



# AAUW *focus*

Newsletter of the Bowling Green, Ohio, Branch  
December 2006

<http://www.bgsu.edu/organizations/aauw/>  
[www.ohioaauw.org](http://www.ohioaauw.org)  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)



## GREAT DECISIONS SLATED TO BEGIN JAN. 20

Starting on January 20, AAUW will again present its ever-popular Great Decisions series at the Wood County Senior Center. All sessions are on Saturdays, through Feb. 24. The lectures start at 9:30 and usually end by 11 am.

January 20 SOUTH AFRICA—Prof. Patty Kubow  
South Africa is the most developed country in Africa and has been an active leader on the continent, yet is still struggles with major issues in the post-Apartheid era. What are the political challenges facing South Africa? What impact is the AIDS epidemic playing on South Africa's economy and society?

January 27 CENTRAL ASIA —Prof. Neil Englehart  
Rich in energy supplies and strategically located, the five countries of Central Asia attract attention from the Middle East, China, Russia, and the United States. How will international competition for energy supplies affect each country? What are U.S. interests in the region?

February 3 CLIMATE CHANGE --Prof. Shannon Orr  
How much are human practices contributing to substantial and irreversible changes to the environment? What effect are changes to the climate having in different areas of the planet? What response can the international community adopt to lessen the impact of dramatic climate change?

February 10 CHILDREN—Prof. Candace Archer  
Ensuring the safety and proper development of children is the stated goal of the global community, yet in some countries, children are exposed to unsafe labor practices, human trafficking, and participation in combat. What role do private donors, governments and international organizations play in ensuring health care, education and safety for the world's children?

February 17 MIDDLE EAST—Prof. Marc Simon  
Although the U.S. will remain closely engaged in Iraq during the next year, other factors have emerged to challenge stability in the region. Iran's nuclear program,

the outcome of the conflict in Lebanon, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will all play a key role. How will these issues shape the Middle East?

February 24 MIGRATION—Prof. Vinnie Gajjala  
The movement of people across international borders can be initiated by conflict, economic reasons or the chance to achieve political freedoms. Migration issues have taken center-stage in the U.S. and EU, as citizens increasingly worry about job security and terrorism. What are the advantages and disadvantages for countries that are affected by migration?

The series is coordinated by Beth Hofer, Radikha Gajjala, and Linda Dobb. We hope you will plan to come to one or more of the sessions. These are always a great way to spend a Saturday morning!!  
*[Check the article on the "You Decide!" series on page 2 to see just how worthwhile these events are!!]*



## AAUW Keys to the Future: "A Member-Get-A-Member" campaign

Research shows that the most effective way to get new members is by PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT from a current member! This campaign will focus on essential keys to AAUW's future: equity, advocacy, lifelong learning, leadership training, public policy, a diverse membership, and our unmatched legacy.

This is the way it works: EACH MEMBER IS CHALLENGED TO RECRUIT ONE PAID MEMBER BETWEEN JUNE 1, 2006 AND JUNE 15, 2007!!

Here are the rewards for recruiting a member:

- Names of recruiters on website-Hall of Fame.
- Certificate of recognition to everyone who recruits a new member.
- Exclusive 125<sup>th</sup> Logo Award Winner Lapel Pin to those who recruit five (5) new members.

And Special Incentives are:

- \$100.00 gift certificate to Amazon.com for member who brings in the most new members.
- \$50.00 gift certificate to Amazon.com for Branch with highest number of new members.
- \$50.00 gift certificate to Amazon.com for Branch that bring in highest number of new members by percentage.

- The state that brings in the highest number of new members receives an exclusive AAUW: Keys to the Future banner.
- The state that brings in the highest number of new members by percentage receives an exclusive AAUW: Keys to the Future banner.

More information is available at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)!

