Save the date: Nov. 9, 2017

Women’s Center Sponsors Annual Empowerment Luncheon

by Phyllis M. Webb, M.Ed., Program Coordinator

The UofL Women’s Center 15th Annual Empowerment Luncheon will take place on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, with guest speaker Nikki R. Jackson.

Jackson is a Senior Vice president and the Regional Executive of the Louisville branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, a position she has held since October 2014. Prior to that, she served as Principal Consultant/Owner of Nikki Jackson HR Consulting for three years.

The event will be at the University Club located on the Belknap campus from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Ticket information to be announced.

In addition to a speaker, several awards will also be presented — the Tachau Gender Equity Award, which recognizes a member of the UofL community who has done significant work toward gender equity; and the Nichols Award, which is presented to a graduate or professional school student to support academic and professional enrichment. Other awards will include the Women’s Empowerment Award and, for the first time this year, winners of the Tachau Essay Contest will be recognized.

Criteria and applications for the Tachau and Nichols awards as well as the Tachau Essay Contest can be obtained by emailing the Women’s Center service account at womenctr@louisville.edu or by visiting the Women’s Center website at http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter.

Note: All deadlines are Friday, Oct. 6, 2017.

The luncheon seeks to empower women in all aspects of their lives—politically, socially and economically. Tickets are $50 per person; $400 for a table of eight. Call the Women’s Center at (502) 852-8976 to reserve your spot through Nov. 7.

Kentucky Laws that Affect Parents and Children

by Phyllis M. Webb

Be informed. This is just a few of the new Kentucky laws that went into effect this summer.

House Bill (HB) 492 creates a presumption of joint custody and equal parenting time. Children will have a better chance of seeing both parents after a divorce. Children in married families enjoy both their parents. Before the new law, children in divorced families enjoyed whichever parent the court picked (primary custody). These children may be allowed a short visit with the other parent. However, the new law encourages a better arrangement called shared parenting. In shared parenting, children get to see both parents equally. Instead of a single parent winning, the children do.

House Bill (HB) 38 prohibits registered sex offenders from going to a public playground unless they get written permission from an appropriate government entity in advance.

Senate Bill (SB) 195 establishes a process for expunging felonies from someone’s juvenile court record. Sex crimes and certain violent offenses can’t be erased.

Senate Bill (SB) 50 encourages public school districts to delay the first day of school at least until the Monday closest to Aug. 26. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, districts that opt for a later start date can be more flexible in designing their annual schedule.

Two other bills that were signed into effect in January put tighter restrictions on abortion, including one measure prohibiting the procedure at or after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The bills include an emergency provision, making them

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Message from Director Valerie Casey

Dear Friends of the UofL Women’s Center:

This newsletter highlights some of the exciting Women’s Center groups and programs.

Women’s Center student groups include American Association of University Women (AAUW), Empowering Ladies Together, Student Parent Association, Women 4 Women and a Women Veterans Group. Membership in most of these student groups is free and offers friendship, service, advocacy, and leadership opportunities.

Signature programs include the Human Trafficking Awareness Conference, Women’s Equality Day, Elect Her, $Start $mart, and International Women’s Cultural Awareness Day celebrations. Student parents participate in a Visibility Day, Clothing Give-a-way and Angel Tree for students who are also parents. Back by popular demand is an anti-street harassment program titled Cards Against Catcalling. This program resonated with students and will surely become a signature program going forward.

The Women’s Center also organizes and collaborates on global trips examining human trafficking and women’s issues around the world. In the past, we have visited Peru, Spain, Morocco and India. Articles and photographs from programs are in this newsletter and on our website and social media.

We would love to have your support.

All the best,

Valerie

Valerie M. Casey
Director

Kentucky Laws
Continued from cover

effective immediately after Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin’s signature.

The first, House Bill (HB) 2, now requires a physician or technician to perform an ultrasound, describe and display the ultrasound images to the mother, and provide audio of the fetal heartbeat to the mother before she may have an abortion. The text of the bill says the pregnant woman may choose to avert her eyes from the images and request the volume of the heartbeat be turned down or off.

The second measure, Senate Bill (SB) 5, prohibits abortions in the state at or after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The bill would not apply in cases where an abortion is required to save the life of the mother or prevent serious risk of bodily harm to the mother, but it does not contain exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

For more information on any of the bills listed, visit:
http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/
(Source: Courier-Journal Newspaper, 2/2017; Lexington Herald Leader, 4/2017

Women’s Center Celebrates 25 Years on the University of Louisville Campus

The UofL Women’s Center held an Anniversary Celebration this past March in Bigelow Hall of the Miller Information Technology Center (MITC).

