

# The Women's Center News

Fall 2010

Check out the Women's Center at: <http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter>

Volume 18, Issue 1

## Founder of the Younger Women's Task Force to Deliver Keynote 8th Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Luncheon Set for November 11

by Mary Karen Powers, Director

Allison Stein, founder of a national grassroots activist organization for women in their 20s and 30s, will deliver the keynote address for the eighth annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Awards Luncheon on November 11, 2010, in the University Club. Tickets to the noon luncheon are \$25 per person and can be reserved in advance by calling (502) 852-8976.

As an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1990s, Stein was actively involved in women's issues on campus. Through this work, she met a number of women "in their 20s and 30s [who] did not have an institution to advocate for their concerns" and so felt disempowered "to create change in their communities and in their lives." These younger women seemed to exist in a "critical gap" between "organizations target(ing) college-age women and [those targeting] adult women over the age of forty."

After graduation, Stein moved to Washington, D.C., and became a fellow at the Institute for Women's Policy Research and a Program Assistant at the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO). In June 2004, with the support of NCWO Chair Dr. Martha Burk, Stein launched an effort to contact 5,000 younger women leaders from across the U.S. Seven months later "130 women from 42 states [met in] Washington, D.C., to draft a Younger Women's Issues Agenda...[to] found YWTF chapters...and [to]officially [begin] the work of the Task Force."



Allison Stein

Today, YWTF has over 7,000 members in 30 states, with chapters in New York, New Jersey, northeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Cedar Falls, Atlanta, San Francisco, Southern California and the Canadian city of Ottawa. The YWTF Issues Agenda includes programs in "mentoring, civic engagement, financial literacy and how to raise awareness of sexual assault." The organization's Voting Vixen Campaign, for instance, encourages

young women across the nation to learn more about civic issues and become involved in the political debate and voting."

In 2009 Stein graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she cofounded Penn Law International Human Rights Advocates; was a Senior Editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review; and served on the board of the Equal Justice Foundation. Stein currently clerks for the Honorable Kimba Wood of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Her eventual goal is "to work in politics in my home state of Connecticut or pursue a career in legal academia."

Stein is married to Ton Berenberg, a resident in the Ophthalmology Department at Cornell University Medical Center.

## U of L's Office of Military and Veteran Student Services (OMVSS) Offers Myriad of Services

by Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center

Opened on campus since the fall of 2009, the Office of Military and Veteran Student Services offers a myriad of on campus services for veterans, including Veterans Employment Coordination Services (VECS), Vet Center outreach, VA Health and VA Benefits. Housed in room LL08 of the Houchens Building (near the university's Transfer and Adult Student Services), services are available every Thursday of the month to veteran students on rotation. According to an article in Inside U of L Today, 1/12/10, there are more than 700 student veterans on campus.

Specialists are available to recruit and assist active military members and veterans through the college enrollment process and provide academic and student-life support. For a list of U of L contacts to help in certification, billing and



Regina Morris

financial aid, visit <http://www.louisville.edu/veterans/veterans-education-benefit/who-to-contact>.

Mrs. Regina Morris, Veterans Service Representative and Minority Veterans Program Coordinator from the VA Regional Office, assists vets to apply for possible service connected with disabilities benefits. She is on campus the 3rd Thursday of each month from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

In conjunction with the creation of the office, the university has launched <http://www.louisville.edu/veterans>, a Web page aimed at providing information on admissions, education and support services. The University Veterans Organization (UVO), U of L chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA), is a non-political veteran organization for all veterans, spouses, and dependents of veterans, of active duty, guard and reserve. All five branches are invited to take part. See <http://www.louisville.edu/rso/universityveterans> for more information.

For more information on services and/or to schedule an appointment, visit [veterans@louisville.edu](mailto:veterans@louisville.edu) or call (502) 852-6442. Walk-ins are also accepted.

