

The Women's Center News

A publication of the UofL Women's Center--Educating, Advocating, and Building Diverse Communities

Winter 2004

www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr

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Elizabeth Cady Stanton Celebrated; Tachau, Nichols Awards Conferred

Nearly one hundred people attended the Women's Center luncheon celebrating the birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton on November 12. Coline Jenkins, Stanton's great-great-granddaughter, was the keynote speaker. It was also the occasion to present the recipients of the first annual Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award and M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award. The Tachau award, which recognizes a member of the UofL community who has done significant work towards gender equity, was given to Kathi E. B. Ellis, UofL alumna, theatre director and a member of the first board of directors of Pleiades, a Louisville women's theatre company. The Nichols award, which is given to a UofL graduate student for travel or other professional development, was presented to two students: Tayana L. Hardin, department of Pan-African Studies, who will use the award to travel to Belize and thereby further her research on women's cultures of the African diaspora, and to Adrienne P. Bratcher, department of Physiology and Biophysics, who will now be able attend a professional conference and connect with other female African-American

scientists/scholars working in the area of cardiovascular disease, specifically hypertension. The cash awards were made possible with the generous support of UofL's Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality, and the Student Government Association Torchbearer Fund.

Together with Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton revolutionized the political and social condition of women in American society. She became active with the American Anti-Slavery Society and traveled as a delegate to London, where she met Lucretia Mott. After being denied the right to speak on the convention floor because they were women, Stanton and Mott resolved to hold a convention as soon as they returned home and form a society to advocate the rights of women. This event was the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, one of the first steps in women's long road to suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton eventually became the leading voice and philosopher of the women's rights and suffrage movements.

For Your Information...

Campus Groups at U of L

The Women's Center invites you to become better acquainted with some of its sister organizations that are doing great things at U of L.

Sigma Kappa Sorority

Contact: Malana Hartzog, President; Michelle Bryant, PR; Address: 2026 Unity Place, Louisville, KY 40208; Phone: 502-637-5050; Web site: www.louisville.edu/rso/sigmakappa.

Organization Mission: The purpose of Sigma Kappa Sorority is to unite its members in a bond of sincere friendship for the development of character and the promotion of social, literary, and intellectual culture, to support and further the program and objectives of the colleges where its chapters are functioning; to strive for high standards of achievement—scholastically, socially, and spiritually; and to make a constructive contribution to the communities in which its collegiate and alumnae chapters and clubs are located by encouraging the exercise of the rights and obligations of good citizens and the support of worthwhile civic, social, and philanthropic projects.

FLOR (Feminist League of Organized Resistance)

Contact: Jessica Farquhar; Address: SAC 301 U of L Louisville, KY 40292; Phone: 432-1236; E-mail: feministresistance@hotmail.com; Web site: louisville.edu/rso/flor. Mission: The mission of this organization shall be ultimately to empower women through educational and activist means. Specifically, FLOR will strive to educate the university and local communities about the feminist perspective and to provide opportunities for members of the organization

and members of the community to proactively resist patriarchy.

Women of Color Transformation Tea Committee:

Contact Person: Fannie M. Cox; Address: University of Louisville Ekstrom Library LL59; Phone: 502-852-2705. Mission: To enhance campus diversity, network, form alliances and/or partnerships on campus and in the community.

Grant Renewed for Prevention of Violence Against Women

The federal grant funding for U of L's Prevention Education and Advocacy for Campus and Community (PEACC) Program was renewed for 2003-2005.

Therefore, PEACC will work to accomplish the following goals: 1. Develop a peer education program using "Actors for PEACC"; 2. Formalize a *coordinated campus response team* with the UofL Counseling Center, Campus Police, Student Life, and academic departments; 3. Develop a *Men of PEACC* Peer Education Group; 4. Develop *informational brochures* targeted to address violence against women issues specific to international students, students in same-gender relationships, students with disabilities, and women of color; 5. Conduct *professional training* for campus police, disciplinary board members, and faculty, using the *Visualizing PEACC* resource booklet, safe place poster, and PEACC website; 6. Continue to provide *Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training* for UofL students, faculty, and staff.

PEACC will continue to coordinate the annual outreach events such as *Take Back the Night*, *Circle of Healing*, and *Women Visualizing PEACC*. In addition, PEACC will work with its community partner, The Center for Women and Families, to host a half-day forum on Kentucky's mandatory reporting law in spring 2004. The forum will include members of law enforcement, legal communities, and health care providers. The target audience for this forum is UofL professional students, as many of them are future health care providers in the Commonwealth.

PEACC would like to express its gratitude to all members of the UofL community who have assisted with PEACC initiatives and continue to support its work to eliminate violence against women at UofL.

Sharon LaRue, Director, PEACC Program

A Message from Women's Center Director Mary Karen Powers

Fall has been a busy time for the Women's Center. On October 30, I participated in a joint meeting of the University of Louisville Commission on the Status of Women, the University of Kentucky President's Commission on Women, and the Kentucky Commission on Women. Hosted at the Capitol by First Lady Judi Patton, the meeting explored ways for the commissions to further our shared commitment to the well-being of women in the Commonwealth. As the seventy participants struggled to establish priorities for our work and opportunities for collaboration, I think each became more deeply aware of the many challenges facing our constituencies. Eventually, we agreed to meet twice annually to address issues of economic sufficiency, education, and safety, particularly for women in higher education, and to develop a centralized database of services available to women in Kentucky.

