

The
Membership Voice
of Zonta
International

ZONTIAN

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

CONVENTION 2008 ROTTERDAM



THE ZONTIAN

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

Trafficking Position Paper Now Available

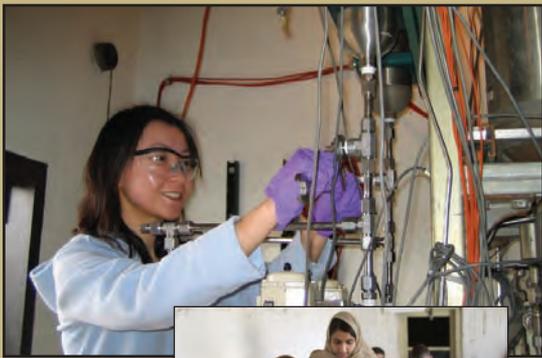
Zonta International has released a position paper, *Trafficking of Women and Girls*. For more information about the position paper and how to use it in your advocacy efforts, turn to page 13. The position paper, along with resource materials on trafficking, can be found on the Zonta International Web site at: [Member Resources / Service and Advocacy](#).

2008 Zonta International Convention Rotterdam

Information on the Zonta International Convention in Rotterdam, **27 June - 2 July 2008**, can be found on the Convention Web site at www.zonta2008.com. You can also access the Convention Web site from the Member Resources page of the Zonta International Web site.

Zonta Store Sale

From now until **31 March 2008**, there is a sale on select items in the Zonta Store. Access to the Zonta Store is a member benefit and only available to Web site registered members. To visit the Store, log on to the Zonta International Web site at www.zonta.org and click on **Zonta Store** in the upper right corner.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Olivia Ferry

*“I am excited about
Rotterdam.
Aren’t you?”*

My Fellow Zontians:

In nine months, you and I will converge in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to hold the 59th International Convention. You and I will need to work smart to get through the stimulating Zonta program in five days, one day less than recent Zonta Conventions.

We will receive Biennial reports, decide by-laws changes, elect our leaders and learn our goals for the next Biennium. We will listen to interesting speeches and interact and share our ideas with fellow Zontians following the Convention theme: *Global Empowerment through Local Action*. We will have a good time meeting old friends and developing new ones and will “Go Dutch” in homes of fellow Zontians and colleagues in the service community.

Our Opening Ceremony keynote speaker is Akua Kuenyehia, a Zontian from Ghana who is presently First Vice President and Judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner on Competition, will speak to us about the status of women in the western world, while Thea Hilhorst, a professor of humanitarian aid and reconstruction, will tackle the subject of women in the developing world. Thanks to our sponsors and supporters, we will be able to enjoy the music of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, visit the St. Laurens Church where we are all invited by the Lord Mayor for a welcome reception to the City, and dine with representatives of top Dutch corporations while learning about their service and diversity programs.

In Rotterdam, our eyes will feast on the beautiful architecture of the city as we marvel at the rich history and magnificent beauty of neighboring towns and cities. I am excited about Rotterdam. Aren’t you?

This issue of *The Zontian* magazine focuses on education – the single most powerful way to eliminate gender discrimination and to empower women. Girls’ and women’s education has been expanding all over the world, and while many nations harness the energy of key stakeholders for a sustained campaign to improve the quality and availability of girls’ and women’s education, progress has not been fast enough. The pace needs to be scaled up through proven interventions and the application of transformative measures that will not only help bring more girls to school and expand the training opportunities for women, but will also improve the education environment for them and provide them with life-long quality training and education.

Of the 77 million children left out of school each year, more than half are girls. Illiteracy among women occurs twice as often as among men. In developing countries, 75% of the children not in primary school have uneducated mothers. Yet, research and experience have shown that educating women and girls is a major influencing factor in poverty reduction, increasing economic productivity and improving family life.

The second Zonta position paper focuses on education, specifically concentrating on the issue of women and girls’ access to math, science and technology education. Education plays a particularly important role as a foundation for girls’ development, instrumental as it is in closing gender gaps so that girls and women can have equal opportunities to live full and productive lives, achieve

Continued on page 12

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Zontians and Friends of Zonta,

In June, as we reached the halfway point in the Biennium, the 2007-2009 Foundation Board met for the first time. Our first order of business was to elect our officers and second was to extend our deep appreciation to outgoing President Anne Silvester, Vice President Irene Wiese-von Ofen and Directors Amy Lai and Jacquelyn Sammons who served the Foundation well over the past four years.

With a challenging fundraising goal to be completed for the Biennium, the sale of Zonta's Headquarters building and the purchase of new office space for our Zonta home (see "A Special Message" on page 5), and the important responsibility of planning an Endowment Campaign in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Zonta International, we have a full agenda for our next two years. To help us, we have new development and finance committees with lots of expertise and experience (visit the Web site for a complete list of committee members).

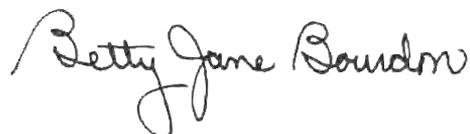
The feature article in this issue of *The Zontian* highlights the problems of access to education for women and girls. Zontians have been addressing this concern for over 69 years, with the establishment of our Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program in 1938. With the awards presented to our 2007 Fellows (see page 10), we have now provided more than US\$7 million for 1,192 fellowships. We are pleased that with the 2008 Fellowships, the award will increase from US\$6,000 to US\$10,000. This means the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund is more important than ever and needs your support. Help Zonta make a real improvement in the lives of these dedicated, intelligent women at a time when help is most needed.

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and Young Women in Public Affairs programs have added to our efforts to bring gender equality to education. The YWPA application materials for 2008 have recently been added to the Web site. In August, I had the privilege to personally present the YWPA Award to one of the five international recipients. She told us of her future goals – what an inspiring young woman! She also explained how the financial award will help her purchase a new computer for use at college. How thrilled the club members were to know this. Because they cared enough to get involved with the YWPA program, they made college a little easier for a dedicated young woman and future Zontian. Involve your club in this important program and add to Zonta's global influence in this area.

