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Bradenton Branch

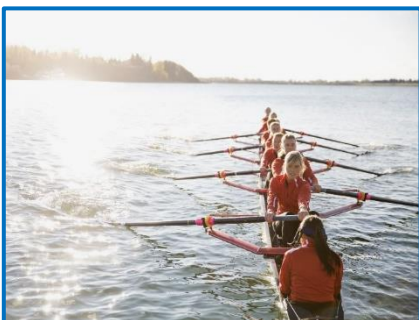
Branching Out is published monthly by the Bradenton Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#), P. O. Box 14009, Bradenton, FL 34280-4099.

President's Message

During the Olympics this summer the athletes who were experts at their moves continually needed to switch up the routines they spent years perfecting. Moves that were uniquely theirs, skills others only dreamed about, performances of a life, took on different perspectives. The panorama pivoted. But what about the goal?

This is what the Bradenton Branch must consider as our panorama continues to pivot. What do we want to accomplish this year? With the rollercoaster ride of the pandemic, the leadership team is more inclined to look local and simple in our vision for the year. We can explore new venues, projects, and interest groups, as well beginning to explore a future merger with the Manatee Branch. I continue to look forward to hearing your ideas or questions and accepting your offer to help. Please text me at 941-704-5381 or email me if you have input to share or just want to pose an idea.

Regardless of our course, it takes people to create action. We still have about a dozen members whose dues are unpaid. You can send a check for full dues (\$62) or dual branch dues (\$12) to our branch mailbox at P.O. Box 14099, Bradenton, FL 34280. If you need to make info changes include them in along with a note that you are renewing. The quickest method is to go to the Member Services Database to pay via credit card. The link is:



<https://ww3.aauw.org/resource/member-services-database/>.

Let's make some strides in supporting our mission and serving the women and girls of our community. Are you ready to pull together to bring home a mission medal?

On your mark, get set, let's row!

Marcia Hill

SAVE THE DATE

Membership Renewal - It's not too late!

Saturday, Sep 11, 10:00 am Manatee County Branch Meeting with Tech Trek representative ([see article below](#)). Please register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsduCqrDwiGdMKh2rVSMpVP6eldNlrwxr>

September - Book Group (See details below.)

Saturday, September 18, 1:00 pm – Celebration of Life for Claire Marsh (See details below.)

September 21, 6:45 pm – September Meeting (Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>)
Program: Scholarship Recipients. More information below.

Thursday, October 7, 4:00 pm – Leadership Meeting (Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>)

Tuesday, October 19, 6:45 pm – October Meeting (TBA)
Program: “Phishing Without a Pole” (How to Protect Yourself Online from Phishers, Scammers, and Hackers)

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 21

Social Time 6:45 | Program 7:00

(Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>)

PROGRAM:

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Last year we had the wonderful opportunity to meet several of our recipients due to the convenience of attending via Zoom. It was such a success, we will do it again! Be sure to zoom in to meet more of the amazing young people we sponsor through the Scholarship Foundation. Not comfortable with Zoom? That's okay! Let Marcia, one of the other officers, or a friend know, and small groups can meet and Zoom together!

You won't want to miss this one!



Scholarship Foundation News

The Bradenton Branch AAUW has given scholarships to deserving women for years. Our scholarships are awarded to women who began their education and life intervened causing a pause in that part of their life. Our applicants are now ready to revive their educational journey. They realize that education is a vital component of upward mobility for their family. We are so proud of the support we provide to help women and families. Every year, through our funds housed at the Manatee Community Foundation, we award multiple scholarships to move dreams forward.

This happens with donations and fundraising from members who value education. We have been challenged replenishing the account due to COVID. We will get back to projects but in the meantime, please donate what you can.

