



April
2010

Still Too Few

I was in college when AAUW's landmark study *How Schools Shortchange Girls* came out (1992). I can't remember how I heard about it – how the news perforated the famous undergraduate life in a bubble – but I remember that it was both an “Aha!” and an “At last!” moment for me.

I could identify with many of the math and science class findings. I had a math teacher who knew the names of my male classmates' *girlfriends*, but didn't know the names of the girls in the class by winter break. My chemistry teacher responded to incorrect replies by girl with a curt “no,” moving on to a boy to supply the answer. Inevitably, if the boy was wrong, he was gently coaxed to the correct answer through a series of more basic questions. I hoped his then two-year-old daughter would change how he appraised girls.

But you can't just rely on teachers having daughters to create institutional change in the way math and science are taught to girls, so I was thrilled with the AAUW report because it seemed to spur a whole lot of people to get “on the case.”

This March, AAUW released a new study entitled *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*. It can be seen as a follow-up to the 1992 report. It seeks to address why, despite progress at the secondary school level, there is still such a dearth of women as students, scholars, and professionals in STEM fields.

And the progress has been remarkable:

Thirty years ago there were 13 boys for every girl who scored above 700 on the SAT math exam at age 13; today that ratio has shrunk to about 3:1. This increase in the number of girls identified as “mathematically gifted” suggests that education can and does make a difference at the highest levels of mathematical achievement.

(“Executive Summary”)

But there is more work to be done. The report's eight key findings are drawn from a large body of research and evidence demonstrating that “social and environmental factors contribute to the under-representation of women in science and engineering.”

You can download a copy or a request a free printed copy at

<http://www.aauw.org/research/whysofew.cfm>

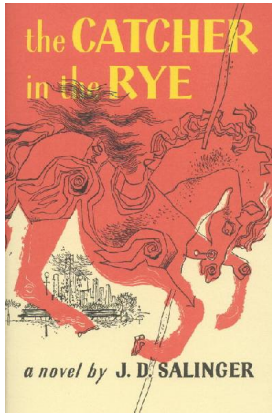
The New York Times was one of many news outlets to write about the report:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/22/science/22women.html>

Letters in response to the NYT article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/29/opinion/l29science.html>

-Kate Hinnant, President
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Book group

Book Group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at members' homes. Here are the remaining meetings and books for this year.

MAY: *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger at Karen Haugen's with JJ Henricksen doing the review

JUNE: *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry at Pam Hicks'.

Please contact the hostess if you plan to attend. This spring we will also select our summer reading book.

Chris Kondrasuk



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on Facebook:**

AAUW - Eau Claire, WI

Another place to connect.

You don't have to go it alone...

We have no volunteers yet for co-chairing the Book Sale in the fall. At our March Board Meeting, we discussed organizing the Book Sale with a more decentralized approach. Because the Book Sale is already so well organized, with standing subcommittees and a schedule and set of procedures that varies by little, we will essentially try to create a core committee to work on the sale.

So, if you were not interested in taking on co-chair, but you would be interested in working on organizing the Book Sale, please let me know.

For this approach to work, we will need some "fresh" volunteers to help out on the core committee, as many of the regulars are already committed to tasks of their subcommittees.

Please, please, please... and thanks.

Kate Hinnant – kate.hinnant@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

Tuesday April 13 @ 7pm

First Congregational Church

Program: Voting on the annual **budget** and the **slate of officers**, followed by our own **Sarah Harder**. Her topic will be "So How Far HAVE Women Moved? -- 35 Years of AAUW Activism – State, National, and International" An activist recalls AAUW opening doors in the Second Stage Women's Movement.

Public Policy

State Convention Basket

Last year our branch took 3 “green” baskets to the convention for the Legal Advocacy Fund Auction. These baskets attracted a lot of attention, as they were the only items that featured “safe for the environment” cleaning products, and included items made from recycled materials.

April 22 is an important anniversary; it is 40 years since the first Earth Day was organized by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. 2010 is also the 20th anniversary of Wisconsin’s recycling laws. Let’s celebrate by **bringing items for the baskets to our meeting on Tuesday, April 13, or make a donation**, and leave the shopping to us.

Pay Equity Day-April 20

The Payday bars have arrived, but the supplier was, appropriately enough, out of 100 Grand bars. How many women make 100 grand per year, you ask? Not many! According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2007 only 6.25% of women had annual income of \$75,000 and above. The AAUW-Eau Claire branch is ready to make a statement about women’s wages through our annual UW-Eau Claire and CVTC Pay Equity Day. If you missed the last branch meeting, we need people up to help hand out quizzes and candy bars on the CVTC campus from 11-noon, and noon-1. Please email haydenm@prodigy.net or call 715-832-0445.

Preventing Violence Against Women

Our branch board voted to add the name of AAUW--Eau Claire WI Branch to a long list of organizations calling upon Representative David Obey, Chairman of the Congressional Appropriations committee, to support full funding of programs that address violence against women, as proposed in the President's budget. This request was circulated by National Council of Women's Organizations, a coalition founded in 1985 by AAUW and now representing national organizations with more than 6 million members.

From the AAUW Washington Update

Washington Update is internal communication for public policy leaders and members of the American Association of University Women... [request your own subscription](#) online.

Goldman VP Sues for Discrimination

Former Vice President of Goldman Sachs University, Charlotte Hanna, is [suing](#) Goldman Sachs, claiming discriminatory practices following the birth of her two children. She was demoted after her first child, and terminated before the end of her second maternity leave. According to Hanna, 75 percent of people who had been terminated along with her had recently taken maternity leave.

Public Policy Co-chairs,

Mary Hayden, haydenm@prodigy.net

Sarah Harder, harderss@uwec.edu



Ellen Imbody died on March 11 in Tucson, Arizona. Ellen was an active member of AAUW-Eau Claire while she lived in the area in the 1990's. She served as co-president in 1993-1994, and held other positions on

the board. Ellen, a registered dietician, was an enthusiastic activist when it came to the nutritional needs of women and children. She was a true branch member who enjoyed attending state conventions.

AAUW VISION STATEMENT - *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls..*

AAUW MISSION - *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

FOLIAGE - *Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch*
Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.binnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



April 13, Tuesday – 7pm
Annual Meeting
Sarah Harder on Women’s Issues in Russia
1st Congregational Church

April 20, Tuesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
AAUW Pay Equity Day
UWEC Hibbard 1st Floor &
CVTC Main Lobby

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701