We should not forget that our International Service Projects often address access to education for women and girls as well. For example, supporting schools for women and girls in Afghanistan, HIV/AIDS education for women in Niger and education opportunities for girls in Bolivia – all projects you will be hearing more about in the upcoming months.

By the time this goes to press, we will have less than eight months to complete the achievement of our fundraising goals for the Biennium. We are optimistic that at Convention in Rotterdam next June, we will be reporting and celebrating our success and recognizing you for your participation. Please join us as we work together to improve the lives of women around the globe.

With sincere appreciation,



Betty Jane Bourdon

*"We are optimistic
that at Convention
in Rotterdam
next June, we will
be reporting and
celebrating our
success . . ."*

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Dear Zontians:

In the life of any organization there are pivotal times that require thoughtful and forward-thinking strategic decisions.

Zonta's Headquarters building has served us well for more than 20 years; however, with the use of modern technology, business process outsourcing, and the need for less staff, we now have more space than required for efficient operation. The present positive commercial real estate climate in Chicago and the desirable West Randolph Street area makes this an opportune time to consider selling our building. We have reached one of those pivotal times in the life of our organization and after careful research we find that selling our building would allow us to purchase a more up-to-date office condominium in an appealing area of downtown Chicago.

After considering these many factors, the decision to sell and also to purchase an office condominium has been approved by the Boards of Zonta International Foundation, the building owner, and Zonta International, the building occupant. The foresight and commitment of many Zontians since 1986 allow us to take this step forward.

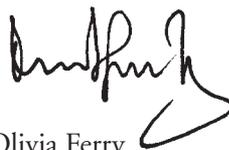
We have begun this process. We will provide Zonta members with periodic updates on our progress through the Zonta International Web site (www.zonta.org). We will also keep members updated on the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). You can find the E-mail message sent to all Zontians for whom we have E-mail addresses, along with FAQs, at www.zonta.org, Member Resources, Zonta Headquarters Building, Message from ZIF and ZI Presidents.

We hope that all Zontians understand the financial and organizational reasons for this major decision that affects both of our organizations.

Sincerely,



Betty Jane Bourdon
President 2007-2009
Zonta International Foundation



Olivia Ferry
President 2006-2008
Zonta International



FOUNDATION RECOGNITION OF YOUR GENEROSITY



At each Zonta International Convention, the Zonta International Foundation Board takes the opportunity to recognize the generosity of the many individuals and Zonta Clubs who support our programs, mission and values through contributions to the Foundation.

As you prepare to attend the Convention in Rotterdam, please keep in mind the following gift recognition:

- For contributions to be recognized in Convention 2008 materials, funds and supporting documents must be received at Headquarters by 1 April 2008.
- Individuals who contribute US\$1,000 during the biennium, or reach US\$1,000 in cumulative giving for the first time during the

biennium, or have reached US\$5,000 in cumulative giving are invited to join the Boards for an invitation-only reception.

- Individuals who reach US\$10,000 cumulative giving during the biennium are recognized on stage during the Foundation report.
- Clubs that give US\$20,000 or more during the biennium are recognized during the Foundation report.

We will also recognize our outstanding districts and District Foundation Ambassadors:

- The top three Districts for total giving during the biennium, including all club and individual gifts.
- The District with the greatest

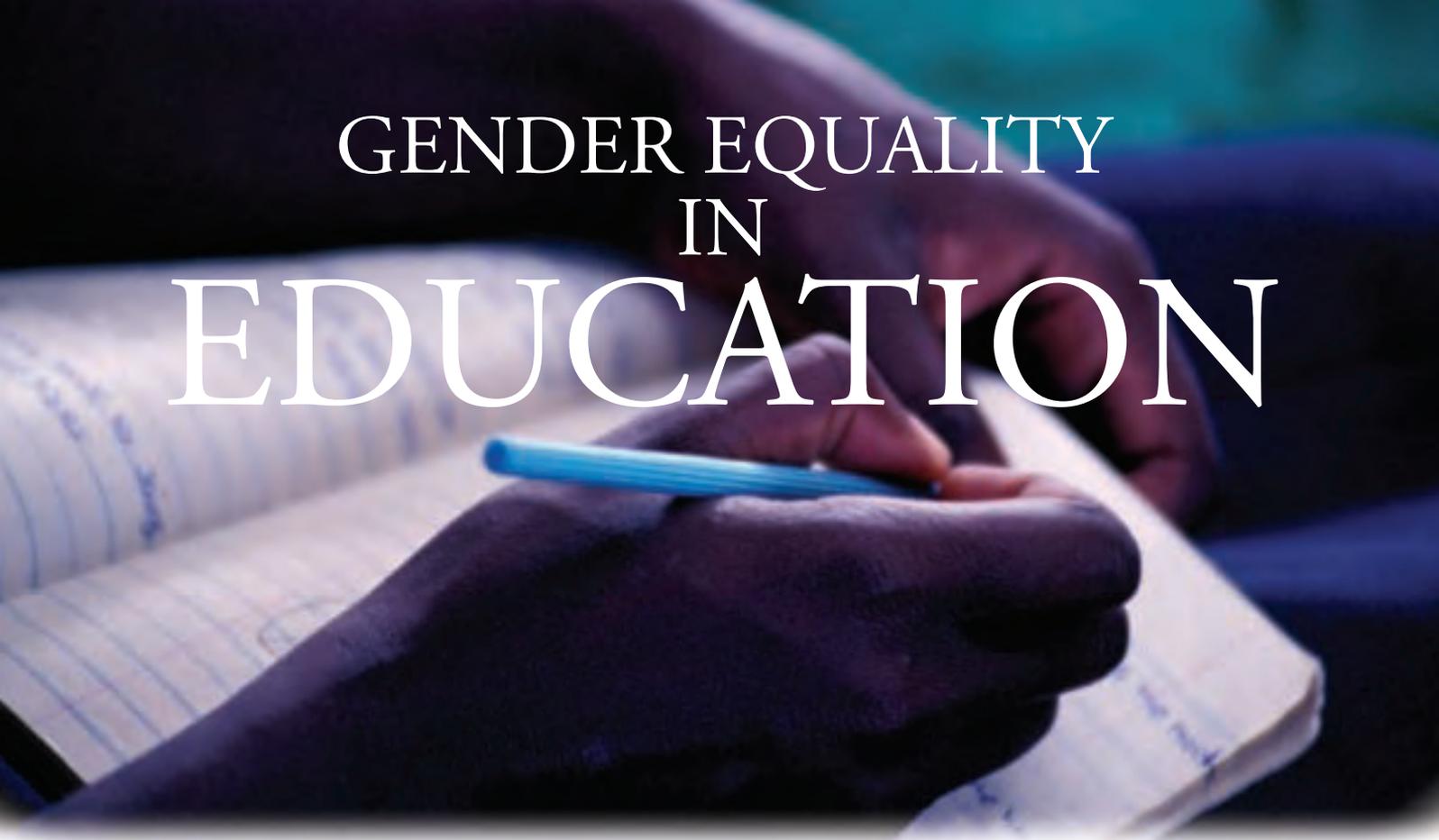
weighted increase in total contributions during the biennium.

