

Attention: April Feagley

American Association of University Women  
Huntingdon Branch

For Release Right away

Deborah S. Grove  
9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road  
Huntingdon PA 16652  
H: 814 643 3295  
W: 814 865 3332

March AAUW

“Gender Issues in Other Countries: A Panel Discussion with students from India, Cape Verde, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia ” will be the program at the March 28 meeting of the Huntingdon Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at 7 p.m. in the Brumbaugh Academic Center C109. The public is invited to attend.

The panel members are currently students and are Nitya Chagti, India; Suraia Silveira, Cape Verde; Stephanie W. Njeru, Kenya; Ruhama Gari, Ethiopia; and Liliane Pari Umuhiza, Rwanda.

Nitya Chagti from New Delhi India Program of Emphasis is the History of Ideas, Currently, she s a writing center tutor, a Plexus Mentor, and a tutor for European History and Survey of Western Art. Her activities at Juniata have included organizing Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, volunteering as an International Student Ambassador to converse with prospective international students and acting as a student representative in SEEDS, an initiative under the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She was awarded second place in the 107<sup>th</sup> Bailey Oratorical Contest held at Juniata College, in February 2017.

A Cape Verde native, Suraia Silveira, came to the US in 2009 and lived in the Boston area where she graduated from the Boston Green Academy. She was honored by the Boston Globe and named one of Boston’s Faces of Excellence. Her degree work is in International Business and Spanish and activities have been Girls Soccer (2012-2014) and Girls Indoor & Outdoor Track (2013-2014) in high school and Track and Field at Juniata. She is planning on playing soccer in the fall. She loves traveling.

Coming from Kenya, Stephanie W. Njeru, will complete a Bachelor of Science in Global Health Communication as she pursues a Professional Track of Advocacy, Service, & Arts. She has worked in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion where she supports and works with the special assistant to the President on Diversity and Inclusion. She is also a Plexus Fellowship Mentor, a position in which she guides and supports first year students to ease transition to college. She serves as Lambda Pi Eta Co-President and received the Gold P.E.A.C.E. Certificate in 2016. She also participated in The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, Washington, DC.

Ruhama Gari is an international student from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a sophomore here at Juniata college her program of interest is Biology but she has also incorporated peace and conflict studies. She states that she has always had an ardent love in bringing a lifestyle change in peoples lives especially for women. In the future she wants to incorporate her science degree in doing humanitarian work not by directly serving as a physician do but by impacting the health care system in her home country.

Liliane Pari Umuhoza's family fled what became known as the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. She was but two years old when more than 800,000 of her fellow Rwandans were killed in just 100 days for no reason other than a societal failure to communicate, resolve differences, and make peace. Liliane is a dancer, a diplomat, a peacemaker, and a speechmaker. As only a first-year student, Liliane was runner-up in the 2016 Bailey Oratorical Speech Contest. In that speech she quoted Martin Luther King as having said: "We are not makers of history, we are made by history..." and then added this: "To make our societies more just we have to do three things: First, empower through education; second, eradicate inequality; and third, act against injustice." She will graduate in 2019, armed with a world-class education and a strong sense of who she is with plans to return to Rwanda because "I know my country needs me."

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW has a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college/university institutional partners. Since AAUW's founding 130 years ago, members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. AAUW's commitment to educational equity is reflected in its public policy advocacy, community programs,

leadership development, conventions and conferences, national partnerships, and international connections. Call Pat Croissant for further details on membership, 643-0606.

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