

The Women's Center News

Summer 2008

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

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University of Louisville President's Diversity Vision Award

By Connie Shumake, Office of the Provost

In 2003, the University of Louisville created a university-wide diversity plan, with a commitment to build community and embrace all individuals. In support of this initiative, each unit was asked to create a diversity plan, inclusive of programs and initiatives to improve the racial climate and foster diversity at all levels of the university community. In recognition of these efforts, the President established the *Diversity Vision Award* to honor those units who have led by example in developing programs that exemplify the university's commitment to diversity.

The final nominees for the 2008 Diversity Vision Award were:

- Arts and Sciences Diversity Programs
- Brandeis School of Law
- College of Education and Human Development, Department of Teaching & Learning
- Malcolm X Debate Team
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- School of Nursing
- University Libraries

The University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences received the first President's Diversity Vision Award at the Celebration of Diversity ceremony March 17. The award recognized cumulative efforts to advance diversity and inclusion at UofL.

"All of our (seven) nominees were special," said President James Ramsey at the award ceremony, "but Arts and Sciences was the unanimous choice because it made the greatest progress toward diversity goals on campus and in the community." The college received a monetary award of \$10,000. First runner up was the Brandeis School of Law which received \$5,000. The School of Nursing was second runner up and received \$2,500.

Recipient selection was based on how well nominees met award criteria, including how well they met their own diversity goals and advanced diversity on campus, said Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, vice provost for diversity. Several screening panels, including an outside panel of experts, were involved in the process.

"Talk about having an inclusive campus community doesn't mean anything until you get it down to a concrete level of what you are going to do, what your goals are and how you are going to measure progress. Every year since their development, units have looked at their plans, made necessary revisions, calculated the progress they have made in achieving their goals, and



Arts and Sciences Representatives,
David Anderson, Linda L. Wilson and Blaine
Hudson with President James Ramsey.

determined what work still needs to be done," said Provost Shirley Willihnganz.

The university has embarked on a new planning process known as the Strategic Plan Victory 2020. The next phase of the diversity planning process will incorporate the strategic plan theme, "Diversity, Opportunity and Social Justice." New unit plans based on this theme will be developed for the 2008-2010 time period. The next round for the Diversity Vision Award will be based on progress made on these new unit plans.

More information about the Diversity Vision Award can be viewed on the Provost website <http://louisville.edu/provost/diversity/>



Patrick John Hughes,
Patrick Henry Hughes and translator

A Reflection on the Celebration of Diversity, March 17, 2008

By Robin Harris, Law Library

When Dr. James Ramsey presented the first President's Diversity Vision Award to the College of Arts and Sciences on St. Patrick's Day, two very special "Patricks" were on hand to inspire and entertain the large crowd gathered in Bigelow Hall. Patrick John Hughes and his son, U of L sophomore Patrick Henry Hughes, elicited both laughter and tears from the audience, as they talked about their life together and their experiences at the university, espe-

cially noting their now well-known membership in the U of L Marching Band.

As most everyone at U of L knows, Patrick Henry Hughes, who was born without eyes and with physical challenges, has achieved fame for his wonderful musical abilities and his unflagging spirit. As the event ended with Patrick playing the piano and singing the Brooks and Dunn tune "Believe," the university's diversity efforts of the past five years came together in a truly meaningful way.

Women's History Lights the Path for Those Who Follow



By Mary Karen Powers, Director

Each year in April, I review the Center's March programming to see what I've learned during Women's History Month.

In 2008, my reflections were catalyzed by Command Center Chief Lt. Tina Owens – the highest ranking woman to serve in the Coast Guard in Louisville. She asked for a program “to help women stationed here develop our own voices.”

In preparing it, I discovered that “Coasties” trace their roots to lighthouse keepers who have been “tending lights” along America's waterways since 1776. Between 1848 and 1947, 138 women served the nation in this capacity. Most were relatives of men who died on the job. However, there was no legal prohibition against women “tending lights.”

Yet, it wasn't until 1942 that Lt. Dorothy Stratton “become the first female commissioned Officer in Coast Guard history” when she was sworn in by President Franklin Roosevelt as director of the women's Coast Guard auxiliary. LT. Stratton, who held a doctorate in personnel administration from the University of Chicago, commanded 10,000 enlisted women, and 1000 female commissioned officers. However, she lacked the routine command authority of her male peers, since “no woman could hold command authority over any man.” Dr. Stratton was also denied the rank of Captain and the right to wear officer's bars. After the war, she became personnel director for the International Monetary Fund and, subsequently, national Executive Director of the Girl Scouts.

In 1976, when the Coast Guard Academy finally admitted women, some discussions focused on whether women's uniforms should be “distinctively feminine” or resemble those worn by male cadets. Today uniforms are similar, and all Coast Guard positions are open to women.

Thus, in 2008 we are closer to the dream of a world in which “each and every female child has the same range of opportunity as every male child.”

Women's Center Editorial Board Member Reaches Milestone

By Bits Dansberry, Student, Women's Center

Transition is a constant in Kathy Pendleton's life. From going back to school as a divorced, single mother of three children to earning her doctorate in counseling and personnel services this past December, she has seen many transitions.

