

The Women's Center News

Winter 2008

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

Volume 16, Issue 2

Nichols and Tachau Awards Presented at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon

By Phyllis M. Webb

Congratulations to the recipients of the Celeste Nichols Award for graduate student academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses and the Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award for a member of the U of L community whose performance promotes equity for women and reflects the accomplishments of Dr. Tachau. Awards were presented at the 6th annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon this past November. Each received a monetary gift.

Celeste Nichols Award Winners:

Kem Roper, English Rhetoric & Composition, for partial payment towards airfare and hotel to attend & present a

paper at the American Name Society (ANS) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, January 2009.

Jamie L. Izlar, School of Law, for airfare (travel) for a cultural exchange trip as part of her Fulbright Fellow assignment and her liaison work with Howard University students, Dominican Republic, March 2009.

Nichole Burruss, Humanities, for partial airfare to attend a conference & present at the Gender and Power in the Muslim World Conference, Bronxville, New York, March 2009.

Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Award:

Julie Hermann, Senior Associate Athletic Director and the Senior Woman Administrator in Athletics at U of L, is

a Champion 4 Her. Hermann's primary responsibilities include supervising the athletic department's teams, Student Development, Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, Marketing, Development and the Olga Peers Academic unit.

The speaker for the event was historian and author, **Lynn E. Niedermeier**, whose talk was titled, "Eliza Calvert Hall: A Kentucky Woman Demands the Vote."

Over 100 students, staff, faculty and community members attended the annual luncheon sponsored by the Women's Center.

(See the Women's Center web site for photos of our winners.)

College Students and Voting

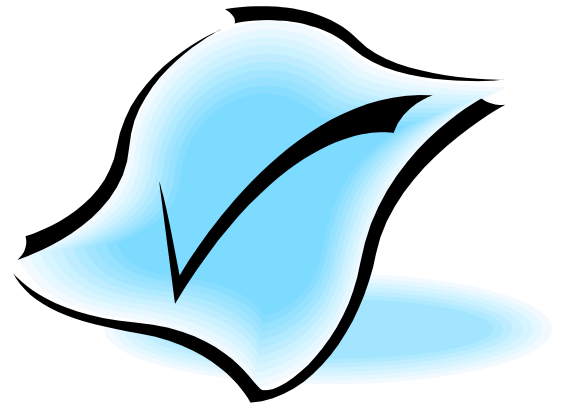
By Brenda D. Gunn

In October, as the most notable presidential election in recent history approached, college students, many first-time voters, had strong opinions about who should emerge as the leader of the United States for the next four years. Popular opinion said more young people than ever were engaged in the presidential election, the economy being the #1 concern. (<http://theforum.cnn.com/league/firsttimevoters>)

While both Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama supported the \$700 billion bailout, the issue for students was the here and now – gas prices, jobs, tuition, and basic cost of living issues. From "Redphin" in Fredericksburg, Va., "Now that I have decided, I am actually calmer. Every economic plan has to be changed once it hits reality, on either side. So you have to look for someone who has the ability to make the correct decisions on the budget, in your opinion, and make the correct correlations."

Closer to home, UofL freshman and first-time voter Cassandra Webb said the economy concerns her, but so do other issues. She stated, "The economy is going downhill, America's education system lags behind China's and many European countries', healthcare is more expensive, and it's tiring to name the many other problems. The economy is a top issue because it affects all Americans and, . . . What the next president decides in the White House determines a lot for the future." Webb is studying Political Science with a concentration in Law and Public Policy.

John Weber, a freshman from Louisville who also is studying political science, agreed that the economy is a grave matter. The first-time voter's greatest concern was that "Senator McCain could get elected and keep the country from turning things around and



becoming the strong, stable America that we are used to."

[Note: At the time of the interviews, the election was a few weeks away. While young college students who were first-time voters became involved in this election, this writer's hope is that that the experience was a positive one and that they will continue to exercise their right to vote.]

Women in Politics Defy Gender Labels



Mary Karen Powers, Director Women's Center

Advertising executive Lois Wyse observed, "Men are taught to apologize for their weaknesses, women for their strengths." It has been fascinating to watch that dichotomy play out in the campaigns of both major parties during this election cycle.

During the primaries "[Senator] Hillary Clinton was unfairly labeled a "bitch" because she was too assertive and politically sophisticated. [However, Governor] Sarah Palin has been unfairly labeled "dumb" because she isn't assertive or politically sophisticated enough." (Tony Fellow, Department of Communications, Cal State). As a political spouse, Michelle Obama has been negatively characterized as "outspoken" though her professional success as an attorney depends on her ability to craft a convincing argument. In turn, Cindy McCain's appearance—she's tall and blonde—is often noted, as is Jill Biden's.

However McCain is also the chairwoman of a business "worth millions of dollars" while Biden holds a PhD. All of these women are successful professionals: a senator, a governor, a lawyer, a businesswoman, and a college professor. Yet, observing the strength of the public's response to them, Dee Dee Myers, the first woman to serve as Presidential Press Secretary, has written, "Let me just say the debate swirling around . . . [them] and women in general . . . has been heated, confusing, conflicted, interesting, emotional. It has been, in many ways, a thought-provoking year for women of all ages and all choices."

