

# UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE®



*Founded in 2007 in honor of human rights activist Anne Braden, the Braden Institute bridges the gap between academic research and social activism.*

Biannual Newsletter

Issue No. 1, Fall 2007

"A new massive thrust toward racial justice will not alone solve all the problems that face us, but I am convinced that unless such a thrust develops—one that is global in its outlook—the other problems will not be solved."  
 --Anne Braden, 1999

**Anne Braden Institute Reading Room**  
 258 Ekstrom Library  
**Open Mondays 12:30-5:30; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9:30-4:30; evenings and weekends by appointment.**  
 Call (502) 852-6142 or come by!



## Julian Bond, NAACP Chair, Launches Institute

On April 4, 2007, Julian Bond—Anne Braden's longtime friend and colleague—cut a ribbon to signify the grand opening of the new Anne Braden Institute at University of Louisville. Later that day, which was also the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the slaying of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Bond delivered the first Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, entitled, "2007: A Race Odyssey," to a full house of several hundred attendees at UofL's Brown and Williamson Club



*Students Jardana Peacock & Shameka Parrish with Bond and Prof. Cate Fosl*

in the stadium. Bond, who had known and worked with Braden for 47 years, was the

"perfect choice for our inaugural speaker," noted Institute director Cate Fosl. Bond recalled Braden as a "remarkable woman, a true soldier in the freedom fight. I deliberately say "soldier" because she wasn't a general and didn't want to be one. She was a foot soldier by choice, but she was really more than that—she was a thinker, an organizer, a writer and journalist, a model, and in her own way a leader...she showed many women of my generation that civil rights was women's work." The remainder of Bond's talk focused

on themes common to Braden's nearly 60 years of southern organizing: "racial justice, economic equality, and world peace." He stressed that in the United States today, race is not history, but "history is race."

# Social Justice Photo Exhibit Unveiled

*A reception to honor Jack Norris and his photo exhibit dedicated to Anne Braden was the Institute's premier summer 2007 event.*

**By Jacqueline Brown, volunteer**

On July 12, 2007, nearly 75 supporters converged on the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research.

The occasion was a reception to honor photographer Jack Norris's contributions that grace the walls of the Institute and serve as a welcoming for both campus and community, toward an awareness not only of the Institute's existence but, moreover, its purpose.

With the Institute intended to serve as "bridge" between the activist grass-roots community and the academy, its mission and Norris's photos are tandem elements that buttress each other. Norris's pictures portray an eclectic admixture of subjects—both the famous and not so famous, the familiar and unfamiliar, the young and the old—and subject matter, the common strains permeating the images being the sense of *united* and *reiterated* engagement and involvement.

Moreover, the photos offer an invigorating glimpse into the nation's activist past. Elderly folksinger Pete Seeger,

along with locals Alice Wade, Anne Reynolds and an unidentified child, grace a photo entitled "March Against Iraq War" that unites generations, races and genders.

A 1986 photo of Braden with local activist Reverend Louis Coleman (shown here) engaging in one of many "all-night" police protests lends fascinating insight into Braden's persistence. Entitled "City Hall," the photo bears a caption with Coleman attesting to Braden's tenacious struggle for equality. "Anne was always there," proclaims the text.

In fact, many of the images testify to Braden's "no-nonsense" approach: "NAACP Convention—1979" shows her hands-on hips, stern and straightforward posturing, while "Rally To Free Imani

displays a cohesive and galvanized weapon forged to combat this pervasive monster.

Norris expressed his desire that the Institute act as "information gatherer" about what happens "socially, economically and religiously." Moreover, Norris pleads for the Institute to live up to its promise to build a more symbiotic relationship between intelligentsia and grass roots community organizations, the Institute's stated purpose.

This collection of photographs is available for viewing during the Institute's visiting hours throughout the fall semester. (Photo below by Jack Norris.)

*Ed.'s Note: Thank you, Jack Norris!*



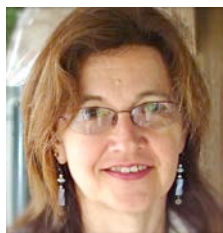
Harris—1988" portrays her, again, with hands on hips and mouth wide open in a sweat-stained shirt-waist dress before a microphone on the steps of the capital building in Montgomery, Alabama.

