

The Women's Center News

Summer 2010

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

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Kentucky Women's Book Festival (KWBF) Huge Success While Engaging Both Writers and Readers

By Bits Dansberry, Student Events Coordinator
Women's Center

The Kentucky Women's Book Festival was a huge success. Women from all over the state of Kentucky flocked to Louisville to celebrate reading, writing, and publishing on May 15 at the University of Louisville's Ekstrom Library. The day opened with a welcome by Robin R. Harris, a Professor in the Law Library and member of the KWBF planning committee. Judi Jennings from the Kentucky Foundation for Women introduced the opening speaker, Sheila Joyce Pyle, co-owner of the Ruyard Kipling, who spoke on "Releasing Your Inner Hillbilly." Pyle eased the audience and jokingly spoke of how not to become a successful writer (get married, have children, or open a bar that serves food, etc.) and shared a poignant story about her mother, who attended Berea College, as she herself did.



Luncheon keynote speaker, Crystal Wilkinson, Affrilachian author of *Blackberries*, *Blackberries and Water Street*, read parts from her work-in-progress.

The morning concurrent sessions featured Dr. Annette Allen speaking on poetry, Jen Woods discussing letterpresses, publishing, and working with family, and Constance Alexander presenting "Speaking Up and Acting Out: Writing and Activism" and pointing out how important it is to know your audience.

Crystal Wilkinson, the Affrilachian author of *Blackberries*, *Blackberries and Water Street*, gave the engaging luncheon keynote address. Wilkinson read parts from her current work-in-progress in addition to speaking about her writing process.

Afternoon concurrent sessions featured Dr. Cate Fosl speaking on oral histories, Erin Keane discussing blogging,

Laura Burt, a KWBF volunteer stands watch over the refreshments in the Rare Books Collection while Margaret "Peggy" Grimes, committee member,

converses in the background with Constance Alexander, a columnist and playwright who spoke at the festival.



Posing for a photo outside of the Chao Auditorium of the library is Judi Jennings, Kentucky Foundation for Women; Sheila Joyce Pyle and Beverly Giammara, poets and presenters at the festival; and a volunteer.

Sue and Kathleen Driskell speaking about poetry, and Beverly Giammara moderating a session on the benefits of writing groups.

Sarah Gorham, poet, essayist, and founder of Sarabande Books, discussed publishing houses and independent presses in the closing session.

Participants enjoyed mingling over coffee and muffins donated by Class Act Federal Credit Union, the opportunity to buy books by the presenters and have them signed, and, of course, the wide variety of presentations.

Mary Karen Powers, Director of the Women's Center and member of the planning committee for the Kentucky Women's Book Festival, is pleased with the 2010 Festival, "This is the fourth festival in five years that has been a success. We hope it remains an annual event – we have already begun planning for next year. People are now beginning to come to us asking if they can participate, so we are beginning to be well known and are proud of that."



Cate Fosl, Director of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research and Associate Professor, signs a copy of her book, "Freedom on the Border," for a festival participant while Fannie Cox, U of L librarian, looks on.

(KWBF photos by Virginia M. Smith, Assistant Professor-Law Library and KWBF committee member)

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Remembering Dorothy Height, Civil Rights Activist



Mary Karen Powers,
Director Women's Center

Dorothy Height was born on March 24, 1912 – when Blacks had few rights, and women had yet to win the vote. When she died on April 20, 2010, President Obama eulogized her as “the godmother of the Civil Rights Movement.” Ms. Height became an activist at 16 when she won a scholarship to Barnard College, but was “... denied admission... because they had a quota of two [blacks] ... did not know that I was not white.” Subsequently she

earned bachelor's and master's degrees at New York University and received honorary doctorates from Tuskegee, Harvard, and Princeton. In 1937, Ms. Height met Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). In 1957, she began a 40-year tenure as NCNW President. Under

her leadership, NCNW sponsored voter registration drives and organized an education foundation for student activists who interrupted their education to do civil rights work. She was the only woman on the speaker's platform when Dr. King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech during the 1963 March on Washington and was subsequently invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Equal Pay Act. Dr. Height later commented she was “disappointed that no one was advocating women's rights” spoke during the March. In the 1970s, when she forged alliances with white feminist leaders, she noted to them, “African American women have advanced in every field that women have advanced... the sad point is that those are the few and not the many.” Dr. Height's passing challenges feminists to continue her struggle for civil rights and women's rights, understanding as we do – to quote Hillary Clinton – that “women's rights are human rights!”

Congratulations, also, to another group of women leaders – the W4W Student Chapter – who won the 2010 Outstanding New Organization at UofL Award!

Support Services for Student Parents

by Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center

Balancing school and child rearing is a challenge to a lot of undergraduate and graduate student parents, coupled with a lack of sufficient income, familial and community support, faculty/staff awareness, and overall support.

The University of Louisville Women's Center has supportive services for student parents to “promote the [attainment of] higher education for single parents, low-income parents, and families.”