On November 12, the Women's Center celebrated its first annual observance of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birthday. The event sought to highlight the historical connections between the women's suffrage movement and the movement to abolish slavery. A speaker at the most recent institute of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault referred to such overlapping historical phenomena as "intersectionalities" which underline the fact that multiple social constructs such as gender, race, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and economic status always characterize the life of each individual woman. Thus, I was reminded of the premise from which the Women's Center has always sought to create programs—that is, the need to create social change on behalf of justice.

On November 17, Lisa Huber resigned from the staff of the Women's Center. At Thanksgiving she will move to Boston, where her husband, Gideon Gil, has become the *Boston Globe's* health and science editor. We will miss Lisa's intelligence, humor, creativity, and commitment to women's issues. She has been a wonderful colleague.

Please add my name to your mailing list!

Name _____

UofL Dept. (or) Address: _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Mail: to: Women's Center, University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY 40292. (Please add me to your email list:)

The Women's Center News

Editorial Board: Jessica Farquhar, Lucy Freibert, Barb King, Kathy Kremer, Kathy Pendleton, Marea Stamper, and Diana Whitlock. Please send letters, questions, and comments to The Women's Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. Call 502-852-8976 or e-mail womenctr@louisville.edu.

Notes from the *Third Wave*--Marea Stamper Women's Center Student Coordinator

Senioritis

One semester I had a teacher get very grumpy at me for missing an admittedly sizable number of classes. I had neglected him because of a terrible bout with "senioritis." I am sure many of you have suffered this dreaded disease; it's one of the most potent causes of student absenteeism in the last year of college and is often lethal to one's undergraduate degree.

The professor was crabby about my condition, to say the least, and wasted no time in sharing his unhappiness with me directly. I looked, I guess, like a normal, healthy 20ish woman, so he assumed (correctly in this case) that I had just been blowing off class. I felt bad about it and started attending regularly.

And then I thought about how quick he had been to assume, albeit astutely in my particular case, that everything was okay and I had been absent on innocuous grounds.

The fact of the matter is, many graduating senior women have much greater perils than senioritis to endure in their last semesters of college. We know that women are very likely to suffer sexual assault and or acts of intimate partner violence during this time and, in fact, that the symbolic and literal freedoms that an education can offer often trigger further brutality from an already aggressive mate. Unfortunately, we have a terrible and personal reminder of this fact in the life and death of Elaine Fonseca-Rodriguez.

We also know other challenges women face on a daily basis. Many women suffer from an eating disorder in their college years. There are seven million more single mothers than there were 30 years ago, and they do 26 percent of all the full-time parenting in the nation. Most college women are in the workforce, too, and 55 percent of all working women have infant children in their care. I'm no math major, but even I can see how these numbers add up.

I'm lucky that it was just plain old senioritis. Yet, frankly, after consideration, I wonder why it was so easy for my professor to assume that everything was all right in my *other* life at an age when, for so many undergraduate women, so many things are dead wrong.

Daughters of Original Litigant in *Brown v. Board* Decision to Speak at UofL

The year 2004 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark case of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*. The University of Louisville will mark this event with a year-long series of events celebrating the significance of this decision ending segregation in public schools. The kickoff event will be on Tuesday, February 3, when UofL will welcome Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson, who as children were involved in the original litigation in the Brown case. All are encouraged to attend the Brown sisters' lecture as they talk about their experiences as children and now as adults related to this piece of American history. The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Bigelow Hall, MITC, UofL Belknap Campus. More information will be available at a later date; in the meantime, please call Diana Whitlock at 852-5719 or email Diana.Whitlock@louisville.edu.

Sound advice ...

Mary Mundt
Dean, School of Nursing,
University of Louisville
by Diana Whitlock



Mary Mundt is the Dean of the UofL School of Nursing. She is married, has three sons, ages 27, 24 and 22, and has been a nurse for almost 30 years.

Q: Tell me about Mary Mundt.

A: I grew up in the Chicago area, and attended college at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I earned my undergraduate degree in nursing in 1971. After graduation, I worked as a public health nurse in the Milwaukee area and loved it. Public health nursing allowed me to really get to know the people and make a difference. I soon got married and became a mother. I attended the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, where I earned my master's degree. I took a teaching position at the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin and while there I obtained my Ph.D. During my 20 years there, I served as a faculty member, department chair, assistant dean and interim dean. I liked the administrative role, and I decided to search for a deanship. UofL was searching for a dean of nursing and Louisville seemed quite interesting. I came for a visit and was

hired as Dean of the School of Nursing in 1997. This was right in the middle of all the postsecondary education reform and the Bucks for Brains and Challenge for Excellence initiatives. I thought this was by far the most exciting campus in the country. Change was taking place and new deans were being hired from all across the country. The nursing faculty and staff were wonderful, and the School of Nursing was in a great place to move forward.