Make Checks Payable : BBAUW Scholarship Foundation
Mail To: American Association of University Women
BBAUW Scholarship Foundation
PO Box 14099 Bradenton, FL 34280

Elaine Graham



Claire Marsh Celebration of Life Palma Sola Botanical Park

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021
1:00 pm

Please join us to celebrate the
extraordinary life of Claire Gilmer
Marsh.



Two-Minute Activist

It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education.

Become a Two-Minute Activist

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

You provide the voice. We'll provide the megaphone.

AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.

Select a topic on which you'd like to take action.

Click on the link. **Current topics** include:

- [Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#)
- [Pass a Budget with Paid Leave & Child Care](#)
- [Pass the FAMILY Act](#)
- And more!

It's a quick and easy way to make a difference in the lives of women!



Our **Bradenton Branch AAUW** provided the funds last year (2020-2021) for two young women to attend this excellent program. For more information about Tech Trek, you may want to attend the Manatee County AAUW Branch for their meeting this month. Their special guest will share highlights of this program.

* Veronica Huzzard, president of the Manatee County AAUW Branch, has invited us to participate in their first branch meeting of the year. Special Guest, Sue Slone, will highlight the Tech Trek program sponsored by AAUW FL.

We are invited to a Zoom meeting on Saturday, Sep 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Veronica asks that we register in advance for this meeting at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsduCqrDwiGdMKh2rVSMpVP6eldNlrwxr>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



* **AAUW Florida Tech Trek Camp continues despite the COVID pandemic!!!**

The 2021 Tech Trek camp was a virtual camp held July 19-23 on a Zoom platform. Tech Trek FL engaged the services of Event Support (Olympia, WA) to manage the virtual platforms necessary to conduct a successful camp. A total of 94 students attended. It was a combination of students selected for both the 2020 camp (canceled due to the pandemic) and students selected in 2021. With the cancellation of the 2020 camp, the campers selected to attend were given the opportunity to attend the 2021 virtual camp as 8th graders rising to 9th grade. Of the 98 campers selected to attend in 2020, 45 elected to attend the 2021 Virtual Camp.

An additional 49 campers (7th graders rising to 8th grade) were selected by eleven branches to attend the 2021 camp.

All 94 campers, representing 20 branches from throughout Florida, spent an action-packed week engaged in all manner of STEM activities.

A few statistics:

- All campers receive \$750 sponsorships to attend; families pay \$25
- 55 % of campers were White, 11% African American, 16% Asian, 13% Hispanic and 6% were other.
- Five core classes (see below) Sixteen lab workshops (see below)
- Virtual field trips were offered to all campers on Friday (see below)
- Each day girls attended Professional Women's Panels featuring women from across the country who work in various STEM areas (see below)
- Our major sponsors this year were Stetson University, Qualcomm:Wireless Technology and Innovations, and NextEra Energy.

CORE CLASSES – Campers attended one core class for 2 hours each day at the camp. Campers selected their core courses on a first come, first served basis. 2021 campers attended the morning sessions and 2020 campers participated in the afternoon classes, except for Computer Science which was a morning only class.

Computer Science Discoveries: Work with various programs and learn about the computer and what resources it provides for discovery. Instructor: Ashley Woodard who is currently teaching in St. Johns County Schools. (Monday-Thursday)

Qualcomm Wearable Tech: Step-by-step instructions for setting up a microcontroller and how to use a breadboard • Hands-on coding and engineering challenges • Learn how to build an LED circuit, get it to blink and send Morse code, using a microcontroller power source • Connect a Servo motor and write code to control the motion Instructors: Tamara Payne, Taneshia Williamson and Amanda Ellis who are currently teaching in Volusia County Public Schools. (Monday-Friday)

Marine Mysteries: The class will expose you to a broad variety of topics including the general biology, anatomy and physiology of oceanic fauna ranging from tiny plankton to sharks, sea turtles and dolphins. Class will include information about career options in marine science. Hands on experiences provided. (Monday-Thursday) Instructors: Dr. Danielle Ingle who is a Post Doc Research Associate at Texas A & M University at Galveston, Dr. Jamie Knaub from Florida Atlantic University and Aubrey Clark who is a Graduate Research Assistant at Florida Atlantic University. (Monday-Thursday)

