

AAUW Wilmington Branch Bulletin

Dr. Stephanie Wright and husband, Brian, in front of the Charles Parks Exhibit



On November 21, 14 members of AAUW Landmarks ventured to Smyrna, Delaware, to visit the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation. Aimed at furthering STEM education in Delaware, DASEF is designed to help students become familiar with Earth and its place in the universe.

Guided by the belief, “Wisdom begins with wonder,” president and CEO Dr. Stephanie Wright founded the non-profit DASEF in 1989. In recognition of her achievements, Dr. Wright received the Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Education Award from the National Science Teachers Association in 2012. In October, she was inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame for her untiring efforts to get DASEF off the ground and for continuing its expansion and growth.

We toured the observatory with its 16-inch telescope maintained by Brian Wright, Stephanie’s husband. Also featured on the tour was The Innovation Technology Exploration Center (ITEC) a large learning center completed on the exterior, but unfinished on the three interior floors. Dr. Wright stated that no work is initiated unless there is sufficient money to pay for it, so sections of the ITEC will be completed only when money becomes available. Her optimism and belief in her goals assure it will be completed. In front of the learning center is a striking Charles Parks’ exhibit of five children and some endangered species on a six-foot globe within electron rings.