Q: Why did you choose nursing?

A: By age 10, I knew I wanted to be a nurse. I read the biography of Clara Barton, a field nurse in the Civil War. It was an inspiring story about helping people. I wanted to be involved in a profession that would make a difference in people's lives. I think I made a great choice.

As a public health nurse in Wisconsin, I worked in the schools, did home visits, and provided care for people in the community.

continued on p. 4

Making a Difference: Women in Policy

By Shannon Hensley

The day was as far from perfect on the surface as one could imagine with the gray clouds suffocating the sky and the cold rainfall pelting all those below. Yet for me it could not have been more perfect. As I sat waiting in the University Club staring out the window, the excitement of who I was about to interview and what an inspiration she has been for women all across Kentucky was almost overwhelming. I knew I was about to meet a woman who has dedicated her life to a mission that is so close to my own heart—initiating change and advocating for the rights of women and children. The woman

that I was about to meet was

Dolores Delahanty.

Delahanty, a pioneer advocate for women and children's rights, was instrumental in the passage of Kentucky's Fair Credit Law. A founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus and co-founder of the Kentucky Women's Political Caucus, Delahanty has been involved in a number of causes from recruiting women to run for office, to being appointed by former President Jimmy Carter, to analyzing the effects of health and human services programs on women.

As I was eating lunch with Delahanty and listening to her history of service to Kentucky, I felt a sense of pride. I felt proud, as a woman, to have her in my corner.

If that interview wasn't amazing enough, I also had the opportunity to interview another strong advocate for women's rights, **State Representative Joni Jenkins.** Rep. Jenkins is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in communications who has worked in different levels of state and county government, as well as an educator for The Center for Women and Families. She is a member of the Exploited Children's Help Organization, Louisville Community Child Protection Council, and the National Organization of Victim Advocates. In addition to becoming a legislator in 1995, Rep. Jenkins was the first director of UofL's PEACC Program and is currently working with the Clothesline Project in Jefferson County.

As a result of these two interviews, I was inspired. The valuable advice I received from both Dolores Delahanty and Joni Jenkins was to not be afraid to get involved, keep informed, and be open to a variety of nontraditional women's issues because those opportunities could have the most positive impact on the lives of women and children.

Shannon Hensley is a graduate student in The Kent School of Social Work.



Dolores Delahanty
(c) *The Courier-Journal*



Representative Joni Jenkins

Save the Dates!

December 17: UofL/Kentucky Author Forum: Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. For further information, contact Kentucky Author Forum at 589-2884.

February 3, 2004: Presentation by Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughters of the original litigant in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. To kick off UofL's year-long celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the *Brown* decision. UofL's Bigelow Hall, MITC Building. UofL Belknap Campus. Free and open to the public. Call Diana Whitlock at 852-5719 or email diana.whitlock@louisville.edu.

March 2004: Women's History Month! For more information, call 852-8976 or email womenctr@louisville.edu

Mundt (continued from p. 3)

One of the students I saw while I was a school nurse told me that his mother was pregnant. I did a home visit with his mom to make sure she was getting proper prenatal care and that the family had what they needed. During the visit, one of the neighbors yelled out the window, "Hey, nurse, can you check on the lady in the apartment upstairs? She hasn't been feeling well and maybe you should stop in." I was really helping people! I love being a dean, but I think being a public health nurse was my favorite job.

Q: Do you think the idea of helping people still motivates students today?

A: That's one reason. Also, nurses are in high demand. There are many jobs available and lots of opportunities for advancement. Nursing has become high tech, with new, innovative approaches to healthcare. But a primary reason people choose a career in nursing today is that they know a nurse who loves the profession. Nursing is very much driven by mentorship.

Q: What is the best advice you could give to young women pursuing leadership roles?

A: Do something you have a passion for, something that you love. Be competent—confidence is built from competency. Communication is important, so be clear and decisive when you communicate. Get a good mentor, or two! You need someone

outside of your organization that you can consult with. View challenges as opportunities for growth. Remember that overcoming difficult situations can make you a stronger person.

For more information about Dean Mundt, or to learn what's going on at the UofL School of Nursing, check out their website at <http://www.louisville.edu/nursing/>. Diana Whitlock is assistant to Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Vice Provost for Diversity and Equal Opportunity at the University of Louisville.

Reminder: March is Women's History Month!

National Women's History Month celebrates the accomplishments of women in American history. Every March, the University of Louisville Women's Center publishes a *calendar of events* as part of its spring newsletter. It is mailed to over 3000 subscribers, available on our website, and distributed on UofL's campuses.

If you or your organization plans to sponsor a program in March about women, let us know by calling the Women's Center at 502-852-8976 or email womenctr@louisville.edu. Your event may be added to the *UofL Women's History Month Calendar*, the source of Women's History Month event information in the Louisville metropolitan area.

To see previous Women's History Month Calendars, check out the *Women's Center News* archives on the Women's Center's page at www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr.