



GWI UPDATE – 18 April 2018



The GWI Centenary logo designed by GWI Logo Contest Winner Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi, Vice President Membership, Graduate Women (Fiji)

– Graduate Women International news –

Congratulations to GWI Centenary Logo Contest winner!

GWI is delighted to present the winning logo of its Centenary Logo Contest, designed by Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi, Vice President Membership, Graduate Women (Fiji). This logo will be used for the centenary celebration to be held in Geneva from 25 to 28 July 2019. This logo perfectly aligns with the GWI mission to promote and advocate for the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels and for the advancement of the status of girls and women. “The logomark as shown here retains GWI’s iconic lamp that has been redrawn with silhouettes of women’s faces to signify the 100 years of women working together to empower women and girls through education”, explains Mrs. Pastorizo-Sekiguchi. “The fire that burns from the lamp represents the passion, life, energy and vitality of all the women standing by our cause from 1919 until now. Furthermore, this fire also denotes the potential and the inspiration that flares within women and girls when they are in the flow of discovery exploration and learning”. As a perfect symbol of GWI century long contribution to peacebuilding through education, this fire “looks like it is splitting in two”, notes Mrs. Pastorizo-Sekiguchi. “This is because it symbolises book pages as well as bird wings to meaningfully capture the idea of the centenary theme “Peace through Education” in one fell swoop”. GWI congratulates Mrs. Pastorizo-Sekiguchi on her outstanding work and would like to warmly thank all the other contestants for their submissions honouring the 100-year GWI history of peacebuilding through education.

– GWI member news –

University Women of Europe to hold its 2018 General Meeting in Rome

The University Women of Europe (UWE) has released the programme of its upcoming UWE Conference to be held in Rome, Italy from 21 June to 24 June 2018. This conference will bring together University Women from all over Europe in an inspiring environment to discuss the following theme, *Women in STEM professions, Challenges – Support – Education*. The aim of this event is to focus on how to create opportunities and support systems for women in STEM professions. To find out more about the UWE Conference click [here](#).

WG-USA member creates an app for college women who experience abusive relationships

GWI congratulates Women Graduates-USA member Tipparat Udmuangpia for her participation in the development of a smartphone-based safety planning intervention for women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) in Ghana and Thailand. Udmuangpia, a PhD nursing student at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing from Thailand, conducts research on young pregnant women affected by IPV and aims to develop effective intervention programs to ensure the safety of women suffering from IPV. The application, called myPlan, was developed collaboratively by Udmuangpia, Dr. Nancy Glass from the John Hopkins Center for Global Health and other members of the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing. This internet or smartphone-based tool was designed to help IPV victims evaluate their safety, make decisions and connect to resources. The application has already demonstrated significant impact on the victims' sense of priority for safety, sense of support in making decisions and increased their ability to leave an abusive relationship safely. The intervention has already been adapted for diverse populations (e.g., women in abusive same-sex relationships, pregnant women, college students, Somali refugees) and numerous countries, including the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Udmuangpia and her advisor are currently building community advisory boards in Ghana and Thailand to include local partners and local expertise in the extension of the application to both countries. Their plan is now to move forward their research in adapting the myPlan app in Ghana and Thailand in the summer and fall of 2018. The US version of the myPlan application can be accessed online [here](#).

Australian Federation of Graduate Women hosts International Women's Week events

The Gold Coast branch of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) held an event with girls from three local high schools on 6 March in celebration of International Women's Week. This



Gold Coast Branch of AFGW at "Sisters4Success", hosted by the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast branch

Sisters4Success event was hosted by the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast. It featured roundtable discussions, one-on-one conversations and activities aimed at assisting these girls with thinking about their futures and careers. Topics students asked about that AFGW members spoke with them about included anecdotal advice on the experience of being a woman in science and/or a young woman entering the workforce, as well as general career

and personal presentation tips. AFGW members advised the girls to have confidence in their own abilities and dreams, to study subjects they truly enjoy, and to follow paths that they are passionate about.

