

Women's Center News

Winter 2006

Check out the Women's Center at: www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr

Volume 13, Issue 2



"The purpose of women's history is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present a full view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life.... We know from research and from anecdotal studies that learning the stories of women's success, talent, and accomplishments expands a sense of what is possible for girls and women. Information about women and their successes gives males and females alike a perspective that challenges some of our cultures' most unconscious and archaic assumptions about women. Thus, women's history becomes a story of inspiration and hope. A story of courage and tenacity. A story of promise, possibility and purpose."

Save the Date!

National Women's History Month 2006

In an ongoing effort to uncover women's past contributions to every sector of society and to celebrate women's accomplishments in the present, the University of Louisville Women's Center invites individuals and organizations in the community to add their respective events to the Center's annual listing of Women's History Month calendar.

In 1978, the Sonoma County, California Commission on the Status of Women selected the week of March 8 to celebrate "Women's History Week" in reaction to the lack of women's history being taught in schools and to anchor the weeklong celebration to International Women's Day. Two years later, President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation that led to March being declared Women's History Month.

For more information about Women's History Month and International Women's Day, and to gather ideas on how to celebrate, call the National Women's History Project, 707-636-2888, email nwhp@nwhp.org, or go to www.NWHP.org.

Congratulations to...

This year's winners of the M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award. Named in honor of Margaret Celeste Jackson Nichols (1951-1995), the first African-American woman to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Louisville's English Department, the Nichols Award supports academic and professional enrichment for graduate students attending UofL. This year's winners are **Asma Al-wadidi**, fine arts, for her Middle Eastern Women Art Show; **Sonya Borton**, English, for her participation and paper presentation in the 2005 Feminism and Rhetoric Conference; **Cynthia Conley**, social work, for her participation and paper presentation in the 2006 Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education; **Robert Plienis**, social work and women's and gender studies, for his attendance at the Multicultural Institute sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators **Candice Michelle Thomas**, physiology, for her presentation in the 2005 Conference on Experimental Biology.

The 2005 recipient of the Bonsteel Tachau Award. **Laura Schweitzer, Ph.D.**, vice president for academic affairs and provost-designate at the SUNY Upstate Medical University. She is also vice provost for academic affairs and health liaison at Syracuse University. Dr. Schweitzer most recently served the University of Louisville as 2003-2005 interim dean of the School of Medicine. Her nominators wrote that, during her tenure as dean, Dr. Schweitzer "designed a formal targeted mentoring program aimed at associate professor women that increased promotion of women to professor from 0% of the faculty promotions in 1998 to 30% of the faculty promotions by 2001. In addition, Dr. Schweitzer was highly successful in the recruitment of outstanding female and minority faculty to the University."

She Wants to Travel the World and the Seven Seas!

Christina M. Bright Assistant Director, Women's Center

I love to travel. I rarely traveled until I got married in 1993. The highlight of my travels up until that time were two great mission trips to Jamaica delivering medical supplies to a poor district hospital and food and clothing to a very poor orphanage. My husband, U of L School of Urban and Public Affairs Assistant Professor Dr. Leonard Bright, had traveled to several states in his youth because his father was in the Air Force.



Well, once we married, my husband suggested we take trips practically every month. We initially drove to destinations throughout the southeast such as Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. I really enjoyed seeing the Great Smoky Mountains and the various other natural sites that availed themselves. The first year Southwest Airlines began offering inexpensive flights, we decided to travel to Washington D.C. and Chicago while continuing our road trips from Florida to Michigan.

When it was time to select a graduate school, we quickly decided to use this opportunity to see the great Northwest. We were admitted to the University of Idaho's master of public administration program. While there, we traveled to Montana,

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"Look what we've done!"

Tiffani Chase, Women's Center Student Events Coordinator

If I may say so, the U of L Women's Center has accomplished some astounding projects. Because of the dedication of such a charitable staff and our on/off campus affiliates, I have been able to conduct projects that celebrate and unify the diversity of women.