Thus, this election cycle has made me wonder whether the terms "presidential candidate, vice presidential candidate, and running mate" have finally become gender neutral in our political consciousness or whether they still suggest to us a white male. Either way, by the time you read this column, we will have made history - electing either our first black president or our first female vice president.

Women 4 Women Student Chapter Organized on Campus

By Amy Hartsough

As new Student Events Coordinator at the Women's Center, I work with amazing people to create exciting new programs at UofL. I am currently working with a group of women to create a student chapter of Women 4 Women, a non-profit organization in Louisville.

Women 4 Women works to improve the lives of women and girls by striving for the "4 Bold Goals" listed on www.w4w.org: Economic Wellbeing, Health, Connections, and Funding. The organization works with members of the community to create opportunities for women and girls.

For example, the "Finance 4 Her" Coach Network is a group that teaches women how to manage personal finances. "Fit 4 Me" is a program that improves health. UofL women athletes participate in the program, teaching positive eating and exercise habits to underserved middle school girls.

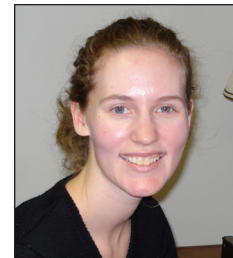
In March and September 2008, several UofL women met to explore the possibility of creating a student chapter of "Women 4 Women" and decided to

form an RSO.

Tiarra Hall is the founding President, Shannon Smyth is Vice President, and I serve as Secretary of the new group. The students and staff members who attended the meetings will act as board members of our group.

By the end of this semester, we will have finished creating the RSO and will begin to explore programming ideas. I anticipate that our group will find concrete ways to improve the lives of women and girls in Louisville, just as "Women 4 Women" has done for fifteen years.

Amy joined the Women's Center as a Student Events Coordinator in September and is working on a M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies, concentrating in Feminist Theology. She is a graduate of Bellarmine University with a B.A. in English. She enjoys reading, writing poetry, blogging, cooking and, occasionally, golfing.



Amy Hartsough

Campus Health Services Collaborate with Women's Center To Promote Positive Health Decisions

By Heather Collins
Master's Peer Health Advocate
Women's Sexual Health Advisor

Health is a women's issue—and a human issue. Whatever type of health issues have received the most media coverage or political attention, all genders need, deserve, and seek out advocates and educators who can help them make positive health decisions. Campus Health Services employs eleven Peer Health Advocates (PHA) and three Health Advocate Volunteers (HVA) who are specifically trained to lend support and to advocate for students who want to make better health choices.

All PHAs and HVAs are UofL students who have a passion for helping

create a healthier campus and world. PHAs and HVAs have become a needed link between Campus Health Services and students by providing health workshops in residence halls, organizing Walking Groups, and hosting events such as the Trojan Evolve Tour. PHAs and HVAs also provide peer support for students seeking a trusted listening ear.

PHAs and HVAs are trained to talk about many health issues, from depression to diet. For students searching for facts, answers or support in making decisions about their sexual health specifically, three Master's level PHAs are trained as Women's Sexual Health Advisors. These PHAs offer sexual health workshops on campus and hold office hours for students who wish to speak to someone confidentially.

The goal of Women's Sexual Health Advisors is to offer sexual health decision-making support for all genders. PHAs

(continued on page 4)



Heather Collins

Eleanor Jordan Talks About “Women’s Health – Blueprint for Change”

By Phyllis M. Webb

Life experiences, passion, and her life-long work with women and children led Eleanor Jordan to the position she is in now as Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Women. I had a chance to catch up with her between her meetings and her travels across the state, including her visit to the U of L campus this past August as guest for our annual Women’s Equality Day. I spoke with her again in Frankfort, Kentucky this past September, where the Women’s Center staff attended the Kentucky’s Women Health Summit, “Making the Grade,” sponsored by the Lt. Governor Daniel Mongiardo and the Ky. Commission on Women.

Jordan graciously agreed to share her speech, “A Conversation on Women’s

Health--Blueprint for Change” with us, and below are some of her comments:

“Someone once wrote, ‘If you have health, you have hope, and if you have hope, you have everything.’ If I were to gauge our hopefulness on the current status of women’s health in Kentucky, we would have very little hope.”

Jordan talks about the hope, agenda, and vision for the Kentucky Commission on Women in improving the lives of women. She also talks about the primary causes of death, life expectancy, number of children born and eligible voters for Kentucky in the 1900s compared to today (see below).

“Women are 52% of Kentucky’s population, so it is just common sense that the future of Kentucky rests with its

women. We must begin addressing the health of Kentucky women.” Jordan gives some sobering statistics for Kentucky women, saying that Kentucky ranks the fourth worst for women in terms of **economic self-sufficiency, leadership, equity, education, and health and well-being.**

In deciding what to concentrate on first, Jordan says, “We chose **health and well-being.** Why? Because we will never position the Commonwealth for success in any of those first four indicators unless we have healthy women and girls. But what a broad mission!”