- Those Districts with 100% club participation (gifts from clubs only – individual gifts from club members do not count toward this goal)
- One District Foundation Ambassador for Outstanding Service to the Foundation.

Ask your Foundation Ambassador where your District stands in gifts to the Foundation. Visit the Foundation Booth at Convention.



For more information, visit the Foundation pages of the Web site at www.zonta.org.



GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

Curt Camermark/The World Bank

"We now have a very large body of literature that has documented empirically that female education has a particularly important role to play in promoting economic development in a broad sense. It does so directly by allowing educated females to become part of the work force, to increase their productivity and contribute to economic growth."

Stephan Klasen

University of Göttingen, Economics Professor, PhD, Harvard University

Gender Disparity in Education

Gender parity in education is the backbone of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), coming due a full ten years before the other Goals. The MDG of gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005 was not met in most regions. While in some countries, girls now surpass boys in school enrollment, girls still constitute the largest percentage of all out-of-school children.

The number of out-of-school girls worldwide has fallen from 60 million to an estimated 43 million in 2006, but problems still persist in countries where minorities are economically and socially disadvantaged, and women are secluded. Most out-of-school girls live in Africa (47%) and South Asia (25%),

and in Latin America, girls from minority groups represent the highest proportion of out-of-school girls.

"There is no investment more effective for achieving development goals than educating girls."

The World Bank

Education is central to development and one of the most powerful tools for reducing poverty. Education also has an impact on the goals related to child and reproductive health and environmental sustainability, as well as the promotion of economic growth, national productivity and innovation. Decades of research have shown that investments in girls' education yield great dividends. Without significant progress in girls' education, none of

the Millennium Development Goals will be met by the 2015 deadline.

Girls Access to Education

Gender differential access to school is usually caused by poverty, adverse cultural practices, schooling quality and distance to schools. However, some emerging challenges reduce girls' enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education – HIV/AIDS, conflicts, emergencies and other fragile situations, gender-based violence and information technology gender gap.

Girls either do not attend school or have higher dropout rates than boys for numerous reasons, including: early marriage; threat of sexual harassment and violence in school or on their way to school; lack of girl-friendly facilities;

"Education for all is important for three reasons. First, education is a right. Second, education enhances individual freedom. Third, education yields important development benefits."

John Daniel,
UNESCO's Assistant Director-General
for Education



Desislava Kulelieva/The World Bank

gender discriminatory teaching; and parents who are not aware of the value of education for their daughters.

The largest factor for disparities in education between boys and girls is poverty. Parents often cannot afford school fees and supplies for any or all of their children to attend. When faced with this choice, parents likely give priority to boys over girls. It is not just the cost of the education, but also the loss of a girl's labor. Traditional divisions of labor put girls at greater disadvantage as they are more likely to have work that prevents them from attending school, such as labor within the household, family farm or caring for a sibling or ill relative.

Why is Girls Education Important?

Studies show that education has a positive impact on economic growth as educated girls are likely to get jobs and

earn higher wages. Studies completed by the World Bank show that an extra year of schooling beyond the average can increase girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent. Additional benefits associated with women who have some level of formal education, include:

- **Reducing fertility rates.** Women with formal education are more likely to use reliable family planning methods, delay marriage and childbearing and have fewer, healthier babies. It is estimated that one year of female schooling reduces fertility by 10 percent. The effect is particularly pronounced for secondary schooling.
- **Lowering infant and child mortality rates.** Women with some formal education are more likely to seek medical care, have their children immunized, become more informed about children's

nutritional requirements and adopt improved sanitation practices.

- **Lowering maternal mortality rate.** Women with formal education tend to have better knowledge about health care practices, are less likely to become pregnant at a very young age, tend to have fewer or better-spaced pregnancies, and seek pre- and post-natal care. It is estimated that an additional year of schooling for 1,000 women helps prevent two maternal deaths.
- **Protecting against HIV/AIDS infection.** Girls' education ranks among the most powerful tools for reducing girls' vulnerability. It slows and reduces the spread of HIV/AIDS by contributing to female economic independence, delayed marriage, family planning, and greater information about the disease and how to prevent it.
- **Increasing women's labor force participation rates and earnings.** Education has been proven to increase income for wage earners and increase productivity for employers, yielding benefits for the community and society.

