

# The Women's Center News

Fall 2008

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

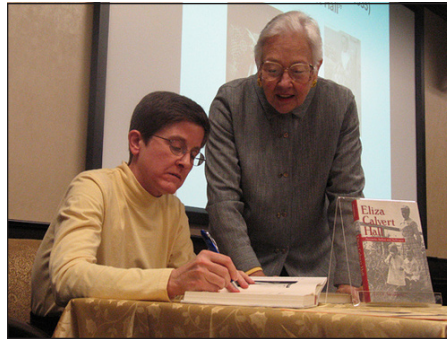
Volume 16, Issue 1

## Sixth Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon Set for Thursday, November 13

By Robin R. Harris  
Brandeis School of Law

On November 13, the Women's Center will celebrate the 193<sup>rd</sup> birthday of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the brave and tenacious woman who, with abolitionist Lucretia Mott, led the first women's rights convention in the United States at Seneca Falls, New York in the summer of 1848. Two years later, Stanton began what was to be a long friendship with Susan B. Anthony, who ran the business side of the movement while Stanton dedicated her energy to writing. The pioneering work of Stanton and Anthony paved the way for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, giving women the right to vote. The luncheon takes place at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club located on Belknap Campus. Tickets are \$25. Register today by calling the Women's Center at 852-8976.

The featured speaker will be historian **Lynn E. Niedermeier**, author



Historian Niedermeier at a book signing

of *Eliza Calvert Hall: Kentucky Author and Suffragist*. Niedermeier, a native of Kansas City, grew up in Toronto, Ontario. She works in University Archives at Western Kentucky University and has written many articles on local and university history.

The winners of two annual awards will be recognized at the luncheon.

- The **Sixth Annual M. Celeste Nichols Award**, named in memory of Margaret

Celeste Johnson Nichols, will be given to a graduate or professional student to support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses. Dr. Nichols (1951-1996) was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from the U of L English Department and went on to teach African American literature and basic writing at U of L, Kentucky State University, and Bellarmine University before her death at age 45 in 1996.

- The **Sixth Annual Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award**, named for the first woman chair of the U of L History Department and the first woman chair of the U of L Faculty Senate, will be given to a member of the U of L community whose performance promotes equity for women and reflects the accomplishments of Dr. Tachau (1926-1990).

Visit the Women's Center website <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter> for nomination forms.

## U of L's Early Learning Campus Set to Open in September

By Valerie M. Casey, Women's Center

The Women's Center has been an advocate for a Childcare Center at the University of Louisville for at least ten years. Through research, focus groups, newsletter coverage, and staff participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), the Women's Center has helped determine the need for child care services at the University. With great pride, we are able to announce the Louisville Scholar House, a partnership among Project Women, University of Louisville, and the Kentucky Housing Corporation is opening on campus this fall.

When U of L students, staff, and faculty arrive back on campus, they will see a new facility—U of L's Early Learning Campus (ELC)—a pre-school with extended day opportunities for infants aged 6 weeks to 4 years old. The school is located at 5<sup>th</sup> & Bloom Streets,

north of Betty Johnson Hall on the U of L's Belknap Campus.

Partnered with Project Women, the ELC is unique in its dream to break the cycle of poverty through education of parents AND children, according to Dr. Kenni Deddens, Director.

Plans are for the ELC to be operational the early part of September after the completion of state licensing and fire marshal inspections. Pre-school employees will include certified teachers, credentialed childcare staff, and experienced instructors. The ELC will have room for 186 children, ages 6 weeks up to 4 years old.

At newsletter press time, the ELC had received nearly sixty applications for all age groups. For operating hours and registration information, visit this web site: <http://www.louisville.edu/education/elc>.



## “We will become first-class citizens, every woman in the USA!”



By Mary Karen Powers, Director Women's Center

2007-2008 was extraordinary for U.S. women. Senator Hillary Clinton became the first serious female con-

tender for the presidential nomination of a major party. Michelle Obama became the first African American woman seriously positioned to become First Lady. Mildred Loving, an African American whose illegal 1958 marriage to a white man prompted the 1967 Supreme Court decision overturning state miscegenation laws, died. Mrs. Loving marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Court decision by urging that “gay men and lesbians be allowed to marry.”

2007-2008 also posed an extraordinary challenge for Kentucky.