The mission of the Modern Outlook on Motherhood (MOM) Group is to provide resources, information, and genuine support for student parents and to empower them so they can more effectively meet the needs of their personal, academic and professional lives. The goal of the group is to promote the academic success of the University's student parents with an overall “holistic” approach.

Meetings were held this past spring, which included a “Tips on Parenting” Session led by Kathy J. Pendleton, Ph.D., Interim Director of U of L's Counseling Center, and the MOM group also co-sponsored a Child Identification Program in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety Police Department. Child I.D. kits were distributed to parents/guardians allowing them to record fingerprints, a child's photo, and a description to be used to provide law enforcement with crucial information for immediate response.

U of L student parents are encouraged to complete the MOM Support Group questionnaire at <http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter/moms-support-group-questionnaire> so that we can better help serve student parents.

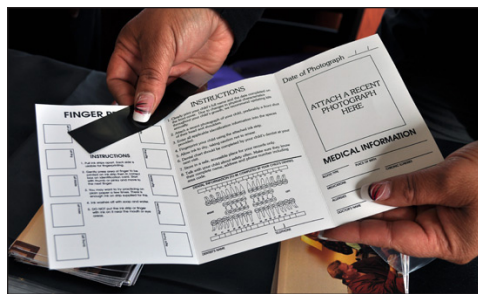
Another support service for student parents is the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program Grant funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and administered by the Women's Center. The program provides Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) credential -seeking recipients enrolled at U of L the opportunities to develop their intellectual,

social and work-related skills. The program also allows the KTAP students to complement and expand their academic experiences in areas of integrating basic skills, life skills, and occupational skills to meet the identified employee needs.

KTAP recipients work in various departments at U of L and at an off-campus agency. Overall one of the goals is to help the KTAP students obtain the skills necessary to become self-sufficient. Pending funding for 2010-2011, the program will serve up to thirteen students.

The on-line Pregnancy Resource Guide created by the Women's Center is also available as a support to students (<http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter/pregnancyresourceguide.pdf>). Challenges to this unique student-parent population are increasing. We encourage your involvement.

For more information and updates on events and activities for the fall, contact the U of L Women's Center at (502) 852-8976 or e-mail womenctr@louisville.edu.



The Women's Center MOMS group (assisted by the W4W student chapter) and the U of L Police distributed child ID kits to children and parents/guardians

visiting the McDonald's Restaurant on Warnock this past March. The kits can be used to record a child's fingerprints, write a description of the child, and place a photo of the child. Such information will allow law enforcement to respond quickly if necessary. Pictured with the ID kit is Officer Cheri Smith.

Photo courtesy of the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Women4Women Student Chapter Receives Outstanding New Recognized Student Organization Award

by Bits Dansberry, Women's Center

The Women 4 Women Student Chapter had some exciting news – they received the Outstanding New Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Award on April 12. The Women 4 Women Student Chapter earned this award by taking part in a wide range of activities: they participated in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, donated items to the Angel Tree, hosted the Welcome Back Breakfast in January, volunteered for Wayside Christian Mission, organized a Self Defense Workshop, participated in the MAPS Health Fair, attended the 100 Wise Women Breakfast, recruited students and participated in Finance 4 U, launched a Woman's Film Festival, participated in Relay 4 Life, and hosted their Annual Business Luncheon. Not to mention all the fun times they had making friends, running meetings, designing t-shirts, snacking, and developing leadership skills.

Gabrielle Maxedon, the president of the Women 4 Women Student Chapter, said, "The parent group, Women 4 Women, has really helped us develop our group and enriched our college experience."

Valerie Casey, advisor to the Women 4 Women Student Chapter, also had good things to say. "As Advisor to the W4W Student Organization, I am thrilled



Officers Blair Bowman, Vice President; Tiarra Clark, Secretary; and Gabrielle Maxedon, President, with Valerie Casey, staff advisor (center)



The past April, the Women4Women Student Chapter was recognized with the 2010 Outstanding New Organization at U of L Award. Members of the Women4Women Student chapter strike a pose after being presented with the award. Members include, left-to-right standing: Tiarra Clark, Melissa Bagley, Ashley Wimsett, Gabrielle Maxedon, Jackie Massouda, Mary Molony and Blair Bowman; Kneeling: Alycia Tooill and Bits Dansberry.

with the outstanding programs the students are producing, the opportunities they are creating, and the professionalism and leadership skills the members are developing through their participation in the Women 4 Women Student Organization. I encourage those who want to support women students to consider becoming involved either as a donor, a mentor, or a programming partner." For information visit the Women 4 Women Student Chapter on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=50456242989&ref=ts>

The Women 4 Women Student Chapter has come a long way and is very proud to have been awarded the Outstanding RSO Award. Congratulations ladies!

M. Celeste Nichols Award Recipient: Lisa Arnold

I received the M. Celeste Nichols Award to support my progress as a Ph.D. candidate in Rhetoric and Composition (R & C) in the English department at U of L. My interests, although varied, center on feminist concerns, especially issues of marginalization and representation; the Nichols Award helped me to develop an ongoing project that investigates how contingent faculty respond to disciplinary scholarship that implicates their work as composition teachers, but fails to include their voices.

