

## "We Can Do This. We Must Do This."

Shirley Quisenberry  
AAUW NC International Chair

INTERNATIONALISM HAS BEEN a part of AAUW since very near our beginning. The establishment of the International Fellowships in 1917, followed by the founding of IFUW in 1919, placed us early in the work of assisting women beyond United States borders. Following WW I, Virginia Gildersleeve met with a Canadian and a British university graduate to form the International Federation of University Women in answer to the need to unite in improving women's lives and educational opportunities especially in places where war, poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to education were so destructive. As a founding member of IFUW, we in AAUW have been major leaders and supporters.

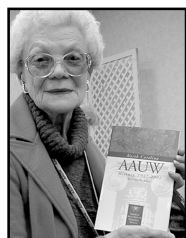
AAUW has eliminated the 2005 dues payment from its budget. *The Outlook* included a letter from Nancy Rustad telling of the action. Now we, who consider ourselves committed members of a global society, must understand the implications of this action and participate in the resolution of the serious consequences both to AAUW and IFUW. Think about the program of AAUW. We do have the EF International Fellows and the International Symposium (just been cancelled for this year), an Observer at the United Nations (UN) (a position my mother once held), and some branches have international study groups. The AAUW NC Bina Roy Program, which aids Costa Rica NFA, was originated by Hendersonville Branch during an IFUW conference. It is a good

example of connections of value.

Dues to IFUW are based on a per capita formula and have always been included in AAUW's budget so you may not realize that you have been a dues paying member. 78 countries are now represented in IFUW, many of whom are small countries where only a few women have higher education. And in most of those, the dues are noted separately in each member's "local" dues. If AAUW was that way in 2005 that would be about \$3 for each of us.

Although we will still have an AAUW voice at the UN in New York, the IFUW voice speaks for the world's women there. Advocacy serving to improve the role of women and especially of girls through IFUW is not only in New York, but in Geneva, Paris, and Vienna. "Most members of IFUW feel that international recognition is one of the most important benefits of membership." Focusing UN committee discussions to see gender issues as essential parts of actions whether about urban sustainable development or changing the Constitution of the ILO to remove discrimination against women has become a major effort of our representatives. UN delegates respect IFUW because of its well-prepared presentations and its role model for women.

The web site <http://www.IFUWSUPPORT.org> is the best place for you to learn about this crisis, from its background to plans to bring about a successful outcome. From that site you will be able to find comments from AAUW members and leadership and from IFUW members.



### AAUW NC History

Learn about North Carolina women who have worked hard to achieve equity and lifelong education for women and girls. Members will find answers to many questions concerning the state organization. Present copies of this special book commemorating the 2002 75th anniversary of AAUW NC to your local libraries, colleges, and universities. Order from Clara Allen. Send \$17 each (includes shipping) to 442 Crossvine Close, Fearrington, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

### Association Appoints Nichols to Executive Position

OCTOBER 20—The presidents of the Association, Educational Foundation, and Legal Advocacy Fund worked for several months to identify a candidate who could both perform the responsibilities of Interim Executive Director and complete an organizational assessment. The latter involves taking a good overall look at where we are, strengths and weaknesses, as well as making recommendations for clear short- and long-term actions. Very few individuals who possess these highly specialized skills, who understand and can manage the intricacies of interim (short term) assignments, and are available at this particular time.

Nancy Rustad, Mary Ellen Smyth, and Michele Warholic Wetherald have announced the appointment of W. Patrick (Pat) Nichols as interim executive director. Pat, is president of "Transition Leadership International," which specializes in transition leadership, leading organizations in assessment of current organizational operations, long term planning, and redirecting programs and operations. He comes to AAUW with a broad range of experiences, particularly in association management for both non-profit and for-profit

organizations. One of Pat's past leadership roles, which most closely matches AAUW, is his experience with Business and Professional Women/USA (BPW). Pat has worked with a broad range of organizational structures, membership organizations, staff management, volunteer leaders and organizations in various stages of change.

The interim executive director position is intended to cover the period until a permanent chief executive officer can be identified. The formal search process will begin soon with representatives of all three boards participating. The goal is to identify and hire a permanent CEO prior to the Convention in June 2005.

### AAUW NC Wish List

- Frequent Flier Miles for bringing guest speakers to state events.
- Office and program supplies and materials.



The Raleigh/Wake County Branch of AAUW had an exhibitor's table in the street fair of the Sally Ride Science Festival held at NCSU on October 10. Over 300 girls pre-registered for the event! Four branch members and two prospective members staffed the table during the day. Nearly everyone got to hear Sally Ride's keynote speech, which was very inspiring. They networked with women from like-minded organizations and gathered names and addresses by holding a drawing for a copy of an AAUW research report. Esther Lumsdon notes, "It was really fun to talk with parents who are interested in encouraging their daughters in math and science about AAUW's mission." From left, Lumsdon and Stacy Torian work at the exhibit table.

### Getting Back to Our Dreams

Ann Terry  
South Atlantic Regional Director

RECENTLY I HAD the privilege of reading an article by Adele Azar Rucquoi, a member in Florida, who wrote an article for *Florivision* on her experiences at the South Atlantic Regional Conference last June. I was struck by her summary comments!

*"All the weekend's learning and laughter found expression in a final workshop that lifted me back to my place of dreams – and of faith. AAUW's work will make a difference. I reflected on my good fortune to be a part of this passionate women's association. The world cries for this passion. AAUW is turning corners, inspiring all of us to be more than we are, constantly pushing the culture to raise the equality bar. Someday, all of this will be seen as just another yawning anachronism, a single squiggle in the long climb toward fulfilling human promise!"*

Wow! What a thrill to see in words what so many of us feel about our organization and the work it is doing. These are difficult times for AAUW and difficult decisions are being made daily. But the price of those difficult decisions is paid by the love, talent, energy, and commitment of each of you, and is reflected in a secure and vital future for AAUW.

Whether struggling with finances, membership decline, erosion of women's rights, or the many other issues that our branches, states, and Association face, if we can but keep our eyes on the vision we each have for AAUW, and how we want our organization to thrive and survive long after we are gone, then the price is well worth it. Deepest appreciation to each of you who is part of our team as we bring the dream together.

### Convention 2005

- Planning for the Association Convention, June 24-27, in Washington, DC, is well underway by staff and committees. Programs will focus on AAUW's mission and focus of

work, and will include an International component as well. A state leaders' meeting will be held Friday morning, and convention opens Friday afternoon. Business sessions are scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and Monday morning, and everyone will go to Capital Hill on Monday afternoon.

### Albright to Attend Convention

- Mary Ellen Smyth, Educational Foundation president, has announced that Madeline Albright will be the Educational Foundation Achievement Award winner at the AAUW Convention. Ms. Albright will be present to receive her award, so mark your calendar to be in DC!

### EF and LAF Boards Agree to Merge

- The Educational Foundation Board has agreed to a full merger with the Legal Advocacy Fund. The Legal Advocacy Fund will remain named, continue to support plaintiffs and the funds raised by members will continue to be used for plaintiff support.

### Decision Reached on Building

- The building study group of the Educational Foundation Board has reported on its consideration of wise uses of the AAUW Building, which is owned by the Foundation. After exploring a variety of options, the decision was made to remain in the building, consolidating office space where appropriate, then upfitting the lobby, restrooms, and other aesthetic pieces, then market to obtain additional rental fees.

### Student Leaders to Meet

- The annual National College Conference of Women Student Leaders will be held June 2-4, 2005 in DC. Now is the time to encourage students from your community to participate who would welcome this kind of experience.