In October 2007, Dr. Allie Hixson, the first woman to earn a PhD in English from U of L, died. Dr. Hixson headed the English Department at Louisville Collegiate School and co-chaired the Kentucky Pro-ERA Alliance. In a 1977 Washington, D.C. speech commemorating the 57th anniversary of women's suffrage she said, “We will make it in our time. We will become first-class citizens, every woman in the USA.”

In January 2008, Nelle Pitcock Horlander, a “courageous, proud, and strong-willed” woman, died. A graduate of Louisville Girls' High School, further educated at the University of Louisville, Mrs. Horlander had become president of the Communications Workers of America in 1969 and a charter member of BPW River City. At her death, the Kentucky legislature recognized her as “an advocate dedicated to bringing [working women] into full participation in the mainstream of American society.”

In June 2008 Dr. Lilialyce Akers, “a visionary leader who... advocate[d] for equality, justice and human dignity” died. In 1978 she was the first Director of Women's Studies at U of L, and in 2005 she organized a U of L delegation to the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women. Her death ended a distinguished 40 year career focused on “improving the status of women in Kentucky, the United States and abroad.”

## Speak Out Against Sexist Media

By Toma Lynn Smith  
U of L Senior Communications Major

A *Rolling Stone* magazine ad for Canadian Club liquor features a woman sitting in a man's lap and him holding a glass of CC. The tagline: “Your mom wasn't your dad's first.” Funny? If you don't think so, you do have a voice. You can write *Rolling Stone* or email Canadian Club directly.

*Ms.* magazine, the feminist periodical bible, has a section called “No Comment,” which shows a few of the many misogynistic advertisements that appear in popular print media, such as a girl biting down on a man's middle finger in a Tom Ford eyewear ad. They also give their readers addresses where they can write to express their opinions of the ads.\* “A number of companies have removed offensive ads in response to your feedback,” states *Ms.*

*Ms.* is not alone in campaigning against images of women in media that, in some cases, criticize or belittle popular

female figures, such as broadcasted verbal attacks against Hillary Clinton or Michelle Obama. The National Organization for Women (NOW) has a solution for this. Check out their “Media Hall of Shame” link at [www.now.org](http://www.now.org), which provides a sample letter to the media about the 2008 election coverage. Or you can create your own.

Many publications and broadcasts accept devaluing women as the norm; it is important to combat this norm. If enough people speak out, they may convince advertisers and networks to stop.

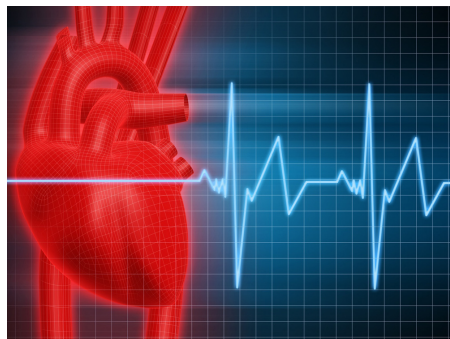
Whatever the media outlet, voices against these types of campaigns must be heard. As we women increase our presence in the classroom and in the boardroom, we have the opportunity to show that we think, we care, and that we can voice our opinion and expect to be heard.

\* Readers can submit an “objectionable ad” to: *No Comment, Ms.*, 433 S. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

Applications for the Celeste Nichols and Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award accepted until September 26, 2008. Visit <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter> for details.

## Join the Fight for Women's Health!

According to a March 19, 2008 report in Science Daily, researchers from Boston University School of Medicine estimate *one in six women and one in ten men* are at risk for developing **Alzheimer's Disease** in their lifetime. Join the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk on September 6 at Waterfront Park to raise awareness and research funds. Contact: Debbie Dunn, [daadam06@louisville.edu](mailto:daadam06@louisville.edu), 502-852-1798.



According to the American Heart Association, **cardiovascular disease** is the number one cause of death in U.S. women. Join the The Kentuckiana Heart Walk September 27 at Waterfront Park to raise awareness and research funds. UofL kick-off, Tuesday, August 5.

Contact: Patricia Benson at UofL's Get Healthy Now, [plbens02@louisville.edu](mailto:plbens02@louisville.edu), 852-1907.