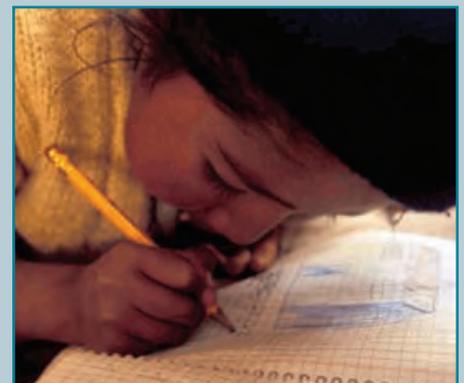
Education and Leadership for Girls and Young Women in Bolivia

Bolivia is the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. More than half its population is indigenous and there are 32 identified native cultures. Girls in particular are disenfranchised from school, as reflected in the national illiteracy rate – 19 percent for women and 7 percent for men. In rural areas, where there is the highest concentration of indigenous people, the illiteracy rate is 38 percent for women and 14 percent for men.

As a result, there are few employment options outside of the informal sector, such as small-scale commerce or domestic work. Many girls are exploited and abused by their employers. To make matters worse, most of these girls do not have (and find it difficult to obtain) legal identification documents due to their limited knowledge about government procedures and structures, and their rights as citizens. As a result, most

working girls and young women are functionally illiterate, have low self-esteem and lack basic life skills.

Despite these obstacles, many young women are beating the odds by working during the day and attending school during the evening. To improve the Bolivian government's existing night courses to better meet the needs of working children, CARE International and the Bolivian Alternative Youth Education Program have been providing learning opportunities to vulnerable youth who otherwise would be denied their basic right to a quality education. With funding from the **Zonta International Foundation International Service Fund**, CARE, in partnership with the local El Carmen Foundation, is building on the success of this effort by serving working girls and young women – empowering and



enabling them to take control over their future. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the educational learning process for working girls and women in order to provide them with literacy and numeric skills and thus improve their chances of securing better jobs.

- *Creating intergenerational education benefits.* A mother with some formal education is considerably more likely to send her children to school. In many countries each additional year of formal education completed by a mother translates into her children remaining in school for an additional one-third to one-half year.



Ray Witlin/The World Bank

Women's Literacy

Lack of education also leads to higher rates of low literacy. Worldwide, women are less literate than men – with only 88 adult women considered literate for every 100 adult men, with lower numbers in low-income countries. At 64%, women continue to constitute a majority of the world's illiterate, virtually unchanged from 63% in 1990.

Literacy is crucial to addressing gender equality as it strengthens the capabilities of women – allowing them to take advantage of health, educational, political and economical opportunities. Positive effects of increased literacy rates for women include higher school-enrollment rates, lower fertility rates and lower rates of infant and maternal mortality in childbirth – as women have better knowledge of health and family planning and are more likely to embrace

"When you travel to Africa, the first thing that strikes you is the energy of the women in the market, in the house, doing tons of things. And imagine that with an education."

Angélique Kidjo
UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
Musician, singer, performer

preventive health measures. Literacy also contributes positively to women's empowerment, in terms of self-esteem, self-determination and economic independence. The inability to read, write and calculate keeps women from knowing what they are entitled to, as well as limits their ability to participate in society.

Women and Girls in Science and Technology

As enrollments in formal education increase, access for women to higher education will also improve. However,

progress is needed in the fields of science and technology. Women are under-represented in most areas of science, engineering and technology as students, teachers, researchers and workers. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, women make up less than 30 percent of researchers in 34 out of 89 countries surveyed, while only 17 to 18% of countries have gender parity in science and technology research jobs.

Typically, more boys than girls choose science and technology subjects in schools and are more likely to pursue careers in these fields. This is often the result of girls being viewed as not having the same ability as boys when it comes to science and technology. Social influences also play a significant role as girls often bear the burden of domestic chores and early marriage; pregnancy often interrupts schooling; sexist stereotypes in curricula and the views of teachers

Afghan Institute of Learning

Systematic and institutionalized gender discrimination continues to plague Afghanistan. Security and safety, intimidation and coercion against girls' education and cyclical burning of girls' schools are barriers. Misinterpretation of the Koran has kept girls from school and women trapped in illiteracy in parts of the nation, especially in some southern provinces where fewer than 10 percent of girls attended school. After years of oppression, 1.2 million girls – up from zero – streamed into government schools in 2003. Against a backdrop of extreme poverty and deprivation, major efforts are underway to bring children back to the classroom. Yet fewer than half of all girls are in school in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) began educating women and girls in rural areas of

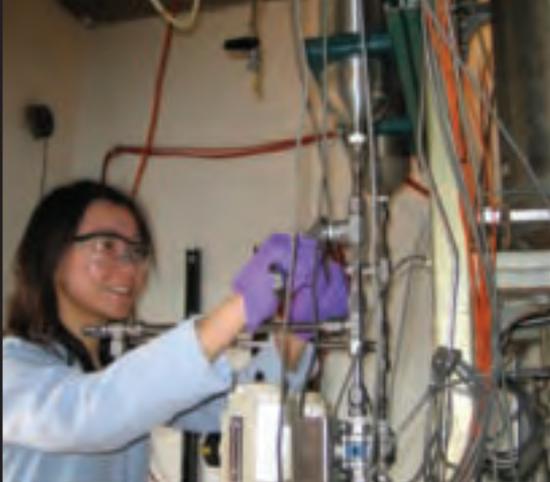
Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban. Through financial support from the Zonta International Foundation International Service Fund, AIL opened the first Women's Learning Center (WLC) in Mir Bacha Kot – enabling hundreds of women and girls to learn reading, writing, and skills to help them support their families. Before AIL began its first WLC in Mir Bacha Kot, many did not believe it would be possible to begin a girls' school in this conservative community. As AIL developed a relationship of trust with the people, attitudes changed and the community has now opened a new girls' school.

The Mir Bacha Kot project has become a model project that AIL has replicated in other communities and centers in Kabul and Herat. These communities have observed the success of AIL's work in neighboring villages



and asked AIL for their own women's health and education programs. Women and girls have flocked to literacy classes, sewing classes, and health services.