--Helene Weinberger and Lona Leck

## FROM THE TOP



### AAUW celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

As November 28<sup>th</sup> came and went, I had to reflect on the work of all those wonderful women who went before us for without them, many of us would still be limited by society's stereotypic role for women—maybe not “barefoot and pregnant,” but perhaps not too far removed! It astounds me that without groups like AAUW, more than half of the world's population would likely be relegated to an extremely limited life role, and with it, limited opportunities for meaningful contributions to society. If you think about what AAUW members have achieved over 125 years, it's clear we have reason to celebrate: college education for women (late 1800s), pay equity (early 1900s), help for refugees fleeing the war and the establishment of women's units of the armed services (1940s), establishment of the Committee on the Status of Women (1950s), development of community activities in support of civil rights (1960s), Title IX (1970s), legal advocacy fund for women in higher education and voter registration efforts (1980s), studies on the status of girls in U.S. schools as part of the school reform movement (1990s), and providing economic security for women through education (2005). Wow!

The current challenge? How do we let our younger women know that the fight for equity is no less important in 2006 than it was in 1881? AAUW has a rich legacy of leadership, scholarship, advocacy, and action, one that we have to place in the hands of young women emerging from our colleges and universities. Reach out to a young woman today by telling her about AAUW and how membership can enrich her life. Honor her with a free one-year membership in the Association if she is graduating in December through the *Give-a-Grad-a-Gift* program. I challenge each of us to recruit ONE member as part of the *Member-Get-A-Member*

campaign. There are many ways to honor and celebrate the legacy of 125 years of work to better the life of women: when you choose to do one, you strengthen the legacy and help pass it along to others who will, in turn, make their contributions. Give AAUW a birthday present by becoming more active in branch activities, by passing along to others information about AAUW. In this season of giving presents to those we care about, no time like the present!

--Diane Regan, Branch President

### Winter Solstice Dinner caps a successful year for EF!



Forty-four Branch members and their guests enjoyed our annual holiday dinner party at the Bowling Green Country Club, coordinated by social chairs Mary Lou Baty and Ann Light. All the goals of the evening were met: good conversation and pleasant food, live music for easy listening, and further promotion of our Branch goals in support of women in education!

In 2006 we raised a record \$2703 for EF, including donated lottery winnings from this evening's door-prize winners, \$136 from the sale of the poinsettia centerpieces [part of the lovely decorations by Mary Ellen Pratt] and a generous \$100 year-end donation from a member. This was the first time that the Branch met its EF goal, according to EF chair Evie Bachman, and this includes years when the goal was much smaller due to smaller membership. That is something worth celebrating!! Thanks to all who worked so hard and gave so generously in supporting AAUW's Education foundation.

### SHOP TILL YOU DROP—FOR THE COCOON!!



Thanks as always to AAUW members who have supported the Cocoon Shelter. For those who are interested, here is a new way to do that!

Shelter staff have created gift registries at local retail outlets to help focus the community's generosity during this holiday season. To date, we are registered at Home Depot, Target, Meijer, and Elder-Beerman.

All the registries are available online at the stores' websites, under first name Cocoon, last name

Shelter. NOTE: Home Depot's registry can only be accessed from Homedepot.com, and cannot be accessed in the store. At Target, the Cocoon list called "Wishlist," as opposed to a registry, because the only registry options they provide are for weddings or babies.

All the items for which the Cocoon is registered will be used to help those who have been victims of domestic violence.

**Spread the word!**

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*Planning ahead...*

## Put this date on your summer calendar!

**2007 AAUW National Convention**

**Phoenix, Arizona – June 29-July 2, 2007**

For details, go to:

<http://www.aauw.org/convention/Conv2007/index.cfm>



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## Renew your membership and support the AAUW mission!

There's a current dues form with the newsletter, and there also is one on our web site. These may be printed out, or you may contact Treasurer Joan Gordon.

Dues are \$63 (Association, state, branch). Any donations to the local scholarships, EF, LAF, Be Wise Camp scholarship, etc., may be added to the dues amount in your check. Indicate on the form and on your check which funds you're donating to (they're listed on the form). If you want to claim a charitable contribution deduction you must write your donation check directly to that fund, e.g. EF, and send it to the fund chairman [EF: Evie Bachman, LAF: Marilyn Ward].