According to the National Cancer Institute, 182,460 women will develop **breast cancer** in 2008; and 40,480 women will die of the disease. Join the Susan G. Koeman Race for the Cure ([info@komenlouisville.org](mailto:info@komenlouisville.org)) on Saturday October 11; or the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer ([makingstrideslouisville@cancer.org](mailto:makingstrideslouisville@cancer.org)) on Sunday October 26 to raise awareness and research funds. Both will be at Waterfront Park.



# Upcoming Events

## Women's Equality Day (WED) Celebrates the "Right to Vote"

8/28: Make plans to attend the Women's Equality Day Celebration in a University-wide Street Fair at the U of L Red Barn: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Legislative Crusader, Eleanor Jordan will speak. WED pays tribute to inspiring individuals who helped bring about the ratification of our constitution's 19<sup>th</sup> amendment through which women all over the country won the right to vote! Enjoy entertainment, food, informational booths (including Voter Registration), door prizes and remarks from Women's Center Director, Mary Karen Powers.

The event's goal is to raise awareness of the historical suffrage movement and the present day international struggle for gender equity. The U of L event also encourages men and women to exercise their right to vote. Sponsor: UofL Women's Center. Call (502) 852-8976 for more details. Free and open to the public.

## Fall Lecture Series: "Sex, Gender, and Social Change"

Department of Women's & Gender Studies & Social Change Minor. Wednesdays, 3:00-4:15 p.m., Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library. Free and open to the public.

9/10: **Mary Hawkesworth**: "War as a Mode of Production and Reproduction: A Feminist Analysis"\*

9/24: **Julie Peteet**, Anthropology "On Dress and Veiling in the Middle East," exact title TBA

10/8: **Kaila Story**: "Racializing Homonormativity: The Metaphorical and Lyrical Blackface Performance of Shirley Q. Liquor"\*\*\*

10/29: Panel discussion: **Anne Caldwell, Dewey Clayton, Jasmine Farrier**: "Gender and the 2008 Election"

11/19: Panel Discussion: **Anita Moorman, Mary Hums**: "Title IX and Gender Equity in Sports"

Co-sponsors:

\*The Kentucky Foundation for Women,  
\*\*UofL Office for LGBT Service

Submitted by *Nancy M. Theriot, Chairperson, Women & Gender Studies, 852-8160.*

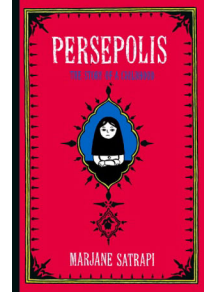
## Take Back the Night 2008

9/23: Take Back the Night (TBTN) encourages participants to speak out through music, drama, action, and the spoken word. The theme for this year's TBTN is *MISSION POSSIBLE* – working to prevent violence against women. Sponsors include U of L Student Activities Board, the Center for Women and Families, Common Ground, Planned Parenthood, Zeta Phi Beta, Men's Work, the U of L Counseling Center, the Women's Center, and the U of L PEACC Program. Volunteers are needed. Contact PEACC: <http://www.louisville.edu/peacc/> or Faces of PEACC group on Facebook for updates.

Submitted by: *Sharon LaRue, PEACC Program Director, 852-2663.*

## First Year Initiatives: Book In Common

The Book-In-Common Program, one of four University of Louisville first-year initiatives, promotes interaction among students, staff and faculty across all disciplines. According to Christy Metzger, Associate Director of First Year Initiatives at U of L, the Book-In-Common will draw new students, upperclassmen, faculty and staff together in a series of co-curricular activities revolving around the themes and issues raised in the selected book, *Persepolis* by author Marjane Satrapi.



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*Persepolis* deals with Satrapi's youth in Iran in the 1970s and 80s, and her childhood during the Iranian Revolution. The book is about exile, identity, and childhood as well as about women, war and conflict. Various events and activities are being planned around the program for the fall semester, including out-of-class activities, film screening, a movie, essay contest, faculty lecture and panel discussions. In the spring (2009), the book's author is scheduled to speak on campus as featured speaker of the Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's & Gender Studies. For additional information: Ms. Metzger at [christy.metzger@louisville.edu](mailto:christy.metzger@louisville.edu) or call (502) 852-3200.

