

# The Women's Center News

Winter 2006

Check out the Women's Center at: [www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr](http://www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr)

Volume 14, Issue 2

## Judge Janice R. Martin receives Gender Equity Award

Four years ago, the U of L Women's Center established the Dr. Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award to recognize work toward gender equity by a member of the U of L community. In 2006, this prestigious award was conferred on university alumnae Judge Janice R. Martin at the Center's November 9 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Awards Luncheon. Luncheon attendees included a record number of students, from a variety of departments as well as a record number of tables purchased by U of L departments.

A former student of Dr. Tachau, Judge Martin was nominated by Professor Robert L. Stenger of the Louis B. Brandeis School of Law. In his nomination letter, Professor Stenger noted, "I have known Janice Martin for almost thirty years, from the time she entered the School of Law at the University of Louisville in 1977. During her years as a student, she impressed me and my colleagues with her dedication to achieving her goal of becoming a lawyer, her commitment to justice and the role of law, and her infectious enthusiasm and leadership among her classmates . . . From her first days as a lawyer and throughout her subsequent career . . . [Judge Martin] presented herself as an outstanding role model for women of color, [serving as] the first African-American [judge] in Kentucky, . . . her total and unwavering commitment [is] to make life better for those who have, for whatever reason, got off to a rough start . . . She now serves on the boards of the Louisville Bar Association and Jewish Hospital, and Project Women . . . she was one of the first to respond to our request for mentors for students of color . . . [and] is a leader in the Women Lawyers Association . . . She has exercised leadership on the Task Force on Racial Fairness in the Courts, on the Gender Bias Task Force, on the Family Court Task Force, and with Dare to Care, the Girl Scouts, and Catholic Charities.

During the luncheon, three U of L graduate students also received the Dr.

Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award, which is given for travel or other professional development needs apart from tuition or books. The award is named in honor of M. Celeste Nichols—student, scholar, mentor, and professor—and the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from U of L's English Department. The 2006 Nichols Award winners are **Danielle Franco**, for oral presentation of her research in analytical chemistry at a national conference; **Melissa D. Pinto-Foltz**, for a conference presentation of her research on female adolescent mental health and barriers to care; and **Patti L. Heying**, for attendance at the Southern Theater Conference where she will assist her professor with two voice workshops.

The Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award is jointly presented by the U of L Women's Center and the President's Commission on the Status of Women. The Dr. Celeste Nichols



Professional Development Award is jointly presented by the U of L Women's Center, the President's Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality, and the Student Government Association Torchbearer Fund.

## The Vagina Monologues returns to U of L – PEACC sponsors

V-Day 2007 will be celebrated at U of L on February 8, 9, and 10, when the PEACC program returns Eve Ensler's popular play to campus *The Vagina Monologue*, which candidly addresses issues of sexuality, self image, and abuse in the lives of women. V-Day's theme "Reclaiming Peace"— seeks to make a connection between the world-wide anti-violence march of thousands of V-Day activists and PEACC's collective desire for peace and an end to armed conflict. The cast of U of L and community actors will perform at the Belknap Theatre on U of L's campus.

The production of the play will be one of more than a thousand "V-Day"-related events across the world that seek to raise money for national and local organizations devoted to stopping violence against women. In 2006, more than 2700 V-Day events took place in 1,500 commu-

nities and colleges in the U.S. and around the world. To date, V-Day has raised over \$35 million and educated millions of people about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media, and PSA campaigns, launched the Karama program in the Middle East, funded over 5000 community-based anti-violence programs, reopened shelters, and funded safe houses in Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt, and Iraq.

Proceeds will be split between the PEACC program, a non-profit organization to increase awareness of violence against women on the University of Louisville campus and in the surrounding community, and the national V-Day organization, which this year has adopted a goal of educating the world about women in conflict zones because war increases the crimes of violence against women and girls.

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# A Season of Transition



By Mary Karen Powers, Director, Women's Center

We are a staff in transition. In July, JaBani Bennett joined the Women's Center as Student Events Coordinator.