Community and campus individuals attended to help celebrate this occasion. The 25th anniversary continued with a Birthday party on Aug. 24 in the Red Barn and continues with the Women’s Center Empowerment Luncheon on Nov. 9.

Visit the Women’s Center web site for more photos of the Anniversary Celebration.

2017 Kentucky Women’s Book Festival

Save the date of Saturday, March 3, 2017, for the 12th Year of the Kentucky Women’s Book Festival (KWBF). The festival highlights Kentucky women authors, writers and also features networking; an opening session, concurrent sessions, luncheon and book signings.

The event, which is sponsored annually by the UofL Women’s Center and UofL Libraries, is free and open to the public (with an optional lunch for a nominal cost).

Check the KWBF web site for updates :
http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/programs-events/community/kwbf and
http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/programs-events/community

Visit the Women’s Center web site for more photos of the Anniversary Celebration.
Message from the Director

Welcome to the University of Louisville! The UofL Women’s Center is thrilled to invite you to join our exciting student groups and get involved with the Women’s Center. Check out our programs and activities on Facebook or our website. We look forward to meeting you!

Go Cards!
Valerie

Valerie M. Casey
Director

My Experience on a Global Trip to India

by Maya White

Within 19 days in India, I experienced the temples, memorials and tombs of ancient Indian people who are notably God-like, dipped my feet into holy waters, engaged in lectures of the Indian culture and women’s empowerment and ate numerous varieties of spiced curry. Our first two weeks in Manipal, our guide (also adopted as my big brother) Nanda led us into the alleyways and head administrative offices of Manipal University, through the Western Ghats Mountain ranges to sacred temples of Nanda’s hometown, Balanoor Tea Factory (still operating since British colonial rule) and Soan’s Farm: a world of exotic fruits, nursery plants and spices. It was such an adventurous and open experience as the people of India opened their arms to our visitation for firsthand knowledge of their places to worship. I appreciated meeting the owner of the Soan’s Farm, indulging in rambutan and fresh pineapple juice and comparing my boot to the humongous jackfruit, native fruits so familiar in the Indian culture. India is no comparison to any other country of which I have visited. It moves in sync through its values and customs that have no visual order. Everything, person and place has divine meaning, from the syllable of a sound to the position of a temple in array of the sun. A way of life one may not ever understand until it is a part of them holistically.

Maya is a senior Individualized (Liberal Studies) major at UofL with a minor in Sociology, Pan-African studies (concentrated in Women’s & Gender Studies). She plans to graduate in December 2017.

The Cuban Story

by Stephanie Henry

What’s a better way of learning history than being able to see, touch, taste, and breathe it? That’s exactly what I could do as I ventured through Cuba. It was an amazing opportunity to see in person the history I’ve been reading about and learn more about people that were not mentioned in various readings I had come across. Prior to leaving for Cuba, I was aware of the most famous politicians and historical events of Cuba such as Jose Marti, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and former President Batista. But while in Cuba I could learn about more people who weren’t as famous but still very important to the Cuban history.

Cathedral square within Old Havana was built by Jesuits, they were kicked out of Cuba by the Spanish King after a while when he felt that they were getting what he believed to be too much power. The church was left unfinished and later a Spanish Bishop came to Havana and didn’t like the Baroque style so he changed the facade and interior, introducing the classical style to Cuba.

Although the war is over and independence has been won, it is still a tradition to fire cannons at a fortress in Havana daily at 9 p.m. The cannons are shot today as a tradition of the past during which the firing indicated the opening and closing of the city’s gates. The walls surrounding the cannon site were ones surrounding the entire city to protect it from outside invaders. This event is a must-see because once more your history book comes alive.

The Havana Square of the Revolution was built during the rule of Batista, which was renamed by former President Castro as Revolution Square. The square is filled with landmarks and architectural features such as fortresses. One of the most popular

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A photo of the cathedral today.
Cuba

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landmarks is a memorial of Jose Marti, one of the Cuban greats previously mentioned. Marti is a Cuban hero and poet who was passionate about the country’s independence. It is within this square as well that Fidel had previously addressed the masses to give speeches.