# Safe Infant Act in Kentucky

By *Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center*

Representatives from various universities, social service agencies, the Louisville Metro Police, and others attended a July 21, 2008 meeting at the St. Martin of Tours to hear about the Kentucky Safe Infant Law option. This five-year old law in Kentucky is being discussed to help raise campus and community awareness about the safe surrender of newborns.

Passed in April 2002, The Safe Infant Act in Kentucky allows parents to place infants they cannot care for at selected "safe places" anonymously. The Safe Infants Act permits individuals to leave a newborn baby in these "safe places": 1) a hospital emergency room;

2) an officer at a police station; 3) a firefighter at a fire station; or 4) an emergency medical service provider.

According to a manager in the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), "the primary goal of the law is to keep babies from being abandoned with no one even knowing about it." Safe haven laws generally allow the parent, or an agent of the parent, to remain anonymous and to be shielded from prosecution for abandonment or neglect in exchange for safely surrendering the baby to a safe haven.

In light of some recent headlines on baby abandonment at locations deemed unsafe—such as dangerous places outdoors, trash cans, restrooms, other public

places, or doorsteps of homes—supporters of the law hope that more pregnant women will become aware of the law and use the 'safe places' as an option.

The Safe Infant Law in Kentucky points out what the law does, what happens at a safe place, what one can do to help the baby, and what rights parents have. The statute deals with the infant's age, who may relinquish the infant; who may receive the infant; responsibilities of the safe haven provider; immunity for the provider, protection for the relinquishing parent, and the effect on parental rights.

To learn more about the law, visit this web site at <http://www.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dpp/childsafety.htm> or call 1-800-752-6200.

## Field Hockey Head Coach Pam Bustin Heads to Beijing Olympics

By Holly K. Sheilley, Ph.D., Assistant AD for Student Development/Championships

As the Olympic Torch nears the city of Beijing, the University of Louisville Athletic Department is excited to begin cheering their Olympic coaches and athletes in the biggest games of their lives. U of L field hockey Head Coach Pam Bustin, an assistant with the USA National Team, helped guide the USA to a spot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, as they marched through the Kazan Olympic Qualifier with a 6-0 record.

To read about other U of L coaches and athletics heading to the Olympics, visit <http://uoflports.cstv.com>

## Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

Bon Voyage to the Women's Center Student Events Coordinator, Elizabeth Dansberry! Elizabeth, or Bits as she is known on campus, will be heading to Germany shortly to pursue a Masters of Art in Intercultural Humanities at Jacobs University in Bremen. Bits was thrilled to learn upon admission that she was awarded a scholarship worth 20,000 Euros or roughly \$30,000 American Dollars! Congratulation Bits! We're proud of you!



*The Staff of the Women's Center*

### The Women's Center News

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

Editorial Board: Valerie Casey, Lucy Freibert, 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](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).

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.

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# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

## The Women's Center News

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To date, friends of the U of L Women's Center & PEACC Program have raised \$13,777.89 through Champions 4 Her to support programs and services for women at U of L.

*We're thrilled! Thanks...it really does mean more than we can say!*

## Women Center New Hires

The Women's Center added two new employees in July 2008. They are Patsy Russell and Phyllis M. Webb, former employees of the Multicultural Academic Enrichment Programs/Office of Minority Affairs.

Patsy has been a fixture on the U of L campus since 1970 having worked under five male directors and one Assistant VP as Secretary, and most recently Administrative Assistant, in the former Office of Black Affairs and MAEP. In the WC, she also will be working as Administrative Assistant in managing payroll records, purchasing, preparing budgets and reports, answering and directing telephone calls, helping with the day-to-day operations, and assisting with programs sponsored by the WC.



*Patsy Russell*

Phyllis joined the U of L family in 1975 as a Public Information Officer after working one year as a reporter for a

local newspaper. She received her undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University (1974) and a Masters in Education, College Student Personnel, from U of L in 2000. She has worked in various areas of public relations for the MAEP office and as a Student Development Specialist. Her work in the Women's Center will include coordinating the newsletter and various programs of the office that will focus on educating, advocating and building diverse communities.



*Phyllis M. Webb*

Together, Patsy and Phyllis have years of experience working on the Belknap campus, and both look forward to adding new perspectives and meeting new people. Having cultivated positive relationships with students, staff, faculty and the community, they hope to add many more to the list as new employees in the Women Center.