Perhaps the photo most revealing of the Braden Institute's mission is of an anti-Klan March of 1979. This photo portrays a united front that runs the expanse of race, gender, class, and age, as it shows throngs of support united against the noxious sceptre of racism. The anti-Klan march photo, more than any other,



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Greetings from the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at the University of Louisville,



and welcome to the inaugural issue of our newsletter! Hopefully, by now most of you have at least heard of us,

though you may still be wondering, "What in the heck is social justice research?" That is a question we will address in many ways as we enact our mission to bridge the gap between academic research and social activism.

Social justice research is...intersectional, interdisciplinary, community-based, participatory, accessible and not jargonistic, global in its outlook even when it is local in focus...just to give you a taste of what my own ideas on this subject are.

As many of you know, I wrote the biography of Anne Braden that came out a few years ago (*Subversive Southerner*, University Press of Kentucky). I got to know Anne well over the past 15 years, and I became one of the many, many "youth" who were mentored by her and inspired by a life so single-mindedly dedicated to racial justice.

Anne Braden liked to think of herself as ordinary, but she was quite extraordinary—a talented journalist and organizer, a passionate crusader, and also, ultimately a gifted educator. It was out of her dedication to mentoring and teaching—and yes, even to scholarship, despite her great frustrations with so many individual scholars—that A&S Dean Blaine Hudson and I got the idea to institutionalize her educational legacy at UofL. This institute is committed to facilitating more of the kinds of exchanges of knowledge and action between academics and community advocates that Anne herself tried so hard to promote.

Even in Louisville, the name "Anne Braden" is not uniformly well-known, and that situation reflects a lot about public (mis)understanding of the U.S. civil rights movement more broadly. We see that lack of information as a major problem.

Therefore, we are also doing campus and community programming on the history and legacy of the civil rights movement even as we undertake community-based research that we hope will benefit current social justice and humanitarian causes. The media reform research grant we recently landed (see p. 4) is only the first example of the sort of research we want to do more of.



*Anne Braden with philosopher Cornel West at Washington D.C. Peace Rally, Fall 2005.*

We also have a great resource for students, professors, and community researchers in the form of the Carl and Anne Braden Books Collection—more than 3000 volumes of mostly activist-oriented history, literature, and politics available weekdays in our new social justice reading room in 258 Ekstrom Library. (Tours and teach-ins can be scheduled nights and weekends too if set up in advance.)

A massive archive of resources on local social movement work in which Anne was involved is being processed upstairs in University Archives, and we hope to open that manuscript collection later this academic year. While Anne Braden's life and vision are the lynchpin of the institute, we seek not to lionize her but to sustain others who will carry on both scholarship and activism consonant with that vision.

Stay tuned, Louisville, as we embark upon this exciting journey toward promoting and engaging social justice research on the U of L campus, the city, the South, and ultimately the world.

-Cate Fosl

## Kentucky Remembers!

*Jardana Peacock is the Pan-African Studies Graduate Assistant assigned to the Braden Institute. This past summer she led a group of young people on a journey of discovery that helped connect them with Kentucky's proud traditions of organizing and community leadership.*

One hundred young people from the five regions across Kentucky came together this year as part of the *Kentucky Remembers!* Project, an unprecedented initiative committed to building youth leadership by sponsoring youth summer camps working to preserve the history of human rights struggle in the Commonwealth.

For three weeks, youth delegates from ages 12-17 studied oral history methodology, conducted interviews with veterans of the civil rights movement, explored historic sites of their own neighborhoods, and created a human rights mural. *Kentucky Remembers!* was a pilot project of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, and the Braden Institute was an integral partner by sponsoring me to work with director Caitlin Swain-McSurely throughout the summer on overall project curriculum and implementation, and by recruiting U of L students for the Louisville-based camp. The six U of L

staffers were supported by the Braden Institute, Arts and Sciences and three cooperating departments: Anthro, History, and Women's-Gender Studies. They will present a multimedia culminating "reportback" program this November 8, 3-5:30 pm, in 300 of the Humanities Building.

Also of note, some of the young people from the Louisville *Kentucky Remembers!* camp have taken a lead on a vision they call the Umbuntu Center. Umbuntu is a South African term that means "I am because you are." They want to create a place that means just that-- a youth-run, youth-relevant center in the West End that provides job training, Real History (not only white history), arts classes, and even a 24-hour safe place to come to if needed. This vision, while huge, has made some progress. *Kentucky Remembers!* along with Arts and Activism (another youth camp led this summer by Shameka Parrish and Shirley Moorman of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Oppression) have recently come together and are planning a Spring 2008 community celebration aimed at showcasing the youth visions for their community while building a base of support to realize the Umbuntu Center. We will keep you posted!