In August, Terra Simms began a two-semester internship with the Women's Center; Tumirrow Jones began a two-semester internship with PEACC. Both interns are graduate students at the University of Louisville. In September, Shawn Reilly joined the PEACC Program as student coordinator for Men of PEACC. Finally, just after Labor Day, Valerie Casey joined the combined staffs of the Women's Center and the PEACC Program as Administrative Assistant.

Valerie holds an undergraduate degree from the UofL School of Business. She is a certified Unit Business Manager and comes to the Center from the Office of External Affairs. Her professional career has included stints in retail sales and banking. Valerie is also the immediate past president of Business and Professional Women Louisville, an elected member of the Staff Senate, and an appointed member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. I first worked with Valerie on a program about Title IX during her tenure as BPW President. Her goal is to be an "advocate for women" and to support the Center's advocacy role in the University community. I anticipate that her first year of managing the Women's Center's financial affairs via Peoplesoft will be a challenging one.

Programmatically, the Center has also been "on the move." We've had three very successful programs that attracted 600 or more participants each: Women's Equality Day in August and the Kentucky Women's Book Festival and Take Back the Night in September.

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*The Women's Center News* is a free, quarterly newsletter. It is available on-line at [www.louisville.edu/womenctr](http://www.louisville.edu/womenctr). To receive a hard copy of the newsletter or to sign up for email announcements, contact us at: Women's Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292; or 502-852-8976; or [womenctr@louisville.edu](mailto:womenctr@louisville.edu).

# When Will You Act?

By JaBani Bennett,  
Student Events Coordinator

Each day one hears about the unique struggles of women. In the USA, four women die every day from violence at the hands of male partners. According to the AFL-CIO, women in Kentucky will not have pay equal to men's until 2026 if the current patterns continue. Findings from the 2004 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report showed that nearly 13 million women live in households with incomes below the Federal poverty level. Similar statistics on an array of women's issues go on and on. Information could steer a person into indifference, a feeling of helplessness or action to help other women. Where does this leave you?

If you are interested in advocacy, you are fortunate to be in a supportive city and campus. U of L is the home of many women-centered groups such as the Women's Center Womyn Speak, recognized student organized organizations (RSOs) such as E.S.S.E.N.S.E. and the Feminist Alliance of the University of Louisville. In addition there are departments like Women and Gender Studies and Pan African Studies, and individual faculty who implement women-centered curricula in their classrooms. At the

university, students are encouraged and supported to create organizations to make a more inclusive environment for all. Students can also network with Louisville's longstanding grassroots organizations such as the Center for Women and Families.

There is a strong need for more unification of (1) the problems women face, (2) the organizations, and (3) interested individuals, in order to make serious transformations in policies that are repressive. Concerns about issues such as healthcare, education, and LGBT rights will not be heard if spoken by only a few. History shows that massive mobilization forces policymakers to take a second look.

If everyone doesn't get involved and does not unify, what will happen? This is a significant question that each one can answer when hearing another dismal statistic about women. It is time for change.

Reference: <http://www.now.org/issues/violence/state.html> N.O.W. Website



# Update on Child Care at U of L

By Susan Hanley Kosse, Provost's University Child Care Task Force, Chair



The feasibility study completed this past summer by Bright Horizons confirmed the need for excellent quality in campus child care. Bright Horizons analyzed geographic and demographic data and conducted leadership and focus group interviews before making several recommendations to the University. The executive summary of the report can be found at <http://www.louisville.edu/provost/files/ChildCareFeasibilityExecsSummary.pdf>. Bright Horizons provided detailed information regarding proposed services and costs. The report also listed optional programs for the university to consider, including Saturday care, scholarship programs for

students and employees, and personal rooms throughout campus for lactation and other uses.

The Provost quickly appointed a Child Care Task Force to review the report and findings and to make recommendations to her. Based on one of the task force recommendations, a decision was made to begin a child development program at U of L. The task force continues to meet weekly discussing funding sources, management options, and programming particulars. Task force members are touring child care centers and talking with other universities that have campus child care. The Provost anticipates that U of L's child care development center, which will enroll children from infant to school age children and also provide after-school and school-break care for school age children. No date has been set for when the center will open, but it may be available as early as fall 2008.

