



Empowering Women As Leaders "The Dream Maker Report"

Fall 2008

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Upcoming Events

Membership Kickoff Event EWL invites you to kick off the holiday season with a fabulous champagne tasting at the elegant Brut, A Champagne Boutique.

Sample three champagnes / sparkling wines, followed by a complimentary glass of bubbly. (Additional champagne/sparkling wine available for purchase).

Then enjoy a brief presentation by two women, who will share how EWL has helped them realize their dreams. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to network

EWL Reaches More Stars

Four years ago this October, one woman's dream was launched with the help of other caring, talented and encouraging women and Empowering Women as Leaders (EWL) was born. Today, prior to selecting our Star candidates for '09, we can proudly boast that we have soared beyond our early aim by providing scholarships to ten women over a three-and one-half year period. Quite an amazing start! An achievement that would not be possible without the continual support of you, our supportive members, and our ever-conscientious board. Beyond that, we have now even acquired a wonderful corporate partner—First Community Bank.

But Wait There's Even More Good News....

While our original relationship with Texas Woman's University continues strong, we are excited to report that our efforts have now expanded to another Texas location—Beaumont, Texas, the birthplace of our founder, Carolyn Pineda, who has recently moved back to her hometown.

The Beaumont chapter has been formed with the support of area women who have a great passion for supporting other women. To date the chapter consists of 15 members, and, enough funds have already been raised to be able to establish a scholarship for one Star. Carolyn has established a relationship with Lamar University, her old alma mater where she graduated with a degree in Math and Computer Science. The Beaumont chapter will be working with Lamar this fall to establish a partnership and scholarship process and intends to be ready to select the first Star in the spring of 2009.

As EWL continues to grow and help other non-traditional women to achieve a newfound dream of their own, we continue to be grateful to all of you who continue to help make dreams come true.

Founder in the News

Our founder, Carolyn Pineda, was recently featured in Smore for Women, a newsletter for Spiritual Ministry Offering Retreats and Encouragement . Click on the link read the story: [One Woman's Story of Leadership in the Workforce](#)



Star Spotlight

"The mentoring and exposure to this group of professional women has provided me strength, encouragement and the ability for me to ask for help. I say strength because I am not alone in my journey through my

with other professionals and make a difference in the lives of other women by joining EWL.

business endeavors or life. I have other women supporting me the whole way up! They are teachers for the real world.”

Those are the grateful words from EWL Star Vanessa White whom we supporter through her junior and senior year at TWU. Vanessa graduated Cum Laude with a BFA in Photography with Business Degree in the spring of 2006. But, that is just the beginning.

With a gifted eye for photography, Vanessa’s love for art has merged with her practical realization that earning a steady income was necessary to “pay the bulls” while she pursued her real passion to build a business in photography.

Because Vanessa loves children, she has found the past two years working as a teacher’s aid with 6th to 8th grade students at Brairhill Middle School’s Special Education Department to be very fulfilling. Plus, she has been able to teach private art lessons twice weekly to Home School students to supplement her income. Fortunately, Vanessa has also had the loving support of her police officer husband, Kevin Doucent, as she continues to pursue her ultimate dream. She says she especially appreciates the fact that he understands when she suddenly awakes in the middle of the night with a vision of yet another image she must capture.

Capturing unique and captivating photos is what Vanessa loves most. And, her eye for art is excellent. Yet her greatest challenge was to determine how to begin showcasing her work; a task that seemed almost overwhelming until she broke it down into small steps. Vanessa chose Grapevine, Texas, as that beginning market and she literally began taking small steps by boldly cold calling at shops in this growing community. She literally began knocking on doors throughout Main Street. Miraculously it worked. “I was amazed at how people reacted so positively to my work,” Vanessa said. “Everyone was so open to seeing me and they also gave me advice on how best to handle the business transaction side as well.” And, of course, she also credits the support of her EWL mentor, Leigh Ober for her help in coaching her and, “Most importantly, helping me make the necessary steps to leave my past insecurities in the past so that I can move forward in my photography career.”

Today Vanessa is showcasing her work in a variety of Grapevine venues including art galleries, specialty shops and even the Convention Center. Vanessa’s work can be seen at the following Grapevine locations:

Su Vino Winery
120 S. Main Street

Blue Moon Gallery
412 S. Main Street

Stems Unique Arrangements and Gifts
417 S. Main Street

Grapevine Main Street Art Gallery
121 S. Main Street

Upcoming: Visitor Services and Information Center, Old Town Train Station. Vanessa will display ten train images in the center's new building, projected to be completed within the next year.



Sabre hosts Tasty Event

Women from Sabre have long supported EWL and this fall, Jeannette Frick of Sabre hosted a chocolate lovers Wine and Chocolate Tasting at her Party House in Grapevine, Texas. Guests, members and Stars attended this lovely evening and thanks to Jeanette's generous underwriting of this event, EWL raised \$575.00 and enrolled or re-enrolled 5 members. We can't thank Jeanette enough for her wonderful support and tremendous generosity!

EWL founder, Carolyn Pinada, inspired guests with her story of returning to college at age 25 and eventually becoming a vice president for a fortune 500 company. The other treat for guests was when four of our Stars addressed the group, explaining how EWL's mentoring and financial support has helped them to accomplish their educational goals and shape their careers. Of particular note from the Stars was their expression of how incredibly important the mentoring has been in impacting their lives. Our EWL program is unique in this regard in that all of our Stars not only receive financial help, but mentoring by one of our board or active members. In many ways, the Stars feel that this part of our program ends up being the most important part of our program for them.

Speaking of the integral part mentoring plays in helping our Stars to achieve their dreams, we are always looking for committed mentors. If you would like to play this important role in one of our Stars life, please contact board member Leigh Ober at lcober@msn.com.

Community to help expand EWL Community

The newest major supporter of EWL is First Community Bank, an independent bank with more than 40 locations throughout the state of Texas. Redonna Higgins, Executive Vice President, will coordinate the bank's support through its Women's Advisory Boards. To date support efforts are being coordinated to establish chapters in Dallas, Waco and Houston. Each chapter will provide

support for scholarships in the respective communities. This is an extremely exciting partnership for EWL and one that we will continue to give you information on as these chapters begin to take form. In the meantime, isn't it wonderful to know there's a bank that is so supportive of women? If there's a branch near you, check them out.



Share the Good News

If you know friends or colleagues who share our passion for supporting the education of non-traditionally aged women, please forward this newsletter to them. We'd love for them to join us.

For more information about EWL or to be contacted about membership, contact one of our Membership Directors [Holly Church](#), [Amy Stewart](#), or [LaDawn Conway](#).

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Making Education Dreams Come True for Non-Traditionally-Aged Women