

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 community activism for racial and social justice. The Institute is part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Rhonda Williams to deliver 11th annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture

On November 8, 2017 at 5:30 PM, in the DuPont Manual High School Auditorium, Rhonda Williams will deliver the 11th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, titled *The Evidence of Things Done: Learning Lessons of Struggle in the 21st Century*. The lecture is cosponsored by the DuPont Manual Black Student Union.



Dr. Williams, founder and inaugural director of Case Western Reserve University's Social Justice Institute, served as a professor of history during her two-decade tenure, in addition to founding and directing the Post-doctoral Fellowship in African American Studies. In August, she became the inaugural John L. Siegenthaler Chair in American History at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Williams received her PhD in history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998 and her undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Maryland College Park in 1989, where she became that university's first black

salutatorian in its then 187-year history.

Williams is the author of the award-winning books *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles against Urban Inequality* and *Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20th Century*. As an exciting first for the Institute, we will be distributing a limited number of free copies of *Concrete Demands* on a first-come, first-served basis at this year's lecture, which Williams will sign following the lecture. We are thrilled to be able to put this book in the hands of our community members and supporters and thank Dr. Williams for her generosity in making this possible.

Please help spread the word about this exciting event! In addition, registration is open for the 5th annual Research Meets Activism breakfast on November 9 with Williams and a panel of local scholar/activists. As always, the event is free but space is limited, so please register at <http://bit.ly/2xQXSBg>. For promotional materials or more information, please visit louisville.edu/braden or contact us at (502) 852-6142.

Anne Braden Institute Reading Room
258 Ekstrom Library
Open Monday-Thursday, 9-5
Fridays, evenings, and weekends by appointment
Call (502) 852-6142, visit louisville.edu/braden,
and follow us on Facebook and Twitter

In Search of Kentucky's Queer Past

Kentucky homophobia attracted national attention for a few months in late 2015 because of a Rowan County clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses after gay marriage became legal earlier that year. But did you know that the first gay marriage trial in U.S. history also took place in Kentucky— in fact, right here in Louisville— in 1970 when two courageous lesbians sued the Jefferson County clerk for the right to marry?

Did you know that as long ago as the 1930s, a gay Black man known as Sweet Evening Breeze routinely strolled in drag down the streets of downtown



Sweet Evening Breeze circa 1950s, courtesy of Faulkner-Morgan Archive

Lexington and became a popular local celebrity of sorts who later marched onto the field each fall with the University of Kentucky football team?

The rich, diverse, and little-known history of lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer (LGBTQ) people in Kentucky was the centerpiece of recent Braden Institute research and part of a national LGBTQ Heritage Initiative.

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Director's Note

Greetings! We have been busy gearing up for this exciting academic year and things are settling into place. I am thankful for this wonderful opportunity to serve the ABI while Cate embarks on her well-deserved sabbatical. The first month was full of transitions and acclimating all of our wonderful students. This year we are very lucky to have three graduate students and an intern with dedicated time to the ABI.

While the business operations side of the ABI has been a priority in this first month, we are constantly aware of the events affecting all of us. From death threats towards local activists to national policy changes threatening the livelihood of our Dreamers. We have seen the devastation of three hurricanes. We have witnessed the President attempt to thwart political participation and uplift white supremacy. We continue to see law enforcement officers escape prosecution for questionable use of deadly force practices. The list of social injustices seems to get longer and longer every day. There is so still so much work to do.

With all of this going on, I must say that the work of the ABI has been a place of solace. On World Peace Day (9/17), several ABI students and I participated in the campus celebration where we tabled at the Student Advocates for Peace and Justice resource fair and participated in the Peace Expressions event on the topic "What Does Peace Mean to You?" I would like to share an excerpt of my "expression" based on peace being a concept inclusive of "social justice, economic well-being and basic freedoms". For me, peace is a just society for my children to live and thrive in. In sum, I told the crowd:

*I want Peace to mean this: People see the **humanity** in my son instead of seeing a criminal. People treat him with **fairness**. People support his **rights** and not weigh whether or not he is entitled to them because of his race. People remove barriers that provide him **access** to the opportunities this country provides.*

We must continue to fight for these things – humanity, fairness, rights and access - not just for my son, but for everyone. It is imperative that we also continue to support people in their protest and expression (e.g. #takeaknee) because this is not a just society for many, especially in this current climate. Remember: dissent is patriotic.

Anne Braden once said: "In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed."

I am fatigued from the struggle – but will not waver. I believe in a different world. I hope you do, too.

