

The Women's Center News

Spring 2008

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

Volume 15, Issue 3

Involvement with Champions 4 Her Walk, Run & Festival Grows

By Peggy Grimes,
*Advancement,
Annual Giving*



Peggy Grimes

Women 4 Her is partnering with the University of Louisville on a Champions 4 Her Walk, Run, and Festival as a community event to raise funds and morale for issues facing today's women and girls. **UofL Women's Athletics and UofL Women's Center/PEACC Program** are among the ten beneficiary partners who will share equally in the proceeds from this event.

The hope is that this festival will grow into an annual community event that will add exciting elements such as sports

clinics, a music festival, public art, etc. to make this area one of the best places for women and girls and their families to live and work—a City of Champions.

Provost Shirley Willihnganz, a member of the Women 4 Women Board, encourages university-wide support and involvement in the Walk, Run scheduled for June 21, 2008 at the Waterfront. Everyone is urged to participate in the activities leading up to the walk/run. The Get Healthy Now group will be organizing teams who can earn fitness points and incentive gifts along the way.

How can I help?

1. Visit the Women's Center web-site often for important information regarding the Walk, Run, and Festival

and for highlights of people from the University who are themselves Champions 4 Her.

<http://louisville.edu/womenscenter>

2. Start your fitness program now! Check out the Get Healthy Now web-site <http://louisville.edu/hr/gethealthynow/> for all the information and motivational tools you'll need.
3. Start planning your team for the big event!
4. Stay Tuned!



Minx Auerbach Lecture to Feature Suzan-Lori Parks, First African-American Woman to Receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama

By Lin Billingsley, *Department of Women's and Gender Studies*

Suzan-Lori Parks will give the eleventh annual Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's and Gender Studies on Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 in the Margaret Comstock Auditorium (Music School). This year's lecture is co-sponsored by the University Provost, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Commonwealth Center for Humanities and Society. In 2001, Parks became the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama (for *Topdog/Underdog*). She has also received the MacArthur "Genius" Award and two OBIE Awards (for *Venus* and *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom*). After being told by her high-school teacher that she could never be a writer because she could not spell, Parks studied chemistry at Mount Holyoke, later switching to English and

German literature. She told Hilton Als of *The New Yorker* (Oct. 30, 2006): "Mr. [James] Baldwin gave me the idea of being a playwright. I was writing short stories, but I would stand up when it was my turn to read and act all the voices out. He was, like, 'Uh, Miss Parks, have you ever thought about writing for the stage?'" Parks has not only written for the stage but also for the screen (e.g., Spike Lee's *Girl 6*). In addition, she has authored a well-reviewed first novel, *Getting Mama's Body* (Random House, 2003), set in the West Texas of her youth. Parks has



Suzan-Lori Parks

taught at several academic institutions including the Yale School of Drama. In late 2007, Parks' musical, *Ray Charles Live!*, debuted at the Pasadena Playhouse. After winning the Pulitzer Prize, Parks decided to try writing a play each day for a year. The result, *365Days/365Plays*, is currently being performed by over 700 theatre groups in various venues throughout the United States and abroad. *Time* named Parks one of the "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave." Her talks are part performance, part storytelling—always high energy and informed by an inspired sense of humor. She has said of her presentations, "My lectures aren't your typical writer-behind-the-podium-evening." This lecture is free and open to the public. Paid parking is available in the Speed Museum garage. For more information, call 852-8160 or e-mail nancyc@louisville.edu.

Complex Issues Challenge Political Views



By Mary Karen Powers, Director

“The individual woman is required . . . a thousand times a day to choose either to accept her appointed role and thereby

rescue her good disposition out of the wreckage of her self-respect, or else follow an independent line of behavior and rescue her self-respect out of the wreckage of her good disposition.”
Jeanette Rankin

During this primary season, I am frequently reminded that the Democratic presidential nomination contest is between “the woman” candidate and “the black” candidate, as though either can be described by race or gender alone. Such coverage ensures that *her race* is never acknowledged, while *his gender* is always ignored. Professor Anita Hill made a parallel observation after reading the 25,000 letters she received following her 1991 testimony during the confirmation hearings for Chief Justice Clarence Thomas. The letters tended to downplay *his gender* and overlook *her race*, despite the fact that *everyone* lives precisely at the intersections of race and gender, however complex and challenging those places may be. It is the experience of complexity and challenge which brings me – this March – to Jeanette Rankin.