Structural Engineering: Use the engineering design process to build a tower that can withstand as much weight as possible. Campers will design 2-D blueprints which will be used to build a 3-D tower out of balsa wood. The strength of the tower will be dependent on balancing tension and compression forces. Participants will be amazed with their ability to build a tower with such strength using lightweight wood. Throughout the process, the engineers will learn proper measurement techniques, the science of engineering, and self-confidence. Instructor: Cheryl Huey who is currently a teacher in Palm Beach County Schools. (Monday- Friday)

Neuroscience: Learn basic science of the anatomy and function of the brain and nervous system. Hands on experiences including VR experiences are involved. Instructors: Dr. Nicole Baganz and Dr. Chelsea Bennice who are working in FAU's Brain Institute's ASCEND Program. (Monday-Thursday)

WORKSHOPS: A total of 16 labs workshops were offered the students. Tech Trek teachers presented a 90-minute lessons. Each camper selected one workshop each day. 2020 and 2021 campers were mixed for these sessions. Sessions were limited to 25 campers each session.

Flip Grid Fun in Action: Traci Jones--- Learn how to use this great online video discussion tool to create personalized videos of your Tech Trek experience. Videos can be recorded as many times as needed before uploading, and can have the addition of emojis, text, stickers, and drawings. Time to create videos to share with your sponsors and supporters who made this week possible for YOU! Offered Monday and Wednesday.

DNA: Dr. Becky Mercer---Explore your own DNA and how DNA is used by scientists today. Offered Monday and Tuesday.

The Brain and Learning: Cheryl Huey--- Every person's brain is unique, making them special. Are you logical and mathematical or creative and artistic? Do you prefer to learn through auditory, visual, or hands-on activities? This course is designed to study the science of learning. Campers will explore their inherent strengths with the goal of learning how to overcome their weaknesses. Join us as we explore our brains through fun and engaging activities.

Exercise Science and Group Fitness: Harlee Goodfriend--- Girls will learn the difference between cardiovascular, muscle endurance, strength and flexibility training. Opportunity to apply the information by taking a hybrid style, multi-level, group exercise class, combining cardio dance, zumba, barre and vertical pilates. Offered Monday and Thursday.

My Place in Space: Jennifer Hamilton---How big is the solar system? What do constellations really look like? What is my place in space? We will look at scale models of the solar system, discuss if astrology really works, and understand how the stars are positioned. Offered Tuesday and Thursday.

Bullet Journal: Leslie Grossman--- Learn simple techniques that will help you organize all the important things in life. Regardless of who you are, where you are, your age or even your profession... You WILL learn to make the most of your day/week/month using these tips.

Chemistry Lab at Home: Jackie Foti-- -Campers will take part in various chemistry experiments at home. Do the experiment and learn why it happens. Offered Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rube Goldbergs Galore!: Kelly Homa--- Girls will review and utilize the sciences that make a Rube Goldberg machine work. They use a complicated series of actions to simply move an object from one place to another. Combine these concepts to

create a machine to complete a simple task using laws of physics and energy for a whole lotta fun!!

Stop We're Animating: Ashley Woodard-- -Girls will be introduced to the basic skills required for creating Stop Animation Movies. They will then develop a script, storyboard, characters, and setting for a 30 second public service announcement. Girls will produce their own animations.

Hurricane Heroes: Kristin Hanshaw--- Attention heroes, Florida is in need of some super scientists and engineers. Your mission? Design a protective barrier to help fend off storm surges and protect our beautiful home.

Astrophysics: Dr. Mel Nynka--- Learn what it takes to build a satellite from the ground up from a working astrophysicist.

