



Branching Out

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Tahlequah (OK) Branch Newsletter

October
13/Fall/2008

President's Message

If you missed the September program, you missed a treat. Irene Wickham did a great job of presenting the program, "Where The Girls Are." We learned that girls' successes don't come at boys' expense; on average, girls' and boys' educational performance has improved; and understanding disparities by race/ethnicity and family income level is critical to understanding girls' and boys' achievement. The results of the research put to rest fears of a "boys' crisis" in education, demonstrating that girls' gains have not come at boys' expense. Overall, educational outcomes for both girls and boys have generally improved or stayed the same.

The topic of the upcoming meeting at the Tahlequah Public Library (5:30) on October 16 will be "Woman to Woman Voter Turnout." We also will be making plans for the upcoming Tour of Homes. Yearbooks will be available if you have not picked yours up.

Have a great month and I hope to see all of you at the October 16 meeting!

Jeanna Wing
AAUW Tahlequah Branch President

Meet Rashi Bahri: Talk Show Host

Meet Rashi Bahri: Talk Show Host, Screenplay Writer, Producer, Director, October 10, 2008, by mandytoomey

I remember once, after a knock-down, drag-out battle about whether or not I should take a year off of college to travel the west coast — my corner said yes and my parents' corner said no way — my dad stayed up all night and wrote a small-novel length e-mail explaining his position and concluding that he supported my decision either way. I moved to the West Coast, but I did it on a one-year university exchange program, the perfect compromise between my goals and my parents' wishes.

My interview with Rashi Bahri, a 2002-03 International Fellow, reminded me how important family support can be. Over the past two years, Rashi has written two screenplays: one Indian wedding film inspired by her own family and one supernatural thriller set in India and the United States. She attributes her success to the support of her family.

"[My family] gets excited about my projects, and I don't want to let the family down. Their support and trust is my driving factor."

This "driving factor" has taken Rashi far since her early twenties when she worked as a national talk show host in Delhi, India. As host of Morning with Celebrities and Subah Savere, Rashi met and interviewed many famous Indian celebrities, but she wasn't happy in this position. She wanted to direct. To make this happen Rashi had two choices: she could either go to Bombay to study under a prestigious filmmaker or she could move to the United States to begin film school.

Rashi chose film school and applied for and was awarded a fellowship from AAUW. This fellowship was in large part used to make the short film Sarah (visit <http://www.rashibahri.com/> and click on the Director tab to view some of Rashi's work).

The money was used for shooting and production costs such as sound, lighting, etc. While this short film is not directly based on personal experience, the Indian director said she feels she is "more sensitive to women's issues and can relate to this experience a woman could have during her childhood."

After graduating from film school, Rashi wanted to try out Hollywood to see "if what we were taught in film school was true." She quickly landed a production job for a company contracted by Discovery Channel, Warner Brothers, and Lifetime, among others. However, Rashi claimed her biggest accomplishment was getting the two screenplays, which she is now marketing in India and the United States, ready for the market. Selling and directing the films are ambitious goals, as was writing two screenplays in two years, but with her family behind her, Rashi is able to forge ahead.

With my family behind me, I am beginning my journey to complete my master's degree. With their support I will be following Rashi's advice. "If you have a dream, you owe it to yourself to give it your best shot." And to my mom and dad, thanks for all your continued love and support.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS by Irene Wickham, EF Chair

The upcoming "Homes For The Holidays" tour is our major fund raiser for the Educational Foundation. Each year the Tahlequah branch makes a significant contribution to support this important division of AAUW. In the past, our branch and members of our branch have received grants which have brought these contributions back to Tahlequah. If you have a project that needs funding, look at the opportunities that are available and apply for one of these grants!

Deadlines for the following grants and fellowships are coming up soon:

Plaintiff Travel Grants - Deadline: October 15, 2008

The grants help states and regions increase knowledge of the Legal Advocacy Fund and equity issues in higher education and to raise funds supporting LAF by bringing together AAUW members and women whose cases are being supported by the fund. The EF Board chooses states or regions to receive grants for plaintiff travel to their spring state conventions and regional conferences. Grants are made for plaintiff's air travel for to event sites. Costs of room and meals may be included if funds permit.

Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award - Deadline: November 1, 2008

Established in 1989, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award honors an individual, project, organization, or institution for outstanding contributions to equity and education for women and girls. The award is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, educational and research contributions, and legal and legislative work in equity for

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women and girls. The recipient need not be an educator. The award includes an honorarium of \$5,000 plus travel expenses to attend the AAUW National Convention.

Campus Action Projects - Deadline: November 7, 2008

The Campus Action Projects (CAP) enables student leaders and campus faculty to design and implement effective programs that enhance campus offerings, promote leadership, and improve academic and career outcomes.

AAUW Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

2008-2009 CAP Topic - "Where the Girls Are: Promoting Equity for All Women and Girls"

American Fellowships –

Deadline: November 15, 2008

Postdoctoral Research Leave

Fellowship - \$30,000

Dissertation Fellowship - \$20,000

Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grant - \$6,000

* Postdoctoral fellowships are available in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

* Dissertation Fellowships are available to women who will complete their dissertation writing between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

* Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grants fund Women College and university faculty and independent researchers to prepare research for publication.. Applicants may be tenure track, part-time, or temporary faculty or new or established scholars and researchers at universities.

More information about any of these opportunities: www.aauw.org

Supreme Court Hears Harassment Case October 9, 2008, by Ieciaimbery

Monday marked the first day of the U.S. Supreme Court's new term. During this term, the court will hear cases covering a number of important issues, including employment discrimination, free speech, Title IX, voting rights, and access to the courts.

Yesterday the court heard the oral arguments for a significant sexual harassment case, Crawford v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. Vicky Crawford, an employee of the Nashville Metro School District, was asked by her employers to cooperate with an internal investigation of sexual harassment allegations made against her boss. Crawford was later fired and believes she was terminated in retaliation for substantiating the sexual harassment allegations under investigation. While Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 contains an anti-retaliation provision, two lower courts narrowly interpreted the law and found that an internal investigation is not protected by Title VII. If this ruling is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, it will set a bad precedent, creating a gaping hole in Title VII's coverage. While all employees will be harmed, women will be particularly at risk because the decision's greatest impact will be on sexual harassment cases.

AAUW signed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in support of the plaintiff in March 2008. The brief presents social science research that demonstrates that psychological and social factors pressure victims of sexual harassment to discount and remain silent about the discrimination. Denying protection against retaliation will make it even more difficult for women to tell their employers about harassment, hindering the discovery and elimination of sex discrimination and compounding the harm to victims of harassment. AAUW will be watching the case deliberations carefully.

Many recent Supreme Court cases have been decided by 5-4 rulings, reiterating the importance of each high court justice and of those officials elected to nominate and confirm the justices. AAUW's presidential and vice presidential voter guides lists the candidates' stances on federal judicial nominations. The confirmation of extremist, activist judges to the federal bench

undermines a fair and balanced judiciary and could turn back the clock on decades of progress for women and girls. You can read AAUW's position paper on federal judicial nominations and visit AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund Resource Library for more information.

Which cases are you following closely this term?

Calendar

OCTOBER

October 16th, 5:30 p.m.

Program: "Woman to Woman Voter Turnout"

Place: Vidalia's Café

NOVEMBER

November 20th, 5:30 p.m.

Program: "Global Connections - One Shared World"

Place: Vidalia's Café

DECEMBER

December 14th, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Program: "Homes for the Holidays" Tour

(Fundraiser for Educational Foundation and local needs)

December 18th, 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Party - Bring Treats

Place: Home of Jeanna Wing

BRING ITEMS FOR HELP-IN-CRISIS

JANUARY

January 15th, 5:30 p.m.

Program: Movie Night: "Iron Jawed Angels"

Place: NSU

FEBRUARY

February 19th, 5:30 p.m.

Bunco - LAF Fundraiser

Place: To Be Determined: Potluck Dinner

MARCH

Date To be announced

Legislative Day at the Capitol

Place: State Capitol

March 19th, 5:30 p.m.

Women's History

APRIL

April 16th, 5:30 p.m.

Mentees Presentation

Place: Cherokee Heritage Center

Promoting education and equity for all women and girls.

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AAUW Education Foundation	foundation@aauw.org
Fellowships and Grants (for applicants only)	aauw@act.org
AAUW Oklahoma Division	http://www.aauwoklahoma.org
AAUW Tahlequah Branch	http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~aauw/

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

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