

MANHATTAN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015— Volume 96, Number 2

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

September Meeting Focuses on Poverty and Homelessness



Stan Ward

Stan Ward, grants administrator for USD 383, spoke on “Poverty in the Classroom.” He opened by saying that understanding poverty is just a part of gaining deeper understanding of our community. Ward holds a graduate degree in Adult Occupational

Education. Ward researches, writes, and administers grants that aid students and families in USD 383.

Stan relates that as a whole, USD 383 can be described as low poverty. However, this simplification does not capture the changing demographics of our community. For many years, Ward has gathered information on homeless students. In 2008, the numbers jumped from about 7 to 70. Each year since, the numbers of homeless students have continued to climb. This year the number is enough to fill an entire elementary school. Questions that Ward is frequently asked include: Who are they? Where are they? How do you define homelessness? The school board and community were initially shocked to learn there are homeless students in USD 383.

For several years our poverty rate as measured by free/reduced lunch has risen 2-3% per year, which is very significant in a small population. We are currently up to 44% students eligible for free/reduced lunch. Ward expects this will be at 50% next year.

Five years ago, the State Department of Education asked if they could survey our community to see if we have migrant students. We now have more than 1000 migrant students. A small percentage of those are children from university or military families. The rest are children of families who are here for work. About 25 families are agricultural migrants, but 300 more are families who migrate for other types of work.

Ward asks people to consider what is happening, what the impact is upon our schools, and the type of support the district may need. There are many situations cause homeless. Children who live in cars, on street, in shelters are all considered homeless. Also, children who are living in another household due to economic hardship are considered homeless. He notes that a Peine family funded survey done last summer identified sub-standard housing as a major community issue. Often these families are living in great stress, having moved with multiple family members into another household, sometimes fleeing situations of spousal abuse, dealing with abandonment, or medical hardship.

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

October Branch Meeting	2	Support Ghana Book Project	5
Scholarship Winner Profile	2	AAUW National Election Results	6
AAUW Fellowships and Grants	3	Updates from National, State, and Branch	6
New Member Profiles	4	October Branch Calendar	6
Public Policy - Hot Topics!	5		

Branch Meeting - October 12, 2015



Dr. Birgit Wassmuth

Women in the Media

Speaker: **Dr. Birgit Wassmuth**
Director, A. Q. School of Journalism and Mass Communications,
Kansas State University

Location: First Congregational Church, 700 Poyntz Ave
 Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Program - 6:45 p.m.
 Cost for dinner: \$12. Make checks payable to AAUW.

Make reservations by email to manhattanksauw@gmail.com (preferred) or call **Connie Noble** at (785) 539-5522. **Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, October 6th at noon.** If you need or can provide transportation, contact Dede Brokesh at (785) 410-4335. **Members may choose to attend the speaker and meeting portion of the evening at no cost. Mark your calendars, and plan to join us!**

About Our October Speaker - Dr. Wassmuth

Dr. Birgit Wassmuth, Director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism at K-State began her tenure in June of 2013. Her native home is Germany. She holds three degrees: a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from the University of Kassel, Germany; a masters and a doctorate degree in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She has also served two distinguished visiting professorships at the University of Florida. She came to K-State from Kennesaw State University, near Atlanta, Ga. where she served as chair of the Department of Communications for more than seven years. Wassmuth has served on the board of directors of the Fulbright Association and the Collaboration for the Advancement for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Currently, she serves on the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

A Scholarship Recipient Working Toward a Vision and a Degree



Jarah Gleason

Jarah Gleason, from Salina, is one of our branch's scholarship winners for the current year. She is probably one of our youngest recipients at the age of 23. She attended K-State in Manhattan for a year after graduating from high school, taking advantage of intermural sports (very athletic), making lots of new friends, and participating in campus ministry, all while maintaining a good grade average. She felt the need for a change and decided to move back home and attend K-State Salina, but due to finances that did not work out. She worked helping manage her family's restaurant for several years and then took a job at Capital Federal bank, working her way up to a CSAIL, helping customers with their various accounts. After a 3 year break from school, she decided to go to K-State Salina and major in Personal Financial Planning. Last spring she took 16 hours of classes and worked close to 30 hours a week at the bank. Her reference letters included descriptions such as "remarkably responsible," "confident," "stubborn," "class leader," and "an excellent representative and steward of the AAUW scholarship funds." Jarah and her husband are both students and work as many hours as possible. They live with her in-laws in order to save money and to graduate with minimal debt. Jarah will graduate in 2 years and after her husband graduates they plan to move to the Kansas City area. Jarah's goal is to work in credit counseling where she can help people plan so they can accomplish their goals and take care of their families. She says, "I know things don't always go according to plan, but I am positively determined to earn my degree."