- Cherie Dawson-Edwards

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Enabled by a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council, ABI director Cate Fosl and a research team of students and staff held "LGBTQ history harvest" sessions in Louisville, Lexington, Hindman, and Bowling Green in partnership with the Fairness Campaign. The purpose of these harvests was to collect historic documents and oral histories to unearth and celebrate previously hidden LGBTQ stories and places.

The project yielded a statewide historic context narrative, which is an overview of Kentucky's LGBTQ heritage that identifies people and places of queer significance. The research team also amended two local National Register of Historic Places sites important to the Commonwealth's queer past: (1) what appears to have been the first gay-friendly bar in Kentucky, the Beaux-Arts Lounge, which opened in 1947 in the former Henry Clay Hotel/Elks Club building, and (2) the former Downtowner nightclub on Whiskey Row.



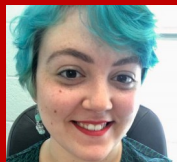
Left: Beaux Arts Lounge opened in 1947. Right: Ad for Beaux Arts Lounge at Henry Clay, 1952. Courtesy of Williams-Nichols Collection, University of Louisville

To learn more about Kentucky's queer heritage, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/articles/kentucky-statewide-lgbtq-historic-context-narrative.htm>.

Meet Our Students



Laura Valentine is a first year ABI Graduate Assistant and a Master's student in Anthropology. She has worked as a Teaching Assistant and has taught modules about biological anthropology to grades K-12. She graduated with a BA in Anthropology from the University of Louisville. Her research interests are in equitable resource access, including healthcare, food, housing, and education.



Kelly Weaver is a second-year Master's student in Women's and Gender Studies. She received her BS in History with Teacher Licensure 7-12 from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Her research focuses on issues related to young people, the U.S. public school system, and intergenerational activism.



Amberli Seay is a second-year Master's student in Pan African Studies. She attended the University of Louisville between the years 2011 and 2015, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Communications and Pan-African Studies. She is excited to be a part of the ABI and looks forward to bridging academics and community!



Ameka Powell is a first-year intern to ABI. She is currently a senior majoring in Pan-African Studies and minoring in Sociology. Her interests lie in law and injustices in public school systems. Ameka plans to graduate in Spring 2018, and shortly after head to Law school with a focus on civil rights law.

Get on the Bus!

On July 22, the ABI welcomed an eager group of volunteers interested in becoming trained guides for our Civil Rights History Tour. Braving an early Saturday morning start time, the cohort enjoyed a training presentation by former ABI superstar Graduate Assistant (2015-17) and current Community Council member Nia Holt before hopping in a van to experience the actual driving tour. The group gave overwhelmingly positive feedback about the experience and is eager to share these new skills on future tours.

The next tour guide training session will be held in Spring. Stay tuned for more information!



Our newest cohort of amazing volunteer tour guides

FUNDS FOR FALL

PLEASE CONSIDER A
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SUPPORT THE ABI

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!



ABI Fall Events Calendar

● Denotes ABI Signature Event

September 27 (Wed): 16th Annual Latino Heritage Lecture. [Co-spons. w/LALS and others] “Cuba: Today and Tomorrow” presented by Dr. Jorge I. Domínguez. Chao Auditorium, UofL Belknap Campus. 4:30 PM.

October 30-November 3: Pride Week [Co-spons. w/LGBT Center and others]

November 2 (Thurs): Pride Week Keynote featuring Jonathan Higgins. Middleton Auditorium of Strickler Hall, 7 PM. Free.

- **November 8 (Wed): The 11th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture featuring Rhonda Williams.** Cosponsored by duPont Manual Black Student Union. Book signing and reception to follow. duPont Manual High School Auditorium. 5:30 PM. Free.
- **November 9 (Thurs): Research Meets Activism Breakfast** with closing remarks by Rhonda Williams. Manhattan on Broadway, 9 AM. Free but registration required.

November 9 (Thurs): Social Justice Symposium [Co-spons. with Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research] with lunch plenary featuring Rhonda Williams. Bigalow Hall and Ekstrom Library, 10 AM-6PM. Free but registration required.

November 10 (Fri): Buchanan v. Warley 100th Anniversary symposium [Co-spons. with Brandeis School of Law] Breakfast and lunch included. Brandeis School of Law, 8:30 AM-2:30 PM. Free and open to the public.

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Ekstrom Library, Room 258
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Contact Us

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Ekstrom Library, Room 258
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
502.852.6142
louisville.edu/braden

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