One story that is often left out of history books but still an important part of Cuban history—so much so a sculpture was made in its honor—is the governess who longed for a husband that would never come back. Hernando de Soto was the husband of Isabel de Bobadilla who left to find the fountain of youth leaving his power and responsibilities to her. It is said that she looked out at the sea daily waiting for her husband to return from his search for the fountain of youth.

Stephanie Henry is one of the students who traveled abroad to Cuba as part of the Women’s Center abroad trip this past March during spring break. She graduated in May 2017 with a BS degree in Social Work. Currently she is a Case Worker for a local agency and plans to attend Medical School in the future.

Nichols Award Recipients

The 2016 Nichols Award recipients were recognized last November at the Women’s Center Empowerment Luncheon. Here, Megan Hartline, Treva Hodges and Kristen Echols discuss their research & travel experiences.

NOTE: University of Louisville graduate and professional school students can apply for the 2017 Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award through Oct. 6. The award—up to $500—is to support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses. To download an application and criteria, visit: http://www.edu/womenscenter/resources/uofl-women-center-awards-and-scholarships; or visit womenctr@louisville.edu for additional details. Award recipients will be recognized at the Women Center Empowerment Luncheon on Nov. 9.

College Composition and Communication Conference in Oregon

by Megan Hartline

The 2016 Nichols Award allowed me to present my dissertation research at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, Oregon. Because this is the flagship conference in my field, disseminating my research in this venue was key for my professional development as a scholar in the field of rhetoric and composition. Because of the support I received from the University of Louisville Women’s Center and the Nichols Award, I was able to travel to Portland, present my findings, attend a qualitative research workshop, and continue to make connections with other scholars in the discipline.

In my presentation, I discussed how the English department at the University of Louisville has been building a culture for community engagement within the graduate program. I argue that structured paths of participation that include conversation about and, especially, practice of engaged research allow graduate students to learn how to connect their disciplinary interests with local community concerns, a current concern in community engagement scholarship across fields. Through engaged research opportunities offered in the English department, students gain new skills and are able to do research they can circulate through conference presentations and publications, helping them develop as professionals in the field. Additionally, they gain a deeper understanding of the value and importance of community-engaged research, which is useful for universities like UofL that are working to strengthen ties between their campus and the local community.

Megan is Assistant Director, Thomas R. Watson Conference & Graduate Fellow, Rhetoric and Composition, University of Louisville

We were so excited to see our work study student Lakeisha Gardner having a great time in Cape Town, South Africa! She completed an 8-week intern with People Against Suffering, Oppression, and Poverty in the Gender Based Violence Program over the course of the summer 2017.

The UofL Women’s Center partnered with the Department of Communication on a Global Trip to India this past summer 2017.
Visual Representations of Trauma: Slavery Interpretation at Whitney Plantation

by Treva Hodges

Unlike typical historical plantation tourist sites, Whitney Plantation in Wallace, Louisiana, does not offer guests romanticized histories of genteeel living. Whitney is dedicated to the history of the U.S. African slave trade and seeks to challenge traditional interpretations of plantation life. Thanks to the Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Grant, I visited Whitney Plantation in November 2016. My research explores how the trauma of slavery is represented in the art and memorials at Whitney. I found that Whitney is unique not only in the structure of its tour, but in its ability to encourage critical thought about the lasting legacies of cultural trauma induced by the slavery system. My research trip informed an essay that was awarded the Anne Braden Social Justice Research Award for graduate students this past May. I am currently revising the essay to submit to an academic research journal for possible publication. As a PhD student in the Comparative Humanities Department pursuing additional graduate certificates in Women and Gender Studies and Public History, this initial research project has offered the first opportunity to achieve my goal of informing public history practice from a social justice perspective. I look forward to continuing work like this following my graduation in May 2020.

Treva is currently a Ph.D student in Humanities with a minor in Women & Gender Studies; Public History.

PhotoVoice Study

by Khristen Echols

Our research team, led by University of Louisville alumna Dr. Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Alabama, has used the PhotoVoice study to not only collect data in and about the community research site, but we have also used it to empower the adolescent black girls within the community. My portion of the presentation built on the methodological overview and modifications presented by Margaret Holloway, doctoral student at University of Alabama, through a detailed exploration of the structure of a PhotoVoice meeting in the study. During my portion of the presentation, I provided an account of each activity with particular focus on the empowerment exercises employed in these sessions. My presentation used a variety of sources (traditional scholarly texts, as well as social media outlets, and aesthetic and artistic works) to shape the discussion of these sessions and the talk-back data collected. It also discussed writing as empowerment, black girl literacy, and the work of black girl bodies mentoring black girl bodies.