One thing I really wanted to do was help make the Women's Center more visible, in spite of our location. The Writing Center and the REACH Program have allowed us advertise resources helpful to women students.

In efforts to reach the Greater Louisville community, it was a pleasure to have performed an original poem, accompanied by bassist Ben Sollee, during Domestic Violence Awareness month, at *Take Back the Night* at U of L, and at the Jazz Factory.

I received some enthusiastic feedback on the breast cancer awareness information table from both U of L employees and students, and on Women's Equality Day and the t-shirts made for the event.

In an effort to unite faculty, staff, and students, I am glad that the request to attend a dinner with the keynote speaker of Dr. Cornel West has not been ignored. Special thanks to all involved.

To help women strengthen their ability to address financial decisions, I am very proud of our upcoming Health and Wealth Fair on March 28, 2006.

Additionally, as the importance of political efforts relates to empowerment, the Women's Center has shown *Iron-Jawed Angels* to encourage women to understand the significance of gaining the right to vote and exercising that right.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of meeting with some very powerful and fascinating women, such as Ann Coffey and Debra Walton of Women4Women and Project Women director Cathy Dkystra. I am also excited to be a member of the CARDS Community in conjunction with Leadership Louisville and to have the promising opportunity of traveling to Belize with the International Service Learning Program here at U of L.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in my efforts. I hope to keep the ball going. *(P.S. Be sure to take a look at the student events link on the Women's Center website!)*



A Message from Women's Center Director

Mary Karen Powers

"Social norms is an evidence-based, data-driven process that focuses on the strengths and positive aspects of the community by giving attention to the reality that the majority of students make healthy, safe and positive choices...This theory holds that if students perceive something to be the norm, they tend to alter their behavior to fit that norm, even if it isn't reality. If, however, they are presented with the actual norm, they will conform to it. So if students think heavy drinking is normal they'll drink more. If they think responsible drinking is normal, they'll drink more responsibly." *Michael Haines, Northern Illinois University*

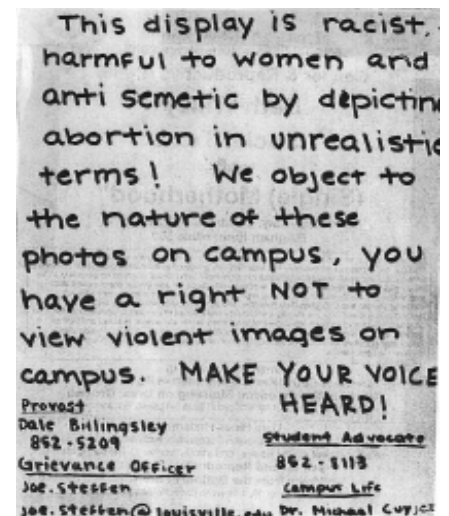
Much of the national training focusing on violence against women on college campuses addresses "bystander behavior," in which the majority of a group disagree with the behavior of a minority, yet does not express their objection publicly. Thus, the majority's silence is perceived as endorsement of the behavior of the few.

Since 2003, the anti-abortion Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) has been an unwelcome guest on U of L's campus three times. Each time, GAP has been hosted by a recognized student group, most recently Cardinals for Life. When they are on campus, GAP's prominent display includes poster-sized images of lynched African Americans, victims of the Nazi holocaust, aborted fetuses, and New York's Twin Towers on 9/11. Thus, women who have had abortions are portrayed by GAP as the moral equivalent of terrorists who systematically exterminated Jews and African Americans and attacked the unsuspecting people of New York City in September 2001.

The University of Louisville permits GAP's display as an exercise of First Amendment rights. Many members of the U of L community, however, find the content of GAP's display reprehensible. Thus, each year some students spontaneously organize a counter-protest, supported by some members of both the faculty and staff.

