

UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE**<sup>®</sup>

**ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH**

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



Newsletter

Issue No. 8 Fall 2014

“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 (ABI) Reading Room**  
258 Ekstrom Library  
Open Mon-Thurs 9-4:30; open until 6pm most Wednesdays; Fridays, evenings, & weekends by appointment  
Call (502) 852-6142 or follow us on Facebook or Twitter  
Web address: [www.louisville.edu/braden](http://www.louisville.edu/braden)

**Legal Scholar John Powell to discuss  
“From Freedom Summer to Ferguson:  
Why We Need a New Culture of  
Belonging” on Nov. 11**

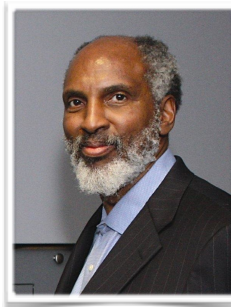
by Mariam Williams

Among the nation’s leading experts on structural racism and a professor of law, African American studies, and ethnic studies at the University of California Berkeley, John A. Powell, JD, will speak on the topic, “From Freedom Summer to Ferguson: Why we need a new culture of belonging,” for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, Tuesday, November 11, 5:30 pm in the Belknap Playhouse (1911 S. Third). Book signing and reception will follow.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Public parking is available at meters along Third Street and in the Speed Museum Garage.

In his 2012 book, *Racing to Justice: Transforming Our Conceptions of Self and Other*, Powell argues that “race operates as a verb before assuming significance as a noun. In other words, before someone can be said to possess a racial characteristic or identity,” a process of “racing” must take place. That a dominant, more power-

ful group must first create and assign categories and characteristics that define who everyone else is, and that define the dominant group as the norm. He also argues that because it’s a verb, race is a constantly changing practice. To achieve a just society, we must consistently look at what race is doing, not ignore it. *Racing to Justice* represents a decade of Powell’s writing about social justice and spirituality. In addition to his other appointments at UC Berkeley, Powell directs the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. He was longtime executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University. Under his direction, the Kirwan Institute emerged as a national leader on research and scholarship related to structural racism, racialized space, and opportunity. The Belknap Playhouse has all new seats and plenty of room, so please join us for the lecture and help us spread the word about it. Contact the Institute to request flyers or details, or download a flyer from our website, <http://anne-braden.org/anne-braden-memorial-lectures/>.



Prof. John Powell

**BLACK FREEDOM  
WHITE ALLIES  
RED SCARE  
LOUISVILLE 1954**

**A Public History Exhibit**

In Memory of the  
60th Anniversary of the Wade-  
Braden Bombing and Sedition  
Case

September 25-November 9

Bernheim Gallery  
Main Library on York Street

Opening Reception Oct. 1 @ 7pm

A Collaboration with Louisville Free Public Li-  
brary, the University of Louisville Archives, and  
the *Courier-Journal*

See full story p. 2

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



It has now been 12 years since my biography of Anne Braden (*Subversive Southerner*) first appeared, but this fall I am drawn again into the details of her life and the Wade case as we prepare for the public history exhibit at LFPL. The sedition charges that Anne and Carl Braden faced were the result of a cultural hysteria that feared anything that reeked of “communism.” That fear rocked our city, nearly wrecked several lives, and caused a grand jury

and a community at large, in their zest to root out Communists, to completely overlook the egregious wrong done to the Wades, an African American family who wanted nothing more than their “dream house” in 1954. As our nation deals with the fallout from Ferguson, MO, the Wade-Braden story remains a useful lesson about the enduring power of white supremacy throughout our history and how easily we can become blinded to that reality by social forces around us.

The other half of my job in 2014 has been to promote more dialogue on our campus about “engaged scholarship.” What is engaged scholarship, you may ask? That is what a lot of the ABI’s and my own work has consisted of over the past few years—an approach that more and more academics are embracing globally. It means research or teaching that is done in partnership with (not for) a community, in which authority is shared in defining both a problem or issue and the methods for understanding or addressing it. Engaged scholarship often means letting go of being the “expert,” and taking a more democratic approach to producing and sharing knowledge. It also means embracing the overlaps and fuzzy boundaries among concepts like research, service, teaching, and knowledge itself. As a university that is struggling to become more fully community-engaged, UofL has quite a few practitioners of engaged scholarship. My work this year is to try and bring greater synthesis to our efforts and to lift up conversations about how this approach may demand further changes in how we value and disseminate the scholarship that we produce. This summer I had the chance to visit 7 other community-engaged campuses nationally and learn some of their “best practices.” ABI work will be enriched by these experiences, as—I hope—will other units of UofL!