*-Jardana Peacock, M.A. Candidate in Pan-African Studies*

## Meeting our Mission

*Graduate Intern Amber Duke forges links between the Institute and Louisville activists.*

Part of the mission of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research is to bridge the gap between academic research and social justice community advocates who might apply that research.

Graduate intern Amber Duke designed a project for Fall 2007 that seeks to lay the groundwork for meeting this mission.

Duke is meeting with leaders and members of progressive organizations in metro Louisville to learn about their visions, missions, goals, possible research needs and the challenges they face in their advocacy work.

The goals of the project include: establishing strong bonds with members of the Louisville activist community, creating a database of information for the Institute on local social justice organizations, and generating ideas on how to instigate and mobilize new research relevant to the Louisville community.

At the end of the semester, a project report will be filed at the Institute. This report may be of interest for student/faculty researchers looking for new research topics or new means to disseminate their work.

*-Amber Duke, M.A. Candidate in Pan-African Studies*

## 1st Intern's Report

I was a graduate intern during the opening year of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. It was a fascinating process being a part of something that was being created from the ground up. It was also a good feeling being a part of something new that I felt would be important to the community.

The new institute had a great group of interns and graduate assistants, all of whom I knew before the semester began. From the first staff meeting it was clear that the interns and graduate assistant had a variety of skills that would contribute to the new organization. Because I had done a lot of work in media before coming to the institute, a lot of my efforts focused on media for the Grand Opening.

It should be noted that all the interns and the graduate assistants knew Anne Braden. Because of that fact, we had no doubt that we were carrying on in her spirit. It felt good to see the massive amount of community support at the Grand Opening. Many of Anne Braden's friends and associates who were able to travel made the trip to Louisville for the event. I feel sure the new institute will do great work in the future.

*-K.A. Owens, Master's candidate in Humanities-Civic Leadership*

## Institute Lands Major SSRC Grant

Our good news for Fall 2007 is that the Anne Braden Institute has received its first major research grant. This is great news for any researcher, but it is especially good for a new institute like ours to begin to build a track record.



*Braden Institute staff joined other Kentuckians at the U. S. Social Forum in Atlanta this past summer.*

The project the grant will support is called "New Media and Empowerment of Communities of Color in the U.S. Urban Heartland," and its purpose is to determine access to new media in marginalized communities of color in metropolitan Louisville with an eye toward (a) establishing best-practice guidelines for social justice advocacy groups around the use of new media for mobilizing citizen activism; and (b) developing new policies and/or activist strategies toward making new media technologies more widely accessible to local communities of color. The project aims to get more detail on Louisville's "Digital Divide" and develop strategies for activists to use new media more effectively in spite of that divide.

The grant comes from the Social Science Research Council's Collaborative Grants in Media and Communication, designed especially for academic-advocacy partnerships. Our partner in this year-long study is KY Jobs with Justice under the leadership of Ms. Attica Scott, director, with secondary consultation by Mark McKinley and the Louisville Media Reform Community. The co-primary investigators are Dr. Jennifer Gregg of the Communication Dept., and Institute Director Cate Fosl, with consultation by COMM's Dr. Margaret D'Silva. Grad student and community activist Kirk Owens and intern Amber Duke will assist in the research.

## New Calendar Features Anne Braden on Cover

This *Sheroes Womyn Warriors Calendar 2008* is a creation of the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights [www.myerscenter.org]. Wordsmith extraordinaire Sonia Sanchez paints a vivid word-picture of this amazing tribute :

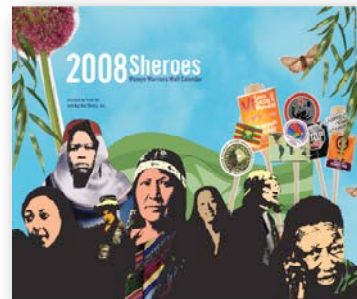
*Sheroes. As necessary as water.*

*Sheroes. As beautiful as the morning sun.*

*Sheroes. As sweet as rain.*

*Sheroes. The word. Makes you smile rivers.*

Those seven sheroes on the calendar's cover include (L to R) Egyptian, Tanzanian, Japanese, Okanogan, Menominee, U.S. southerner, South African – resilient womyn. That southerner is our own Anne Braden! The Braden Institute has a limited number of these calendars available for sale @ \$15/each, so please come by to pick one up or get ordering information.