# The Truth About Human Trafficking



Mary Karen Powers  
Director, Women's Center

In 1994 when "the U.S. State Department began monitoring trafficking in persons, coverage focused on trafficking of women and girls for sexual purposes. [Today the U.S.]...monitor(s) and report(s) on trafficking in men, women, and children for all forms of forced labor..." Thus, in June 2010, the U.S. appeared for the first time in the Department's annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* "as a country in which men, women, and children [are] subject to trafficking for forced labor, debt bondage, and forced

prostitution...not just as a destination or transit country...but... [as] a source country for people held in servitude." The U.S. received a Tier I rating, indicating the "government has recognized the problem of human trafficking, has made efforts to address the issue, and meets the TVPA's (Torture Victim Protection Act) minimum standards." <http://www.humantrafficking.org>

In 2007, a working group, including representatives from homeless shelters and agencies focused on sexual assault and domestic violence, developed a statewide needs assessment to determine the extent of human trafficking in Kentucky. Respondents described 69 apparent instances of trafficking including cases of sexual, personal service, general labor, domestic labor and restaurant labor exploitation. Results... clearly indicate that women and girls are especially vulnerable to sexual assault and exploitation regardless of what kind of trafficking situation they experience." Many trafficking victims in Kentucky are women who do not speak English. <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/602> For example, one Kentucky family brought a foreign woman to work as a nanny and housekeeper; taking her passport, restricting her to the house, and making her work long hours for less than \$1 an hour.

The Kentucky Survey results indicate public awareness of trafficking is vital to combating this crime. In September, the UofL Women4Women Student Chapter is sponsoring a week of public events on trafficking. For further information: <http://louisville.edu/rso/women4women>

We are proud to work with the students on this project.

## Personal Gratitude

by Lauren Sanders, Women-4-Women  
Student Chapter Program Committee

Sincere thanks to the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) and the Women's Center for allowing Ashley Wimsett and me the opportunity to travel to Maryland for the Women's Leadership Conference. Going to the NCCWSL (National College Conference for Women Student Leaders) was an awesome opportunity in which I was able to experience new leadership opportunities and put them to use through networking. I was privileged to attend four individual workshops and two group sessions which proved to be both inspirational and beneficial. Being able to connect with and learn from women who have overcome obstacles that I now face and will face in the future will prepare me for any future endeavors on which I embark.

Additionally, I was able to immerse myself into the culture of Washington D.C., while meeting key staff figures such as John Yarmuth's personal assistant, Sarah. Because I am a Political Science major, making such a connection could largely benefit me in the future! The inspiration, friendships, and newfound leadership abilities will be useful throughout life and in all of my upcoming life experiences. This opportunity is one that I hope many other students will consider taking advantage of in the near future.



## U of L Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) Adds New Members

**Congratulations to new members:**

Marcia Hern, *Dean, School of Nursing*  
David Owen, *Assoc. Professor, A&S Philosophy*  
Gale Rhodes, *Assoc. University Provost & Director, Delphi Center*

The Commission was founded in 1995 to promote gender equity at the University of Louisville and to advise the President on issues related to women. For more information about COSW, visit: <http://www.louisville.edu/cosw/home.html>

## MOMS Meetings for Fall 2010

The MOMS (Modern Outlook on Motherhood) Support Group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays during the 2010 fall semester. First Tuesdays meetings will take place in the Ekstrom Library, 12 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. on these dates: September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7.

The group will also have special meetings and activities in the Ekstrom Library on the 3rd Tuesdays (from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.) September 21 and November 16. On October 19 (4 p.m.-6 p.m.), the group will co-sponsor a Child Identification Program with the Dept. of Public Safety at McDonald's Restaurant, 301 East Warnock Street.

For updates, see MOMS (Modern Outlook on Motherhood) Support Group on Facebook or e-mail Phyllis M. Webb at [pmwebb01@louisville.edu](mailto:pmwebb01@louisville.edu)

The mission of MOMS is to provide resources, information, and genuine support for student mothers, empowering them to more effectively meet the needs of their personal, academic and professional lives.



## Women's Equality Day, Thursday, August 26

The Women's Center staff will join others in Frankfort, Ky., at The 90th Anniversary of Women Gaining the Right to Vote!!" (Votes for Women Celebration, 90 Years ...and Counting!!) Event sponsored by The Kentucky Commission on Women. The day's events at the Kentucky State Capitol will include a Press Conference & Kick-Off for the Kentucky Women's History Project; an Old Fashioned "Votes for Women" Rally; and a visit to the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History to 'travel back in time and experience the movement' led by women of the suffrage movement: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Laura Clay and others.

