

Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Women's Education—Women's Empowerment

This information package is compiled to commemorate Women's History Month, March 2012

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region

RECOGNIZING THE PIONEERING LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE DIVERSE AREAS OF EDUCATION

Although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women—across years and across cultures—in our country. After the American Revolution, the notion of education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for girls to gain a basic education—based largely on the premise that, as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of (male) citizens and leaders. The concept that educating women meant educating mothers endured in America for many years, at all levels of education.

Pioneers of secondary education for young women faced arguments from physicians and other “experts” who claimed either that females were incapable of intellectual development equal to men, or that they would be harmed by striving for it. Women’s supposed intellectual and moral weakness was also used to argue against co-education, which would surely be an assault on purity and femininity. Emma Willard, in her 1819 Plan for Improving Female Education, noted with derision the focus of women’s “education” on fostering the display of youth and beauty, and asserted that women are “the companions, not the satel-

lites of men”—“primary existences” whose education must prepare them to be full partners in life’s journey.

While Harvard, the first college chartered in America, was founded in 1636, it would be almost two centuries before the founding of the first college to admit women—Oberlin, which was chartered in 1833. And even as “coeducation” grew, women’s courses of study were often different from men’s, and women’s role models were few, as most faculty members were male. Harvard itself opened its “Annex” (Radcliffe) for women in 1879 rather than admit women to the men’s college—and single-sex education remained the elite norm in the U.S. until the early 1970s. As coeducation took hold in the Ivy League, the number of women’s colleges decreased steadily; those that remain still

answer the need of young women to find their voices, and today’s women’s colleges enroll a far more diverse cross-section of the country than did the original Seven Sisters.

The equal opportunity to learn, taken for granted by most young women today, owes much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendments. This legislation, passed in 1972 and enacted in 1977, prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. It has become the primary tool for women’s fuller participation in all aspects of education from scholarships, to facilities, to classes formerly closed to women. Indeed, it transformed the educational landscape of the United States within the span of a generation. Source: <http://goo.gl/zXRFD>

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National Women's History Month

National Women’s History Month’s roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women’s Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn’t until 1981 that Congress established National Women’s History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women’s History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

Read more: *History of National Women's History Month* at <http://goo.gl/TWqip>
Related Link: <http://goo.gl/Ts88c>

AMERICAN WOMEN IN EDUCATION

1742 – First girl's boarding school, Bethlehem Female Seminary, now Moravian College, opens in Pennsylvania.



1821 – Emma Willard establishes Troy Female Seminary in New York, the first educational institution to offer women an education equal to men.

1827 – First women's college west of the Mississippi River, The Linden Wood School for Girls, now Lindenwood University, opens in Missouri.

1837 – First women's college, Mount Holyoke, that was founded as an institution for women's higher education and is still a women's college is established by Mary Lyon in Massachusetts.

1848 – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens in Massachusetts.

1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell is the first woman to earn a medical degree, from Medical Institution of Geneva, in New York.



1851 – First institution of higher learning exclusively for women west of the Mississippi River, Cherokee Female Seminary, opens in Oklahoma.

1852 – Mills College founded, as Young Ladies Seminary, in

California, first college for women west of the Rocky Mountains.

1864 – First black woman earns a medical degree, from New England Female Medical College in Massachusetts, Rebecca Lee Crumpler.



1866 – First woman graduates from dental school, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Lucy Hobbs.

1870 – First woman graduates from law school, Ada H. Kepley, from Union College of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

1873 - First woman graduates from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and becomes its first woman instructor, Ellen Swallow Richards.

1881 – First black female institution of higher education still in existence opens, Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary, now Spelman College, in Georgia.



1883 – First woman graduates from pharmacy college, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Susan Hayhurst, M.D.

1889 – Susan La Flesche Picotte is the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree, from Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



1902 – Fanny Farmer opens her "School of Cookery" in Boston, Massachusetts.



1904 – Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida.

1945 – First class of women admitted to Harvard Medical School in Massachusetts.

1950 – Harvard Law School in Massachusetts admits women.

1955 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka this landmark decision overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine, declaring that all laws that supported segregated schools were unconstitutional, ruling that these statutes deprived students the equal protection guaranteed by the Constitution. Brown v. Board of Education



1959 – First woman passes the astronaut training test although she is not allowed to train, Geroldyn (Jerrie) Cobb.

1963 - Harvard Business School in Massachusetts admits first women into its MBA program.

1972 – Title IX of the Education Amendments is passed, challenging countless, long-help

assumptions and legal barriers concerning women.

1965 – First black student earns a doctorate at Yale Law School in Connecticut, Pauli Murray.

1970– Graciela Olivarez becomes the first female student and first Latina to graduate from Notre Dame Law School in Indiana.



1973 – First woman receives an athletic scholarship, Lynn Genesko, a swimmer at the University of Miami.

1976 – First women accepted at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.



1976 – West Point Military Academy in New York admits first women cadets.

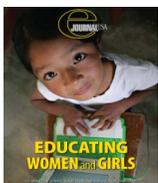
1994 – First woman president of an Ivy League institution, Judith Rodin, becomes president of the University of Pennsylvania.

1999 – First woman graduates from the Citadel in South Carolina, Nancy Ruth Mace.

