



AAUW
DAVIS

THE SPOKESWOMAN

Volume 51 Number 6
June 2015

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

REPORTS

STEM PANEL

People started arriving to the Explorit Science center at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 27th. They were soon socializing and enjoying pizza (thank you, Rhonda), tea, and veggies that Estelle, Gail, and Juliana brought. Lani Fulcher of Explorit had arranged chairs and tables for the presentation.



Shortly after 7:00, Estelle, (AAUW Co-Executive Officer), welcomed everyone. She talked briefly about AAUW and its goals, introduced Lani, and past Tech Trekker, Sithmi

Jayasundara. She then gave over the floor to Ramona Swenson, moderator and organizer of the panel.

Ramona told us (an audience of 40 including 11 girls) why these STEM career women were there. She talked briefly about each person, pointing out the printed biography for each participant was available at the back table, along with AAUW applications. Each woman gave a brief history of her career path and her personal experiences leading to her current work. Then each gave key advice to the young women listening.

The panel consisted of:



Ramona Swenson, Ph.D., Restoration Ecology
Program Manager, Environmental Science Associates
Parto Aram, Founder and Director of Inspire-tech
Alinia Asmundson, Manager, Design-In Tools Store
Intel

Melanie Harrison Okoro, Ph.D., Water Quality
Specialist/Regional AIS Coordinator, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries

Margarita (Maggie) Rodriguez, Regulatory Affairs
manager, Marrone Bio Innovations

Paulina Zielinska, DVM, MPVM, MPH, Director of the Office for Global Programs, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Ramona spoke of her love of animals and their behavior, interning at the Smithsonian Institution, and working for the Nature Conservancy. Besides raising her children, she is committed to promoting women in science and environmental careers through her involvement with AAUW and AFS (American Fisheries Society).

Maggie grew up in an agricultural setting in Davis with her father working with fruit trees. She followed her curiosity and concern for product environmental safety by studying at Sac City and UCD. Maggie focused on toxicology and registration of bio pesticides. She advised the girls to use internships to grow, learn, make connections, and to check out any field that might become your real interest.

Parto became excited about computers as they were first being developed and chose engineering as a way to grow with the new technology. She worked in many phases of digital know-how, designing robotics and marketing microchips, traveling until she started a family. By often being the only woman in class or on a team, she pursued studies in gender equity and reinvented herself (changed goals and direction). She told the girls not to be afraid to change direction. It is an ongoing process being creative. Through Inspire-tech, Parto offers girls classes about programming, wearable computers, technological art, and robotics.

Paulina started by loving animals and wanting to be a veterinarian. Then she felt a need to help animals on a larger scale. She studied Epidemiology, taking an internship in India. This led her to a degree in public health and preventing infectious diseases. She echoed the advice of taking internship opportunities and not being afraid to change goals to keep learning and growing.

In 7th grade, Melanie wanted to become a neurosurgeon. Later, until she tore her ACL, she wanted to be a WNBA player. She still wanted to be a doctor and got into med school, but changed her goals when she fainted at the sight of blood. Then she studied Botany and enjoyed talking to young people about beautiful plants. After becoming involved with protecting endangered species, she found her purpose: to protect the future of people, plants, and animals. They are all so interrelated. She advises young people to follow their passion, even when that passion changes.

Alinia read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and decided that communication was her great interest. She traveled to Japan and happily used the phone app for translating. She took in how well technology helps people talk to each other. That is why she loves working at Intel; she is working to connect the world. Alinia advises following the money when you do not know what to do. Do not worry about the "why do this when it is not part of 'the plan'". Earn money and learn. Don't be closed to a new option.

Shahla, AAUW CEO, encouraged the audience to ask questions in any line of work and in current classes, and suggested they practice now by asking the panel.



During the question/answer period, the panel suggested and summarized that the girls should:

Try lots of things.

Learn the language of technology. Technology will help you define/refine your goals.

Ask for support if you are feeling alone.

Ask for help since most of us are in some sort of minority. Acknowledge what you need.

Learn from your “failures”.

Pat yourself on the back. You bring something just by being you.

Don't let your dreams blind you to other opportunities to grow or change.

Do not be afraid to say “NO” over and over (to parties, drugs, etc.).

Before an interview, do your homework. Ask them questions that show you have thought seriously about handling the job.

Be flexible about family vs. career. Have a full life. Family inspires you to work even harder.

Find a model or mentor.

Accomplish one hard thing every day.



Estelle invited a Citrus Circuits representative to share briefly, and we congratulated the robotics team for their national championship. Lani was again thanked for Explorit teaming with us on this event.



INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

On June 7, Sunday, we will meet at Seasons Restaurant to meet our new Tech Trek girls and parents. We will thank the board and donors for their support this past year. Also, we will honor our AAUW member of **50 years**, Elaine Ginosar. We begin at 11:30, and eat and celebrate until 1:30. Grilled chicken or Cobb salad are the menu choices plus a dessert. Cost is \$22. Call Gail (756-1207) right away if you haven't already done so. The restaurant is on the corner of F, near the Boy Scout cabin.

Gail will also be accepting your renewal forms and entering them in a drawing. See below.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In May, you received a renewal form by mail for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Please take the time to fill out the form and send it back to Gail before June 15 or bring it with you to the luncheon. Thank you.

CELEBRATE THE 19TH

We will be gathering at Marti Abbott's home in Vacaville on Sunday, **June 14th** at 1:00pm. She will provide drinks and greens for a salad. She asks that we each bring something to add to the salad (olives, mushrooms, tomatoes, cheese, croutons, etc.).

Her address is 131 Auburn Way, Vacaville. 707-718-7752. Directions: Take the Merchant/Alamo off ramp. At the light, turn left onto Alamo. Go through two stop signs (2 miles in distance). On one street past the 2nd stop sign, go left onto Linwood St. Follow Linwood and then right onto Auburn. We will be carpooling. Call Juliana (530-758-3011)

if you can drive or need a ride. Marti will be showing us some of her new quilt/sewing work.

Condolences to Julie Tillman on the loss of her father.

Congratulations to Sharon on the healthy birth of her daughter, Hannah!

A Major THANK YOU to Ramona for organizing and moderating the STEM panel. Thank you to Lani Fulcher of Explorit for her help. Thank you to Holmes teacher, Martha Quenon, for giving her students extra credit for attending.

A Major THANK YOU to panel members Melanie, Alinia, Maggie, Paulina, and Parto for their time and enthusiasm.

Thank you, Rhonda, for your efforts to arrange for publicity and Explorit and for providing pizza.

Be as active as you choose, but do stay a member.

Calendar

June 7: Installation and celebration luncheon at Seasons. 11:30-1:30.

June 14: Celebrate the 19th early at Marti Abbott's home in Vacaville in the afternoon at 1:00pm.

June 18-21: Our 3 CEOs will attend the AAUW Convention in San Diego

July 5-11: Tech Trek session at UCD



DAVIS (CA)
BRANCH

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PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Officers for 2014-2015

Co-Executive Officers: Rhonda: 297-0460 .

Shahla: 304-2844

Estelle: 758-8603

Membership/Treasurer: Gail: 756-1207

Board Members: Parto: 750-2556

Chithra: 759-9621

Sharon: (203) 314-8263

Spokeswoman: Juliana: 758-3011