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# Brenda D. Gunn Leaves a Tough Legacy to Replicate

By Phyllis Mitchell Webb

“... a phenomenal woman and the best supervisor I’ve ever had! She really believes in ‘growing’ people and helping them reach their full potential.”

“Under her tutelage, numerous women, including me, advanced in their careers and took on professional challenges they may not have undertaken without her guidance and support. She has been a true inspiration to many of us.”

“As a co-worker, there is no one better. She really believes in an open door policy and lives by it. She has a philosophy that keeps you growing while you work with her.”

There are some of the accolades and memories offered by co-workers Janet Dabney, Valerie M. Casey, and Erika Stith, respectively, when referring to Brenda D. Gunn, who retired in October after 31 years of dedicated service at the University of Louisville. The three women worked with Gunn in various capacities in the Office of Community Relations where she served as Director from 1987 until the present. All agreed that she had been not only their “boss” but also a mentor and friend. Many of her co-workers, friends, and family attended a reception in her honor at the University Club in October.

Gunn started her career at the university as a receptionist in 1975 and moved on through several “reclassifications” until finally becoming Director of Community Relations. In 31 years Gunn’s office was moved many times. During Dr. Donald Swain’s term as president, she sought to move “community relations” into the community. Although it did not move until under the supervision of Dr. Deborah G. Wilson, the outreach office is now located at the Nia Center on West Broadway since 1999. Prior to that, it was located in the old Public Safety Building, where the athletic track field now lies.

During her tenure at U of L, Gunn has spearheaded many initiatives that have been well received in the community. In the early years, when budgets were lean and “partnerships” was the buzz work, many joint ventures occurred with both non-profit agencies and on-campus departments. Some of the programs initiated were the Speakers Bureau, the Cardinals in the Community, the Community Spotlight series, a community service directory, and



most recently, Every 1 Reads, launched by the Jefferson County Public School System, in which over 300 volunteers from the University participated during 2005. Each year, Gunn sought to add new initiatives to keep “fresh” the office’s goals and objectives. One of the last programs she developed was the Dine & Discover Series, a bi-monthly brown bag program held at Shelby Campus.

Gunn’s most memorable experience included being the first classified staff member to chair the Staff Recognition Program. Former personnel employee Betty Miles recommended Gunn to this position after working with Gunn who was charter president of the U of L Business and Professional Women (BPW)/Louisville in 1987. Gunn served twice as local president and is still active. Janet Dabney said that their trip to New Orleans was a special memory. All the BPW/Louisville members were proud when Brenda was voted BPW/KY state president and later the BPW/USA National Membership Chair.” Since that time, she has chaired and worked on numerous committees at local, state, and national levels. Other volunteer efforts have included various U of L committees such as Metro United Way Steering Committee, Women’s Center Advisory, Staff Senate, and support of committees in the MAEP office.

As noted above, Gunn’s work has extended beyond U of L, including involvement in various committees for women and children, such as Vice Chair of the ERA, Board Member of the Exploited Children’s Help Organization

(ECHO). Currently, she is Chair of the Corporate Volunteer Council. She is also an active member of her church, having served as youth advisor, church clerk, and president of the Pastor’s Choir. She previously co-edited and wrote articles for the former *Minority Voices Magazine*.

As a supporter of non-profit organizations, Gunn herself volunteers, seeing that as a way to give back. She says these organizations always need volunteers to assist in programs that make the community a better place in which to live and work. Valerie Casey said that “. . . with her history of volunteer work in the community, Brenda’s civic involvement has made a dramatic impact on the lives of countless people in unfortunate circumstances. She has been a true inspiration to many of us and deserves our recognition.” For her exceptional work, Gunn received the Outstanding Performance Award in 2001, and in October 2006, she was recognized by BPW/Louisville with the Excellence Award.

