

The Women's Center News

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Dean Terry Singer – Feminist

by Robin R. Harris, Brandeis School of Law

Before Dr. Terry Singer's career in social work education began, he served as the director of a private alternative high school, an educational consultant, a psychiatric social worker, and a drug and alcohol abuse specialist. Now most people at U of L know Singer as the high-energy dean of the Kent School of Social Work and a tireless community activist. Those of us who have worked with him also know him as a true feminist, a man who "walks the walk and talks the talk."



When did Singer become a feminist?

"It was 1968. I was in the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Women there were really struggling with what it meant to be in a predominantly male institution. At the request

Educating, Advocating and Building Diverse Communities is the mission of the University of Louisville's Women Center. Engaging friends – both males and females – in the process is one way of accomplishing this goal. In the article, "Involving Men in Gender Policy & Practice" by Michael Flood, Ph.D., which appeared in the Winter 2007 issue of Critical Half, the Bi-annual Journal of Women for Women International, Dr. Flood says, "the impetus for men's involvement in gender-related work is likely to increase in the next few years. It is fueled by ongoing shifts in gender relations, feminist and pro-feminist recognition of the need to transform and reconstruct masculinities and trends in fields such as international development. No doubt, involving men in efforts towards gender equality has the potential to greatly enhance the impact and reach of this work..."

This is the first of a series of articles in the Women's Center News that involves both men and women on the campus and in the community who have been supportive of the Women's Center and gender equity issues.

of the women at the seminary, the administration formed a committee to address their concerns. I joined that committee and realized that my question was 'what do they want?' During that time I guess you can say I became 'a sensitive male.'"

Fast forward to 1984 to Marywood University School of Social Work where newly appointed Dean Singer received

his first sexual harassment complaint, beginning a lengthy and painful process that pushed him to "a higher level of sensitivity." Women told him their stories of

inappropriate behavior on the part of the accused male faculty member, and "that experience changed me." That experience also turned Singer into "the expert on sexual harassment." He traveled the country, speaking about ways to handle this pervasive problem.

Since Singer arrived at UofL in July 1997, his commitment to women's issues has not wavered. He served for four years on the President's Commission on the Status of Women, working diligently on the critical issues of child care, domestic violence and safety. He is proud that those goals have become reality: Scholar House now provides child care, the PEACC Program is now institutionalized, and more police and dispatchers have joined the ranks of the Department of Public Safety. However, of all the work he did as a commissioner, he takes special pride in the NCAA Gender Equity Report of 2003. "To be a part of documenting the progress was a thrill." [see box]

Singer will continue to advocate for women as long as he is dean. He sees himself with two important roles regarding the rights of women:

"My first job is to be a voice – I get to sit at the 'big table' and I can be their voice at that table. And second, I can be a connector. I see that as my greatest skill – I like to put the right people together and then watch it happen."

And what would he like to see happen at U of L in the next five years?

"I'd like to see more women in central administration . . . Maybe a woman president."

During fall 2002, a steering committee appointed by President Ramsey began work on the NCAA Accreditation Self-Study, a year-long, campus-wide study of U of L's athletics program as part of the NCAA Division I athletics certification program. Dean Singer chaired the four-member Subcommittee on Gender Equity, charged with assessing the progress made by Athletics regarding gender equity from 1995 through 2002. Months of work, including information gathering, analyzing statistics, and interviewing female athletes, coaches, and staff, culminated in the Gender Equity Report, a detailed document that outlined the outstanding progress Athletics had made at U of L since the last NCAA Accreditation visit in the 1990's. The report, submitted to the NCAA in August 2003, documented that programs and facilities for women athletes, the number of sports for women, and the quality and number of coaches all improved greatly. When the NCAA site visit team came to U of L in November 2003, team members repeatedly noted the progress in gender equity detailed in the report.

2009 Tachau Gender Equity Award Recipient – Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason



Mary Karen Powers,
Director Women's Center

On November 12, 2009, Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason received the Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Award at the seventh annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Awards Luncheon. In choosing to honor Dr. Gleason, the selection committee particularly noted her “exceptional accomplishment” as the first African American to earn a doctorate in library science, thereby expanding educational and professional opportunity for all African American women; her contribution to the University of Louisville through her work at the Louisville Municipal College for Negroes; and her role in establishing “the only library classes for African Americans in Kentucky between 1932 and 1951.”

Dr. Gleason’s dissertation, *The Southern Negro and the Public Library* (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press,

1941), traced the history of library service to African Americans up to that time. In it she documented that 6.9 million African Americans living in the South in 1941 - out of about 8.8 million - did not have access to local public libraries. Of this group, almost 2 million lived in areas where libraries were available to whites. Therefore, since creating and/or maintaining a segregated library system would mean maintaining a dual system of libraries, it would be expensive and inefficient to do so. Thus, Dr. Gleason asserted, the cost of segregation itself argued for desegregation. Today, the American Library Association’s Library History Round Table presents a book award in her honor for the best book in English in the field of library history, librarianship, and book culture.