It is my sense, therefore, that a sizable silent majority at U of L intensely dislikes GAP's use of hate speech directed at women, although there may be no consensus in the majority about abortion itself. My hope is that breaking the silence about GAP's tactics at U of L will encourage everyone in the university community to "speak more responsibly" and thus conform to the social norm of positive dialogue, free of hate speech directed at others – and in this case specifically, at women.

Striving to maintain such spirited and civil debate about controversial issues challenges U of L to embrace the commitment to diversity that President Ramsey articulated in his 2005 State of the University address. That is, the "commitment to make the University of Louisville a place welcoming to all: students, faculty, [and] staff, regardless of race, religious beliefs, country of origin, political philosophy or sexual orientation."



Handmade leaflet created and distributed by U of L students in response to GAP display.

Focus on

Hannelore B. Rader

Dean, University Libraries University of Louisville

By Amy H. Purcell

Special Collections, Ekstrom Library

Hannelore Rader has served as Dean of the University of Louisville Libraries since 1997. She accepted this challenging position because of UofL's history, interesting and extensive library collections, and because she recognized the administration as strongly supportive in developing the libraries to the fullest extent possible. She is always searching for and finding ways to improve the services of the University Libraries. One of her most important accomplishments in terms of both the Libraries and the University is the attaining of Association of Research Libraries (ARL) status. Under Dean Rader's direction, the University of Louisville Libraries became the newest ARL member in 2002. UofL's collections are among the smallest accepted by ARL, but U of L is unique because of the libraries' special collections and the Information Literacy Program. With ARL membership come opportunities for advancement and improvement of the libraries, as well as the respect and recognition from universities around the world.

In the beginning, Rader wanted to become a foreign correspondent; she knew several languages and holds degrees in Russian and Spanish from the University of Michigan. But because she escaped from East Germany as a child, she was unable to get the proper clearance. She had worked in a library while going to school and had taken courses in children's literature and storytelling. So, when she walked into the Washington, DC public library looking for a job, she was hired on the spot. She became a children's librarian even though she didn't yet have her master of library science degree. She was, however, still looking for a career.

Rader started working toward a teaching degree. During this time she had a daughter, her husband died, and she moved to Michigan to help her mother with her dying father. Within one year, her husband, father, and father-in-law died. She had eight

more months of school before she would receive her degree. A single mother, she was going to school and working full-time. While this was a challenging time for her, she also knew that to succeed, she needed to persevere.

When she graduated with her MLS, Rader got a job at Eastern Michigan University where she met her mentor, A. P. Marshall. Marshall was the first African-American academic library director. He was a historian who specialized in the history of civil rights. Together, they worked on and were awarded one of the first National Endowment for the Humanities grants to create a library orientation program. (Library orientation later became library instruction and then information literacy.) Marshall wanted Rader to pursue an administrative position. He pushed her, encouraging her to reach this goal.

Dean Rader left Eastern Michigan, looking for an urban setting with more diversity, as well as seeking more responsibility. She worked her way up, always wanting more responsibility and more challenges. Along the way she continued promoting diversity in the profession and developing information literacy. Throughout her career, she has created a number of diversity intern positions.

Rader has always been active in a variety of professional organizations, both nationally and internationally. She is a long-standing member of the International Federation of Library Associations. Often at international meetings, Rader is the sole librarian from the United States. She has found that in many countries higher education has more governmental control than in the United States, so she often works closely with government agencies. With her language skills, she is comfortable communicating in many foreign countries.

Dean Rader has visited every continent developing, promoting, and educating people in information literacy. In 2005 the University of Louisville hosted the 33rd National Library Orientation Exchange (LOEX) Conference with over 600 member libraries worldwide. Information Literacy is becoming part of accreditation for universities and is a topic of concern world-wide

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Spotlight On: Connie Shumake

Personal Info: Married to Rev. Erich Shumake; mother of three.

Current Position: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Coordinator, Provost's Office.