### Making Louisville “Home for Us All”

On February 13, 2014, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission released, “Making Louisville a Home for Us All: A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing.” The plan traces Louisville’s race-based housing segregation history and suggests short- and long-term action steps for ending residential segregation across race and other protected classes (disability, gender, etc). It was a collaboration between the Braden Institute, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, and the Human Relations Commission.

Since its release, the plan has been heralded by U.S. Housing and Urban Development as a national model for creating true fair housing choice. It also has spurred a change in our Housing Justice Reading Group. Earlier this year, we changed the group’s focus to implementation of the action steps and renamed it the “Home for Us All” Implementation Task Force. Our first action was to submit a letter to Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher urging him to immediately designate a Louisville Metro government office to begin enacting the plan’s action steps. The letter was signed by nearly 50 community organizations and individuals. This group continues to meet

monthly and will use coming sessions to outline a clearer vision for realizing “a home for us all” locally and to map out a public awareness campaign that engages the entire Louisville community. Contact us to become a part of this campaign!

### Fair Housing Focus Groups

One of the plan’s action steps included conducting a market analysis to assess demand for housing in Metro Louisville. This summer the ABI teamed up with UofL’s Center for Environmental Policy and Management and Metropolitan Housing Coalition to conduct a series of focus groups to learn how people in certain populations feel about their housing choices: low-income African Americans, higher income people of color, single moms, refugees/immigrants, and those with disabilities. Over 40 participants shared their experiences—data that will help the community take steps to ensure fair housing will become available to all Louisvillians within 20 years. We plan to conduct two more focus groups—Hispanic/Latinos and persons who identify as LGBTQ—this fall. Interested in participating? Call the ABI at 852-6142 or visit [www.anne-braden.org/focusgroups](http://www.anne-braden.org/focusgroups) for more information.

### Oral Histories on Fair Housing

As part of the action plan’s push for community education and engagement around fair housing, the ABI partnered with University of Louisville Archives to create the “Home for Us All: Fair Housing in Louisville-Jefferson County Oral History Collection.” This digital audio collection contains interviews conducted in 2012 as research for the action plan. The collection documents Louisville’s fair housing history from the perspective of present and former land developers, city planners, housing advocates employed by various local agencies, and racial and social justice activists. Additionally, a K-12 education administrator and the director of an immigrant services center speak about how housing policies and practices directly affect the populations they work with. For access, visit [digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/housing](http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/housing)

### Exhibit at Public Library Remembers 60th Anniversary of Sedition Case

It has been 60 years since Andrew and Charlotte Wade moved into their home on Rone Court in Shively. They were the only African American family in the neighborhood, and six weeks later, segregationists dynamited their house. The incident turned the Wades into open housing crusaders and turned whites Anne and Carl Braden, who had purchased the home on behalf of the Wades, into suspected insurrectionists. On October 1, 1954, a grand jury indicted the Bradens and five other white supporters on charges of “sedition.”

On October 1, 2014, the Braden Institute, along with the Louisville Free Public Library, University of Louisville Archives, and Courier-Journal Media, will mark this anniversary with the opening reception for a public history exhibit, “Black Freedom, White Allies & Red Scare: Louisville, 1954.” The reception begins at 7:00 p.m. at the main branch of the public library (301 York St.). The exhibit runs through November 9 in the downtown library’s Bernheim Galley, and will feature hundreds of photos and archival documents from the home purchase, trial, Carl Braden’s imprisonment, the years following the case, and related larger events of the civil rights and “Red Scare” era. The library also will screen the documentary *Anne Braden: Southern Patriot* and will host other related programs: see our calendar for details.

Additionally, the opening reception will offer attendees a sneak preview of a play that presents the Wades’ and Bradens’ stories and

connects them to current problems surrounding race and housing. The full staging of the play, which will include a partial reenactment of Carl Braden’s sedition trial, will take place Friday, Oct. 24, 2014, 7pm, in the Allen Courtroom at the Brandeis School of Law., thanks to the generosity of the Law School.

with no sign of slowing down, and Jamie is looking forward to an exciting fall (and beyond) in the ABI!

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, age, religion, sex, disability, color, sexual orientation, national origin or veteran status.

## ABI Welcomes New Staffer

Jamie Beard (right) started work in March 2014 as the institute’s first administrative assistant, splitting her time between the ABI and Cate Fosl’s Engaged Scholarship initiative. She holds a BA in English from the University of Alabama and brings experience in community-based education and office administration. So far, Jamie has been working on a little bit of everything, from researching best practices in engaged scholarship, to handling logistics for some of the ABI’s fall programming, to managing Cate’s jam-packed calendar. It’s been a busy few months



Many thanks to our newsletter designer, Peter S. Fosl, for 8 years of valued volunteer service to the Anne Braden Institute.

## Student Team 2014-15



**Alexis Johnson** is returning to the ABI for her second year as a Graduate Assistant and she is a second-year master’s student in Pan-African Studies. She plans to write her thesis on the Louisville NAACP’s youth chapter, and wants to attend law school after graduating. Alexis’s favorite quote these days is: “There must exist a paradigm, a practical model for social change that includes an understanding of ways to transform consciousness that are linked to efforts to transform structures.” —bell hooks



**Mallie Feltner** is a new Graduate Assistant to the ABI. Originally from KY, she has just moved to Louisville from Carbondale (where she received her undergraduate degree last spring from Illinois State), to begin the UofL master’s program in Women’s and Gender Studies. Mallie is most interested in the study of politics. Without even knowing Alexis’s choice, Mallie chose the exact same quote for her favorite passage!



**Jessica Potish Whitish** completed her master’s degree in Women’s and Gender Studies in May, with an emphasis on women’s history. Jessie is working part-time at the ABI as an assistant on our housing justice research. She also recently became External Affairs Director at KentuckyYouth Advocates. “Take strength that you may/wage a long battle./Take the pride that you can/never stand small./Take the rage that you can/never settle for less.” —Pat Parker (from the poem, “Legacy”)



**Amina Ahmed** is in her final semester at UofL and at the ABI, where she has held a work-study position her entire undergraduate career. She is a History major with an African Studies minor and hopes to further her studies and work amongst all committed to change. “Struggle is par for the course when our dreams go into action. But unless we have the space to imagine and a vision of what it means fully to realize our humanity, all the protests and demonstrations in the world won’t bring about our liberation.” —Robin D.G. Kelley



**Cayenne Campbell** has been a work-study student at the ABI since February 2014. The Lexington, Ky., native is a senior at UofL and majors in Public Health with a minor in International Health Studies. "Feminism isn't simply about being a woman in a position of power. It's battling systemic inequities; it's a social justice movement that believes sexism, racism and classism exist and interconnect, and that they should be consistently challenged." Jessica Valenti

## ABI Community Advisory Council

- Keneka Cheatham (staff rep)
- Judi Jennings
- Jason Jewell (student rep)
- Stephanie Kaufman
- Shelton McElroy
- Mari Mujica (co-chair)
- Mimi Pickering (regional rep)
- Tytianna Smith
- Siobhan Smith (faculty rep)
- Carla Wallace (co-chair)

## ABI Affiliated Faculty

- Tomarra Adams, associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- David Anderson, associate professor of English
- Rhonda Buchanan, director, Latin American and Latino Studies / professor of Spanish
- Nefertiti Burton, associate dean of A&S Diversity, Community Outreach and International Programs; associate professor of Theatre Arts
- W. Carson Byrd, assistant professor of Pan-African Studies
- Ying Kit Chan, professor and chair of Fine Arts
- John Cumber, professor of History
- Margaret D'Silva, professor of Communication
- Joy Hart, professor of Communication
- Lauren Heberle, associate professor of Sociology
- Ricky Jones, professor and chair of Pan-African Studies
- Tracy K'Meyer, professor and chair of History
- Avery Kolers, professor of Philosophy
- Lisa Markowitz, associate professor and chair of Anthropology
- David Owen, associate professor of Philosophy
- Rodger A. Payne, professor and chair of Political Science
- Theresa Rajack-Talley, associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- Susanna Remold, associate professor of Biology
- Siobhan Smith, assistant professor of Communication
- Kaila Story, associate professor of Women's and Gender Studies / Pan-African Studies and Audre Lorde chair
- Nancy Theriot, professor and chair of Women's & Gender Studies
- Shelley Thomas, assistant professor of Social Studies Education\*
- Russ Vandenbroucke, professor of Theatre Arts
- Margath Walker, assistant professor of Geography

\*=ex-officio

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Yes, I want to help and stay informed. Please add me to your list-serv. My email is \_\_\_\_\_.

Yes, I want to help by volunteering.

Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Make your gift to the University of Louisville Foundation, earmarked for the Anne Braden Institute--G1745. All donations are tax-deductible. Please clip & return to: Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, College of Arts and Sciences, 258 Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville, KY 40292.

*Thank you for your support!*