FIELD TRIPS: With a virtual camp, virtual field trips were in order for 2021. Campers chose from the field trips offered based upon their core course schedule.

1. **Environmental Resource Management Palm Beach County**--GPS and mapping (unlimited Participants)
2. **Adventures at the South Florida Science Center:** Brain in Action & Chemistry Concoctions. (25 Participants)
3. **Toyota Teen Drive 365 On Demand: The Engineering Behind Safety** (25 Participants) Offered twice
4. **Loggerhead MarineLife Center** (25 Participants)
5. **NextEra Energy Solar and Wind Power Field Trip** (25 Participants)
6. **Brookhaven Lab: Accelerator Science Program** explores charged particles and nuclear acceleration (25 Participants)

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S PANEL: Moderated by Pat Ross
Monday through Thursday all campers and staff were invited to attend a virtual professional women's panel moderated by Pat Ross. Women from across the country were able to participate since the sessions were virtual. Campers were encouraged to ask questions. On Friday two guest speakers from Qualcomm spoke to the camp.

- Monday: **Women in Science**
 1. **Dr. Marianne Porter** - marine biologist FAU
 2. **Dr. Ilaria Drago** – researcher Max Planck
 3. **Dr. Jill Barabas** – Hoof & Horn Veterinary (large animals)
 4. **Dr. Melania Nynka**—Research Scientist, MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space and Science
 5. **Dr. Andrea Levin**—Pharmacy Professor at Nova Southeastern University
- Tuesday: **Women in Technology**
 1. **Daksha Chokshi** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
 2. **Rachel Weeks**—Systems Test Engineer, United Launch Alliance

3. **Savannah Bell**—Sr. Software Engineer, Medtronic (robotic surgery)
 4. **Melissa Zhdankin**--Electromagnetic Technologies, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation
- Wednesday: **Women in Engineering**
 1. **Lourdes Avellano** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
 2. **Marina Santarpia** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
 3. **Christina Yero**-- Civil Engineer, Design and Construction Engineering and Inspection for Roads and Bridges.
 4. **Diana Rivera**--Civil Engineer in water and wastewater engineering; specifically water chemistry
 - Thursday: **Women in Mathematics**
 1. **Laryssa Ryback**—Market Risk Management
 2. **Corrinne Clarke**—statistician Oncology Program Manager
 3. **Kate Ballard**-- statistician at NASA Langley
 4. **Jamie Wingfield**—Ameriprise Finance Advisor
 - Friday: **Women from Qualcomm** - Luna Hu and Lily Yip

FUNDRAISING: Under the guidance of Fundraising Coordinator Sally Bailey AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. has raised the funds to provide Tech Trek Camp each year since 2013. Funds have come from branches, individuals (members and non-members), businesses and corporations, community and family foundations.. AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc received a \$2000 grant from AAUW in 2021 to assist with technical support for the virtual camp. They also received a grant for \$10,000 from Stetson University which was used to pay for supplies. NextEra Energy provided the field trip and solar energy rover constructed by the campers free of charge for Tech Trek. Qualcomm provided their Thinkabit Lab training and some supplies for the Wearable Tech workshop as well as \$5000 from AAUW FL. The AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. greatly appreciates all support for Tech Trek Camp.

AAUW Florida
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techtrekfl16@gmail.com

For more information about AAUW Florida contact:
Patricia DeWill, AAUW Florida President: aauwfldewitt@gmail.com

[Visit our website](#)



New post on AAUW Advocacy in Florida

Pat DeWitt, President of AAUW Florida, writes a blog for **AAUW Advocacy in Florida** that you can access on the state AAUW website. Below is the August 2021 entry. You can follow it on Facebook or sign up to receive it as an email. Check out <https://aauw-fl.aauw-net> for more information from our state officers.