Also, during International Women's Week, AFGW's Sunshine Coast branch held its annual International Women's Day (IWD) breakfast at the Maroochy Surf Club. Dr. Kate Seidler, a forensic psychologist, gave a talk entitled, *The Psychology of Violent Crime: Lessons from the Inside*. Additionally, members were given the opportunity to see the award the organization received for their Refugee Education Program at the 2017 Community Access Awards and reminisced on IWD breakfasts past. Money to fund the organization's projects was raised via a raffle. Overall, IWD was celebrated by women enjoying each other's company and motivated to help one another.

CFUW continues its Sustainable Development Series: Earth Day

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) continues its thought-provoking series on significant days to facilitate the conversation about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The

purpose of this series is to overlay an International Day of Observance with the SDGs lens in order to shine a light on the conversation. This initiative also provides a timely and critical opportunity to discuss the interconnectedness of the SDGs to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

CFUW has just released Earth Day, the eighth feature in its series on Theme Days. Celebrated every year on 22 April, Earth Day is now the largest environmental event in the world celebrated in over 192 countries. Recognizing the priority theme of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women this year, *Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*. Contributors of the Earth Day issue, Cheryl Hayles, CFUW Vice President International Relations and Nancy Mayberry, CFUW International Relations Committee, focused on experiences of rural women. Read the full issue [here](#).

Graduate Women New Zealand raise funds to build a nursery in Sierra Leone

Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ) helped to fundraise the \$13,000 necessary to build a community nursery in Kayima, Sierra Leone. Professor Tony Binns of the University of Otago was named an honorary chief of the town in 2014 as thanks for his continued support of the community, which inspired him to make a more tangible effect on it. He decided to build this space for preschool children, which was made possible by his students, friends, family and the efforts of the GWNZ. This nursery will help free up time for mothers, older sisters and other caregivers of young children to continue their education, or begin a career, and will have a great positive impact on the lives of many in the community. Read more about this marvelous project [here](#).

– Advocacy –

World Book and Copyright Day, 23 April

Join GWI in observing World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April by reading our [press release](#) and sharing our social media campaign posts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)). On World Book and Copyright Day GWI calls attention to the 76 million girls, out of 123 million children, worldwide that are illiterate. Literacy enables women to enhance their participation making decisions regarding themselves and their families, reduces women's risk of maternal and infant mortality as well as their vulnerability to domestic abuse, and can improve their earning potential by up to 95%. Moreover, ensuring that women from all areas and walks of life are literate ensures that their valuable stories can be shared.

To this end, GWI is proud to count female authors from a variety of backgrounds as members. These women use their education and literacy skills to educate people around the world. Having the ability to share one's expertise and experiences is a powerful tool that can be used to inform and inspire others. The latest of these authors, who span the globe, is Nellie D. Nath, a member of the Indian Federation for University Women's Association since 1971. Nath served as the association's president from 1995-97 as well as its Convener of the Constitution Advisory Committee from 2014-2017. Her book *Indian Federation of University Women's Associations Origin and Growth* was published in November 2017 as a source of information on the association ahead of its 100th anniversary in 2021. GWI welcomes this piece of our organization's history to the library of books by members.

International Girls in ICT Day, 26 April

SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 16, which call for quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and peace, justice and strong institutions, each have an interconnection to girls studying STEM and

advancing to careers in ICT. To mark International Girls in ICT Day on 26 April, GWI recognizes that without gender parity in STEM and ICT education, from a young age, societies fail young girls and continue to overlook them as they mature into women and join the workforce. Without the opportunity to experience gender equality in STEM education, girls' futures can be severely impacted as they are often pressured to focus on more "feminine" studies. This societal redirection of studies that can be detrimental to girls' socialization as well as the economic welfare of their respective communities. The SDGs are all intertwined with the end goal of eradicating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease in our global community, and the failure to achieve these targets results in the collapse of another. GWI joins the International Telecommunications Union's global effort to raise awareness on empowering and encouraging girls and young women to consider studies and careers in ICT.