Source: <http://goo.gl/4l60y>

RESOURCES

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION



eJournal USA: Educating Women and Girls. June, 2011

Equal access to education by males and females has been defined as a universal human right by the United Nations. Realizing this right by expanding educational opportunities for women and girls requires the commitment of many sectors of a society. This issue of eJournal USA explores how international organizations, state governments, the private sector and individuals — in many different countries — are tackling this global challenge and improving people's lives.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/j1bz7>

ePublication: Women of Influence, November 2006

This collection chronicles how 21 notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/kZsuO>

Photo Gallery



Great Women of the Twentieth Century, February, 2012

This photo gallery presents several American women who made important contributions to the history and culture of the United States in the 20th century. It is a sampling of the photos from a virtual exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery

Find the pictures at:

<http://goo.gl/pXK8C>

Video: The Women in Public Service Project, December 23, 2011

Women in Public Service Project is a new initiative to increase the number of women in public service at the local, national, and international levels. This video features U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; Carol Christ, president of Smith College; and Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

Watch the video at:

<http://goo.gl/b2aGu>

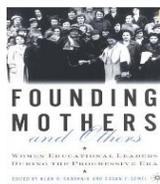
Video: America Out West: Women's Barrel Racing. February 12, 2012

This video was produced by the State Department in December 2011. It features DeBoraha Akin-Townson and Lyndee Stairs, professional barrel racers and riding instructors. It also features history professor Virginia Scharff.

Watch the video at:

<http://goo.gl/OsR21>

IRC COLLECTION

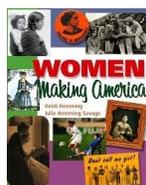


Founding Mothers and Others: Women Educa- tional Leaders During the Progressive

Era/Alan R. Sadovnik
(Editor), Susan F. Semel
(Editor). Palgrave Macmillan
(May 3, 2002). ISBN: 978-
0312295028

Interest in progressive education and feminist pedagogy has gained a significant following in current educational reform circles. Founding Mothers and Others examines the female founders of progressive schools

and other female educational leaders in the early twentieth century and their schools or educational movements. All of the women led remarkable lives and their legacies are embedded in education today. The book examines the lessons to be learned from their work and their lives.



Women Making America /Heidi Hemming, Julie Hemming Sav- age.

Clotho Press
(March 30, 2009). ISBN:
9780982127100

This hefty volume surveys the role of women in American history from 1770 to the present, focusing primarily on health issues, paid work, home, education, beauty, amusements, and the arts. Each chapter includes a brief summary of historical events and then examines the common threads.

Women's Roles in Twentieth- Century America (Women's Roles in American History)/ Martha May.

Greenwood (May 14, 2009).
ISBN: 978-0313340154

This book surveyed the roles of women of different classes and ethnicities as workers, parents, artists, and other roles in 20th century America.

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aff/OPAC/index.asp](http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp)

*"I have learned over the years that
when one's mind is made up, this
diminishes fear; knowing what
must be done does away with fear."
- Rosa Parks*

Women's History Month Quiz

Can you identify these women of great vision and achievement whose history is American strength?

1. Who became the first female Secretary of State of the United States, appointed by President Clinton in 1997?
2. Who was the ecologist writer whose path breaking book, "Silent Spring" in 1962 initiated the environmental movement?
3. Who became the first woman vice-president candidate on a major political party ticket when selected in 1984?
4. Who was the astronomer who discovered a comet, named for her, on October 1, 1847, and who was the first woman elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1850), and the first professor of astronomy at Vassar College?
5. What woman has won a total of 56 Grand Slam tennis competitions events and 9 Wimbledon women's singles titles?



SOUVENIR FOR YOU!

Send your answers to
ircjakarta@state.gov
by March 31, 2012 at
the latest.

Five lucky persons who
answer all the questions
correctly will receive a
souvenir from IRC.



WOMEN IN AMERICA BY NUMBERS

157.0 million

The number of females in the United States according to the 2010 Census. The number of males was 151.8 million.

Motherhood

85.4 million

Estimated number of mothers in the United States in 2009.

2.3

Average number of children that women 40 to 44 had given birth to as of 2008, down from 3.4 children in 1976, the year the Census Bureau began collecting such data.

Earnings

\$36,931

The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time, in 2010, unchanged from 2009.

Education

30.7 million

Number of women 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more in 2010, higher than the corresponding number for men (29.2 million). Women

had a larger share of high school diplomas (including equivalents), as well as associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. More men than women had a professional or doctoral degree.

29.6%

Percent of women 25 and older who had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2010.

11.3 million

Number of college students in fall 2010 who were women.

Businesses

\$1.2 trillion

Revenue for women-owned businesses in 2007.

7.8 million

The number of women-owned businesses in 2007.

7.5 million

Number of people employed by women-owned businesses in 2007. Nearly half of all women-owned businesses (45.9 percent) operated in repair and maintenance; personal and laundry services; health care and social assistance; and professional,

scientific and technical services. Women-owned businesses accounted for 52.0 percent of all businesses operating in the health care and social assistance sector.

4

Number of states with at least 500,000 women-owned businesses in 2007 were California, Texas, New York and Florida. California had 1.0 million women-owned businesses, Texas had 609,947 or 7.8 percent of all women-owned businesses in the United States, New York had 594,517 or 7.6 percent, and Florida had 581,045, or 7.4 percent.

Voting

46.2%

Percentage of female citizens 18 and older who reported voting in the 2010 congressional election. Forty-five percent of their male counterparts cast a ballot. Additionally, 66.6 percent of female citizens reported being registered to vote.

Jobs

58.6%

Percentage of females 16 and older who participated in the labor force, representing about 71.9 million women, in 2010.

40.6%

Percent of employed females 16 and older who worked in management, professional and related occupations, compared with 34.2 percent of employed males.

Military

205,500

Total number of active duty women in the military, as of Sept. 30, 2010. Of that total, 38,700 women were officers, and 166,800 were enlisted.

Marriage

64.9 million

Number of married women 18 and older (including those who were separated or had an absent spouse) in 2011.

5 million

Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide in 2010

Source: <http://goo.gl/8asp5>

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