Greetings from the Anita White Foundation,

Our newsletter contains updates on the Women’s Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA) and our research, two fundraising appeals, and an introduction to the new co-chairs of the Student Action Group.

**Women’s Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA)**

WSLA is organised and delivered by the AWF and Females Achieving Brilliance (FAB) and supported and hosted by the University of Chichester. There have been three residential weeks held in June annually since 2014.

Our previous newsletter revealed that we had received over forty applications for WSLA 2017. We are delighted to announce that 37 women have been accepted from the following sixteen countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Botswana, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, UK, USA and Zimbabwe. As with previous WSLAs, we are thrilled with the variety of countries and cultures to be represented. Eighteen women from the UK will join nineteen women from around the world in Bognor Regis in June for another fantastic residential week.

These participants will become part of an international network of 108 women from 31 countries to have graduated from the residential week. We continue to receive regular updates from the graduates. In February, Naomi Kato (WSLA 2016; Japan) hosted a networking evening for women leaders from international and Japanese national sport federations ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Naomi (pictured left) was also joined by Aya Noguchi (pictured second left; WSLA 2016; Japan), Lila De Soysa (pictured centre; WSLA 2016 guest speaker) and Olga Tarasava (pictured right; WSLA 2016; Belarus).

For WSLA 2016, the AWF funded Caroline Nyamande (WSLA 2015; Zimbabwe) and Rachel Muthoga (WSLA 2014; Kenya) to return to WSLA as international facilitators. We will continue the initiative of inviting graduates to return as facilitators for WSLA 2017. From the UK, Claire Bennett (WSLA 2014) and Jade Moulden (WSLA 2015) will join Nisha Rupnarain (WSLA 2014; South Africa) and Tsosi Magang (WSLA 2016; Botswana) as facilitators. The AWF will be funding Nisha and Tsosi’s travel and accommodation.
Nisha Rupnarain (pictured left) has managed the South Africa Netball Cup since attending WSLA 2014 and continues to work for the national netball governing body.

Tsosi Magang (pictured right) has continued as the Vice Chair of Women and Sport Botswana since WSLA 2016.

Fundraising

WSLA’s progress is enabled by your donations. There are two fundraising projects currently being undertaken to raise money for women who come from parts of the world where they encounter particular difficulties in securing financial aid, and have not yet been able to secure sufficient funds to attend WSLA. We appreciate all donations received.

Lucy Piggott (pictured right) is a PhD student at the University of Chichester, an AWF Scholar and a coordinator of WSLA 2017. Lucy is completing an arduous trek in South America to raise enough money for one woman to attend WSLA. If you would like to read more about Lucy’s challenge and contribute to her fundraising efforts, please press here.

James Faudemer (pictured right) is a graduate of the University of Chichester and member of the first AWF Student Action Group. He raised over £1,000 for WSLA 2014 by running the Virgin London Marathon for the AWF. In April, James plans to run the Virgin London Marathon once again and has challenged himself to break his amazing personal best of 2hrs 39m. He has documented his training in his blog, including dealing with bad drivers, bad weather, and bad pace-setting! James has generously offered to fundraise to ensure the AWF can continue to contribute to financing women leaders to attend WSLA. If you would like to donate to James’ cause, you can do so directly through the AWF fundraising page.


Student Action Group

We are excited to introduce you to the new co-chairs of the Student Action Group. Lilley Kennedy and Nicole Soriano are second year Sport Development and Management students at the University of Chichester. They have jointly taken over from Lauren Whitehouse who is close to graduating from her degree, having assisted her for the past year. Lilley and Nicole have participated in sport since a young age and have much coaching experience.

Through the Student Action Group, Lilley and Nicole aim to reflect their passion for women and sport and raise awareness of the AWF within the University community. One example of this is the production of a video in conjunction with the new Sports Media degree programme at the University *(pictured)*. The video is to be used to attract students and staff to the work undertaken by the AWF and we would like to thank Ian Worden and his students for the professional manner in which the video is being produced. It is currently being edited and will be launched as part of our new website in a few months’ time.

Lilley and Nicole took on their first formal AWF role in March to coincide with International Women’s Day when they presented as part of the second University of Chichester Student Union (UCSU) Women of the Year Awards. Organised by the UCSU Women’s Officer and the Female Empowerment Society, the evening was a wonderful mix of energy, passion and activism to recognise and award the women, non-binary individuals, and their male allies at the University.

Lilley and Nicole *(pictured l-r)* presented the SportsWoman of the Year Award to Sport Development and Management student Izi Tunnicliffe. Former Chair of the Student Action Group, Lauren Whitehouse, was awarded an academic prize for Sport Development and Management. Congratulations to both Izi and Lauren, and thanks to Lauren for her amazing work with the group over the last two years!
**Researcher update**

**Lucy** has undertaken research with the Lawn Tennis Association at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, observing and interviewing members of the Executive Leadership Team and Board. She continues to progress in her Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching and has co-authored two book chapters to be published later in 2017 with Elizabeth and Jordan, each focusing on different aspects of women’s leadership in sport. In February, Lucy completed a successful major review of her PhD. The major review is an important milestone in the research process to confirm both the progress of the student and that the work undertaken has the potential to meet the requirements for the award of PhD.

**Lombe** is gathering data by conducting interviews with women sport leaders in Southern Africa. She interviewed five women sport leaders in Zambia earlier this year, and this Spring she will be interviewing women in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Lombe will be co-presenting with Jordan at the Sport Development and Management research seminar at the University in late-March about the experiences of interviewing women as part of their respective research projects. Like Lucy, Lombe is also assisting with teaching in the department and continuing to support the organisation of WSLA 2017.

**Elizabeth** was invited to Japan in March to present on women's involvement in sport in later life. Elizabeth has produced many research outputs and reports related to aging and gender and thus was approached to lecture at Tokyo Gagukei University before presenting a keynote address at the Japanese Sociology of Sport Society conference. She also met with AWF supporter and former co-chair of the International Working Group on Women and Sport, Etsuko Ogasawara (pictured).
2020 Strategy

Meanwhile, the AWF Strategy group has not been idle and we recently agreed our 2020 Strategy to guide the work of the AWF for the next four years. The vision of the Strategy is that the AWF will be internationally recognised for combining ground-breaking academic study, the education and development of women leaders and scholars in sport, and the preservation of heritage for women and sport. We have six objectives to enable us to achieve this vision:

1. To educate and develop women sport leaders and scholars
2. To develop the scale and sustainability of WSLA
3. To preserve women and sport heritage
4. To conduct research and scholarship of international repute on women and sport
5. To engage with the University community and AWF supporters
6. To ensure the sustainability and good governance of the AWF

These objectives will guide the work we do and are forming the foundation for our new website which will be launched very soon. If you would like a copy of the 2020 Strategy, please contact Jordan.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the AWF and our projects. If you would like to make a donation to the AWF to support women to attend WSLA 2017 or contribute to our other activities, we would be most grateful. Please visit our fundraising page or download a gift form from our website.

Anita, Elizabeth (Chair of the AWF) and Jordan (coordinator of the AWF)