Ms. Rankin was a suffragist and pacifist who was born in Missoula, Montana in 1880. A complex and honest person, at age 37 she became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, fully three years before women were guaranteed the Constitutional right to vote. As a Republican Congresswoman, Rankin arrived in Washington just in time to vote against US entrance into World War I . . . which ensured her defeat in the 1918 Montana Senate election. In 1940 she won re-election to the House; and in 1941 cast the only vote against U.S. entrance into World War II. She died in 1973.

Congresswoman Rankin’s life challenges each of us to behave independently despite the complexities of our lives.

Women’s Voices Bring Focus to Political Issues

Dear Friends:

Greetings from the 2008 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Many challenges face the Commonwealth, first and foremost budget, budget, budget. On January 29, Governor Beshear presented this first budget address, and it paints a bleak financial picture. However, it also offers many opportunities for creative solutions.

The reality is that our government provides many services: police; mental health facilities; safe places for victims of domestic violence; public universities, and many, many more. These services cost money. As a body of elected public servants, it is the job of the General Assembly to secure funding for these many services. I urge you as citizens of the Commonwealth to work actively with your Representatives and Senators on this important issue.

With only 12 women serving in the Kentucky House, we are woefully under-represented in the Kentucky House of Representatives. However, we continue to advocate for many issues important to women and families. House Bill 3 urges the governor to appoint women to boards and commissions in order to achieve gender equity. House Bill 382 requires employers to pay women the same as men for jobs of comparable worth. Several other pieces of legislation will be filed that deal with dating violence, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, and coverage for mammography.

Serving in the Kentucky Legislature is extremely rewarding at times, but we need to hear from all of the diverse voices of Kentucky. Participation in the political process is vital in order to influence progressive policies for Kentuckians. I firmly believe women’s voices bring a clear focus to many issues, such as funding for ovarian cancer research; environmental concerns; educational funding, adequate and accessible health care; women’s athletics; mental health; and a myriad of other issues. All need a perspective from women who constitute 52 percent of the population. Make your voice heard by writing Frankfort and by calling or e-mailing your elected officials.



Mary Lou Marzian

Together, we can make Kentucky a better place for *all* our citizens.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Marzian
State Representative

Editors Note: Representative Mary Lou Marzian is a Registered Nurse and Transplant Coordinator in the Renal Department of the University of Louisville Hospital. She was elected to the legislature in 1994 to represent Jefferson County’s House District 34.

Kentucky Office of Women in Higher Education

In 1973, the American Council on Education (ACE) formed the Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE). The mission of OWHE is to **IDENTIFY** women leaders nationally in higher education; to **DEVELOP** women’s leadership abilities; to **ENCOURAGE** women to use their abilities and talents; to **ADVANCE** more women into leadership positions; to **LINK** women leaders to one another; and to **SUPPORT** the tenure of mid- and senior-level women administrators and educators. Since its founding, OWHE has worked to establish affiliated networks in all fifty states in the Union. In 2007, UK President Lee Todd agreed to serve as a Presidential sponsor for Kentucky, and the organizational development of the Kentucky Office of Women in Higher Education was launched! An

inaugural organizational meeting was held in Lexington, Kentucky on March 14, 2007. Currently there are twenty-two members on the Kentucky OWHE Advisory Board. President James Ramsey represents the University of Louisville on the Advisory Board, as does the Director of the UofL Women’s Center. The goal of the Board is to include representatives from all of the Commonwealth’s publicly funded institutions of higher education. The Kentucky Office of Women in Higher Education would like to hold its first state-wide conference for women interested “in the advancement of women into executive positions and campus presidencies” within the year. For further information about OWHE, consult the OWHE website: <http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=OWHE>

Women's History Month Calendar of Events

This listing of campus and community events is provided by the University of Louisville Women's Center.

Unless noted, all events are free, are open to the public, and take place on U of L's Belknap Campus.