For more details about the event, contact <http://www.women.ky.gov/votesforwomen.htm>



# SPOTLIGHT: Professor Kathleen Bean

by Robin R. Harris, *Brandeis School of Law*

A sincere commitment to women's issues runs through the career of Professor Kathleen Bean, Associate Dean for Student Life at the Brandeis School of Law. Early on, she focused on domestic and child custody cases, directing a student legal services clinic at Drake University School of Law, and serving as staff attorney for the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa. In her scholarly research and community engagement, she remains focused on women, children and the poor. In 2008 she served as the law school's Brandeis Fellow, dedicating her fall semester to volunteering at the Louisville Legal Aid Society.



*Kathleen Bean*

She joined the U of L law faculty in 1983, knowing she was "an Affirmative Action hire." Today, as she prepares for the frenzy of another fall semester, Bean reflects on the positive changes that have occurred during her tenure, taking pride in the fact that "women are almost 50% of the entering class now, every year. And women make up 40% of the full-time law faculty. Those are huge changes."

An award-winning teacher with a keen interest in women's history, Bean's ground-breaking research on Kentucky's early women lawyers (supported by a grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission) led to the multimedia

exhibit, *Connecting with Our Legacy*, now permanently displayed in the law school's Women's History Classroom. Bean has also had a hand in far-reaching projects for the university, particularly the assessment of women's athletics in the mid-1990s that eventually resulted in the vast improvements today's U of L women athletes enjoy. "I can hardly believe how far we've come—the situation was really bad before."

Bean is enjoying the challenges of her new role as dean of students, and as she begins her second year, it is not at all surprising to hear her say that "one of my major goals for this year is community-building."

A selected list of Prof. Bean's scholarship shows her longstanding interest in women's issues.

- Changing the Rules: Public Access to Dependency Court*, 79 Denver L. Rev. 1 (2002)
- The Changing Face of the Legal Profession: Past Progress and Future Challenges*, Bench and Bar 26 (KBA, May 1999) (co-authored with Linda Sorenson Ewald)
- A Place at the Bar*, Kentucky Humanities 11 (Ky. Humanities 1998)
- A Conversation with Laura Miller Derry*, University Archives and Records Center, Kentucky Humanities Council Grant (1992) (taped interview with Ms Derry, who practiced law from 1930-1960)
- Women Teaching in Law School Classes*, The Louisville Lawyer (Fall 1989)
- Gender Gap in the Classroom - Beyond Survival*, 14 Vt. L. Rev. 23 (1989)
- A Proposal for the Moral Practice of Law*, 12 J. Legal Prof. 49 (1987)
- A Radical Feminist View of Pornography*, 1 J. Contemp. Legal Issues 19 (1987)

**Applications and deadline dates for the 2010 Celeste Nichols Graduate Student and Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Gender Equity Awards are available at these web sites:**

<https://louisville.edu/womenscenter/community-and-student-award-applications>

## Kentucky Jobs with Justice Supports Women's Equality

by Toma Lynn Smith, *Bachelor of Arts, Communication, 2009, Grassroots Fundraiser, Kentucky Jobs with Justice*

Kentucky Jobs with Justice (JwJ) is known for its labor movement work and taking part in protests, such as supporting the extension of unemployment benefits.

What people may not know is that KY JwJ is led by women and has been involved in many activities to empower women. The staff consists of all women of color and the steering committee and volunteers are over 50 percent female.

It is imperative that the economic justice work is led by those most affected by economic oppression and inequities.

For example, a lack of economic self-sufficiency for women, especially single mothers, has been linked to women getting or staying in abusive relationships just to be able to financially survive. Also, Kentucky women earn only 74 cents compared to every dollar a man earns and nationally it is 77 cents on the dollar.

Jobs with Justice takes action to advocate solutions to these and other problems.

The group collaborates with Women In Transition (WIT) on several events and "calls-to-action" for awareness-raising of violation of human rights. WIT is "a grassroots organization run by and for poor people working to create a world where



*Toma Lynn Smith*

everyone's economic human rights are provided." JwJ also works in partnership with the Ms. Foundation for Women and Kentucky Foundation for Women.