Jordan list examples of women’s current health issues: teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking, eating disorders, heart disease (#1 killer),

(continued on page 4)



Eleanor Jordan

CHART – KENTUCKY IN THE 1900S

	1900s	Today
Primary causes of death	child birth and tuberculosis	Heart disease
Life expectancy	48	79
Average children in household	8	2
Number of eligible women voters	0%	50%

Women Center Welcomes New Students and Editorial Board Member

The Women’s Center welcomes students Ashley Cottrell and Amy Hartsough to the office as well as new editorial board member Brenda D. Gunn. Ashley is a Porter Scholar and a work-study student majoring in sociology. She is interested in a women’s health fair, a discussion board where women can get insight from other women in the community, and in starting a partnership with current professional women to provide internships or opportunities for women currently working towards a degree. Amy is a graduate student and the new Student Events Coordinator. She is currently involved in the formation of the Women4Women student chapter at U of L. (See her article on the group) Brenda, a U of L graduate and retiree, is a welcome edition to the board and will provide insight to the newsletter.



Ashley Cottrell



Brenda D. Gunn

Women, Work, and Family in the 21st Century

By Karen Christopher, PhD, Women’s & Gender Studies and Sociology

Over the latter half of the 20th century, U.S. women experienced monumental changes in their work and family lives. In 1955, fewer than 30% of mothers with children living at home were employed; by 2004, about 70% of these mothers were employed. While women today have greater educational and employment opportunities than in earlier decades, persistent employment inequalities remain. We find more women in the most-coveted professional jobs today, but in 2008 women only make up 2% of the CEOs of fortune 500 companies and 16% of Congress; among full-time workers, women make 77 cents to every man’s dollar.

One primary reason for women’s lack of advancement in the workplace is that in most families women remain the primary caregivers of children. The increase of single-mother families

(continued on page 4)

Eleanor Jordan

(continued from page 3)

various cancers, chronic diseases (such as diabetes, hypertension anxiety disorders, depression), physical health effects (such as rape, sexual assaults, domestic violence), Alzheimer's, and long-term care. She also says we must look at age, race, socioeconomic status, lack of access, and behavioral risk factors, such as substance abuse, alcoholism, and the AIDS epidemic.

According to the Institute of Women's Policy Research, "Status of Women in the States Report", Kentucky ranks in the bottom third on the overall composite index of women's health and well-being. The National Women's Law Center report says our ranking on the national report card would be as follows with 1 being best and 51 being worst:

Heart Disease Mortality	46
Lung Cancer Mortality	49
Breast Cancer Mortality	32
Incidence of Diabetes	26
Incidence of AIDS	24
Poor Mental Health	51
Suicide Mortality	21
Limited Activity	51

Jordan also talks about The Bush administration's proposed Health and Human Services regulation, which she says is an attack on women's access to health care. The proposed regulation is to allow providers to withhold critical health care information by limiting rights of patients to receive complete and accurate health information and services.

In her speech, Ms. Jordan also talks about the mandate of the Kentucky Commission on Women. Advising the Governor on issues of concern pertaining to women and improving women's health statistics is a MUST if we truly want Kentucky to move forward.

Health Services

(continued from page 2)

and HVAs lend positive, unbiased, and non-judgmental support and collaborate with the Counseling Center, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) services, PEACC (Prevention, Education and Advocacy on Campus and in the Community) and the Women's Center to ensure students have access to resources for becoming physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

For more information, email: hlthed@louisville.edu

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

The Women's Center News
Louisville, KY 40292

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Louisville, KY Permit No. 769
--

Women, Work *(continued from page 3)*

means that many women experience even greater care-giving demands. While childless women earn about 90% of what men earn, mothers fare much worse. Researchers increasingly speak of "motherhood penalties" in the workplace rather than penalties associated with gender alone. Inflexible workplaces cause many women to cut back at work, change jobs, or quit jobs altogether because of care-giving demands.

Some countries provide mothers with flexible work schedules; paid leaves for care giving; and high-quality, affordable childcare; For example, Sweden's "daddy leaves" require that fathers take two months of the fifteen-month paid leave allotted to couples; this policy has resulted in Swedish fathers engaging in more child care. High quality, affordable daycare, shorter work weeks, and flexible work places also keep

Swedish women's employment rates and earnings high. If we want women to achieve equality, we have to consider these kinds of institutional changes, since women have already made substantial changes to their individual lives, and employment inequality remains.

The Women's Center News

A Publication of the Women's Center
at the University of Louisville

Editorial Board: Valerie Casey,
Brenda D. Gunn, Robin Harris, Ruth Miller,
Kathy Pendleton, Mary Karen Powers,
and Phyllis Webb.

The Women's Center News is a free,
quarterly newsletter. It is available on-line
at 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.

The University of Louisville is
an equal opportunity institution.

This publication was prepared by
the University of Louisville and printed
with state funds KRS 57.375.



UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE
It's Happening Here.®