



"Just as it was racism that has shaped our history as a region and as a country, so it was the struggle against racism that has moved our country in a more humane direction."

— Anne Braden, 1988

Legacy. It's Happening Here.

About The Institute

- The Braden Institute, located on the second floor of U of L's Ekstrom Library, opened its doors in the spring of 2007
- The Institute, part of the College of Arts and Sciences, is directed by Anne Braden's biographer, Dr. Cate Fosl, associate professor of Women's and Gender Studies & History
- The centerpiece of the Institute's programming is the annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, bringing leading national scholars on southern civil rights movement history to the local public
- The Institute's reading room contains the 3000-volume collection of Anne and Carl Braden's books plus historic civil rights movement artifacts; it hosts both permanent and occasional exhibits

– A Community Council of ten activist leaders advise and support the Institute along with a group of 21 affiliated A&S professors and librarians

Our Mission

To bridge the gap between academic research and social justice advocates who might apply that research: The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research seeks to advance wider understanding of the legacy of the southern civil rights movement and to honor the vision of longtime racial justice organizer, educator, and journalist Anne Braden, whose outlook was global, but whose activism was concentrated at the grassroots level. The Institute has a special focus on Louisville and the U.S. South and is dedicated to understanding the processes and conditions that create and sustain social justice globally, nationally, regionally, and locally.

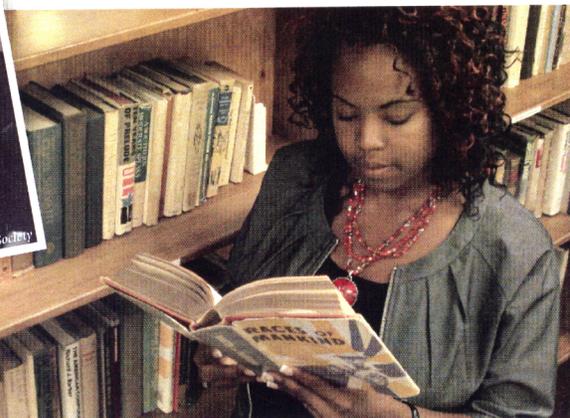
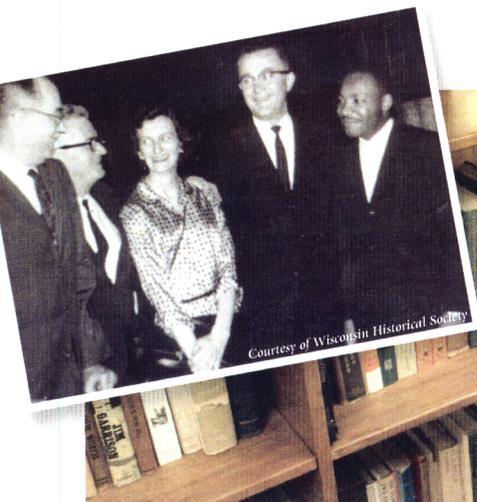
Who was Anne Braden?

Anne Braden (1924-2006) was a Louisville journalist, organizer, and educator who was among the earliest and most dedicated white allies of the modern African American freedom movement. Her central message was whites' responsibility to combat racism. Praised by name in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail," she devoted herself to advancing human rights movements across the southern United States for more than half a century.

Why establish a university institute for social justice research?

Social justice research aims to reduce and eliminate social inequalities, especially those connected to racism, sexism, homophobia, war, poverty and repression. It has an action component and typically includes community participation. At the Braden Institute, Anne's books, papers, life story and local/regional alliances become tools through which we engage those broader issues and bring social movement history to life.

Despite a growing interest by universities in community engagement in recent years, there are only a handful of university organizations who work directly with social justice activists at the





grassroots level or who focus on U.S. history. The Anne Braden Institute is dedicated to bridge-building between the academy and community, whites and people of color, history and current social problems, research and action, giving activists a voice in the university community as well as giving students and professors a direct link to activists in the local and regional community.

In her six decades of activism, Anne Braden always cared deeply about youth. In the last years of her life she taught classes at UofL and other universities. She also spearheaded many organizations, some of which remain vital today. To anchor her legacy in a university setting ensures that generations of students and educators can learn from her life, both her writings and actions, how and why

it is imperative to cross the racial divide that is so central to U.S. history and contemporary American culture.

The Work of the Institute

– The Institute offers history tours, exhibits, performances and teach-ins on the modern U.S. and local civil rights movement to classes, local schools, and community groups;

– Since 2007, the Institute has sponsored the Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture in civil rights history, providing the university and community opportunities to hear noted speakers;

– The Institute offers annual student social justice research awards and internships;

– The Institute conducted “New Media and Empowerment of Communities of Color in the U.S. Urban Heartland,” a 2008 grant-funded study, done in partnership with Kentucky Jobs with Justice, to investigate local access to the internet and how activists are using digital media;

– The Institute convenes interdisciplinary, campus-and-community-based reading and research groups—such as the 2010 initiative on housing as a social justice issue.

What the Institute Can Become

The Anne Braden Institute promises to become a lasting local, regional and national leader in research and public education advancing both the study of

civil rights history and the continuing quest for human rights. Using Anne Braden’s writings and actions as models, the Institute will widen understanding of her work and of the importance to social movements of coalition-building, multiracial alliances, and concrete actions against racism at the local grassroots level. At full capacity, we could

- Host scholar/activists-in-residence to widen the scope of social justice courses at UofL
- Expand through new research initiatives the body of knowledge on modern civil and human rights movements, especially an understanding of the key roles played by southern border cities such as Louisville
- Complete a major interdisciplinary study examining school desegregation in Louisville from busing to the 2007 *Meredith* Supreme Court ruling and beyond
- Support new interdisciplinary scholarship by UofL faculty aimed at lessening social inequalities
- Support a corps of UofL students to work with social justice activist organizations locally and nationally to highlight and preserve Anne Braden’s legacy
- Offer more social justice-related programming on and off the campus

How You Can Help

Under the leadership of Arts & Sciences Dean J. Blaine Hudson, UofL established the Institute and provided start-up funding. The Institute continues to operate on discretionary funding from the College and conducts grant-funded research. The goal now is to secure endowment funds to ensure that the Anne Braden Institute will be a permanent fixture at the University of Louisville.

– With your help, the Institute can continue to educate generations of UofL students about the inspirational and empowering contributions of Anne and Carl Braden and other unsung, grassroots heroes and heroes in modern U.S. racial and social change.

– Please consider making a gift and enlisting others to do the same. Make your payment to “University of Louisville Foundation G1745,” earmarked for the Anne Braden Institute. Call us at (502) 852-6142 or email us through our website www.louisville.edu/braden to see how you can get involved.