

# Dr. Margaret K. Bass Named Agent Of Change

POTSDAM - For more than 20 years, AAUW has biennially honored a St. Lawrence County woman whose work as employer, employee or volunteer is noteworthy in one or all of these three areas: her work has advanced the cause of women's rights; her work exemplifies the importance of equity for women; her work has brought about significant change in the community.

It is with great honor that the AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch announces the 2011 AAUW Agent of Change is Margaret Kent Bass of Canton.

Dr. Bass came to St. Lawrence in 1993 as an assistant professor of English and director of multicultural affairs in 1993. She left in 1995 to teach at the University of Iowa, returning in 2000.

AAUW will present Dr. Bass with her award their fall membership meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Unitarian Universalist Church, East



**DR. MARGARET KENT  
BASS**

Main Street, Canton.

A potluck dinner will be followed by the branch meeting and presentations. Members and the public are welcome to attend. Bring a dish to pass and your tableware, or just come for the program at 6:30 pm.

Dr. Bass is now an associate professor of English and

Caribbean and Latin American Studies at St. Lawrence University. She is also interim vice president and dean of Student Life and Co-Curricular Education.

In addition to overseeing the university's student life programs, she also oversees the Higher Education Opportunity Program, Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, McNair Scholar program, Presidential Diversity Scholar program and Jeffrey Campbell Fellows program.

Dr. Bass is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education; a trail blazer for women's rights, an advocate for racial justice, and a modern day Sojourner Truth for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) rights. She is the first to take a stand, to offer her voice and influence for those who might not be heard.

Dr. Bass embodies, through words and deeds, care for community and a commitment to change. She has

being an agent of change on campus and in the larger community of the North Country, pushing the area to be more diverse in every single sense.

She started the SLU faculty Caucus of Color 10 years ago, seeing the need for colleagues to find a safe place to express themselves. She also made a successful effort to diversify the SLU student body, particularly during her time as an interim dean of Student Life when she fostered a cooperative, diversified and productive atmosphere at St. Lawrence University.

Dr. Bass has always assisted students from various ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds in making a smooth transition to college life in the north country.

She has worked with student organizations/groups in developing multicultural programming, has provided leadership training for cultural groups, has advised the Black Women's Residence, has

worked in the development and programming of Presidential Diversity Scholars, has provided constant support for gay, lesbian and transgender students and organizations on campus in particular and in the north country in general.

Ms. Bass has also devoted herself to diversify the student body and the faculty of the four colleges of St. Lawrence County. She has influenced the institutions of Higher Education and helped us to understand what is needed in order to find, to bring, support, and retain a diverse pool of professionals.

Ms. Bass served as convener and chair at various iterations of the Associated Colleges attempt to support diversity in the region, as well as for the SLU grant that helped at least a dozen faculty members of diverse background to work towards attaining tenure in our institutions, and find mentors outside their immediate depart-

ments or institutions.

AAUW has always had her support; we have been able to count on her work to advance our causes and our mission. The AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch is proud to name Margaret Kent Bass its 2011 Agent of Change Award.

Membership in the St. Lawrence County Branch is open to anyone who supports the mission of AAUW. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW's commitment to educational equity is reflected in its public policy advocacy, community programs, leadership development, conventions and conferences, national partnerships, and international connections.

For more information about AAUW locally, contact President Becky Gerber at 268-9957 or gerberrl@potdam.edu or Public Policy Chair Kathleen Stein at 386-3812, or kstein1@twcny.rr.com.