For more information call the person listed with each event. The calendar is online at www.louisville.edu/womensctr

FEBRUARY

February 1 – March 30

The Paper Doll Quilts

Inspired by the paper dolls she played with as a child, Rebekka Seigel has created "Women's Work: The Paper Doll Quilts," to be shown at the Frazier International History Museum. These pieces, based on famous women, tell their unique stories through the images of garments worn at defining moments in the women's lives. In vibrant colors and fabric, they bring to life stories of Ella Fitzgerald, Lucille Ball, Eleanor Roosevelt, and ten other women. This is a must-see exhibit for anyone who loves quilts, and it is a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of women. Contact Paddy DeGeorge at (502) 753-1683 or pdgeorge@fraziermuseum.org for more information.

Saturday February 16 – 17 Gee's Bend Quilter's Weekend

Meet some of the incredible artists of Gee's Bend, Alabama as they quilt, sing, and talk about their work. A family activity will be held on Saturday, and Sunday will feature a panel discussion on quilting. Sponsored by Eleanor Bingham Miller. Contact: Kirsten Popp at (502) 634-2700 or kpopp@speedmuseum.org for more information.

Friday, February 22 NIA Women's Roundtable

"A forum for women small businesses to discuss topics concerning procurement, marketing opportunities, success stories, networking, and daily issues that women-owned businesses face." Every 4th Friday of the month at the NIA Center's 3rd floor conference room at 8:30 am. Contact: Sharron Johnson, Business Development Officer at 775- 2576 or sharronj@morethanconsultants.org for more information.

Sunday, February 24 (through April)

"Illuminating the Manuscript Leaves"

The Pzena Collection of Illuminated Manuscript Leaves representing Western European and Islamic cultures from the 12th through 19th centuries. Takes place at the William F. Ekstrom Library, Kain Rare Books Gallery, Rare Books, lower level. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852-6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information.

Tuesday, February 26 Young Careerist Speak-off

Women ages 21-35 compete in a speak-off. Winners on local level can move into regional, State and National competition. The program recognizes the accomplishments of upcoming leaders and provides them with professional development skills and opportunities. Occurs at the University Club on the U of L Belknap Campus at 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Tuesday, February 26

"To know or not to know one's genetic risks of breast cancer: Is that the question?"

Jessica Polzer, PhD, Assistant Professor, *Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.* Lecture drawing on in-depth interviews conducted with women undergoing genetic testing for hereditary breast cancer in Ontario, Canada, this paper reconsiders how women's decision-making has been framed in terms of knowing or not knowing about one's risks for disease. 4:30 pm at the Chao Auditorium in Ekstrom Library. Contact Nancy Theriot at (502) 852-8160 or nancyt@louisville.edu for more information.

Thursday, February 28

"That All Mankind Shall Be Free; Lincoln and African Americans."

An opening reception and lecture featuring University of Louisville History Professor Dr. Thomas Mackey. Dr. Mackey will examine Abraham Lincoln's understanding of the Black community and discuss Lincoln's relationship with Frederick Douglass. Takes place at in the Chao Auditorium of the Ekstrom library, lower level, at 6:30 pm. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852 6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information.

Thursday, February 28 (through April 2)

"Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation"

A national traveling exhibition that focuses on Lincoln's efforts to restore a Union divided by the Civil War. The exhibit will be on display at William F. Ekstrom Library. The exhibit was organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with American Library Association. "Forever Free" was made possible by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress and charged with planning the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852 6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information.



MARCH

Saturday, March 1 – 23

“Gee’s Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt”

Exhibition at the Speed Art Museum features the brilliant, bold quilts created by a group of women who live in the small, isolated African-American community of Gee’s Bend in Southwestern Alabama. (Tickets are \$8 for the public and FREE for U of L Students/Faculty) Contact: Kirsten Popp at (502) 634-2700 or kpopp@speedmuseum.org for more information.

Tuesday, March 4

Richards Memorial Lecture

On figurative and abstract painting. Located at the Chao Auditorium at 6:00 pm. Part of the Images & Ideas Lectures sponsored by the Hite Art Institute. Contact John Begley at john.begley@louisville.edu for more information.

Thursday, March 6

Annual Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women’s & Gender Studies: Lecture/Performance by Suzan-Lori Parks

Lecture/performance by Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright; brief, informal reception will follow. Event will take place at 6:00 pm at the Margaret Comstock Auditorium in the Music School. Contact: Nancy Theriot at (502) 852- 8160 or nancyt@louisville.edu for more information.

