



# The Branch Line

## Mark Your Calendars for the September Meeting

The next AAUW-Denton Branch meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, at 6:00 p.m. at Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant (821 N. Locust, Denton, TX).

Dinner is \$17 per person. Please RSVP by completing the online form at <http://denton-tx.aauw.net/meetings/>.

Our speaker will be Toni Johnson Simpson, Executive Director, Denton County Friends of the Family. Toni Johnson Simpson is a native of Denton and a graduate of the Texas



*Toni Johnson Simpson*

Woman's University Social Work Program. Since 2005 she has served as Executive Director of Denton County Friends of the Family. Friends of the Family is the County's sole provider of comprehensive services to victims of relation-

ship violence and sexual assault.

Prior to taking on the position of executive leadership at Friends of the Family, Toni worked at Mesquite Social Services, New Beginning Center (a domestic violence agency in Garland), The Family Place (a domestic violence agency in Dallas) and the City of Garland. She is recognized as a creative leader in non-profit management, passionate public speaker and an advocate against social injustices and oppression.

## Renew Your Membership

It's time to collect dues for the 2015-2016 year! Membership dues are \$70 for the year. Payments can be made in person, by mail, or ONLINE. If you choose to pay by mail or in person, please complete the membership form attached to this newsletter and

forward it to Stephany Compton or Ruth Johnson at the September meeting or mail it to the address on the form.

If you choose to pay online, please go to the AAUW National website at [http://www.aauw.org/resource/join-a-branch-or-renew-](http://www.aauw.org/resource/join-a-branch-or-renew-branch-membership/)

[branch-membership/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/join-a-branch-or-renew-branch-membership/) and click Renew Now for Returning Branch Members. Be sure that you are logged into the site.



# 2015-2016 AAUW Scholarship Recipients

The AAUW Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following recipients for the 2015-2016 undergraduate and graduate scholarships at Texas Woman's University and at the University of North Texas. Each award carries a \$1,000 stipend.

## Texas Woman's University

- Brittney Buckhanan, Senior, Business (Accounting)
- Alexandra Jeffcoat, Senior, General Studies (Women's Studies and Sociology)

## University of North Texas

- Yanxia Jiang, Junior, Business (Accounting)
- Courtney Medvedev, Public Affairs and Community Service (nonprofit management)

## Texas Woman's University



Brittney Buchanan

**Brittney Buchanan** is a Senior at the Texas Woman's University. She is majoring in Business with an emphasis on accounting and expects to graduate in May 2016. She began college at North Central Texas College in the summer of 2011 before transferring to TWU in the fall of 2012 where she has maintained a 3.723 grade point average. She has been on the Dean's List and Chancellor's list for four semesters. She received the "Most School Spirit" award in her freshman year. She is a member of Omega Rho Alpha, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Society of Leadership and Success, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership

Honor Society, and the Touchstone Honors Award Program. She was vice president of membership for Enactus and is a student member of the Leadership Institute and Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society-Delphi Chapter.



Alexandra Jeffcoat

**Alexandra Jeffcoat** is a Senior at the Texas Woman's University. She is a General Studies major with emphases in Women's Studies and Sociology and expects to graduate in December 2016. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her three years at TWU while working full-time as senior teacher in an Early Childhood Development Center and raising two children who are now in college. She also took a leadership in the development of an Extended Care program at her school which she also leads today. Upon graduation she plans to work toward the Master's Degree in Women's Studies.

## University of North Texas



Yanxia Jiang

**Yanxia Jiang** is a Junior at the University of North Texas. She is majoring in Business with an emphasis on accounting and expects to graduate in May 2018. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her studies at UNT. She plans to graduate in the five-year program earning both the B.S. and M.S. degrees and then take the CPA exam and pursue a career in public accounting. Yanxia works

12 hours per week at the UNT Housing Department and volunteers at the Learning Center as a tutor four hours per month.



Courtney Medvedev

**Courtney Medvedev** is working on the Master's degree at the University of North Texas. Her degree will be from the UNT College of Public Affairs and Community Service where her focus is on nonprofit management. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Texas Summa Cum Laude with a major in General Studies and a minor in Social Sciences. She expects to graduate with her master's degree in August 2016. Courtney is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Sigma, and Golden Key. She is also a member of the International City Management Association and the Public Administration Student Association. She was the founding member who worked to establish the Rotaract Chapter of Rotary at UNT in August 1011. Her goal is to found her own non-profit advocacy agency and be a leader working for the betterment of society.



## President's Corner

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Starting a new academic year can be filled with great anticipation while at the same time a bit of angst. All too often we focus on what remains undone, rather than all the accomplishments that point toward success. As the Denton Branch starts its new year, I look forward to serving each of you and the mission before us as do all of your officers. Keeping with tradition, the Denton Branch has seen success in numerous ways whether it is advocating for public policy issues that impact women, providing educational opportunities for young girls, or advocating for wom-

en, we are poised to continue the work each of you has faithfully championed.

September is also a reminder that fall is not too far away and with it comes the rekindling of friendships and the opportunity to make new ones. I appreciate how special these meetings are to each of you and the relationships you have cultivated over the years. One of the greatest gifts of the Denton Branch is the friendships it fosters and the support it provides.

As we start a new year, let us be reminded of all the benefits that

AAUW provides and all that we have gained from our involvement. I encourage you this year to invite your friends and colleagues. This is a wonderful way in which to mentor women especially those who have recently graduated and those just starting their careers.

Let's work together to increase our membership. All it takes is one invitation to positively change another's life. Each of us has a story about our own personal journey that led us to AAUW. It is our turn to shape the stories of those waiting in the wings.



## Stand Up for Voting Rights (AAUW Action Network)

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On August 6, 2015, our nation marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which intended to protect millions of Americans from discriminatory voting restrictions. Fast forward 50 years later and we continue to see voting practices that directly affect women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly from accessing the ballot box.

Why is this happening? The 2013

Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* gutted the heart of the Voting Rights Act by striking down the law's preclearance provisions.

**That's why Congress must act to restore voter protections that would require key states that have demonstrated a history of voting discrimination to obtain preclearance prior to any voting changes.**

The right to vote is exactly that – a right. The Supreme Court's 2013 decision has made it harder for millions of women, college students, minorities, the poor, and the elderly to vote; it is long past time for Congress to fix this decision.

*Take action today: Urge your representative to support the [Voting Rights Advancement Act \(S.1659/H.R.2867\)](#)!*

## TWU Student Receives AAUW Career Development Grant

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Over the past century, AAUW's fellowships and grants program has provided over \$100 million to more than 12,000 women and projects serving women and girls from 140 countries.

AAUW-Denton is pleased to con-

gratulate **Chastity Crawley**, recipient of a 2015-2016 AAUW Career Development Grant. Chastity received her Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in economics and public policy from George Washington University. She has worked in both the public and private sector, and she has a passion for helping

others achieve their goals.

Chastity is currently enrolled in the executive MBA program at Texas Woman's University, where she plans to pursue opportunities in higher education.

**American Association of University Women  
Denton Branch  
Notice of Annual Dues**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$70.00	\$ _____
(National=\$49, Student =\$18, State=\$10, Local =\$11)	
Donation Educational Foundation (\$25 Suggested)	\$ _____
Donation Legal Advocacy Fund (\$5 Suggested)	\$ _____
Donation Local Scholarship	\$ _____
 Total Enclosed	 \$ _____

*Please make your check out to AAUW-Denton Branch. Bring your completed form and dues to an upcoming meeting or mail to the address below.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_



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