Khristen is a Doctoral candidate & graduate Instructor in the UofL Rhetoric and Composition Program, Department of English.

Essay Contest for UofL students

The UofL Women’s Center is sponsoring an Essay Contest—the Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Essay Contest—which is open to currently enrolled UofL undergraduate and graduate students.

The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of the historical sociological attitudes toward women of the 20th Century and their impact on individuals and society as a whole.

Award amount is $500 for the undergraduate essay and $500 for the graduate essay. The deadline to apply is Friday, Oct. 6, 2017.

For more details, visit: http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/news-events/first-annual-mary-k-bonsteel-tachau-essay-contest
Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

The UofL Women’s Center offers support and resources to empower women with the goal of promoting an inclusive and equitable campus community and to develop engaged and compassionate leaders.

This is a list of our student groups that may be of interest to you as you seek leadership opportunities within the group as an officer, or working on various committees.

**W4W (Women 4 Women Student Board)**
Current officers: President: Hadley Hendrick; VP: Sarah Simon; Treasurer: Sophia Douglas; Secretary: Clea Grubb

**Student Parent Association (SPA)**
Current Officers: Janine Hogan, Treasurer Johnecia Seay & Lakeshia Gardner, Public Relations

**AAUW**
Katherine Hicks-Chambers, Treasurer

**ELT (Empowering Ladies Together)**
Brittany Chamblee, President

**Women Student Veteran Support Group**
Seeking officers and members

**Student Programs and opportunities include:**
Global Leadership Program trips; College Women’s Leadership Conference, Elect Her, Human Trafficking Awareness Conference; International Women’s Day, Self-Defense Workshop, $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop, Cards Against Catcalling; Student Parent Visibility Day & Clothing Exchange Project; Campus Talk, Mentoring Program, Equal Pay Day, Scholarships, sponsorships & more!

Visit the Women’s Center web site, http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter for information about each group or email womenctr@louisville.edu

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**Welcome...**

to our new federal work study students for the fall semester:

- **Johnecia Seay**, junior;
- **Sophia Smith**, freshmen;
- **Hannah DePriest**, freshmen; and returning student
- **Lakeshia Gardner**, senior.

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The following photos are from some of the events sponsored by the Women Center student groups over the past year.

W4W HTAC committee members delivering feminine hygiene products to the Kristy Love Foundation

AAUW at the Women’s Unity March

A student-parent enjoys the Student Parent Visibility Day & Clothing Exchange event.

Women Center work study students, Hannah Emberton, Hannan Nielsen and Lakeshia Gardner help sort clothing for the Clothing Exchange Giveaway held last year.
SPOTLIGHT ON: Gail Graves

by Brenda D. Gunn, Women’s Center Editorial Board

Gail Graves is a 30-year employee in the University of Louisville’s Speed Scientific School. She started as a temporary employee and became permanent in 1987 in the Civil Engineering Department, which is now the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

Current Position: Administrative Specialist

Job Duties: She provides administrative and operational support to the Speed School Department Chairman and faculty; assists in the coordination with the Speed School Business Center of office functions such as purchasing, procards and payroll, maintain records of graduate level students, and other student-related activities. She also supervises students in the work-study program.

In addition to her main responsibilities, she has served on the Committee for Sexual Harassment and is currently a Black Faculty & Staff Liaison in the Speed School to help identify and document current Black faculty & staff within Speed School.

How She “Exhales”: She loves to go shopping, watch movies and do fun things like bowling and playing games. She is involved in her church with service opportunities; sings in the choir, directs the Angel choir; teaches Sunday School and performs in-reach and outreach activities. She also serves as President of her church’s Ministry B-Team, which allows her to stay in contact with the community to help others in need. “I love interacting with the people who enjoy meals at the St. Vincent de Paul Open Hand Kitchen by serving food and giving them a spiritual handout.” She added, “I also visit nursing homes, shut-ins and hospitals.”

At one time, she served as a consultant with a cosmetics firm and worked as a professional model and instructor with a local agency. In addition to her busy schedule, she has served as a judge for the Miss Black UofL Pageant; a speaker for The Society of Women Engineers; and occasionally, a model for the Professional Administrative Day event at the University Club, which, she says, “is lots of fun.”

Advice for Young Women: (Those being hired at UofL or anywhere): “I would tell them to thank the Lord for whatever job you get; respect others on the job; do your job and don’t be a busybody.”