--Joan Gordon, Treasurer

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[jhgordon@dacor.net](mailto:jhgordon@dacor.net)



## ¡Adelante! Book List

Descriptions of the 2006-07 reading selections are available at the Association website:

[http://www.aauw.org/community\\_programs/adelante/06.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/community_programs/adelante/06.cfm)

By selecting the "Buy the book now" links you can purchase the book online at Amazon.com with a portion of the proceeds directly benefiting AAUW.

## ✍ Seeking Writers ✍

I'm writing to invite you all to the Writers Group at the Women's Center. We meet every Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30pm in the Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall, on the BGSU campus. The Writers Group is an informal weekly gathering of writers, people who enjoy writing, and people dragged along by their writer friends. It is open to university students, faculty, and community members. In the past the Writers Group has done free writing and other writing activities using prompts, as well as informal workshops. Certainly we are always open to suggestions for writing activities and creative methods of venting! Hope to see you there!

Teresa Milbrodt

[terrian@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:terrian@bgnet.bgsu.edu)

office phone - 372-7555

## AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:** 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.

**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION / EF:** AAUW's Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women, and to foster equity and positive societal change. Send EF Contributions to Branch EF Chair Evelyn Bachman, if you want a tax deduction.

**LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND / LAF:** AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination. Send LAF contributions to Branch LAF Chair Lynn Ward, if you want a tax deduction.

### CLASSIFIEDS

**Waldenbooks**, at Woodland Mall  
A full-service bookstore.  
419-354-1397  
No charge for ordering books!

**FREE AD PLACEMENT FOR MEMBERS!!**

**Chrysalis**, a discreet all-women fitness center. Open workouts. Classes. Competitive membership rates. Senior discounts. Haskins Road at Poe, in BG. 419-352-9883.

Shop **ELDER-BEERMAN**, whose Community Day program has benefited our local scholarship fund immensely!!

## BGSU Women's Center offers great resources

Check out these links for new events, outlooks, and helpful resources:

*Women's Center home page:*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/women/index.htm>

*Brown Bag luncheon series:*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/women/Pages/brownbag.htm>

*To subscribe to the e-newsletter:*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/women/Pages/subscribe.htm>

*Women's Research Network:*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/women/Pages/wrn.htm>



**The Literature Group** gathers on the first Saturday of every month (except January and July), at noon, at Grounds for Thought. Please bring a book of your choice to review!  
--Holly Norton, literature group leader



because  
**equity**  
is  
still  
an **issue**

## The Cocoon grows its library

The Cocoon Shelter, Bowling Green's battered women's shelter, has an account in the used book section of Grounds for Thought. One can drop off



books (either print or audio), and ask that proceeds from one's sales be credited to the Cocoon Shelter's account. ALSO,

anyone with a current positive balance on another book consignment account can donate the balance to the Cocoon's account.