Three years after the start of the WLC project, women and girls have begun earning incomes and improved their self-esteem and confidence.



Girls Go Tech

The Girls Scouts of the USA developed its *Girls Go Tech* campaign to help encourage young girls between the ages of 8 and 11 to develop an early interest in math, science and technology. The ultimate goal of the campaign is that young girls maintain their interest in these subjects to ensure a more diverse, dynamic and productive workforce.

The campaign encourages parents and caregivers to help keep girls' interest in these subjects alive. It targets the girls themselves through television and print public service announcements (PSAs) that highlight the math, science and technology behind everyday life – as seen through the eyes of two young girls. The PSAs direct girls to visit www.girlsgotech.org, an interactive Web site that includes games, quizzes, facts and other activities to educate and engage girls. The Web site allows girls to navigate through links designed to connect their interest with careers in the science, technology and engineering fields. Each career option links them to further links containing information about these careers and biographies of real women in those professions.

Through the collaborative efforts of parents, the community and volunteers, Girl Scouts are becoming empowered to engage in science, technology and engineering, and possibly become future leaders in these fields.

encourage girls and boys into particular careers. There is also a lack of women role models in these fields. For example, of the 513 Nobel Prizes for physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine awarded since 1901 – only 12 have gone to women, two of them to the same person, Marie Curie.

Even in developed countries, girls are not being encouraged in math or science. Statistics for the United States show that women are only 40% of life science undergraduate majors and 18% of engineering majors. Only 10% of graduate students and faculty in engineering are women.

For those women who do enter careers in science, engineering or technology, research shows that there are a number of obstacles a woman faces in her career success – often resulting from a lack of support or work-family obligations. Some of the problems result from fewer visible mentors, lack of transparency for pay and promotion procedures, gender imbalance in the decision-making processes, institutional sexism and lack of knowledge and experience for girls and young women in non-traditional areas of work.

Career guidance has a strong impact on a girl's decision to participate in science, technology and engineering. Girls need to be encouraged by teachers and parents to pursue these fields and counter current gender stereotypes.

Zonta continues to help women pursue careers in the fields of aerospace science and engineering through its Amelia Earhart Fellowship program. This year 35 women were awarded fellowships (see page 10 for more information). The financial support provided allows these talented women to invest in the resources needed to conduct their research, participate in specialized studies, achieve their educational goals and ultimately, their dreams. Amelia Earhart Fellows have gone on to attain positions in a number of fields traditionally dominated by men, serving as positive role models for women today.

Conclusion

Education is essential to the empowerment of women and girls. Basic education reduces the inequalities facing women and girls, and enables them to join the social and economic development of their country.



Shehzad Noorani/The World Bank

Empowerment is crucial in changing the attitudes and behaviors that discriminate against women and girls – in obtaining primary education or pursuing further education in fields previously dominated by boys.

The global struggle for universal education is nearly 60 years old. There is a strong global movement toward gender parity; but, in many countries, little progress has been made and much still needs to be done.

Sources for this article include:

Academy for Educational Development
Association for Women in Science
ProLiteracy Worldwide
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
The World Bank
UN Millennium Project
UNESCO
UNICEF



For more information, visit
www.zonta.org.

2007 AMELIA EARHART FELLOWS

Zonta continues to empower women in the traditionally male-dominated aerospace science and engineering fields through its Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program. In 2007, 35 women PhD candidates were awarded Fellowships. These phenomenal women originate from Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Peoples Republic of China, Romania, Spain, Taiwan, the Netherlands and the USA. The Zonta International Foundation is also pleased to announce that in 2008 the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award amount will increase from US\$6,000 to US\$10,000.

Here are a few examples of how this year's Fellows are making a difference in the fields of aerospace science and engineering. To read about all of this year's Amelia Earhart Fellows, visit www.zonta.org.

Jessica Leigh Edmonds

Citizenship: USA

Proposed Program: Aeronautics and Astronautics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Ms. Edmonds will use her Fellowship to study exercise in artificial gravity as an effective counter-measure to space flight related reconditioning. Currently physiological reconditioning due to microgravity results in the need for medical care upon return to earth. Her research will evaluate the use of centrifugation to create artificial gravity in space.

Hanbing Song

Citizenship: Peoples Republic of China

Proposed Program: Aerospace Engineering at the University of Surrey



Ms. Song will use her Fellowship to develop a novel aerial system (aerobot) for the exploration of Mars. This is the next stage of Mars exploration and will guarantee both regional surveys of the surface and high resolution for precise investigations of geology and possibly life processes.

Veerle Jasmin Sterken

Citizenship: Belgium

Proposed Program: Engineering Dynamics at TU Delft University of Technology



Ms. Sterken's research on modeling and control of mechanical disturbances in spacecraft interferometry missions will be of direct benefit to the proposed European Space Agency's Darwin Mission. This mission has the goal of detecting and characterizing Earth-like planets around other stars.

2007 YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD RECIPIENTS

The applications of 27 women from 13 countries were submitted for the 2007 International Young Women in Public Affairs awards. Five young women were selected. They are:



Masha Gregory Jones (District 1, USA) is a member of her school's International Student Alliance and its Personal Authority and Leadership Sorority (PAaLS) – which works to bolster women's leadership by conducting research and raising awareness. She has also led her school's Z Club since it was chartered by the Zonta Club

of Berkshire County in 2005 and serves as Vice Present of the Pittsfield Rotary Interact Service Club. Masha plans to major in biology to bring better healthcare to people in all nations around the world.



Susan Elizabeth Greenman (District 11, USA) and her family took a six month trip throughout the world to better understand different cultures and peoples. Upon returning home, Susan and her sister decided to do something about the poverty they had seen. The result: Hands on Hands, a non-profit organization to help underprivileged

AIDS orphans in Kenya. Together they raised US\$3,000 to purchase supplies for three schools and orphanages. They raised another US\$10,000 to completely fund the construction of a girl's dormitory at a new school in Kamboe. Susan hopes to bring Hands on Hands to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she will study engineering.