When kind individuals ask what she plans to do in retirement, Gunn says she plans to relax and enjoy much needed time with family (especially the grandchildren) and friends.” As chair of the Kentuckiana Corporate Volunteer Council, she is currently kept busy in regional involvement. Also, with the Hispanic Achievers organization, Every 1 Reads, Business and Professional Women, and her church, she will undoubtedly have her hands full. After all that, she may begin to look at other options and see what the future holds.

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## Vagina Monologues

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To show support for V-Day, anyone can be an individual or corporate sponsor, offer credit for students who attend, or simply attend the production. Auditions will be held soon and are open to everyone at the University of Louisville and in the Louisville Community.

For more information please PEACC at 852-2663 or e-mail PEACC at [peacc@louisville.edu](mailto:peacc@louisville.edu).

# Child Care

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Benefits of on-campus child care include increased recruitment and retention of faculty and staff, positively impacting productivity and absenteeism. On-campus child care would also increase student retention and graduation rates. Finally, child care will provide opportunities for research and study for many students and professors. Both the Administration and the U of L Community are excited about the development of child care services.

The University Child Care Task Force was stunned and heartbroken to hear of Reg Smith's recent death. As an architect and Project Women Board member, he had been attending the weekly Task Force meetings. The Task Force knows this project meant so very much to him. His contributions, ideas, and advice will be greatly missed.

## *The Women's Center News*

University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292

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# Scholarship Opportunities for Students

**Mary Craik Scholarship for Women Students.** Thanks to the generosity of Mary Craik, a Louisville artist and feminist activist, the Mary Craik Scholarship for Women Students is offered every spring to students pursuing degrees at the University of Louisville. Preference will be given to qualified applicants who also meet any of the following criteria: are single parents; are full-time students; or are Women's & Gender Studies majors, minors, or M.A. students. Application deadline is April 16, 2007. Further information: <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/we/lectures.html>

**Lilialyce Akers Travel Awards for Study of Women and Global Issues.** Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to apply for awards up to \$500 to facilitate study of issues affecting women in the global south or newly democratizing nations. Application deadline is February 16, 2007. Further information <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/ws/global.html>

**Dr. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award.** Graduate students are invited to apply for an award—up to \$500—that supports academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses. Application deadline is in September with the award given in November at the U of L

Women's Center annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon. Further information may be obtained at the U of L Women's Center 852-8976.

**Caroline Kraus Maddox Prize.** Thanks to a generous donation by Eleanor and Bob Maddox, one undergraduate and one graduate student will each be awarded \$200 in cash for the best papers on a topic in Women's and Gender Studies. Application deadline is in February. Further information: <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/we/lectures.html#maddox>

**Hilda Threlkeld Scholarship Fund of the U of L Women's Club.** The U of L Women's Club is offering two \$500 scholarships. To qualify for this award applicants must : be students continuing their education at U of L; have completed at least 9 credit hours at U of L in 2006; be working towards an undergraduate degree; have limited financial resources based on the FAFSA form (which must be available by February 15). Applicants are judged on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. For an application call the U of L Women's Center, 852-8976.

**Women's Second Chance College Scholarship Fund.** Established by Ruth Tillman to provide scholarship assistance to women from Kentucky and Southern

Indiana seeking a college degree in order to gain employment not available without a college degree. To qualify for this scholarship, applicant must be: a woman 20-24 years old; a resident of Kentucky or specific Southern Indiana counties; have a high school diploma or GED; and commit to degree completion within a period of time agreed upon with the Selection Committee. Deadline March 1, 2007. Further information: <http://www/cflouisville.org/page13940.cfm>

**Kute Family Scholarship.** Created by C. Stephen and Susan M. Kute to provide scholarships to non-traditional students from the Louisville area. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be women students at least 22 years old and be attending an accredited college in Louisville. Preferences given to women enrolled in the Project Women Program. Deadline March 1, 2007. Further information and application materials; <http://www/cflouisville.org/page13940.cfm>

**Robert B. Diehl Scholarship.** Established by Ellen Diehl Shelby in 1982 to support a non-traditional student in the Louisville area to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited school. Deadline March 1, 2007. Further information <http://www/cflouisville.org/page13940.cfm>