

From the Chair: Jeanne Guerrero



On behalf of the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), I am pleased to welcome all readers to our spring newsletter. Here you will find articles on the progress COSW has made to support and improve the lives of women faculty and staff at the University of Louisville.

As special advisors to the President, we have the opportunity to positively impact the University working environment for us, as well as other women, who might not otherwise have voices. It is our hope that this newsletter will serve as one of the ways for you to keep connected with COSW and to see the many ways in which we have worked to serve both the campus and the entire community.

This past fall, our members have worked on multiple goals and accomplished much.

A few of the achievements are as follows:

- gained clarification regarding the training policies and procedures for Title IX and Sexual Harassment Prevention,
- pursued career counseling services for qualifying adults of staff and faculty,
- worked with Get Healthy Now to develop more incentive programs for employee wellness, and
- sponsored conferences and professional development opportunities for University women faculty and staff.

We are thankful to the President and the University of Louisville campus community for their continued support of COSW and our programs. We look forward to future months as we continue our work to achieve equity on the status of women.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Guerrero
COSW Chair, 2015-2017

2015-2016 COSW Guest Speakers

The members of the Commission on the Status of Women have had the pleasure of hearing from some remarkable speakers. COSW would like to thank the following individuals for coming to share their experiences and information with us:

August:

Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer (Diversity Study)

September:

Dean Kimberly Kempf-Leonard

October:

Major General Peggy Combs, Ft. Knox Commanding General

December:

Interim Provost Neville Pinto – University of 21st Century

February:

Dr. Kate Snyder and Brittany Inge – Lactation Workgroup Results

Sarah Nunez, Cultural Center's Assistant Director of Hispanic and Latino Initiatives – **Luna y Flor** – appreciation of sponsorship; made smoothies and shared info about recipes/ingredients

March:

Dr. Marie Kendall Brown – Discussion based on book selection, *Lean In* by: Sheryl Sandberg

April:

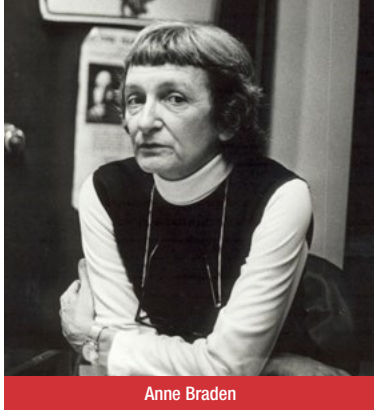
Soha Sayed, Staff Attorney in the Rural Unit at the Legal Aid Society and co-chair of the Nelson County Human Trafficking Task Force. She was accompanied by Julie Horen, Catholic Charities; and Teena Halbig, Louisville Metro Human Trafficking Task Force; Leslie Strohm, VP Strategy & General Counsel – Introduction/Get to know her/Women in Leadership Roles at UofL

Women of UofL History

By Catherine Fosl - Director, Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research

In the continuing celebration and recognition of the women who made an impact in the history of the University of Louisville, COSW highlights Anne McCarty Braden, who was a major activist during the civil rights era.

Anne McCarty was born on July 28, 1924, in Louisville, Kentucky, but spent most of her childhood in rigidly-



Anne Braden

segregated Anniston, Alabama, raised by middle-class parents who were firm believers in racial hierarchy. A devout Episcopalian, she studied literature and journalism at a Virginia women's college, then worked as a newspaper

reporter in postwar Alabama, where she was repelled by its blatantly discriminatory justice system. Returning to the border city of her birth, she joined the staff of the Louisville Times in 1947. Covering civil rights causes and meeting radical reformers for the first time, she experienced a dramatic political transformation. She met and in 1948 married fellow newspaperman and labor editor Carl Braden, a leftist trade unionist. Becoming an activist team, the Bradens left mainstream journalism to apply their writing talents to the interracial left wing of Louisville's labor movement.

The Bradens may have remained local activists had it not been for their agreeing in 1954 to the request of an African American friend, Andrew Wade, that they act as "fronts" for his family to purchase a home in Louisville's segregated suburbs. When the Wades moved in, white neighbors burned a cross in front of the new house, shot out windows, and condemned the Bradens for buying it. Six weeks later, the Wades' new home was dynamited. This act of housing desegregation turned into a local variation of the anticommunist hysteria known nationally as "McCarthyism." The

investigation shifted from segregationist violence to the alleged Communist Party affiliations of those who had supported the Wades. In October 1954 Anne and Carl Braden and five other whites were charged with sedition, and Carl Braden, as the perceived ringleader, was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Anne was never tried and the conviction was later overturned, but the Wades lost their home and never saw its bombers prosecuted. The Bradens were left penniless and reviled regionally as "reds".

