

**American Association of University Women
Fairbanks Branch
Branch membership meeting
November 16, 2015, 7 pm
Noel Wien Library Conference Room**

Vice President of Programs Gael Murakami welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Introductions were made with the 14 people attending. AAUW provides several fellowships and grants which Carla Willetto and Gael Murakami gave an overall description.

Membership. Gael reported the branch now has 52 members.

Directories. Aldean Kilbourn reported the 2015/16 branch directories have been printed and distributed. Thanks to Aldean for her efforts in compiling and distributing the directories.

Public Policy. Carolyn Gray gave an update on AAUW public policy items of interest to our branch.

Tonight's program recognized our two branch members Casey Brown and Steffi Ikert-Bond who have been recipients of the AAUW American Fellowship and what the fellowship meant to them. This fellowship is available to PhD candidates in their last year to complete their dissertation. The fellowship is also available for postdoctoral candidates to conduct research or prepare research for publication.

Casey Brown is a PhD Candidate at UAF investigating the effects of wildfire on moose habitat use and moose hunters in Interior Alaska. Her interests are in the human dimensions of wildlife using an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates fire ecology, wildlife telemetry, and hunter harvest records. Casey has a MS in Ecology from Colorado State University and a BA from Prescott College. Additionally, she has been an instructor for outdoor education programs including the UAF's Girls on Ice Program, the Wild Rockies Field Institute, and Outward Bound.

Steffi Ikert-Bond is the Curator at the Herbarium (ALA), and Associate Professor of Botany, UAF. She was born and raised in Berlin, Germany and received her engineer diploma (Dipl. Ing.) at Technical University of Applied Sciences in Berlin in 1994, subsequently she studied for both her MS (1997) and her PhD (2003) in Systematic Botany at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. She held a Boyd Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago from 2003-2005 before joining UAF in 2006. Her research interests include phylogeny, biogeography and gene evolution among ferns, gymnosperms and flowering plants to infer historical evolutionary processes that have resulted in current patterns of

biodiversity. She is married to Richard and has three children: Marlene (18), Leopold (13) and Lilli (6).

This meeting was designated a “public meeting” and membership was offered at half price through the Shape the Future Membership Campaign.

Next meeting is our Holiday party potluck, gift exchange and collection of items for the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living and will be Monday, December 14, 2015, 6 pm, at the home of Ritchie Musick.

Meeting adjourned and members and guests enjoyed refreshments provided by Rita Osborne.