

## Carolina Authors Enthrall Wilmington Folks

Marva S. Moss  
Wilmington Branch Publicity Chair

Warm November temperatures on the coast set the stage for the November 5 annual *Lunch with Carolina Authors*, sponsored by the Wilmington Branch of AAUW. Members and guests browsed book displays, made holiday gift selections, and enjoyed a wonderful, delicious buffet luncheon at the UNC-W Warwick Center Ballroom. Some of us were fortunate enough to be seated at an author's table; others were happy to know these wonderful writers were just a table of two away. Unique in their writing styles, the four Carolina authors began their story webs.

**Pansie Hart Flood**, who grew up in Wilmington, shared fond memories of visits to her grandmother's home. These visits and settings were the inspirations for her first book, *Sylvia and Miz Lula Maye*. Other books by Ms. Flood include *Secret Holes* and *September Smiles*. She is a teacher at E. B. Aycock Middle School, in Greenville, N.C.

**David Gessner** filled the room with humor while telling us how he acquired the label "nature writer." He is the author of several books including *Return of the Osprey*, which was chosen

by *The Boston Globe* as one of the ten nonfiction books of the year and Book-of-the-Month club. Mr. Gessner is an assistant professor in the Creative Writing Program at UNCW, and the editor of a new national literary journal, *Ecotone*.

**Cassandra King**, of South Carolina, allowed us to tag along with her characters as they met for one of their reunions. We were introduced to the ventures of *The Same Sweet Girls*, a story about a spirited group of Southern women who held reunions, since their college years.

**Doris Iarovici, M.D.**, won the 2005 Novello Literary Award for her collection of short fiction, *American Dreaming and Other Stories*. Comments about her work from literary judges include, "Doris Iarovici writes with grace and confidence as she explores the realities we confront when we dare to pursue our dreams." Dr. Iarovici is a psychiatrist in practice at Duke University.

The event ended with a book signing in the ballroom lobby. Although we did not take a survey at this event, we are almost certain that members and guests will make a return for this annual event next year.

## Voter Guide Improved, More Accessible

Karla Atkinson  
Brevard Branch

**BREVARD BRANCH AAUW** will publish a Voter Guide for the 2006 elections at state and federal levels. This is the third time the branch has undertaken this project. The 2006 guide will contain information on candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives (11th District), N.C. House (Districts 113 & 117), N.C. Senate (District 50) and the N.C. Attorney General's office.

The guide is designed as a public service project to educate voters before the primary and general elections. The questions in the voter guide focus on public policy issues such as social security, health, education, the environment, immigration, and the economy.

Many questions give each candidate an opportunity to respond in a narrative form, rather than just responding "yes" or "no" to each question. The guide is "user friendly" and enables readers to compare the positions of candidates for each office on specific issues.

### Mini Grant Improves Access

In the past, paper ballots were mailed to candidates. However, this year the Brevard Branch is using their \$500 mini grant award from AAUW NC for technical support to make the guide available electronically to all candidates.

### Information Updated Regularly

The Voter Guide Committee is in the process of finalizing its questions. Katie Thompson, project coordinator, says "an on-line version of the 2006 Voter Guide should be available by early February at [www.aauwbrevardnc.org](http://www.aauwbrevardnc.org)."

As candidates announce their intention to run for office, they are e-mailed the questionnaire. When their responses are received, they are posted daily on the branch's web site. Voters seeking information on a particular race may go directly to that race on the web site. On-line readers will be able to access several statewide organizations and candidates for office who have added links to their web pages from the Brevard AAUW site.

After the May 2006 primary, the on-line voter guide will include only those candidates who were chosen in the primary and whose names will appear on the general election ballot. This information will be posted on the web site until the general election on November 7, 2006.

### Hardcopies Available

The branch will also publish over 7,000 printed copies of the guide with the cooperation of their local paper, *The Transylvania Times*, before the general election.

### Brevard Shares Template

Each AAUW branch in North Carolina is encouraged to use the Brevard voter guide templates/questions for their own district races. Since the questions deal with state and federal public policy, they are "generic" to all candidates seeking office, regardless of the geographic areas they represent in Raleigh or Washington. Please contact Katie Thompson, [katiethom@citcom.net](mailto:katiethom@citcom.net) or 828.877.5619, if you are interested in learning more about how your branch could become involved in a voter education project.