## Fall 2007 Upcoming Events

- **October 5-November 2:** *Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the United States*—a multi-media art exhibition in Photo Archives Gallery, Ekstrom Library, M-F, 9-5. Curated by historian and independent scholar Dr. Rickie Solinger,
- **October 21** (Sunday) 3 pm matinee of *Cage Rhythm*, Kia Corthron's powerful play about women, children and incarceration: this performance by the UofL African American Theatre program is co-sponsored by the Braden Institute and will feature a post-play talkback with Dr. Rickie Solinger. U of L Thrust Theater.
- **October 22** (Monday): *What Does Research Have to Do with Social Justice?—Case Studies from Incarceration to Liberation.* Forum and Panel Discussion in Chao Auditorium, noon-1:15, with light lunch reception following. Featuring (1) "From Birmingham to Jena Six: The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. And Black Male Incarceration," by Dr. Johnny Hill, theology professor at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary; and (2) "Making Incarceration Visible: Art, Exhibition, Social Justice and Women in US Prisons," by Dr. Rickie Solinger
- **October 22** : Presentation on *Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the United States*, Chao Auditorium, 2-3:15 pm, by Dr. Rickie Solinger, award-winning author of *Pregnancy & Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America*; *Wake Up, Little Susie: Single Pregnancy & Race Before Roe v. Wade*; and other books on race, class & motherhood. Solinger's exhibitions often go along with the themes of her books and have toured more than 100 college campuses.
- **October 22** : 6th Annual Latin American and Latino Studies Heritage Lecture, "Latin Immigration in the Midwest: The Fight for Decency and Dignity," Dr. Dan LaBotz, independent scholar, writer, lecturer. In English. Chao Auditorium, 4:00-5:30pm.
- **November 8** (Thursday): "Human Rights Education: Student Perspectives on the Kentucky Remembers Project." Report-back session presented by six student interns who staffed a human rights youth camp through partnership of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Braden Institute, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the departments of Anthropology, History, and Women's-Gender Studies. 3:00-5:30pm HUM 300.

*Coming in the spring: our first symposium! April 3-4 on the topic of "Engaged Scholarship and Social Justice-Driven Learning" on the UofL campus. Stay tuned for details...*

## Please Consider a Gift to Support Social Justice Research at The University of Louisville:

- Yes, I want to contribute to the Braden Institute. My check is enclosed in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Yes, I want to contribute to the Braden Institute. Please phone me at \_\_\_\_\_ to make arrangements for my credit card donation.
- Yes, I want to help and stay informed. Please add me to your list-serve. My email is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Yes, I want to help by volunteering. Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Make your payment to the University of Louisville Foundation, earmarked for the Anne Braden Institute. All donations are tax-deductible. Please clip & return to: Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Louisville, Louisville KY 40292. *Thank you for your support!*

# Anne Braden Institute Affiliated Faculty

- J. Blaine Hudson, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Special Consultant
- Tomarra Adams (PhD, University of Kentucky), assistant professor of Pan-African Studies
- David Anderson (PhD, University of Pennsylvania), associate dean of Diversity and Community Outreach and associate professor of English
- Rhonda Buchanan, director, Latin American and Latino Studies and professor of Spanish
- Delinda Buie, (MLS, University of Kentucky), professor, curator of rare books, University Libraries\*
- Nefertiti Burton (MFA, University of Massachusetts-Amherst), associate professor of Theatre Arts
- Thomas Byers (PhD, University of Iowa), professor of English
- John Cumbler (PhD, University of Wisconsin), professor of History
- Margaret D\*Silva (PhD, University of Kentucky), associate professor of Communication
- Katherine Burger Johnson (MA, University of Louisville), associate professor, Archivist for Manuscript Collections, University Archives and Records Center\*
- Ricky Jones (PhD, University of Kentucky), associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- Tracy K\*Meyer (PhD, University of North Carolina), associate professor of History
- Avery Kolers (PhD, University of Arizona), associate professor of Philosophy
- Lisa Markowitz (PhD, University of Massachusetts-Amherst), associate professor of Anthropology
- Theresa Rajack-Talley (PhD, University of Kentucky), associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- Susanna Remold, assistant professor of biology
- Nancy Theriot (PhD, University of New Mexico), professor of Women\*s and Gender Studies and History
- Russ Vandenbroucke, professor and chair of Theatre Arts [\*=ex-officio]



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