Amanda Richards (District 23, Australia) serves as a role model and mentor for indigenous students at her high school and has advocated for their increased participation in the leadership of the school. Amanda served as the inaugural chairperson for the Riverland Indigenous Student Voice Committee – bringing together indigenous students

from all over the region to support one another. She has also assisted non-indigenous students, serving as a mentor and providing academic support, especially in the area of Aboriginal Studies. Amanda is currently studying medicine and aspires to work in places where healthcare is desperately needed, such as indigenous communities and developing countries.



Stephanie J. Carter (District 24, Australia) was one of six students in Australia chosen to serve as a 2007 World Vision Youth Ambassador. Stephanie has been actively involved with World Vision for several years. In 2006 she served as a World Vision 40 Hours Famine leader. In this role she was able to generate awareness about important global issues and

motivate girls across schools to fundraise for the World Vision 40 Hour Famine project in East Timor. Also in 2006, she and a fellow student implemented and supervised a

World Vision child sponsorship in her school – raising funds to support a sponsored child in Peru. Stephanie plans to study for a dual degree in journalism combined with international relations and political science, which she hopes will lead to a future career where she can pursue her human rights interests.



Laura Suzanna Muller (District 28, Switzerland) has been active in community outreach to children both locally and internationally. Her most rewarding activity thus far has been Operation Christmas Child, an international activity run by the Samaritan's Purse, where she and five others organized the collection of over 800 shoeboxes filled

with small toys for children living in impoverished countries. At her school, Laura developed a biweekly newsletter and served as editor for three years, expanding content into current issues affecting children in third world countries. Laura plans to study international relations and politics in England and is considering a career in non-governmental organizations, diplomacy, journalism or international law – focusing on human rights.



Visit www.zonta.org to read more about the YWPA program and find applications for 2008 awards.

Z AND GOLDEN Z CLUBS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

The Emma L. Conlon Service Awards recognize those Z and Golden Z Clubs whose projects and programs best express the ideals of Zonta International. Z and Golden Z Club members plan, organize and participate in unique activities designed to meet the needs of members, schools and communities, while emphasizing an international outlook and strong international relations.

This year's highest honor for a Z Club went to the **Liberty Benton High School Z Club, Ohio, USA**. The Z Club assisted its school by providing a free babysitting service for faculty and staff and accepting donations for a local children's hospital. In their community, they helped disabled middle and high school students at a simulated job skills event. The Club also oversaw the collection and donation of 56 shoe boxes of toys for

Operation Christmas Child, and collected money to purchase and send 75 cans of silly string to US soldiers for use in bomb searches.

The **Northern Michigan University Golden Z Club, Michigan, USA** was this year's Golden Z Club first place award recipient. The Golden Z Club helped support admission events at their school during the 2006-2007 year by sharing information on Zonta and Golden Z with prospective students. The Club supported a local walk-a-thon for breast cancer research. Members collected pledges to increase awareness of breast cancer and the need to support research for women's health issues. In support of international activities, the club donated money to support Zonta International service programs, including the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund and ZISVAW Fund.

2007 Emma L. Conlon Service Award Recipients

Z Clubs and Sponsors

- 1st: Liberty Benton High School Z Club; Zonta Club of Findlay, OH, USA.
- 2nd: Brampton Centennial Z Club; Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, ON, Canada
- 3rd: Miss Hall's School Z Club; Zonta Club of Berkshire County, MA, USA

Golden Z Clubs and Sponsors

- 1st: Northern Michigan University Golden Z Club; Zonta Club of Marquette Area, MI, USA
- 2nd: St. Michael's College Golden Z Club; Zonta Club of Laguna, Philippines
- 3rd: Georgia Court University Golden Z Club; Zonta Club of Ocean County Area, NJ, USA



GENDER PARITY IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: A MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL THAT MISSED THE TARGET DATE

Jackie Shapiro, Chairman, United Nations Committee

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the United Nations in 2000 by all the world's governments as the priority actions needed to build a better world for the 21st century. Since then, the targets and indicators attached to each of these goals have been the major galvanizing factors for the UN, development institutions and in country development agendas.

Goal 3 (MDG #3), *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*, has as its target to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015.

The accomplishment of the first part of this target missed its deadline, despite being what experts declare was a realistic and reachable goal, and necessitates examining why this goal was not achieved and what more is being done.

A combination of factors – such as poverty, gender roles and traditions, lack of sanitation and clean water, violence and distance to schools –

thwart attempts to get girls into school and keep them there. To overcome this double, or multiple jeopardy for girls, effective strategies to end gender discrimination and promote universal education must address poverty eradication, disease, violence, gender bias and health holistically.

UNICEF is the lead agency – in partnership with UNESCO, ILO, UNFPA, WFP, the World Bank, national development agencies and regional NGOs – in the UN effort to provide a systematic approach to girls' education. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) is committed to accelerating action on girls' education by promoting broad social mobilization and high-level political action. UNGEI encourages national citizens to advocate with their governments and important decision-makers to live up to their commitments to achieving MDG #3 (see www.ungei.org).

UNGEI works for a cross-sectoral approach in national budgets, policies and planning. Its focus is removing

obstacles to access to education whether they take the form of waivers of school fees and uniform requirements or the provision of tents for migrant children.

The benefits of girls' education to society and development are well known. Moreover, girls' education is a human rights issue and it is the responsibility of all governments to their citizens to make good on their promises. Achievement of all of the MDGs necessitates major progress in fulfilling the goal of gender parity and universal education. The clock is ticking. 

See also feature article, page 6, "Gender Equality in Education."

Zonta International United Nations Committee Chairman Jackie Shapiro has been selected Co-Chairman of the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

economic self-sufficiency and fulfill their potential. I hope you will use this next position paper (planned for release by the end of the Biennium) as you do the position paper on Trafficking of Women and Girls, featured in this issue (page 13), as a resource for Zonta's advocacy to advance the status of women and girls.