Dr. Pendleton's dissertation uses a Schlossberg Transition Theory framework to explore what resources seven women who are recipients of welfare have in their lives. What is exciting about the Schlossberg Transition Theory is that it takes into account pertinent details of people's lives including their current situation, their view of the world, their support systems, and what coping methods they use.

“I chose [Schlossberg Transition Theory] because it was something I could relate to,” Dr. Pendleton explained. The theory of having to know something about a person's experiences, their view of the world, and what resources are available to them is one that makes sense for this Assistant Director of Disability Resources.

Now that Dr. Pendleton's has earned her doctorate she is transitioning to her a non-student phase in her life. She wants to reestablish family traditions that have fallen by the wayside while she was working on her dissertation – Dr. Pendleton has ten living children, twenty

grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren plus one great-grandchild on the way. She plans to spend time with her husband, Mack, a minister. She and Mack are learning to live together again – the demands work, school, and life have taken them on different paths over the past few years, but they have remained dedicated to each other.

Mack has actually been more excited about his wife's Ph.D. than she was! “He called his friends and family, telling them all about it”, Dr. Pendleton said. She believes that it has brought them closer.

Dr. Pendleton is taking on additional roles in her family life. Her mother was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Pendleton is involved with her mother's care and plans to be more involved as things progress.

Through all the transitions in her life Dr. Pendleton has shown what an amazing woman she is and what perseverance can accomplish.

** Editor's Note: Dr. Kathy Pendleton completed her first required internship for her Ph.D. with the Women's Center*

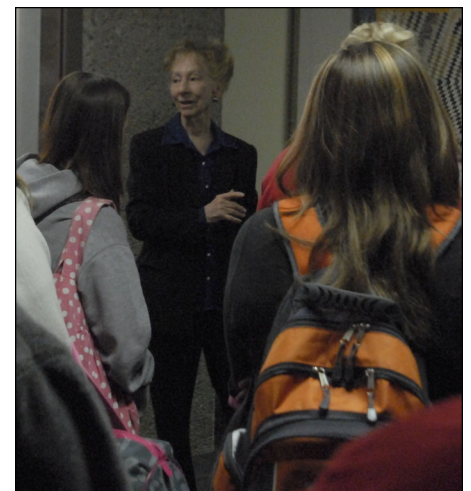


Kathy Pendleton

Celebrating Friends, Mentors, and Colleagues

By Delinda Buie, Ekstrom Library

The U of L campus and Louisville community celebrated their friend, mentor and colleague Lucy M. Freibert, Professor Emerita of English, at a reception on Thursday April 3, 2008. The event, hosted by the University Libraries, included an exhibition of Lucy Freibert's collection of signed first editions and personal correspondence, which she had given to the Libraries earlier this year. Rare Books Intern Lauren Algee curated the exhibition, combining examples of books and letters by contemporary women writers including bell hooks, Maxine Kumin, Marge Piercy, and Alice Walker. Among the guests at the reception were students of English Professor Estella C. Majozo's “Women in Literature” class. In a tribute, Professor Majozo spoke of her own



Lucy Freibert, Professor Emerita of English.

experience as a student of Lucy Freibert, who introduced the course into the U of L curriculum over thirty years ago.

University of Louisville Women of Achievement

Angela McCoughtry Captures Second All-American Honors

By Holly Sheilley,
VPA Administration

Success does breed success; standout Angel McCoughtry captured her second All-American honors this season. She currently ranks fourth in the nation in scoring and second nationally in steals, leading the BIG EAST with 23.8 points and 4.1 steals per game this season. She currently holds the single-season scoring (858 points) and steals (148) records at Louisville, setting both marks as a sophomore last year and surpassing them as a junior this year. She also broke the single-game scoring mark last season when she netted 41 points against Eastern Illinois.



Head Coach Jeff Walz and Women's Basketball Player, Angel McCoughtry

Jonetta Dawn Weber receives Administrative Professionals Award

By Deonna Colvin, BPW/Louisville

Business and Professional Women (BPW) – Louisville celebrated Administrative Professionals' Day on April 23, 2008, with a luncheon at the University Club. This annual event proved again to be a way to show appreciation for all the hard work and dedication administrative professionals provide both at the University of Louisville and throughout the Louisville community. Approximately 170 people attended the event. BPW—Louisville recognized sixteen professionals during the luncheon. Below is a photo of the judge's choice for outstanding administrative professional, Jonetta Dawn Weber, Sociology, University of Louisville.



Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Hermann Receives 2008 Woman of Distinction Award

By Holly Sheilley,
VPA Administration

Success - all of us are looking for it in our life. Fortunately, at the University of Louisville we have some good examples to show us how to obtain it! We have all heard the adages, "Success breeds success" and "Great leaders attract great people," but seeing these words in action is perhaps less common.

Julie Hermann, Senior Associate Athletic Director for the University of Louisville was recently named one of the 2008 Women of Distinction. Her service to the Louisville community, coupled with her success in athletics, helped win her this award. She works tirelessly to promote the health and well-being of women in the community through her involvement in organizations like Women4Women while balancing her duties as an administrator.