## Gaston Regional Adopts New Project

B'Ann Vance  
Gaston Regional Branch

**AFTER DELIVERING MATH** and science activities at day camp to Girls Scouts of the Pioneer council for ten years, the Gaston Regional Branch has adopted a new collaborative project. They will send one Junior troop to the event called "Exploris: Global Survivor." It will be held in Raleigh on March 4 and is sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Pines of Carolina Council.

Junior troops who elect to work on the Global Awareness badge and choose to apply for the trip to Exploris must complete their work, document it, and send the documentation for judging by December 16. A committee made up of one member of the council staff and two AAUW members will serve as judges.

By adopting a new project, the Gaston Regional Branch is able to continue to support the Girl Scouts, while putting the element of "something new" into its work with them.

## Winston Salem Branch Aids Katrina Victims

Janice Imgrund  
Winston-Salem Branch Secretary

**MANY OF OUR** members expressed a desire to assist hurricane victims. Our president, Ellen Morris, received an e-mail from Leevones Dubose, AAUW branch president in Mobile, Alabama, stating that Chastang Middle School had lost one entire wing of its school. The board authorized that contributions would be collected for this school. Janice Imgrund was the project liaison. After contacting Ms. Dubose and the principal, Mr. Zad Douglas, teacher and student supplies were collected. They included paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, binders, staplers, book bags, scotch tape, markers, sticky notes, stickers, pencil boxes, and glue. Two boxes containing these items were sent to Chastang Middle School. Cash that was collected during the October branch meeting was used for postage to send the materials to the school.

This was a good opportunity to directly give help to a middle school child or teacher needing a helping hand following great loss.

## Local School Seeks Help

Virginia Owen  
Statesville Branch Program Vice-Presidents

Recently, the guidance counselor from Statesville Middle School called with a desperate request for help at her school. Evidently the community didn't help them much with school supplies for kids who can't afford their own stuff—the timing conflicted with Katrina. Their biggest needs are pencils, notebook paper, composition books, colored pencils, and book bags. Statesville Branch decided to support the school this year by asking members to bring supplies to all board and regular meetings, resulting in generous donations. In addition, branch members spread the word to other groups to which they belong.

Also to help raise money for its educational programs, the branch is recycling drink cans. It a humorous episode during their campaign this summer, two members went dumpster diving – sparing no effort for this good cause!

## Team Leadership Expands the Vision

Leslie Henderson, South Atlantic Region (SAR) Director

**I ENDED MY** last letter describing AAUW as a "lean, mean, equity machine." If I continue the analogy, and if we agree that a machine is an assemblage of interlinking and interdependent parts, designed to perform a given task, then a machine works only as well as its parts. This also applies to the human body and to the body politic.

I have watched with delight as our AAUW staff works together as teams. In fact, the senior staff is officially called the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), which speaks volumes. Program, Communications, Public Policy, Membership, Research, and Development are all working together to launch new initiatives around our theme of Women's Economic Security. The Association, the Foundation, and the LTI are all involved. Furthermore, almost all of our board working groups are actively cross corporate, and include staff, as well. Gone are those artificial lines that too often constrained effective team work and centralized the power base.

We in the field need to follow their example. Team leadership expands the vision. It empowers, both the individual and the group. Team work makes it easier to take a risk, it increases the power base, it provides a safety net, and it makes what we do more satisfying and enjoyable. An important bonus to team leadership is that we create a new generation of leaders. So, as we consider the roles of our branch and state leader positions, please keep in mind that to be that effective and prospering equity machine, our parts must be co-dependent and interrelated.

### Every Member Poll – please respond!

Finally, an announcement. You should have received your *Outlook* by now. Inside you will find an important insert – the **Every Member Poll**. Note that it has a different format than the Every Member Survey we're accustomed to, and a shorter turn-around time. This is the single most important opportunity in the biennium for every member's voice to be heard. I strongly urge you to fill it out and send it back before January 13, 2006 or complete it on-line at [www.aauw.org/member\\_center/survey/EMS2005/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/survey/EMS2005/index.cfm) - you will need your member number.

Since I last wrote to you, we have seen major devastation from hurricanes and earthquakes. It is breathtaking the amount of destruction and death that has been wrought in such a short time. On behalf of the SAR, I would like to send our AAUW sisters in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida our concern and our compassion. We can also help, so I have asked that information on the Louisiana and Mississippi Library Projects be included in this issue [page one]. Be sure to check *EdEqChange* for updates.