– Call for applications –

University of Geneva Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance Programme Application and Scholarship

The Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance Programme, created by the University of Geneva in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, is a 10-month interdisciplinary programme that aims to give graduates and professionals a deep understanding of the political, economic, social and legal aspects of European and international governance. This year, the programme has instituted a system of scholarships, in order to recruit excellent candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds. The scholarship recipients will be decided based on the merit of their applications as well as their demonstrated financial need. The deadlines are **15 April, 15 May and 15 June**; however, there are a limited number of scholarships available and they will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. The applications for the [programme](#) and [scholarship](#) and more information on the both can be found on the MEIG [website](#).

Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc Fellowship

The application deadline for the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc. fellowship is **31 May**. This fellowship is offered for women graduates who are Australian citizens working towards a PhD degree at an Australian university. The funds granted will apply to a specific project "to extend the scope of the original research on which a postgraduate applicant is already engaged". A written report about the work done under the fellowship is required within six months of completing the project. For more information about this fellowship, visit AFGW's website [here](#).

Nigerian Women Association of Georgia Scholarships Awards 2018

The Nigerian Women Association of Georgia plans to award 37 one-time scholarships (one per state of origin as well as one for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of 100,000 Naira to Nigerian female undergraduates in Nigerian Universities. The application includes letters of recommendation and short essays to be reviewed. The deadline for this scholarship is due on **30 May**. For more information on the documents required and the application forms, visit their website [here](#).

2018 Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent

Every year the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section invites around 10-12 young activists of African descent to take part in the Fellowship Programme. This year the Fellowship will be held from 19 November to 7 December 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. In the framework of the Programme of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Fellowship Programme

provides the participants with an intensive learning opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent. The Fellowship Programme will allow the participants to better contribute to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent in their respective countries. The deadline for application is **1 June**. All information concerning the application process can be found [here](#).

– GWI at the United Nations –

Sustainable Development Goal 9 highlight

SDG 9 aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. To reach the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, infrastructure needs to be sustainable in its construction and use and resilient to future risks. New and existing industries must also pursue sustainable paths, including through innovation and upgraded technology. Investment in research and development will be key to achieve SDG 9 and yet, women are still largely excluded from the conversation as most researchers are still men. Similarly, the construction, manufacturing and energy businesses, with few women employees and decision-makers, fall far short from gender balance. Women are not only half the world's population but are also often disproportionately affected by many of the global challenges we face. This positions them with a unique set of experiences, needs, and perspectives that must be recognized and addressed as we seek to realize a more just and sustainable future. Girls and women—both young and old—are sources of knowledge, expertise, and solutions that must also be better supported and tapped. This is untenable and deprives both women and society of tremendous gains and, until remedied, will hinder achievement of the SDGs. From the factory floor to the high-tech lab, women must have equal opportunities in contributing to the achievement of SDG 9 and building a shared, sustainable future.

– Give the gift of education –

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training?

[Give the gift of membership](#) to join a global community of some 16'000 members in 55 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

– Did you know? –

Did you know? There are various opportunities for members of GWI to partake directly in the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. For example, in late 2016, GWI member Dr. Shelley Ball of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) was invited to attend the inaugural Homeward Bound Women in Science Leadership Expedition, an Antarctica research expedition through Homeward Bound and The Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, Canada. This experience took 76 girls with science backgrounds from around the world on this trip in order to learn about women in leadership positions, women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM),

while also performing research regarding climate change. Enjoy Dr. Ball's blog post about her experiences [here](#).

– Other information and events –

17-19 April	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional Meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandria's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day, Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
14 May-1 June	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 78 th session, United Nations, Geneva
12 June	World Day Against Child Labor, Global
18 June-6 July	Human Rights Council, 38 th session, United Nations, Geneva
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
21-23 June	University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy
2-20 July	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 70 th session, United Nations, Geneva
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July-2 August	4 th Gender & STEM Network Conference, Oregon, USA
25-28 July 2019	GWJ Centenary Celebration and Conference, Geneva

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

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