—Mary Krueger



[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

### 2005-06 Officers and Board

**President**—Diane Regan

**Co-VPs for Programming**—Fiona MacKinnon and Deborah Wooldridge

**Membership**—Helene Weinberger and Lona Leck

**Recording Secretaries**—

Cindy Whipple/Beth Casey

**Corresponding Secretary**—Kathleen McLaughlin

**Treasurer**—Joan Gordon

**Educational Foundation**—Evie Bachman

**Local Scholarship Fundraising**—

Betty Jean Anderson

**Legal Advocacy Fund**—Lynn Ward

**International/Global Affairs Interest Group**—

Lynn Ward

**Public Information/Publicity**—Kate Najacht

**Public Policy**—Mary Krueger

**Diversity**—Beth Hofer

**University Liaison**—Lisa Cesarini

**Social**—Ann Light and Mary Lou Baty

**Awards**—Julie Fiscus

**Newsletter**—Marcy St. John

**BE WISE Camp**—open

**By-Laws**—Mary Ellen Pratt

**Cultural Interest Group**—Margit Heskett

**Literature Interest Group**—Holly Norton

**Great Decisions Series**—Radhika Gajjala, Linda Dobb, and Beth Hofer

**21st Century Award**—Marie Johnson

**Web Manager**—Jen Sader

**Creative Writing**—Teresa Milbrodt



## ⇒2006-2007 Branch program⇐

Saturdays from Jan. 26-Feb. 23	Great Decisions Series at Wood County Senior Center, 305 N. Main. 9:30-11am.
Weds., Feb. 21	"Being Credit Smart". Speaker. BGSU Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall, noon-1pm.
Th., March 22	Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentation: "Celebrating Contributions of Outstanding Women". Speakers: JoAnn Benesler and Jane Wilson, past Ohio AAUW Presidents. Bowling Green Woman's Club, 134 N. Prospect, 6-8pm.
Fri.-Sat., Apr. 20-21	Ohio AAUW Convention in Tiffin. Since this is virtually a "local" event, do plan on attending some or all of the proceedings!
Th., May 3	Deli-Dessert and Coffee: "Supporting and Promoting Leadership". Presentation of Scholarship Winners and Installation of New Officers. Wood County Public Library, 7-9pm.
June 29-July 2	AAUW National Convention in Phoenix

### *AAUW in action...*

## **LAF: 25 Years of Fighting for Women in Higher Education**

In the late 1970s a group of women professors and coaches at Cornell University became fed up with the sex discrimination they were facing at the university. AAUW's Ithaca (NY) Branch rallied around the women providing them with financial support and volunteers as five of them began a law suit against the university, *Zahorik v. Cornell University*. The branch sought fundraising assistance from the national AAUW. As a result, in the summer of 1981, the AAUW board voted to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Elva Volbrecht, was the past president of the Ithaca branch at the time and active in strategizing how the branch could work with the national AAUW organization in supporting the so-called Cornell 11. Today she is the EF co-vice president of the Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista (CA) Branch and serves on the LAF committee of AAUW of California. She spoke with the LAF staff about her memories and hopes for LAF.

*Q: It's been 25 years since the AAUW Board of Directors voted to fund the "Cornell 11" and establish the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. At that time you were a member of the AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch, which played an integral part in this role. How does this make you feel?*

A: When the Ithaca Branch asked AAUW about serving as a flow-through for funds for the Cornell 11, we had no idea that an ongoing corporation would be formed and would still exist 25 years later. We were just a small branch in a university community, but we knew we had to help these women who had decided to fight rather than accept the decisions that had so dramatically affected their lives. Now 25 years later, I am proud, pleased, and sad that our action has led to help for more than 100 litigantssad because the fight continues over the very same issues.

*Q: What were your feelings about Zahorik v. Cornell University when you first heard the details?*

A. We understood that litigation would likely continue over an extended period and that our 11 sisters would need emotional and financial support. Hearing their stories made it impossible to ignore their request to provide a tax deductible way to raise funds. Joyce Finch, who was branch president at the time and married to a Cornell faculty member, was tireless in working with the AAUW to make our request a reality. Donna Zahorik showed great courage in serving as lead plaintiff, thereby giving her name to the case. As we came to know the plaintiffs as individuals, we developed great admiration and concern for them. Once you know someone who has decided to take on an institution, you quickly understand the emotional toll that is exacted.

*Q: What advice would you give to other AAUW branches wanting to raise awareness and funds for LAF and plaintiff support?*

A: The best way to raise awareness and funds is to hear a plaintiff speak. If the location of your branch does not allow easy access to a plaintiff, LAF has an excellent video featuring plaintiffs. When your heart is touched by a plaintiff's story, you open your empathy and your pocketbook.

*Q: Since the Cornell 11 case, how have things improved (or worsened) in the area of women's tenure at colleges and universities in the United States?*

A: It is hard to believe that in the 22 years since Cornell settled with our 11 litigants we are still fighting the same issues: tenure denial, Title IX, sexual harassment, you name it. Institutions that should be leading the way on equity still have not learned to treat

all staff members with dignity and respect.