Gail says that she enjoys her career at UofL and she owes her many years of service to God who placed her here. “I believe that God will direct your path.”

Reflections on Pre-conference Workshop

This past May, the Kentucky ACE Women’s Leadership Network hosted a pre-conference workshop before the annual statewide Pedagogicon Conference, an intensive conference on teaching and learning held annually at Eastern Kentucky University. With support from the UofL Office of the Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs and the Women’s Center, sponsorships were provided for the registration which featured Dr. Maria del Carmen Salazar of the University of Denver. Dr. Salazar shared strategies for leading, her leadership philosophies, and concepts for being an inclusive leader.

The pre-conference workshop also provided networking opportunities with faculty and administrators from other institutions.

Theresa Hitchcock, Assistant Director – Advisor, Training and Development Undergraduate Advising Practice, University of Louisville, reflected on her attendance.

One of the things I love most about higher education is the courage of students and professionals to learn, live and lead. Dr. Maria del Carmen Salazar discussed the importance of courage in her session at the Kentucky Pedagogicon Conference on leading from the margins. Here are three takeaways from the workshop.

One: Our stories are powerful. I learned how to embrace my story and validate the stories of others to empower people of different backgrounds.

Two: How we present things matter! Dr. Salazar presented her material in one of the most unique styles I have ever seen. She managed to engage 100 people for almost three hours through storytelling, videos, group activities and personal reflection.

Three: Networking is so important. I made several solid contacts with Kentucky higher education professionals and have followed up on those contacts in the past few weeks. Thanks to the Women’s Center’s generous sponsorship. The workshop was very valuable for the content, presentation, and networking opportunities. I was very impressed by Dr. Salazar as a professional, academic and female leader, and I look forward to incorporating these three takeaways into my role at UofL.
School of Law Bids Farewell to Dean Susan Duncan

by Robin R. Harris, Brandeis School of Law

Susan Hanley Duncan served as acting dean of the Brandeis School of Law from July 2012 through June 2017—five of the most challenging years ever for both the law school and the university. She took over when former dean Jim Chen resigned, bringing much-needed new energy and a sense of purpose to the school. She became the third woman dean in the law school’s history: the first was Barbara Lewis, who served from 1982 to 1990; the second was Laura Rothstein, who served from 2000 to 2005. Duncan fully intended to serve in her new role for five years. Her decanal duties ended at Brandeis on June 30, when she left to become dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law in Oxford, effective Aug. 1, 2017.

Susan Duncan graduated from UofL’s law school in 1991 and in 1997 began her teaching career at her alma mater. Starting as an adjunct professor, she worked her way up, and in 2000 received a full-time appointment. She became associate dean of academic affairs and faculty development in 2011, and full professor in 2012. In her twenty-year career, she taught Basic Legal Skills, Negotiable Instruments, Criminal Law, Education Law, Restorative Justice, and Juvenile Justice. She has written extensively, especially on the use of restorative practices in schools, universities, and the workplace.

Community and university service, always important to Duncan, remained a priority during her five years as dean. She volunteered for Kentucky Refugee Ministries, the Healing Place, and Habitat for Humanity and worked with numerous UofL groups, including the Community Engagement Committee and the Great Places to Work Advisory Committee. She chaired the President’s Commission on the Status of Women during 2009-2011, leading this vital group, which has worked for over twenty years to improve the campus climate for women students, staff, and faculty.

Susan Duncan’s people skills certainly served her well during her deanship, especially in her dealings with law students. She would demonstrate her personal interest in the entering class by phoning every student to congratulate each one on being admitted. Those phone calls meant a lot to the students, making them feel truly welcome at the school. Dean Duncan hosted student groups at her home for receptions and meetings, and worked to connect law students to practitioners in the community. Perhaps most important was her open-door policy; students (and staff and faculty) were always free to speak with Dean Duncan about law school issues and situations.

From the moment in March when word spread that Dean Duncan would be leaving Louisville for Oxford, Mississippi, the Brandeis community began, in large and small ways, to say thank you to the woman who had worked tirelessly to fix problems that seemed insurmountable—morale problems, diversity problems, and financial problems. An ongoing series of farewell parties, lunches, and receptions paid tribute to the leader who had accepted a series of challenging situations at the law school in 2012, and completely turned things around. Truly, she had lived up to her pledge to foster a culture of participation, respect, and shared responsibility.