In pursuing her PhD, Dr. Gleason had two striking experiences of segregation. When she arrived at the University of Illinois for her Masters, she was turned away from “whites only” campus housing. Conducting dissertation research, she carried introductory letters to private citizens, because public accommodations for Blacks did not exist.

Dr. Gleason’s Centennial Birthday is December 15.

Women’s Center Welcomes New Students

The Women’s Center student assistants are involved in a number of projects and brings a student perspective in the mix. Current students are:

Mee Ri Lee (“Mee Mee”) is a sophomore Biological Chemistry major. Her future plans are to attend medical school. She is involved in the office’s Women 4 Women Student Chapter, Sigma Alpha Lambda, Golden Key International Honors Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and is a PEACC volunteer.



What I Like about the Women’s Center: “The best part of my job is being able to work with the people that I work with and the experience of being involved with an office of great cause.”

Melinda Chloe DeVore is also a sophomore. Her major is Exercise Science, with a minor in Sports Administration. Her plans are to become a Personal Fitness Trainer. She works to promote the Women’s Center M.O.M. (Modern Outlook on Motherhood) Group and expand membership.



What I Like About the Women’s Center: “What I love about working in the Women’s Center is seeing friendly faces everyday and the availability of freedom to start my own project.”

Zenaida Sanchez, from Bowling Green, Ky. is a freshmen Elementary Special Needs Education major. She serves as the historian for the Women 4 Women Student Chapter. What I Like about the Women’s Center: “I LOVE the Women’s Center because it’s a



great environment! Everyone is welcoming and friendly!

Additions to the support staff are: Mrs. Ashley N. Thomas, new Student K-TAP Coordinator. (See article on Ms. Thomas below); and Elizabeth ‘Bits’ Dansberry, Student Events Coordinator. (An article and photo of Ms. Dansberry appeared in the Fall 2009 Women’s Center News).

Ashley Thomas, K-TAP Grant Coordinator



The K-TAP Grant Coordinator position with the Women’s Center has given me the opportunity to do what I love...help and support those in need. My undergraduate studies in Spanish and my current graduate studies in School Counseling have opened my eyes to the various problems that we all go through and struggle to overcome. I have found that often times we need the support of others to succeed.

My interest in supporting others came from volunteering with AmeriCorps in college. AmeriCorps is a non-profit organization that works towards the day when ALL children are ready to succeed in school. I volunteered with one child throughout the school year, giving her guidance and leading her through her studies. By the end of the school year she had a new outlook on school, and it came from my simply believing in her and telling her she could succeed.

As with AmeriCorps, the Women’s Center is a support system for those in need. I plan to offer the same support and guidance for the women under the K-TAP grant that I did for the young child under AmeriCorps. I still believe that everyone should be given help in their time of need in order to succeed.

Deadline – January 29th

Women Center Seeks Women's History Month Events for March 2010 Calendar

by Phyllis M. Webb

The University of Louisville Women's Center publishes a Women's History Month calendar of events as part of its spring *Women Center News*. A source of event information in the Louisville metropolitan area, the calendar is mailed to subscribers, it is available on our web site, and it is distributed on U of L's campuses.

If your organization plans to sponsor a program concerning women's issues for the month of March and would like to have it listed, please let us know. You may complete the WHM Events form on-line at <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter>, or download it, complete and fax to 852-4389 by January 29. The calendar will be distributed the week of February 22. For more information, call 852-8976.

"Writing History Back into History" is the theme for 2010, which is the 30th Anniversary of the National Women's History Project (NWHP). In 1980, because of lobbying efforts by the NWHP, President Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as the 1st National Women's History Week. Then in 1987, Congress expanded the week into a month, and March is now National Women's History Month. To recognize this special anniversary, the NWHP launched a special campaign in September 2009 with the publication of the *Writing Women Back into History Gazette*. The NWHP encourages you to help write women back into history and also wants to know what you are planning. For more information, e-mail nwhp@aol.com or visit the web site, <http://www.nwhp.org>



Logo courtesy of NWHP

U of L's "Great Places to Work" Initiative

University of Louisville Provost Shirley Willihnganz has commissioned a group to identify ways to make UofL a better workplace. Called the "Great Places to Work" Initiative, the project has become an ongoing effort, not only to promote what already makes UofL a "great place to work" but also to find ways to make it an even better workplace, said Kimberly Maffet, interim vice president for human resources.



Kimberly Maffet

A steering committee and five work groups will act as a "think tank" to generate and vet ideas, she said. Representatives from all segments of the university are involved with the initiative. Work groups will focus on health and wellness, family friendly policies, campus climate, professional development and rewards.