Every effort is made to not forget the women who paved or who are paving the way for human rights. In March 2010, JwJ collaborated with Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression to honor civil rights activist Anne Braden. The event, "We Didn't Mourn, We Organized," included youth readings and storytelling from those who worked with Braden. It concluded with a march and rally in West Louisville. Participants held up photos of several female activists, including Septima Clark and Democracy Now!'s host Amy Goodman.

Kentucky Jobs with Justice is an 18 year-old social justice organization that stemmed from National Jobs with Justice that "engages workers and allies in campaigns to win justice in workplaces and in communities where working families live."

"JwJ was founded in 1987 with the vision of lifting up workers' rights struggles as part of a larger campaign for economic and social justice."

# Student-Parent Support Symposium Promotes Success in Higher Education

by Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center

I had the opportunity, along with other educators from across the country, to attend the 6th Annual Student-Parent Support Symposium in Worthington, Ohio, this past June to hear higher education and community service professionals present informational sessions on the development and improvement of student-parent participation in higher education. Sponsored annually by The Ohio State University's Office of Minority Affairs, ACCESS Collaborative Program, the areas of focus include programming, community services, research, policy, professional development and counselor development.



The 2010 theme was "Accountability & Action: Professionals Investing in the Self-Sufficiency of Single Parent Students in Higher Education."

The symposium's objective is to promote the advancement of support services in higher education for single parents, low-income parents and others. The purpose is to bring together individuals who serve the student-parent populations on University and College campuses nationally. The symposium also provides a means for collaboration of programs that are in existence and education to better serve the student-parent population. In addition, it offers fresh ideas to start or expand programming for student-parents in higher education.

The two-day event included several keynote speakers: Ms. Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield, a Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law & Social Policy (CLASP), Washington, D.C.; Dr. Wallace McLaughlin, President & CEO of the Fathers and Families Center, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Ms. Sherrill W. Mosee, Founder and President of Family Care Solutions, Inc., (FCS), Philadelphia, Pa., and author of "Professor, Can I Bring My Baby to Class?" There also were five concurrent sessions with a total of 15 workshops packed with invaluable information as well as a presentation by the Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children (HEAASC).

Benfield touched upon the themes in higher education discussions on the federal level which included success, accountability, financial aid, the Higher Education American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Bill) as well as President Obama's American Graduation Initiatives. She emphasized the importance of the HEAASC and how this organization can work in lobbying on a federal level. Dr. McLaughlin discussed his organization, Fathers and Families Center, which has been in existence since 1993. The organization partners with the Ivy Tech College and provides resources to families and communities. He spoke of the importance of fathers' involvement in the lives of their children.

Mosee spoke passionately and eloquently about the potential of student-parents if given the encouragement, love and support they need to succeed and graduate. Mosee, who was recently elected board president of the HEAASC, also spoke on the importance of the organization and both university and staff/faculty involvement.

The workshops were also interesting and I was able to obtain some additional information on student-parents in higher education. I participated in a focus group session led by Dr. Shelia Brookes, Assistant Professor in the Child and Family Studies Department at the University of Southern Mississippi. The focus group was conducted to understand the needs of the population of student-parents on college campuses and explored initiatives college and universities have put in place to meet the needs of this unique group of students.

The opportunity to network and exchange ideas with enthusiastic and committed colleagues is one of my highlights of professional development.

The Ohio State Office of Minority Affairs ACCESS Collaborative Program has developed a Facebook page for those interested in the success and graduation of student parents. For more details, search for Student Parent Support Symposium on Facebook or email Jessica at parent22@osu.edu for details.

For more information about the Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children (HEAASC), visit this web site, <http://www.heaasc.org/page2.php>

The student parent population in higher education is rising; therefore, making this group of students a permanent fixture at both the four-year and community college campuses is imperative. Investing in the self-sufficiency of student parents may become a wise investment for universities and colleges.

## In My Own Words

by Vanessa L. Kraemer

In 2009, I received the M. Celeste Nichols Award for Professional Development. As an English Ph.D. candidate in Rhetoric and Composition, attending conferences is an important aspect of my professional development and my application requested funding to attend the 2010 Rhetoric Society of America Conference in Minneapolis.