Finally, you will be happy to know

that the Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation Boards have approved an increase in the Amelia Earhart Fellowship awards to US\$10,000 beginning with the 2008 fellowships, in keeping with the higher cost of post-graduate education and our commitment to support higher education for women.

Congratulations to the new

officers and directors of the Zonta International Foundation Board, and to the new directors of the Zonta International Board!



JUST DO IT!

By Glenna Harding, Chairman, Zonta International OMC Committee



Did you know that there are over 250 nations, dependent areas and other entities in the world?

Zonta has clubs in 67 of these while other international service organizations have branches in up to 160. Clearly we have opportunities.

Since 2000, we have added five new countries to the Zonta world – about one a year. At that rate, it will take us 100 years to add 100 countries! We can and should do better.

The five new additions are Benin in Africa, Mongolia in Asia, and Macedonia, Romania and Spain in Europe. Zontians in Districts 29 and 30 continue to take the lead in bringing new countries into the fold. How do they do it?

There are some very special Zontians who have strong personal commitments to expansion, including Dunstanette Macauley in Africa, Pavleta Tabakova and Eugenia Popescu in Bulgaria (for Macedonia and Romania) and Silvie Demolier in France (for Spain) to name only a few. They have contacts and invest personal resources (both time and money) into this wonderful service effort. Could *you* join their ranks?

In addition to new countries, we have, of course, opportunities to expand in countries where we already have clubs. The requirements for contacts and resources are similar but somewhat less daunting. Distances are usually closer and there are fewer

language barriers to deal with. Perhaps you'd like to start there. District 9, for example, has had a history of one new club every eight or ten years. Last year after a hiatus of five years, they chartered Silicon Valley, CA, which was quickly followed this year by Hanalei, HI. They have Long Beach, CA close to chartering and Queen Creek, AZ just starting. What a wonderful turnaround!

As we move into the last months of this Biennium, we're poised for growth in membership. We know what to do. We know how to do it. The time for talk has turned into the time for action. In the words of Nike, "*Just Do It!*" 

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL POSITION PAPER

TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

By Elba Pereyra de Gomensoro, Coordinator, Zonta International Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Subcommittee

Zonta International condemns the practice of trafficking of persons, especially women and girls, for sexual or labor exploitation as a gross violation of human rights and a crime against humanity. **Preventing violence against women and girls is a Zonta International priority.**

This is Zonta's position as set out in the first of two position papers Zonta will prepare this Biennium. The Zonta International Board approved the position paper on trafficking of girls and women at its June Board meeting. The position paper together with resource material on trafficking has been posted on the Zonta International Web site in Member Resources, Service and Advocacy, and on the LAA Subcommittee pages.

At the 2006 Zonta International Convention in Melbourne, we adopted Zonta's *A Course for the Future*, a strategic plan for our organization. This plan has emphasized the importance of advocacy in accom-

plishing our mission. Our 2006-2008 Goals reflect these ideas and for Advocacy include:

- Be effective advocates and opinion leaders on women's issues.
- Produce position papers defining where we stand on at least two priority issues.
- Cooperate and collaborate with like-minded organizations to achieve our mission.

The first position paper, *Trafficking of Women and Girls*, sets Zonta's position and our commitment to "preventing and combating trafficking in countries of origin, transit and destination" and "calls for Zonta Clubs to collaborate with NGOs and civil society and advocate for governments to eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and girls." The paper is a result of a collaborative effort from Zontians, Headquarters and experts in the field brought together by the LAA Subcommittee of the Status of Women and Service Committee.

How can you use this position paper? It is intended to be used as an advocacy instrument. Use it to:

- Advocate on changing laws and policies. Advocate for governments to adopt, strengthen and enforce effective laws that criminalize all forms of trafficking and protect the rights of trafficked women and girls.
- Promote Zonta, its position, its commitment and influence.
- Recruit and retain members. It demonstrates Zonta's perspective to current and prospective members.
- Partner with other like-minded organizations to increase our strength and influence.

Zontians around the world would like to know of your experience using this position paper. Please go to the Zonta International Web site, www.zonta.org, Zonta Action and share your successes. 

ZONTA CLUBS

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Zonta Club of Armidale, Australia



The Zonta Club of Armidale, Australia, encourages young girls to participate in the technology and engineering fields with its "Zonta e-girls Workshop"

The Zonta Club of Armidale organized a "Zonta e-girls Workshop" for the third consecutive year to draw attention to women's participation in the information and communication technology engineering industry. Over 40 girls from ten different high schools came to Armidale TAFE to attend the event.

"The day is designed to illustrate to young women the exciting career options available to them, give them the opportunity to speak with people, particularly women, who work in the industry and get some fun, hands-on experience of the engineering side of information and communication technology," said Anne Parnell, chair of the Zonta Club of Armidale e-girls committee.

Speakers included Kerri Murphy, a successful young electrical engineer who is working on challenging assignments ranging from video streaming to top secret military projects; and Dr. Elena Prieto of Newcastle University, who participated via the live e-learning facility. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in workshops on Coding, Networking, Hardware and Robotics.

"All the girls went away knowing a lot more about the roles available to women in the information and communication technology engineering field and, despite their varying motives in attending, took away at least a little bit of inspiration for the future and some guidance which will be invaluable in making their subject choices later this year," said Zonta Club of Armidale President Helen Gee.

Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio, USA

The Zonta Club of Columbus sponsored its 29th Annual Outstanding Young Women Leadership Seminar on 10 February 2007 at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

Developed by the late Dr. Mary Alice Price, a consulting psychologist, the seminar recognizes and honors high school senior women in Central Ohio for excellence in scholarship, leadership and service to their school and community.