AAUW's 2015-16 Fellows and Grantees
Will Change the World!



AAUW Fellowships and Grants



The AAUW has a long distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW provides nearly \$4 million in funding each year to women scholars and community projects that benefit women and girls. The Manhattan Branch asks you to please inform K-State women students and faculty about the following educational funding opportunities. Applications and guidelines for the 2016-17 AAUW Fellowships and Grants are available online at www.aauw.org.

AAUW American Fellowships

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks.

Funding: \$6,000-\$30,000

Deadline: November 15, 2015

AAUW International Fellowships

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Funding: \$18,000-\$30,000

Deadline: December 1, 2015

AAUW Career Development Grants

Who may apply: Women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the workforce and whose bachelor's degree was received at least five years before the award period.

Funding: \$2,000-\$12,000

Deadline: December 15, 2015

AAUW Selected Professions Fellowships

Who may apply: Women pursuing full-time study in a master's or professional degree program in which women are underrepresented, including STEM, law, business and medicine.

Funding: \$5,000-\$18,000

Deadline: January 10, 2016

AAUW Community Action Grants

Who may apply: Individuals, AAUW branches/states, and nonprofit organizations to fund innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

Funding: One-year grant, \$2,000-\$7,000

Two-year grant: \$5,000-\$10,000

Deadline: January 15, 2016

Please direct specific applications questions to AAUW's application processing center at aauw@scholarshipamerica.org or 319-688-4334.

Upcoming Events

The Graduate School, the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs are hosting a Graduate Fellowship Information Session on September 22 at 3 pm in the Alumni Center's Purple Pride Room. The **AAUW's fellowship and grant opportunities** will be showcased during this information session alongside key graduate fellowship programs such as the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, or NSF GRFP; the Department of Defense Science and Mathematics Research for Transformation, or SMART, the National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship, or NDSEF; and the Environmental Protection Agency's STAR Fellowship. Information on other fellowship programs will also be available. This event will be streamed online and recorded. To register, please visit: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37xIVdEiBRVb6ux

Continued from page 1:

September Meeting Focuses on Poverty and Homelessness

Ward notes we have both situational and generational poverty in the district. There is a lack of understanding of poverty in our community and in our schools. Sometimes people have a mistaken idea that if only people made certain decisions then everything would be fine. These folks are mistaken and do not understand the pressures poverty puts on families and why parents respond as they do. Ward finds most families living in poverty in our district to be strong, caring and loving families.

Of all the challenges that affect children, poverty can have incredibly pervasive effects. Poverty affects health, nutrition, vocabulary size and literacy. Ward notes that one thing he sees over and over is that an excellent teacher can reach children, no matter the child's challenges. To learn more, Ward recommends visiting hearus.org to view documentaries of homeless students.

New Member Profiles



Beverly Page

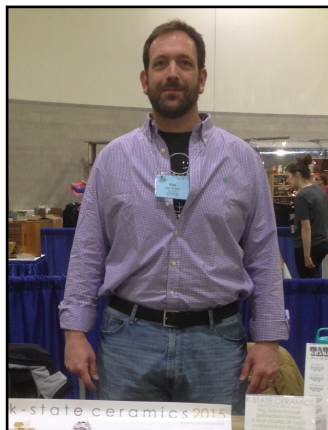
Beverly Page recently retired from Kansas State University where she worked as a Grants Information Specialist and a Graduate Faculty Associate. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Literature. Beverly also attended

the University of Oklahoma where she earned her Master's in Library and Information Science.