Equity in Education: Be Vigilant

by [Pat DeWitt](#)

If you are an AAUW member, you probably proclaim that you are interested in education. Perhaps you give money for scholarships. Now is the time for you to take an interest in the actual content of education in the context of AAUW's policy of equity in education. Governor DeSantis approved new civics education standards that exclude discussion of systemic racism and promote, in my opinion, what we used to call "jingoism". Equity calls for the stories of previously excluded people to be taught.

The Florida Department of Education's fear of dangerous ideas goes way back. When I was in high school in Gainesville Florida, the state decided that perhaps we should learn something about communism, a very dangerous idea that we might fall victim to if it were taught indiscriminately. So they produced a movie series that seniors were allowed to watch in the auditorium, called "Americanism versus Communism". Now might be a good time for the state to produce another video series, "Americanism versus Critical Race Theory". After all, who knows what kids might pick up on the outside that might suggest to them that the promises of liberty and justice for all really did not apply to everyone?

Instead, they have produced a new [civics education curriculum](#) that is quite rigorous in its promotion of an absolutely laudatory understanding of all American institutions and practices. The student is to understand the advantages of limited government, capitalism, and the influence of Hebraic and Christian religion on America's founding ideas. The words "slave" and "slavery" are not found in the standards. The word "native" is found only in a context that praises the government for granting rights to Native Americans, among other "groups". Any fault in granting civil rights to these groups was remedied: "Explain how the principles contained in foundational documents contributed to the expansion of civil rights and liberties over time." Much attention is paid to those foundational documents, but no mention is made of the Constitution's compromises that perpetuated slavery and denied rights to women. In my graduate work I learned the maxim that it is the victors who write the histories. We cannot allow the political victors to write, for their own benefit, the history that students will learn in school. We have scholars and journalists nowadays who are willing to dig and learn the histories of people who were left out of official accounts. Florida Rep. Ramon Alexander (D-8)

collected a list of ten "[pieces of factual Florida history](#)" that have been left out: slavery and the role of enslaved laborers in building our monuments, systematic racism (Jim Crow, redlining, mortgage discrimination), two destroyed towns, and examples of lynchings and vigilante retaliation. One example of the latter, the Jacksonville Ax Handle Saturday "riot," has recently been the subject of reexamination and apology from the Times-Union for its biased coverage of the events in 1960.

I urge all AAUW members and others who are concerned with equity in education to be alert to potential negative impacts from the new standards. Watch particularly for disciplinary actions taken against teachers who may defy the restrictive standards and try to teach what actually happened: to tell the stories that were suppressed or deceptively reported. And support teachers who promote actual critical thinking rather than acceptance of dogma.

[Pat DeWitt](#) | August 24, 2021 at 12:20 pm |



Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups are not meeting regularly yet.

Would you like to start a new one?

Here are some ideas...

Museums/Galleries/Lunch Out?

Bridge? Financial Literacy?

Any idea could work!

Contact Marcia Hill if you want to start something fun!

August Birthdays

Nan Rankin - IL

Phyllis Omilak - SC

September Birthdays

Ann Marie McShea - NY



The Book Group will be starting again in September and reading *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. We invite new members to join us then.

This has been an enjoyable year for our members as we read many interesting books and enjoyed meeting outside to discuss them.

For information, call Carolyn Reynolds at 941-0720-6575.



Bradenton Branch Leadership

National AAUW: <http://www.aauw.org/>

Florida AAUW: <http://aauwfl.aauw.net/>

Bradenton Branch Website: <http://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

Bradenton Branch Board Approved

via Email Vote in June 2021-2022

President: Marcia Hill mshanerhill@gmail.com

Secretary: Fay Murphy faymurph@aol.com

Treasurer: Sandra Stone sstone101654@gmail.com

President Elect: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

Director for Program: Judy Griffin jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director for Communications: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

Scholarship Foundation Board President – Elaine Graham: ebebeg@aol.com

Scholarship Information: aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Book Club: Carolyn Reynolds: 941-720-6575

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