Attendees of the seminar participated in roundtable discussions on the topics of leadership development, career options and the assumption of multiple roles in life. Following a luncheon, the young women listened to a three-person panel of Zontians who



The Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio, USA, recognizes and honors high school senior women at its 29th Annual Outstanding Young Women Leadership Seminar

highlighted their own career success and offered tips for successful living.

On 11 March 2007, the Top 12 Outstanding Young Women were honored at a reception attended by various school representatives, parents and members of the Zonta Club of Columbus.

Zonta Club of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, Australia

Supporters of the Zonta Club of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai recently attended the 16th Anniversary of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award Presentation Dinner at the Killara Inn, Killara. Lauren Reynolds from Brigidine College at St. Ives was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Club's Young Women in Public Affairs Award – receiving a AUS\$300 book voucher. Runners-up Rebecca Glaser and Alic Hudson each received a AUS\$50 book voucher. Brigidine College was presented with the Perpetual Trophy for the Club's Young Women in Public Affairs Award, which will be on display at the school until next year's events.

Zonta Club of Defiance, Ohio, USA

The Zonta Club of Defiance, in cooperation with General Motors Corporation and Defiance College, initiated a new program earlier this year entitled, "The Sky is the Limit." The purpose of the program is to educate female high school students about career opportunities, encourage them to pursue a college education and motivate them to study math and science. The program consisted of multiple guest speakers and a reception for attendees to interact with professional women, educational door prizes and scholarship opportunities. The program also offers five US\$1,000 scholarships, open to junior and senior high school girls, and a competition for a laptop computer.

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra, Australia



The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra, Australia, honor, Xia Li and Jean Armstrong – two generations of Amelia Earhart Fellows from Monash University

Two generations of Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellows were guest speakers at the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra dinner on 12 July 2007. Xia Li, a postgraduate student at Monash University, has been awarded a 2007 Fellowship for her research work on optical Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing, a new modulation technique for optical communications patented by Monash University. Xia Li recently presented a paper on this work at the 2007 IEEE International Communications Conference in Glasgow. Her supervisor, Associate Professor Jean Armstrong, an Amelia Earhart Fellow (1989), pioneered this work at Monash. In 2006 in collaboration with another researcher, Arthur Lowery, Professor Armstrong won the AUS\$100,000 Peter Doherty Innovation Prize for the best commercialization opportunity in Australia.

Zonta Club de Baronie, Breda, the Netherlands

Nicole Haye, member of the Zonta Club de Baronie, was awarded the

University of Twente 2007 Marina van Damme Award. Initiated five years ago, the award honors successful graduates of the University of Twente who have an outstanding career track record, are active in community projects and serve as a role model for other women. Nicole received her Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Twente in 1995 and is site manager for the GE Plastics Raamsdonksveer manufacturing facility.

Nicole received the award on 20 June 2007 during the University of Twente's Innovation Day. The award was established by Mrs Marina van Damme, former director of Akzo Corporate and the first PhD graduate of the University of Twente.

Zonta Club of Columbia, South Carolina, USA



The Zonta Club of Columbia, South Carolina, USA hosts annual fundraiser for local community service projects

The Zonta Club of Columbia hosted its annual bowling fundraiser on 22 September 2007. The event helped raise over US\$9,000 to benefit at least three of the club's community service projects, including scholarships for high school girls interested in public service and college women who are pursuing careers in business.

Zonta Club of Venice, Italy

Recognizing that it has been sixty years since women were recognized with the right to vote in Italy, the Zonta Club of Venice thought it was important to involve young girls and boys in remembering how far women have come, but have yet to go to reach gender equality. The Club decided to organize a competition among high school students asking them to illustrate the theme "The Law is Tinged with Pink." The award recipients, students of Algarotti High School for Tourism, produced a CD highlighting the stages of progress of law that have led to the present.



For more information, go to www.zonta.org, Zonta Action.

Calling All Zonta Clubs!

In keeping with the Zonta 2008 Convention theme, *Global Empowerment Through Local Action*, the International PR&C and STWS invite all Zonta Clubs to submit photos of service and advocacy projects that focus on Zonta's mission of advancing the status of women. Photos will be used in a special PowerPoint presentation, *Local Service in Action*, which will be shown at the Zonta 2008 Convention in Rotterdam. Clubs can submit a maximum of three photos to zontaintl.pr@gmail.com. Submission deadline is 31 January 2008.

Zonta International is working on creating a Membership Toolkit, a collection of ideas and ready-to-use templates to help clubs with membership recruitment, retention and revitalization. Please E-mail successful ideas, stories or templates (invitations, advertisements, brochures, press releases, etc.) to membership@zonta.org. (Please note, your submissions may be modified, edited, and/or published on www.zonta.org.)



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Member Networking Directory

Follow these steps to take advantage of the Member Networking Directory and to maximize its usefulness for the organization:

1. If you have not done so, register a username and password at www.zonta.org/register.
2. If you have already registered a username and password, log onto www.zonta.org.
3. Select the Member Resources link on the left side of your screen.
4. Select the Directories link under Member Resources on the left side of your screen.
5. If this is your first visit you will be asked to read the Networking Policy and subscribe to the Directory by checking the box at the bottom of the policy and selecting Submit.
6. Once in the Member Networking Directory, choose what personal information you would like other Zontians to see by checking on the boxes next to the information you would like included.
7. Start searching the Member Networking Directory and get connected!

WELCOME NEW ZONTA CLUBS

The Zonta International "family" around the world extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta Clubs.
We rejoice in the experience you will share with us and with those you serve!

Fort Bonifacio, Philippines
District 17, Area 5

Sandgate, Australia
District 24, Area 3

Greater East Texas, USA
District 10, Area 2

Alabang, Philippines
District 17, Area 5

Doral, Florida, USA
District 11, Area 3

Ruremonde, The Netherlands
District 29, Area 4

Long Beach, California, USA
District 9, Area 4

As of 31 August 2007, Zonta International has 1,237 clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas.



Zonta Clubs
Members of Zonta International