In my presentation, "Weaving the Discourse of the 'other': Employing the Textile Metaphor in Rhetoric and Composition," I used my discussion of the limits and possibilities of textile metaphors to build on my current dissertation research regarding the production and reception of "alternative" discourse practices of minority communities. In my presentation, I explored what is at stake when text and "textile" become one—the writer/producer becomes the weaver, producing the "text"-ile to be read/consumed by the audience. I focused particularly on what the rhetoric and composition community can learn from the ways Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Linda Brodkey have worked with and against the textile metaphor so as to subvert dominant discourse practices.

I found that the textile metaphors used by these authors—Spivak's "language-textile" and Brodkey's "writing on the bias"—highlight rather than hide the power relations that circulate as we "weave" together competing discourses and discourse practices. Both argue against an approach that neatly binds together writing into a cohesive, whole fabric. Instead, they advocate an approach that unravels the whole so as to reveal the biases of our practices—what doesn't work and doesn't fit. Therefore, rather than neutralizing or equalizing what figures into the "weaving" of competing academic discourses, we should work to create metaphors that acknowledge the multiple positionalities writers bring to a text.

I continue to try to "weave" these ideas into my own reading, writing, researching, and teaching practices, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity that the UofL Women's Center has afforded me.

# Walks for Women's Health

by Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center

At the Waterfront Park and Great Lawn in September and October, Louisville will be filled with women and their supporters in various walks for women's health: The Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk (September 11), the Kentuckiana Heart Walk (September 25), and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (October 9).

\*According to recent estimates, as many as 2.4 million to 5.1 million Americans have Alzheimer's Disease (AD), and one in six women and one in ten men are at risk for AD in their lifetime. It is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Cardiovascular or heart disease is the number one killer of all Americans, with stroke being the third leading cause of death in the U.S. There are about 207,090 new cases of invasive breast cancer in women and it is the most common cancer in U.S. other than skin cancer.



Join the fight for women's health by stepping forward and contributing to research efforts, treatment and, perhaps ultimately, the cures for debilitating diseases of the mind, heart and body.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit the following web sites for University of Louisville teams you can join or ways to donate:

<http://www.alz.org/kyin/>

<http://heartwalk.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=333403>

<http://www.komenlouisville.org/site/PageServer>

(\*Sources: U.S. National Institutes for Health, National Institute on Aging; Science Daily, Kentuckiana Heart Walk web site and the American Cancer Society)

UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE**



WOMEN'S CENTER

## The Women's Center News

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

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

*The Women's Center News* is a free, quarterly newsletter.  
It is available on-line at [www.louisville.edu/womenctr](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.

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

# Take Back the Night 2010

by Sharon Larue, Director, PEACC

Take Back the Night (TBTN) 2010 will be held on Tuesday, September 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the UofL Red Barn. October 2010 marks 10 years since passage of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and violence prevention. In commemoration of this resolution, the theme for TBTN 2010 is Women



Count for Peace. This theme is congruent with work to improve the ways in which we measure the impact of conflict on women and efforts worldwide to amplify the voices and concerns of women, so that they can stand up and be counted for peace.

Participants will be asked to "Think Globally, Act Locally" - using local resources to have a global impact on violence prevention and peacemaking. We will profile women leaders in our community who are making a difference; community artists will play the mbira - a musical instrument that is a symbol of empowerment for women in Africa; students will create an art project with words of global affirmation; and Men of PEACC will lead a GREEN DOT campaign that looks at how each of us plays a role in ending violence. In keeping with tradition, TBTN will include the March, Candlelight Vigil, and Speak Out session. Come and make your voice heard! Be counted for peace!

Volunteers are needed for every area of TBTN. To reserve a table or for more information, please contact PEACC at (502) 852-2663. Check out our website <http://www.louisville.edu/peacc/> or Faces of PEACC group on Facebook for updates.

**If you haven't signed up  
for the electronic version of the  
Women Center News, please  
do so at the service account,  
[womenctr@louisville.edu](mailto:womenctr@louisville.edu);  
e-mail us your name, current  
home or work e-mail address.**

**If you have a great idea for a  
article or profile to be considered  
for a future issue, let us know.**

**We welcome your comments  
and suggestions.**