After many years of working while raising three children and then helping to care for elderly parents, Beverly actually does have some free time. She's been able to spend more time visiting her daughter and family in California and her son and daughter-in-law in New Orleans. She has a brother in Wichita, who is moving to Denver (another destination for her future travels). Beverly hasn't been to visit her daughter and family in Abu Dhabi yet, but says that it's on her bucket list. For Beverly, her life has had enough twists and turns that she just tries to enjoy opportunities as they arise.

This past year Beverly spent more time doing yoga, has been to some Osher history sessions, and has begun to explore Genealogy. She hopes to become a contributing member of the AAUW Manhattan branch. As a student, mother, teacher, and librarian, most of her life has revolved around education in some form or another and she hopes to continue supporting educational opportunities for all.

For Beverly, retirement offers a new world of opportunities and constraints that she just has to test as she moves forward.



Tim Weiser

Tim Weiser was born in Shirley, Massachusetts. He was a military brat who has lived all over the world. After high school, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the U.S. army. Tim held several positions while in the military: Tomb Guard at Arlington National Cemetery,

radiology technician, and logistician. Tim met his wife, Adena, while they attended a non-commissioned officer school in San Antonio, Texas. They married, became officers and were stationed together for six years in Germany.

Upon returning to the U.S. with the First Infantry in 2006, they bought and renovated a historic home in Manhattan. After several deployments, and with twenty-four years in the military, Tim retired in 2011. While in the army, Tim earned a Master of Education from National Louis University; he will complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Studio Art from Kansas State University this year.

As an adjunct professor, Tim teaches for K-State's College of Business, the University of Mary, and Southwestern College. His has many interests: historic preservation, art history, ceramics, painting, and antiques. He has developed custom art work for several businesses in Manhattan and enjoys collaborating with other artists. Tim is an appraiser for personal property and traveled to "The Big Apple" of New York to complete a course in Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. Tim and Adena own and operate Manzanita Art & Antiques and Blue Earth Properties LLC. They enjoy spending time with their family, friends, and cats.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Public Policy - Hot Topics!



**Maurine Pruitt, Public Policy/
LWV Coordinator**

Let us look at where we are with State Equal Gender Pay Legislation. We are still going to have to be advocates in this area. Some states have moved forward but others are still waiting to pass correct legislature. In writing this section I am quoting AAUW State

Policy Analyst Kate Nielson. Her article can be found at <http://www.aauw.org/2015/08/20/equal-pay-by-state/>

The four states that have moved forward are Connecticut, Delaware, North Dakota, and Oregon. In North Dakota the laws that have passed make it hard for employers to use non-work-related defenses to defeat pay claims.. In Connecticut and Oregon the new laws prohibit employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who discuss their wages. Oregon now has laws that are involved in proceedings to fix pay discrimination. At the same time Connecticut laws increases remedies paid to victims of discrimination. Delaware now requires contractors to pay all employees equally.

Illinois last month signed a house bill that expands existing equal pay laws by applying them to employers

regardless of how many workers they employ. (Originally it exempted employers of less than five workers.) New York is working on passing a bill that would strengthen the existing law that prohibits gender-based pay differentials by closing loopholes employers currently use to defend unfair wage practices. This bill will also increase the penalty for violating this law and prohibit employers from requiring workers to keep their pay rates secret.

California and Massachusetts are still working on equal pay bills in their states. California has three bills that would prohibit employers from asking about a potential hire's prior salary history. If enacted this would be the first state law of this kind. Another bill if passed would require contractors working in the state to comply with a pay nondiscrimination program. The last bill would clarify employer defenses to pay discrimination claims and prohibit employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who are involved in proceedings to enforce these protections. Massachusetts has like bills they are trying to get passed.

The alarming notice is that during the 2015 session 21 other states have defeated proposed equal pay bills. Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada and Washington got similar bills passed in their first chamber but will need to proceed during their next legislative session.

You Can Help With the Ghana Book Project

Branch Member, Barbara Amoah, is requesting the support of the Association for a special book project in her hometown, Akim Achiase, a small farming community in Southern Ghana. Barbara received a Literacy Grant of \$1,000 from the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (<http://www.phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/literacy#.Ve55IfiVikoto>) to help build library resources for schoolchildren in her home town, and she would greatly appreciate donations for this worthy cause.