Job Duties: Helping the University prepare for re-accreditation by SACS in 2007. This task involves coordinating faculty, staff and students in the various departments to assess, evaluate, and make changes as needed to University programs and services. The range includes reviewing curriculum and academic services, safety of faculty, staff, and students, admission and progression policies, support operations, and many others. Accreditation helps to ensure that the University is doing what an institution of higher education should be doing. There are several consequences to losing accreditation, some of the most serious being loss of financial aid to students and the diminished value of the degrees awarded.

How She "Exhales": To relax and take care of herself, Connie gives herself "permission" to take a day off once in a while to do nothing! She is reading more (for pleasure – not work!), walking more, and schedules time to spend doing pleasurable activities with family and friends.

Advice for Young Women: "Try not to get caught up in society's obsession with possessions and wealth. Many young people are leaving college with degree in hand and facing a lot of debt. We've become dependent on things like cable television, cell phones, and designer purses--things that cost money that most college students don't have. I advise students to concentrate first and foremost on doing well in their studies and completing their degree. We all deserve some luxuries in life, but with patience and careful planning I believe that students can complete their studies and still be financially secure."

Diana Whitlock, Executive Assistant to Mordean Taylor-Archer, Associate Provost for Diversity and Equal Opportunity





The Women's Center News Editorial Board: Lucy Freibert, Kathy Kremer, Kathy Pendleton, Mesia Moore Steed, 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 email womenctr@louisville.edu.

Please add my name to your mailing list!

Name _____

U of L Dept. (or) Address: _____

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Mail: to: Women's Center, University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY 40292.

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Rader, continued from p. 3.

It is an essential part of students' learning experience and will help make them productive members of society. The mantra of information literacy is: "Find it, evaluate it, use it."

Rader's idea of a good leader is a visionary, with excellent people skills. She is constantly marketing the libraries to the university administration. To become successful, she believes one should set a goal for herself and let nothing deter her from achieving that goal. Early in her career, Rader was one of the first women to become an academic library director. At that time, such positions were held mostly by men. Today, many women occupy high-level management positions in the library world, but there is plenty of room for improvement. Rader tells the students she mentors that finely-tuned organizational skills are a must for anyone in an administrative position. "Equally important is the vision ... the idea of what is possible," she says.

Rader has always been interested in being on the cutting edge. She follows the same principles in her career as she does in life. When she decides the libraries are going for something, they go full-force until that goal is achieved. She believes one should never give up.

Dean Rader is very excited about the role the Libraries play within the University. The Libraries have become a hub of activity where students are learning, researching and socializing. There are roughly 2.2 million people a year using Ekstrom, the main

library, and that number is growing. With the new wing opening at the end of the year, the numbers will be even higher. Dean Rader's vision of making the Libraries a comfortable and fascinating place for students to learn is becoming a reality. ☞

Bright, continued from p. 1

Wyoming, Washington, and Canada. We saw all sorts of wildlife—everything from bears and elk down to fish and flowers. After we finished our degrees, my husband applied to Portland State University's doctoral program in public administration. We moved to Portland, Oregon, and that's when the real travel bug hit me! There, we saw great mountain ranges, craters, gorges, oceans, lighthouses, islands, huge trees, whales, barges, and boats.

My list just goes on and on. I had never taken a camping trip in Florida, where I lived for all of my youth, but when we moved to the Northwest, I went on at least twenty camping trips at campgrounds, on islands, in the mountains, etc. Since then, we have traveled to London, Paris, Germany, Mexico, Hawaii, and Canada. Our future travel plans now include African, Asian, and South American destinations. One of the biggest trips that I hope to experience is a one- or two-month-long backpacking trip!

I encourage people to camp, hike, and travel as much as possible. It is really refreshing to see and experience meeting other people and seeing other places. I recommend it to everyone.

Christina joined the Women's Center staff in August 2005. ☞