Athletic Director, Tom Jurich and Sr. Associate Athletic Director, Julie Hermann

Probably her greatest rewards come from her interactions with U of L coaches and student-athletes. Her hiring of first year Women's Head Basketball Coach, Jeff Walz, a year ago has proven that great leaders attract great people. Coach Walz recently received the WBCA Maggie Dixon Rookie of the Year Coaching award and took the Cardinals to the sweet sixteen (a U of L first). As one of 30 rookie coaches in NCAA, he was the only one to lead his team to 26 wins and one of just two rookie coaches to lead their teams to the NCAA tournament.

If you are looking to learn about leadership, motivation, and success ... you don't have to go very far!

PEACC Staff Member Khala Granville Receives 2008 Judith Hill Wilson Senior Achievement Award

By Phyllis Webb, Minority Academic Enrichment Program

U of L senior **Khala Granville** is the recipient of the 2008 Judith Hill Wilson Senior Achievement Award, an award named for a former academic counselor and study skills instructor in what is now the Office of Multicultural Academic Enrichment Programs (MAEP). Faculty and staff recommend minority students annually to receive the JHW award for academic excellence, campus and community leadership, and special achievements and awards. Khala was recognized recently at a commemorative service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After her graduation in May, she plans to attend graduate school at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Khala Granville

Khala is a communications major and a volunteer coordinator with the PEACC Program, helping to coordinate the annual *Take Back the Night* event. She serves as President of the U of L chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and is actively involved in the Society of Porter Scholars and the Association of Black Students. Khala is also an ex-president of USHR (Undergraduate Students Helping to Recruit).

To nominate students for the 2009 JHW award go to <http://www.louisville.edu/provost/diversity/multicultural/hillaward.html> and click on the form at the bottom of the page.



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
It's Happening Here.

Sally Gorman, Class Act Federal Credit Union & BPW Treasurer; Jonetta Dawn Weber, Program Coordinator Sr. Dept. of Sociology; and Anita Ellison, Class Act Federal Credit Union & BPW President.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust Partners with U of L Women's Center

By Marsha Weinstein, Co-founder
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton (ECS) Trust, Inc was born in Kentucky with the purchase of over 3,000 items from the suffrage and women's rights movement. The mission of the ECS Trust is to use these items and their images to help preserve the history of the women's rights movement, to educate the public on this history and to promote the advancement of women's rights.

The Kentucky Foundation for Women has generously awarded a grant to the ECS Trust for gifted artist and President of the exhibit design firm Solid Light, Inc., Cynthia Torp, to design an educational and interactive women's history website. Additionally the ECS Trust is pleased to partner with the U of L Women's Center, who will help research and document these powerful stories.

The new Kentucky Women's History Website, under the auspices of the ECS Trust, intends to evoke women and girls and to engage them to action by presenting the stories of the past and present in a powerful, interactive format. Viewers will learn about the integral contributions women have made, and continue to make, in promoting democracy, justice, and equality.

Women and girls will use the website, with its inspirational and contemporary imagery portraying the story of suffrage and women's rights movements, as an empowerment and advocacy tool for feminist action.

The Women's Center News

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Transformation Tea: A Decade of Empowering Women

By Mary Karen Powers, Women's Center

On April 4, 2008, the University of Louisville held its 10th annual Transformation Tea. The theme of the event--designed as a networking opportunity for UofL women of color and their allies--was "First Among the Few." During the Tea, a panel of women addressed the question: What is it like to be "the first among the few?" Panel participants included minority business owner **Sonia Ruiz**, co-founder of the advertising agency, Adhawk; legislator **Joni Jenkins**, who represents House District 44 in the state legislature; **Eleanor Jordan**, who is the first African American woman to chair the Kentucky Commission on Women; and attorney **Sadiqa Reynolds**, who is Kentucky's Inspector General. Ms. Reynolds was the first African-American woman to serve as Chief Law Clerk for the Kentucky Supreme Court. Each woman spoke from her own perspective as a "first" and/or as a member of a minority group by virtue of her race/ethnicity or gender.

At the conclusion of the panel, Dr. Yvonne Jones received the Unsung SHERo Award. Dr. Jones, who has worked at the University of Louisville for

twenty-eight years in the Departments of Anthropology and Pan African Studies, was nominated by her daughter. The Unsung SHERo Award recognizes a woman whose life is characterized by service to others.

Ms. Libby Davis, Chair of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, chaired the planning committee for the 2008 Transformation Tea. University sponsors included the President's Office, the UofL Women's Center, the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, Multicultural Academic Enrichment Programs, the President's Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality, the Theater Arts Department, External Affairs, and the Logistics and Distribution Institute. Community sponsors included the Derby Museum, Executive West, Michele's Salon, Sleep Inn & Suites Airport, the Speed Museum, Walgreens, Comfort Suites, Susan's Florist, and the JoAnn Fryrear School of Dance.

Approximately 100 women and men attended the 2008 Tea, which was held at Masterson's Restaurant.

Editor's Note: The Women's Center has served as a co-sponsor and member of the planning committee for the Transformation Tea since 1998.