*Q: Since 1981, LAF has contributed more than \$1.3 million in case support to over 100 cases involving individuals fighting sex discrimination in higher education. More than 80 of these cases involve tenure. What can AAUW members do to bring attention to this alarming trend?*

A: Those of us who live in university communities need to make contact with female faculty and staff. Inviting them to present branch programs is an excellent vehicle. As we work with them, we will understand their issues and can then tell their stories. For most of us, storytelling is the best path to understanding and spreading the word.

*Q: Since the Cornell 11 case, you have moved to AAUW of California. What are some of the differences in case support between California and New York?*

A: The good news is that LAF is alive and well in my “adopted” state of California and my “home” state of New York. The bad news is that LAF has to be alive and well because institutions of higher learning continue to violate the laws, and tenure and collegiality remain highly subjective areas. When I moved from Ithaca to California in 1985, LAF as a corporation was just four years old and we were still building support.

*Q: What LAF cases do you remember most?*

A: Perhaps the case we all remember best is *Kay Austen v. University of Hawaii*, which took 10 years to settle. *Susan Whittaker v. Northern Illinois University* offered support to a building service worker, a first for LAF. *Cynthia Fisher v. Vassar College* resonated with those of us who interrupted careers to raise families. *Kathleen Melez v. University of California* became personal for those of us in southern California. And now we have two wrestling cases: *Burch v. Regents of the University of California* and *Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California*. Michael Burch’s case (yep, a man) will be heard in October, and the Mansourian case is in discovery. These two cases have tremendous implications for Title IX.

*Q: How have the branches’ view of LAF cases changed throughout the years?*

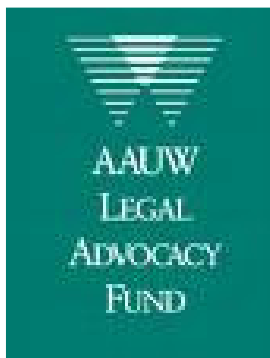
A: As we learn more about the cases LAF has supported, we understand the scope of the problems. Unfortunately, some AAUW members don’t see the need for LAF, but once you have known a plaintiff or heard a story, the need becomes all too clear. LAF and the Educational Foundation work hand-in-hand in providing opportunities for women.

*Q: Where do you see LAF going in the future?*

A: Until we live in a perfect world and equity for women and girls has been achieved, LAF will need to raise money to support litigants and campus programs that educate on equity issues and to educate our own members, university communities, and the public. To make LAF work, AAUW members have to work even harder.

*Q: What inspires you to continue supporting AAUW and LAF?*

A: In the 25 years since the members of the Ithaca Branch heard the stories of Donna Zahorik, Antonia Glasse, and the other members of the Cornell 11, I continue to hear the stories of the brave individuals who take on institutions with their corporate counsels and apparently unlimited funds. As a California taxpayer, I am offended by the use of my taxpayer dollars to fight cases in which the University of California system is clearly wrong. It is only when our hearts are touched that we are willing to support LAF and AAUW. Can I can wedo anything but offer that support?



# THE 24TH ANNUAL BOWLING GREEN AAUW AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING WOMEN

The Bowling Green Branch, in keeping with the goals of AAUW, annually makes three awards. The purpose of the awards is to make known to the community outstanding achievements of women and to increase the visibility of the Bowling Green Branch and its contribution to the advancement of women.

All members of the branch may nominate in any or all of the categories. In the case of a tie in any category, duplicate awards may be given and/or the Board may make the final selection. If you have any questions, contact Julie Fiscus, 419-352-8394 or email juliefiscus@yahoo.com. Return your nomination form no later than January 4, 2007, to Julie Fiscus, 546 Monroe Court, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 or email (above).

## CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

### THE OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE BOWLING GREEN BRANCH:

1. Shall have been a member of the Bowling Green Branch for a minimum of three years.
2. Does not have to be a board member or have been a board member in the past.
3. Has maintained interest by participating in branch activities such as committee work, special projects, interest groups and branch meetings.
4. Has made outstanding contributions to on-going branch activities and/or special projects.

### THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER (BOWLING GREEN BRANCH MEMBER):

1. Shall have been a member of the Bowling Green Branch for a minimum of three years.
2. Shall have contributed outstanding service to the community through (a) a service organization, (b) a professional organization, (c) elected office, (d) appointed office, (e) volunteer activities, or (f) a combination of the above. This service may be a result of paid or non-paid positions.
3. Shall have contributed to the enhancement of women in the community.

### THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER (NON-BOWLING GREEN BRANCH MEMBER):

1. Will not currently be a member of the Bowling Green Branch and will not have been a Bowling Green Branch member during the past three years.
2. Shall have contributed outstanding service to the community through (a) a service organization, (b) a professional organization, (c) an elective office, (d) an appointed office, (e) volunteer activities, or (f) a combination of the above. This service may be the result of paid or non-paid positions.
2. Shall have contributed to the enhancement of women in the community.

### --PREVIOUS WINNERS--

BRANCH MEMBER	LEADER-BRANCH MEMBER	LEADER, NON-MEMBER
2006 Holly Norton	Dorthea Barker	Karen Cota and Anita Serda
2005 Marcy St. John	Mary Krueger	Donna Dill
2004 Linda Dobb	Nancy Wikoff Leetch	Anne Graves
2003 Diane Regan	Joan Gordon	Elaine Paulette
2002 Joan Saldana	Ellen Dalton	Sarah Tomaschefski
2001 Evelyn Bachman	Diane Regan	Maxine Miller
2000 Nancy Wikoff Leetch	Beryl Parrish	Karen Thompson
1999 Alice Davidson	Helene Weinberger	Frances Brent
1998 Mary Lou Baty	Linda Hamilton	Adelia Peters
1997 Marilyn Ward	Ellen Dalton	Sue Kinder
1996 Jan Woodend	Pearl Oppliger	Doris Herringshaw
1995 Ruth Larabee	Joan Gordon	Marilyn Pahl
1994 Gwen Ohlinger	Ruth Larabee	Lolita Guthrie
1993 Marilyn Wentland	Becky Bhaer	Sue Clark
1992 Elfreda Rusher	Margaret Miller	Margaret Tucker
1991 Joan Gordon	Mona Clafin	Colleen Smith
1990 Marie Johnson	Virginia Platt	Pearl Oppliger
1989 Margo Skaggs	Evelyn Bachman	Joyce Kepke
1988 Ethel Spangler	Gladys Cook	Sheilah Fulton
1987 Sara Littleton	Margo Skaggs	Bertha Gleason
1986 Ann Bowers	Irene Barckert	Nancy Kinney
1985 Mary Ellen Pratt	Pat McGinnis	Amy Torgerson
1984 Beryl Parrish	Joan Gordon	Kay Sergeant

**--NOMINATION FORM--**  
**THE 24th ANNUAL BOWLING GREEN AAUW AWARDS**  
**TO OUTSTANDING WOMEN**

1. FOR *OUTSTANDING BRANCH MEMBER*, I NOMINATE:

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LIST ONE OR TWO ACTIVITIES OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR NOMINEE:

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2. FOR *OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER (BOWLING GREEN BRANCH MEMBER)*, I NOMINATE:

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LIST ONE OR TWO ACTIVITIES OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR NOMINEE:

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3. FOR *OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER (NON-BOWLING GREEN BRANCH MEMBER)*, I  
NOMINATE:

---

LIST ONE OR TWO ACTIVITIES OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR NOMINEE:

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*[Continue on the back of the sheet, if necessary.]*

RETURN THIS NOMINATION NO LATER THAN JANUARY 4, 2007 TO:

Julie Fiscus  
546 Monroe Court  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
Email: [juliefiscus@yahoo.com](mailto:juliefiscus@yahoo.com)