Blacklisted locally, they took jobs in 1957 as field organizers for the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), a New Orleans-based civil rights organization whose mission was to solicit white southern support for the African American freedom movement. For 16 years, Anne Braden edited SCEF's monthly newspaper, *The Southern Patriot*, also publicizing civil rights campaigns through press releases and articles for other small journals. Although their radical politics marginalized them among many of their own generation, the Bradens were reclaimed by younger activists of the 1960s as civil libertarians who connected racism to war and poverty. After her husband's death in 1975, Anne Braden remained until her own death on March 6, 2006, among the U.S.'s most outspoken white anti-racist activists and writers.

Her 1958 memoir of her sedition case, *The Wall Between*, was one of the few books of its time to unpack the psychology of white southern racism from within. A runner-up for the National Book Award soon after its release, it resulted in her becoming

Continued on pg. 3



Anne Braden interviewing Rosa Parks for her "Southern Patriot" magazine article.

Women of UofL History (continued)

one of only six white writers commended by Rev. Martin Luther King Junior in his 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail” as anti-segregationists. Persisting in spite of her radical reputation, Braden was later instrumental in organizing across racial divides in the new environmental and anti-nuclear movements that sprang up in the 1970s-80s. Her widely-reproduced “Letter to White Southern Women” cautioned the women’s liberation movement to act against racism. In 1990—no longer a pariah—she received the first-ever Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union.

In the final decade of her life, her activism centered

more on Louisville, mainly through the Kentucky Alliance against Racism and Political Repression. After 1996 she also taught social justice history classes at Northern Kentucky University and, in the final three years of her life, at the University of Louisville. Anne Braden died on March 6, 2006.

A collection of Anne Braden’s personal papers are available for research at University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections. More information about the collection can be found by searching online at [UofL Archives Catalog](#). The research room is open Monday-Friday from 8 – 5. No appointment is necessary.

“Because of Feast on Equality, I can live, I can learn, and I can thrive.”

— James, UofL student

Feast on Equality to benefit UofL LGBT Center

Helping our most vulnerable LGBT students thrive is what Feast on Equality is all about! With another capacity crowd recently and a record number of gifts made during the auction, we are pleased to tell you that over \$100,000 has been raised for the University of Louisville’s LGBT Center. Many thanks to Humana and Brown-Forman once again for their sponsorship of the event this year.

The night was also an opportunity to honor the five attorneys who helped make marriage equality a reality for the country—Shannon Fauver, Dawn Elliott, Daniel Canon, Laura Landenwisch, and Joe Dunman—and to present them with the James R. Ramsey LGBT Leadership Award, recognizing their history-making success that has changed the landscape for LGBT couples.



Dean Susan Duncan introduces the winners of the James R. Ramsey LGBT Leadership Award

We celebrate the University of Louisville’s unprecedented success at being named the most LGBT-inclusive school in the



Feast on Equality founder Tommy Arnold (Far left) and LGBT Director Brian Buford (Far right) with winners of the leadership award

South and one of the top 25 in the nation. Among its many accomplishments this year was the inclusion of transgender health insurance benefits for university employees, the launch of the eQuality curriculum infusion project in the School of Medicine, and a Civil Rights immersion experience for students who live in the Rustin Themed Housing Community.

Photos include Susan Duncan addressing the guests, and a shot of founder Tommy Arnold and LGBT Center Director with the winners of the leadership award.

See students describing their experiences and the difference UofL made in their lives here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BZILL1veF0>

COSW Committee Highlights: Recruitment, Retention and Representation

Accomplishments so far this year (2015-2016):

1. Nominations/Sponsorships to Leadership Conferences:

Local: Focus Louisville program.

Katherine Linzy (Staff, Kent School of Social Work) attended the Focus Louisville program on May 7-9, 2015.

National: Higher Education Resources Services (HERS)

Anupama N. Wadhwa, M.D. (Faculty, Dept. of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine) will attend HERS, Bryn Mawr Institute in June, 2016.

2. Identified new conferences for faculty and staff for potential sponsorship:

Purdue Conference (Conference for pre-tenure women)

Smith College (Women's leadership conference for faculty or staff)

Integrating Women Leaders Foundation (Louisville conference for faculty or staff)

3. Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award selection.

Mary P. Sheridan, Ph.D. (Faculty, Dept. of English) was selected for her work on creating the University of Louisville Digital Media Academy (DMA), "a community engagement project that addresses issues of gender identity and economic and social justice for young girls." Dr. Sheridan received the Tachau award at the Women's Empowerment Luncheon in November, 2015.

4. Cohort Report Brochure

Analyzed and assembled data that was published (in 2015) in the 2014 Cohort Report Brochure; contains data on representation of women in faculty and staff positions at the University of Louisville broken down by unit and rank through November 2014. Also compares relative percentages of UofL women faculty at different ranks to our Benchmark Institutions.

Goals for remainder of the year:

1. Continue to work on identified Task Force Goals (see above)
2. Identify new Task Force Goals
3. Analyze and assemble 2015 Cohort Data for publication in the 2015 Cohort Brochure Report, and
4. Solicit and evaluate applicants for sponsorships for upcoming conferences; devise better strategies to increase the number of applicants and also nominees for the Tachau award.

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