"The initiative is important because it addresses long-running concerns that many staff have," said Staff Senate Chair Brent Fryrear, "It is especially timely now given the state budget situation and the cuts UofL has faced. I expect the five sub-committees to bring some excellent recommendations forward."

"Many staff are not aware of the entire benefits package we receive and how it compares with other businesses," he said. "I believe this will be an area of improved human resources communication."

Work groups have begun to meet and have received a charge to generate at least one idea each to send to the steering committee, which will forward ideas to the Provost.

"I am very pleased to see this effort get underway because it reflects a strategic commitment by the university administration, not only the recruitment of new talent, but also the retention of excellent faculty and staff who are already here," said Melissa Laning, Faculty Senate chair. "Investment in quality-of-work-life issues will produce benefits for everyone at the university." One result of the innovative ideas stemming from the effort is that University employees had the day off prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The President and Provost charged the committee to find new and creative ways to reward U of L's excellent employees while facing current economic challenges.

(Submitted by Kimberly Maffet, Interim Vice-President for Human Resources)

"Arts Meets Activism" Postcard Project

As part of Green Dot, Kentucky, the U of L PEACC (Prevention, Education & Advocacy on Campus and in the Community) Program is collaborating with the Office of LGBT Services and the newly formed Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) for a campus-wide positive speech campaign called the "Postcard Project." PEACC is recycling gently used greeting cards for an "arts-meets-activism" project. If you are interested in donating cards, please detach any personal messages from your card and send the front cover through campus mail to: PEACC, Room #100, Campus Health Services, Belknap Campus. If you are mailing from off-campus, send to: U of L PEACC Program, #100 Campus Health Services, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.

Be watching for details on how you can get involved in replacing red dots of hate speech with green dots of positive communication through chalking, face book, banners, and making artistic postcards with messages of PEACC. Visit the PEACC web site for more details: <http://www.louisville.edu/peacc/>

Women's Center Presents Tachau and Nichols Awards, Honors Individuals Behind School Integration At Annual ESC Luncheon

by Phyllis M. Webb

The U of L Women's Center held its annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton luncheon on November 12. Over 100 attended this event, which linked the Suffrage Movement to the Civil Rights Movement.

The Mary K. Tachau Award was presented to Dr. Eliza Allen Gleason, the first African American to earn a doctorate in library science in 1940. She was also a founding dean and first African American dean of a library school at Clark Atlanta University, and, from 1941 to 1946, Dr. Gleason oversaw the beginning of a library program that would graduate more African American librarians than any other program in the United States. Dr. Gleason made significant contributions to the Louisville Municipal College for Negroes just as its doors opened as a branch of the University of Louisville. She became the Head Librarian at the Municipal College and taught library classes in the new library department she created. Dr. Gleason currently lives in Louisville where her daughter, Joy Gleason Carew, is professor of Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville. (See more on Dr. Gleason in the Directors comments)

Three U of L graduate students received the Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award for academic enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses: Vanessa Lynn Kraemer, Rhetoric & Composition, to attend and present a paper on "Weaving the Discourse of the Other: Exploring



Pictured at right is Dr. Joy Gleason Carew, who accepted the award on behalf of her mother, Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason. At left is U of L librarian Fannie Cox.

"The Textile Metaphor in Rhetoric and Composition" at the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in May 2010; Heather K. Hardin, Nursing, to attend and participate in The Summer Institute on Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota; and Lisa R. Arnold, Rhetoric & Composition, for a digital recorder and transcription fees to help in her research efforts towards a pilot study on marginalized faculty representation.

Each received a monetary gift made possible by the Women's Center, the President's Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), the Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality (CODRE), the Student Government Association Torchbearers' Fund and the Cultural Center.

Cpt. Felisia Hibbler and Cpt. Saundeth Williams from the Blanchfield Army Community Hospital – a support unit from

(continued on page 5)



Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason is the recipient of the Tachau Award. She is pictured at age 99 with her granddaughter, Shantoba Eliza Kathleen Carew, a graduate student at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Dr. Gleason will turn 100 on December 15.



U of L graduate students, Vanessa Lynn Kraemer, Heather K. Hardin and Lisa R. Arnold, recipients of the Nichols Award are pictured at the ECS Luncheon.

ESC Luncheon *(continued from page 4)*

the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky. – accepted an award on behalf of the 101st Airborne Division for their historic role in ensuring the safety of the Little Rock Nine and in resolving the crisis at Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas. Louis and Marcella Mudd and Mrs. Deanna Shobe Tinsley were honored for their roles in helping to integrate the public schools in Louisville, Ky. in 1956. (Granddaughters and current U of L students, Marian and Marcella Kennedy, accepted the award on behalf of their grandparents, Louis and Marcella Mudd, who were unable to attend the event).