Friday, March 7 (through April 5)

“Women of Wisdom” Art Exhibit

Project Women’s fourth annual “Women of Wisdom” art exhibit will be shown at the Mary Craik Gallery, 815 E. Market, Louisville. Exhibit showcases women artists with ties to Kentuckiana. Visit www.projectwomen.org/upcoming_events.htm for more information.

Saturday, March 8

The Louisville International Women’s Day Coalition

A group of individuals and community organizations who come together every year to join in a global celebration of women’s contributions to communities around the world is pleased to announce that International Women’s Day will be held in Louisville on March 8, 2008, at Americana Community Center from 1:00 until 5:00 pm IWD 2008 will include informational booths, music, speeches, live performances, and a community art project. This day is intended to showcase the many ways women have contributed to the cultural and economic well-being of nations around the world. IWD is open to everyone - Louisville natives, as well those from around the world. For more information, please check out the Louisville Metro Office for Women website: <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/Calendar/InternationalWomensDay.htm>

Sunday, March 9

LAFTA Celebrates the Spirit of Gee’s Bend

Celebrating the spirit of Gee’s Bend quilters, members of LAFTA will create collaborative works using “found” fabrics to produce art that reflects the Louisville community. From 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm and from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm. Sponsored by Chambord. Contact: Kirsten Popp at (502) 634-2700 or kpopp@speedmuseum.org for more information

Medical Academic Research of Black U of L Faculty

“Learn about the important research being conducted and why our community should be involved whenever possible. Part of U of L/Yearlings Club speaker series designed to bring faculty together with the African American community to share expertise and forge common bonds.” Located at the Yearlings Clubhouse, 4309 W. Broadway, Louisville from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Contact Reginald Meeks at 502-852-3024 for more information.

African American Quilting Traditions

Noted quilt artist Kyra Hicks, author of *Martha Ann’s Quilt for Queen Victoria* and *Black Threads: An African-American Quilting Sourcebook*, speaks. Sponsored by Chambord. Contact: Kirsten Popp at (502) 634 2700 or kpopp@speedmuseum.org for more information

Friday, March 14

The InKY Reading Series Celebrates “The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South”

The InKY Reading Series, a free, monthly live literary and music event, presents poets Kelly Norman Ellis and Amanda Johnston, contributors to *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*, an anthology as well as other original work. At The Rudyard Kipling, 422 W. Oak St., Louisville, KY from 7:00 pm-9:00pm. Contact Erin Keane at erin@inkyreadingseries.com or www.inkyreadingseries.com for more information.

Saturday, March 15

Meet the Artist – Rebekka Seigel

Meet the artist! Tour the paper doll quilts with artist Rebekka Seigel as she shares her stories and inspiration for the creation of each quilt. A reception will follow the tour. To RSVP contact Paddy De George at (502) 753-1683 or Audrey Cooke at (502) 753-5667. Frazier International History Museum.

Wednesday, March 19

Slide Show and Discussion on Civil War Photographers and Photography

Presented by Bill Carner from University of Louisville Libraries Photo Archives in the William F. Ekstrom Library, lower level, Chao Auditorium at 2:00 pm Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852 6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information.

Faculty Travel Awards Research Presentation

Jennie Burnet (Anthropology) and Anu Sabhlok (Geography) will speak as part of the event marking International Women's Day. They will be presenting their findings on research enabled by the Global Issues Committee (of COSW)'s Travel Award. 4:00 pm at the Chao Auditorium in Ekstrom Library. Contact Dawn Heinecken at d0hein01@louisville.edu for more information.

Thursday, March 20

Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation

Presidential historian and ABC news consultant Richard Norton Smith will lecture on Abraham Lincoln and emancipation. The lecture will be followed by a McConnell scholar panel discussion on Lincoln and leadership in Kentucky. Professor Smith's lecture is made possible by University Libraries, the McConnell Center, and the University of Louisville History Department with additional funds from the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Occurs at the William F. Ekstrom Library, lower level, Chao Auditorium at 11:00 am. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 85-6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information

Presentation Maddox Prize Winners for Best Essays in Women's/Gender Studies

Light lunch and presentations by authors of prize-winning papers; because there is a light lunch, a reservation by phone or e-mail is required; names of winners will be announced in late February. Event takes place in the Bingham Humanities Building room 300 from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm. Contact: Lin Billingsley at (502) 852-8160 or lbbill01@louisville.edu for more information.

