@wkhile.com) or Bess Burns, 704.376.5069.

## Membership Competition Is On

Evelyn Mercer  
AAUW NC Membership Vice President

Recognition is planned to honor branches who work hard to increase membership. Two monetary awards will be made during the state convention in new Bern next spring, one for the branch with the largest member increase, the other which has the largest percentage increase. In addition, each branch which does not have a decrease in membership for the year (February 1, 2005-January 31-2006) will receive a certificate of recognition.

Thanks to those who have agreed to serve on our membership committee, in order to offer better service to all members. They can be helpful to your branch when you need someone to speak about membership-related topics. They are Karla Atkinson, Mountain; Evelyn Mercer, Foothills; Janet Weber, Sandhills/Triangle/Northeast; Evelyn Lynge, Southeast/Coastal.

Please keep up-to-date on your 50-year members in order that you can let us know who qualifies for that distinction before our annual meeting next spring.

Don't forget the new membership criteria. Leslie Henderson has described it on page three. It is also available at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/membershipcriteria2005.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/membershipcriteria2005.cfm). You will need your member number, on your *Outlook* mailing label, to access it. At least two branches, Wilmington and Raleigh/Wake County, report recurring members thanks to the new eligibility criteria.

### Members Win Silver, Bronze in Race to Empower Women

Three members of High Point Branch participated in the 5k race in August, sponsored by the YWCA of High Point. It was a race to empower women everywhere. Membership vice-president Shelley Todd won the bronze medal, 3rd place, for women age 30 to 39. Her time was 27.38 minutes. Mary Stephens won the silver medal, second place, for women age 50 to 59. Her time was 50.48 minutes. Deanna Thomas received a door prize of Ralph Lauren Polo shirt. This was Stephens' first time ever winning a race. In fact, it is the first time she has ever entered a race, and she says "I am totally pumped now and want to enter other races to see if I can get the gold medal." Congratulations to all!

### Same-Sex Education Catching On In Maryland

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EDUCATORS are tackling a gender gap in reading scores by offering separate classes for boys and girls. The two genders were close in reading scores in third grade, but by fifth grade, the difference widened. Citing research showing that boys and girls learn differently, the district has decided to try a voluntary two-year experiment with one class each of fourth- and fifth-grade boys. Read the full article "Boy Tribes' on Frontier in Reading," in *The Washington Post*, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57611-2005Jan7.html?referrer=emailarticle>. Free registration may be required to access the article.

Karen Perry, High Point Branch

### Lumsdon Competes

Esther Lumsdon, Raleigh/Wake County Branch, will compete in the Face of America 2005 Bike Ride by World T.E.A.M. Sports (The Exceptional Athlete Matters). September 17-18, riding from Gettysburg to Walter Reed Medical Center. This year it's in partnership with Walter Reed Medical Center. Face of America is a two-day inclusive bike ride, creating a TEAM of people with and without disabilities.

Esther had one leg amputated below the knee due to a traffic accident when she was eight. She is participating in this fund-raiser because she believes in this cause. A little bit of training or adaptive equipment can go a long way toward helping someone learn to deal with their new disability and return to activities that they enjoyed before.

An increasing amount of disabled veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars are returning home to the United States. Fortunately, because of improved body armor and medical care, more

### Emergency Information for Latinas

Much of the information on NC Women United's Emergency Contraception in the Emergency Room material has been translated to Spanish. On June 15, a press conference was held for the Latina/Latino Community Spanish Media Outlets in NC on NCWU's EC in the ER work. Seven different journalists participated. NCWU member Ipas ([www.ipas.org](http://www.ipas.org)) facilitated the translations and the contacts with the media.

If you are involved with the Hispanic/Latino community, please see [www.ncwu.org/2004/ecer](http://www.ncwu.org/2004/ecer) for resources on emergency contraception.

This is an ongoing project. When the project started, some of the organizers assumed that it would be a lead in to legislation that would mandate EC in the ER. However, hospitals are announcing changes in their practices without the legislation forcing that.

soldiers are avoiding death, but yet are still coming home disabled from their injuries.

At press time, she was ranked number five in fund-raising for the event. Learn more at <http://www.worldteamsports.org>



Riding Tandem: Esther Lumsdon and husband, and Scott Chilcote