Keynote speaker and researcher, Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis, linked the suffrage movement to the civil rights movement through the life of Adolphine Fletcher Terry, founder of the Women’s Emergency Committee (WEC) to Open Our Schools, a Little Rock community group that helped facilitate the reopening of the city’s four public high schools in 1959 after voters had elected to close them rather than accept racial integration and court ordered desegregation. Dr. Lewis, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), also discussed the importance of the WEC in American’s history and noted that then-first-lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was the keynote speaker at the WEC’s 40th Anniversary commemoration in Little Rock in 1998.

(See the Women’s Center web site at <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter> for additional photos)



Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis addresses the audience at the ECS luncheon. Dr. Lewis talked about the Women’s Emergency Committee (WEC) for Open Our Schools and its founder, Adolphine Fletcher Terry who was active in the suffrage movement and the Civil Rights movement.



In addition to the award recipients, the Women’s Center also honored the 101th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. whose members were sent to safeguard the nine students who integrated Little Rock High School in Little Rock, Arkansas and some of the men and women who helped to integrate schools in Louisville, KY. in 1956.

Pictured are Cpt. Saundeth Williams, Cpt. Felisia Hibbler (representatives from the 101th Airborne Division); Marcella Kennedy, Marian Kennedy (granddaughters of Louis and Marcella Mudd) and Deanna Shobe Tinsley. (Pictured in back), Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Vice-Provost for Diversity and Equal Opportunity; Mary Karen Powers, Director, U of L’s Women Center, and (in red suit), Susan Duncan, Chair, U of L Commission on the Status of Women.

Student-Athlete Plays Dual Roles

by Amy Seng

Assistant Director UofL Cares

A freshman earns the starting outside hitter position on the University of Louisville Volleyball team and helps lead her team win the Big East Tournament. A Lexington native becomes the starting center on the Women's Basketball team and helps them get to not only the program's first Final Four, but also to the national championship game. Sounds like two very talented women? Think again. Gwen Rucker accomplished both these feats last year, and she was only a freshman.



Gwen Rucker

Rucker was a standout athlete for Henry Clay High School where she was an all-state selection in both volleyball and basketball. Both the UofL Volleyball and Women's Basketball programs recruited Rucker. Rather than choose one

sport over the other, she decided to follow both her passions.

Most student-athletes feel crunched for time when balancing academics and a single sport, let alone two. Rucker hit the ground running, with pre-season for Volleyball starting the beginning of August 2008 and lasting until the season ended on December 5 during the first round of the NCAA tournament. But there was no rest for the weary. Two days later Rucker was the starting center for the Women's Basketball team when they faced Ball State. She continued her run into early April when the team made the Final Four tournament and finished national runner-up to U Conn. After two weeks off and finals, Rucker found herself in the midst of summer training to prepare for the 2009 Volleyball season...and the cycle continues.

More impressive than Rucker's athletic accomplishments are her post-college plans to attend medical school and become a doctor.

For more information about Rucker's upcoming seasons, visit www.uoflsports.com or call 502-852-5863.

Existing and Thriving in CommonGround

By Bits Dansberry

A notable achievement of CommonGround, the LGBTQQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Allies) group at the University of Louisville, is existing. Simply existing is validation to all students on the sexuality spectrum that they are okay –other students like them are out there, and the University recognizes them as a minority group with its own needs and concerns.

However, existing is not the only achievement of this group. CommonGround, led by Katy Garrison, a Junior Sociology major, has achieved some pretty amazing things. They collaborate with the Office of LGBT Services, the Fairness Campaign, Sienna TG, the Women and Gender Studies Department, Anne Braden Institute, Black Student Association, BlkOut, and Baptist Campus Ministry. The collaboration with Baptist Campus Ministry was called Swapping Stories, a program that paired a student from commonGround and a student from Baptist Campus Ministry and sponsored them to exchange stories of coming out and the transformation of their lives through Christ. The program won a Spirit of Diversity Award from the Office of Student Affairs.

CommonGround meets on Tuesdays at 7pm in SAC 303A for a wide variety of activities: watching documentaries, listening to speakers, playing games, training to lobby, or taking part in activities such as PEACC's Postcard Project. Students can take advantage of leadership opportunities by planning events for PRIDE Week, serving on the executive board, or heading a committee for PINK, a drag show that is the longest running RSO event at UofL. Pairing with the Office of LGBT Services, they offer support groups for students who are coming out or dealing with rejection and harassment. They are also working on fundraising for the "Creating Change" Conference in February.



CommonGround members Brian Buford, Katy Garrison and Mary Mudd, advisor

Simply by existing, commonGround is improving the lives of students.

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To receive a hard copy of the newsletter or to sign up for email announcements, contact us at:

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