Renaissance and Medieval Studies Lecture

"Fibers and Fabric: Medieval Women, Textiles & Religious Community". 6:00 pm at the Speed Art Museum Auditorium. Part of the Images & Ideas Lectures sponsored by the Hite Art Institute. Contact John Begley at john.begley@louisville.edu for more information.

Saturday, March 22

Truth Commission

A forum where testimonies and stories will highlight the human rights violations experienced by poor people in this city and country. Located at the Egan Leadership Center at Spalding University. 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Contact Khalilah V. Collins at (502) 636 0160 or witadmin@witky.com for more information.

Tuesday, March 25

***Gone With the Wind* showing and discussion**

Showing of *Gone with the Wind* and a discussion on antebellum Southern culture. U of L history lecturer Jamie Allen speaks. Occurs at the William F. Ekstrom Library, lower level, Chao Auditorium at 5:00 pm. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852 6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information

Women and Investing

The evening will start with tours of the Conrad-Caldwell House; we will then have an update of the current market conditions, and will conclude the event with a seminar focused on women and investing. RSVP by March 19th. Will be held at the Conrad-Caldwell House 4202 St. James Court at 6:00 pm. Contact Deonna Calvin at (502) 420- 7656 or deonna.colvin@ubs.com for more information.

Thursday, March 27 NETWORK

"Young women of color: What I wish someone had told me about real life. Life after graduation." A panel discussion. Located at the University Club at the north end of Belknap Campus at 12:00 pm

Allen R. Hite Memorial Lecture

On "Props for the Memory: Joseph Beuys and the Legacy of Fascism." 6:00 pm at the Speed Art Museum Auditorium. Part of the Images & Ideas Lectures sponsored by the Hite Art Institute. Contact John Begley at john.begley@louisville.edu for more information.

Second Annual Louisville SANE Silent Auction

Held at the Peterson-Dumesnil House at 301 South Peterson Avenue, Louisville, KY from 5:00 -9:00 pm. Catered by the Bristol catering, complimentary hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar. Contact Christina Hinkle, RN, BSN, SANE Assistant Coordinator at 502-753-3217 or e-mail chrishin@ulh.org

Friday, March 28

NIA Women's Roundtable

"A forum for women small businesses to discuss topics concerning procurement, marketing opportunities, success stories, networking, and daily issues that women owned businesses face." Speaking at the event will be Mary Karen Powers, Director of the University of Louisville Women's Center. Every 4th Friday of the month at the NIA Center's 3rd floor conference room at 8:30 am. Contact: Sharron Johnson, Business Development Officer at 775 2576 or sharronj@morethanconsultants.org for more information.

Sunday, March 30

A Community Conversation with Loretta Ross

A talk by longtime reproductive justice organizer Loretta Ross, national coordinator of SisterSong, a women-of-color led organization dedicated to women's rights as human rights; followed by an informal community dialogue on the issue of redefining/revitalizing the women's movement today. Located at the Americana Community Center. 3:00 pm Contact Cate Fosl at (502) 852-6142 or cfosl@louisville.edu for more information.

APRIL

Thursday, April 3

Thank You Professor Lucy M. Freibert

Please come and help us thank Prof. of English Emerita Lucy M. Freibert for the gift of her collection of signed first editions and personal correspondence with contemporary women writers including bell hooks, Maxine Kumin, Marge Piercy and Alice Walker. Free and open to the public.

Refreshments served. Occurs at the William F. Ekstrom Library, Rare Books, lower level from 3:00pm – 4:30 pm. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852-6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information

Nora Iasigi Bullitt Lecture (Sculpture)

On body issues/performance with objects/feminist theory. 6:00 pm at the Chao Auditorium. Part of the Images & Ideas Lectures sponsored by the Hite Art Institute. Contact John Begley at john.begley@louisville.edu for more information.

Thursday, April 4

Transformation Tea: Women Empowered

An opportunity for University women to become empowered by sharing concerns, problems, and positive suggestions. Masterson's 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Reservations required. Contact Georgette Moore 852-2029 or GImoor01@gwise.louisville.edu

Sunday, April 6

(through May 30)

“Reflections; Jazz in Louisville”

Exhibit. Takes place at the William F. Ekstrom Library. Contact: Jessie Roth at (502) 852 6745 or Jessie@louisville.edu for more information

Friday, April 25

NIA Women's Roundtable

“A forum for women small businesses to discuss topics concerning procurement, marketing opportunities, success stories, networking, and daily issues that women owned businesses face.” Every 4th Friday of the month at the NIA Center's 3rd floor conference room at 8:30 am. Contact: Sharron Johnson, Business Development Officer at 775 2576 or sharronj@morethanconsultants.org for more information.