These donations can be new or gently used literature (fiction and non-fiction books) and other teaching and learning materials appropriate for teens and young adults (5th to 9th Grade). Cash donations will be used to purchase recommended textbooks for Ghana Middle Schools. Although education in government schools is subsidized, schools generally lack supplies and rely a lot on donations from philanthropists. Her project's objective is to donate teaching and learning materials to as many of the six government middle schools in Achiase as possible by April 2016. There will be one donation event in Achiase in October 2015 and if possible, a second event in early 2016. There will be a box available at our next regular meeting to receive your donations. A big thank you to all who have donated. Any donation is very much appreciated! Please contact Barbara Amoah with any questions (785) 320-0697 or bamoah@ksu.edu).

AAUW National Election – The Results are In!

Results of the [2015 AAUW National Election](#) were announced at the National Convention by newly re-elected Board Chair, **Patricia Fae Ho (Right)**. (Note: The titles of board president and vice president were changed to board chair and vice chair.) The elections were a great success. All of the proposed bylaw changes were approved, expect for eliminating the degree requirement for membership. View the election results online to learn about the other elected board members and approved changes within some of the AAUW Public Policy Program topics (<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>).



Patricia Fae Ho

Updates from National, State, and Branch

Let's Deliver Title IX Tools Requested by AAUW to Manhattan Schools

The USDE Office of Civil Rights recently released three sorely needed tools that AAUW ask for: a letter to schools restating the importance of Title IX coordinators, a thank you letter directly to coordinators reaffirming their roles, and a 30-page free resource manual to guide their action (available at <http://www.aauw.org/2015/04/24/title-ix-coordinator-resources/>). This federal law prohibits sex discrimination and requires every school to have at least one employee who is responsible for coordinating school compliance. Many Title IX coordinators do not understand the scope of the law. Let's make a branch pledge to learn who our Title IX coordinators are in our local schools/colleges and deliver these new resources. We could become eligible for the [AAUW Title IX Champion Award!](#)

A Look at Kansas AAUW

We start the new AAUW 2015-2016 year with 284 AAUW Branch members. In addition, there are 296 national (only) members, which makes a total of 580 Kansas AAUW Members. The eight (8) Kansas Branches are El Dorado, Goodland, Manhattan, Newton, Olathe, Salina, Shawnee Mission, and Wichita.

AAUW Dates to Save on Your Calendar

April 9, 2016 Kansas Annual Meeting- Dyck Arboreum, Hesston

June 2-4, 2016 NCCWSL Conference at the University of Maryland

June 3-4, 2016 Mid-West Regional Conference, Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, Kansas

OCTOBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Oct. 5	Lunch & Board Meeting	11:30 & Noon	Vista Drive-In, 1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd.
6	Sign-up Deadline	Noon	
8	Great Decisions	10:00 a.m.	Meadowlark Hills
9	Book Talk	10:00 a.m.	Manhattan Public Library
6	Branch meeting reservations		
12	Branch Meeting	6:00 p.m.	First Congregational Church
12	Columbus Day		Government offices closed
14	Creative Cookery	11:30 a.m.	To Be Announced
15	Newsletter articles Due		
27	Serendipity: "Laughter is the Best Medicine" & Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Meadowlark Hills-Please RSVP to Elsie Hall
31	Halloween		

Happy Halloween



These are the regularly scheduled meetings. Please contact

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

Karen L. Tinkler
7000 Mill Cove Drive
Manhattan, KS 66503

Empowering Women Since 1881



Email: manhattanksaauw@gmail.com

The American Association of University Women, founded in 1881, is a nationwide community with more than 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 local branches, and 800 college and university (C/U) partners. Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In the 2014-2015 academic year, for example, AAUW has committed more than \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants to outstanding women, AAUW branches, and community nonprofit organizations. It continues to have a dynamic influence on policymakers, educators, employers, and communities to break through barriers and enhance opportunities for women.

We're on the Web

<http://manhattan-ks.aauw.net/>

www.aauw.org