BPW/Louisville Honors Ruth L Koch Scholarship Recipients

By Phyllis Webb, Multicultural Academic Enrichment Program

Business and Professional Women/Louisville announce the winners of the 2008 Ruth L. Koch Scholarship. Receiving the awards are Hannah Bishop and Nakia Strickland.

Hannah R. Bishop is a graduate student at the University of Louisville majoring in Dentistry (DMD) with an M.S. in Oral Biology—Doctor of Dental Medicine to be completed in 2008. She plans a career in Orthodontics after her residency and will use the scholarship award to pay for education in the Dental School.



Her interests include intramural sports (football, basketball); daily working out and running; and water skiing. She has been involved in numerous public service and outreach activities, and she has been the recipient of various awards including 3rd place in the “Research! Louisville” competition.

Nakia Strickland is a senior at the University of Louisville majoring in English with a minor in Pan-African Studies—expected graduation December 2008. She plans to use the scholarship award to attend graduate school to obtain a master's in Student Affairs/Higher Education Administration. She was part



of a group that started the BEFIERCE (Black Educated Females Initiating Excellence in the Reformation of the Collegiate Experience) organization on campus. The organization focuses on building an educational, social and spiritual uplifting through supportive bonds and community service activities.

Named after a former long-time U of L employee, Ruth Lee Koch, the scholarship is based on academic excellence, recommendations, student need, and commitment to the advancement of women.

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Offers Services to the Community

Sarah J. Kertz, B.A., Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student

The Healthy Parents-Healthy Kids Research Lab is part of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Department at the University of Louisville. The Lab is dedicated to promoting family health through service, research, and outreach to underserved and high-risk populations experiencing anxiety and related conditions. They are interested in understanding the ways that stress and anxiety, whether experienced by a parent or a child, impact the family unit as whole and

offer a variety of resources, including free diagnostic assessments as part of their ongoing research projects. These assessments are often beneficial as a first step to determine if anxiety is significantly interfering with everyday life and are free as part of the research studies if a study is running. The current study includes mothers and children ages 7-10. The Lab also offer referrals for treatment to institutions that operate on a sliding scale and those that accept insurance based on individual needs. For information contact the office at 852-6352

U of L Unveils New Logo

CIO in Nontraditional Role Finds University Welcoming

By Robin R. Harris,
Brandeis School of Law

Dr. Priscilla Hancock hit the ground running when she arrived at U of L in August 2007 to assume her post as Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT) and Chief Information Officer (CIO). She left the University of Alabama system where she served as Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, and brings strong credentials and an equally strong service commitment to the job. She holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Kansas. She is brimming with ideas and plans to broaden IT's outreach and increase its service orientation. "For me the whole thing is service. I want to support students, and I want IT to be an integral part of the day-to-day life of our faculty and staff. IT

will provide more complex support than in the past."

Dr. Hancock finds the climate for women at U of L "very welcoming" and expresses confidence in her unit and in the way her colleagues have adapted to the changes her leadership has brought. "The infrastructure here is so incredibly strong. We have the tools in place and are working to improve our service." One huge improvement already apparent is the addition of Mac support, including the opportunity to purchase Apple products at the iTech Xpress Store (ground floor of the Miller IT Center).

Although she acknowledges that the role of CIO is not a traditional one for women, she hopes that is changing. "It's a struggle across the U.S., partly because CIS (computer information

science) students are mostly male. And in the working world of Oracle or Microsoft, you face incredibly long hours as well as time on the road. You give up a lot of quality time with your family. I am a single parent, so I understand those issues well."

Dr. Hancock and her daughter Kathlynn have fallen in love with Louisville. They live on a small horse farm in LaGrange, with several dogs and cats, and are involved in animal rescue efforts.



Dr. Priscilla Hancock

Co-founder of Affrilachian Poets Society Opens Kentucky Women's Book Festival 2008



Crystal Wilkinson

The Women's Center at the University of Louisville held the second annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival February 16, 2008, at the Ekstrom Library. The goal of the

Festival is to bring together Kentucky women writers and their readers to meet, discuss, and share their love and appreciation of the written word. The Festival highlights and honors the outstanding accomplishments of women writers in and from the Kentucky area.

The opening speaker at the Festival this year was Crystal Wilkinson, a native of rural south central Kentucky and co-founder of the Affrilachian Poets Society, an organization of writers of African descent from the Appalachian region.

Wilkinson has authored two collections of short stories, *Blackberries, Blackberries* (2000) and *Water Street* (2002). *Water Street* examines the secret lives of residents from a small town in Kentucky. It was a long-list finalist

for the prestigious Orange Prize and short-listed for a Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Legacy Award in fiction. *Blackberries, Blackberries* was named "Best Debut Fiction" by *Today's Librarian* magazine.

Wilkinson anthologies confronting Appalachian stereotypes include: *Back Talk from an American Region*; *Gifts from Our Grandmothers*; and *Gumbo: Stories by Black Writers*. Her work has also appeared in various literary journals, including *Obsidian II: Black Literature in Review*, *Southern Exposure*, *The Briar*

Cliff Review, *LIT*, *Calyx*, *African Voices* and the *Indiana Review*.

Wilkinson is a faculty member at Spalding University and is currently serving as visiting professor and writer in residence for Morehead State University. She was the 2002 recipient of the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Literature and serves as chair of the creative writing department for the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts.

(information taken from the Kentucky Women's Book Festival web site)

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. 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.

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Women's Center/ PEACC Program Off and Running

Innovative Fundraising Opportunity Launched

By Valerie Casey,
Women's Center

The University
Women's Center/
PEACC Program
successfully launched
the Champions 4 Her
Walk, Run & Festival
at the Women's
Basketball game



January 23. The Champions 4 Her Walk, Run and Festival will be held June 21, 2008 at Waterfront Park. The Walk/Run is an innovative fundraising opportunity conceived out of the 2005 Louisville Women's Summit co-hosted by Women 4 Women and the Louisville Metro Office for Women. This Festival will bring together ten local organizations including the U of L Women's Center/PEACC Program and Women's Athletics in the common goal of raising both funds and awareness for the issues facing today's area women and girls.

Dr Willihnganz, executive vice president and provost of the University of Louisville, energized the crowd and participated in a half time kick-off event. Other participants included the Director of the Women's Center, Mary Karen Powers and members of the U of L Champions 4 Her Event Planning Committee including: Chair Patricia Benson (Get Healthy Now); Peggy Grimes (Advancement, Annual Giving); Sharon LaRue (PEACC Program); Valerie Casey (Women's Center); Erin Franklin (Get Healthy Now); and PEACC student workers. Keni Brown (Information Technology Support Services) and Caryn Phillips (Get Healthy Now) are also members of the planning committee.

The University encourages everyone in the University and community to be involved in this worthwhile event. Teams and individuals will be able to participate in a 5K Walk/Run and designate the beneficiary of their choice. Following the walk/run participants can enjoy a festival at Waterfront Park.

The University's Get Healthy Now Program will be highlighting the fitness aspect of the Walk, Run and Festival and will incorporate participation in the event into their University wide fitness program. Be on the look out for upcoming programs.

For more information visit the Women's Center website at <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter>

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

The Women's Center News
Louisville, KY 40292

Return Service Requested

Welcome New Women's Center Staff



Madison Passafiume is a freshman at the University of Louisville. She was a student at the J. Graham Brown School here in Louisville from first grade to senior year. She works at the Women's Center on campus and is undecided in her major but leaning towards sociology, political science, and philosophy. She is a voracious reader, with an innate yearning for knowledge. In her spare time she enjoys making friends and working on environmental issues.



Bits Dansberry is a first year student in the Women and Gender Studies master's program. While working on her BA in Sociology at Morehead State University, Bits discovered a passion for working on women's issues, particularly women and religion. Originally from Northern Kentucky, Bits is enjoying living in Louisville and is excited to be working at the UofL Women's Center.

Go Green and help us stay out of the Red as we work to cope with the University's budget crunch. Consider receiving your newsletter electronically. Contact us at 852-8976 or e-mail womenctr@louisville.edu