My current research is focused on disciplinary history and historiography: In my dissertation, I will analyze the rhetoric of disciplinary histories in R & C using a method of rhetorical analysis called "metahistorical critique," a feminist practice that "looks back" at the rhetoric that has shaped R & C's understanding of itself as a discipline.

This practice has led me to identify one gap in the discipline's historical narratives. While many of the discipline's histories acknowledge and lament the abuse and exploitation of contingent faculty, few – if any – of the histories present the voices of contingent faculty. Likewise, recent composition scholarship that builds on these histories and proposes new directions for the field rarely questions the way the group is "represented" in and by composition literature.

I conducted a pilot study in which two non-tenure-track faculty who teach in the composition program at U of L read and responded to two articles proposing alternatives for the future of R & C while presenting an oversimplified portrayal of contingent faculty. This study led to a collaborative publication in a College English Special Issue (forthcoming), as well as a presentation at the Conference on

Composition and Communication (CCCC) in March 2010. The Nichols Award funded my conference registration fees and allowed me to purchase a digital recorder, with which I plan to interview more contingent faculty members to build upon my original study.

The Nichols Award is named in honor of Margaret Celeste Johnson Nichols (1951-1996), who was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from U of L's English Department. Last year, the University of Louisville Women's Center recognized three graduate and professional students for the award. Lisa R. Arnold, recipient, discusses her research and tells how the award helped in her academic and professional enrichment. (Brief articles by Vanessa L. Kraemer and Heather K. Hardin are scheduled to appear in the Fall 2010 edition, as well as more details on the application procedure for the 2010 Award).

Anita Moorman – Captain of U of L’s NCAA Certification Team

by Robin R. Harris, Brandeis School of Law

In the fall, 2010, U of L begins a campus-wide study of its athletics program as part of the NCAA Division I athletics certification program. Everything is already in place -- the timeline, the steering committee, and four subcommittees. Leading the steering committee team is Professor Anita Moorman.

When President Jim Ramsey appointed Moorman as Special Assistant to the President for NCAA Accreditation, he chose the perfect person for the job. An associate professor in Sports Administration who teaches sport law and legal aspects of sport, Moorman is uniquely qualified to lead the team assigned to evaluate the University’s efforts and report its findings to the NCAA. Moorman earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University and practiced law in Oklahoma City for ten years before joining the academic world.



Anita Moorman

Since coming to U of L in 1996, Moorman has published a number of scholarly articles (including several on civil rights issues in sport), co-authored a groundbreaking sport law textbook, led the national Sport & Recreation Law Association, coached the law school’s sports law moot court team, and directed the Sport Administration internship program. She has served as a student athlete faculty mentor, a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, and a faculty senator. Since 2004, she has been a leader in the University’s LGBT rights group, Faculty & Staff for Human Rights, which she says “gave me a chance

to not just be an advocate, but to learn how to build alliances and partnerships around shared interests.”

This latest assignment will put Moorman’s experience and leadership skills to the test. She explains, “I try to bring a logical and reasoned view to most tasks I am assigned. That doesn’t mean I don’t have a personal preference or perspective on a task . . . but I really pride myself on trying to see all sides of an issue and drawing reasoned and logical conclusions.”

Julie Hermann, Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator, thinks President Ramsey made the right choice: “We are thrilled to have Anita Moorman providing leadership for our next cycle of NCAA Certification. Her expansive knowledge of sports, particularly college sports, and our department is a huge asset to us through this process. Certification in college athletics is both an exhaustive process and an opportunity to showcase the inner workings of college athletics to the campus and our community at large. Anita will be an outstanding leader for Athletics and our campus as we begin the long self-study. We’re fortunate she’s on our campus.”

The NCAA certification self-study will cover academic integrity; governance and rules compliance; and commitment to equity, student-athlete welfare, and sportsmanship. U of L was first certified through the process in 1997 and was re-certified in 2003. This third certification cycle begins in the fall, 2010, semester and concludes in 2013.

Women’s Center Events

In addition to co-sponsorship the Transformation Tea (see article on page six), the Women’s Center sponsored other events during April, including Equal Pay Day and Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work.

Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men’s and women’s wages. The NCPC decided years ago to select a Tuesday in April as Equal Pay Day. (Tuesday was selected to represent how far into the week women must work to earn what men earned the previous

Pictured in photo is Tiarra Hall Clark, Valerie Casey, Mary Karen Powers and Zenaida Sanchez who staffed a table at the Equal Pay Day event held at the Belknap Campus Ekstrom Library. The WC also tabled at the Health Sciences Campus (HSC) for EPD and the Ekstrom Library for the Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Event in addition to preparing material for distribution at the Kornhauser Health Sciences Library.



week). The Class Act Federal Credit Union was generous in donating “piggy banks” and other items for the Equal Pay Day and backpacks full of educational activities for children for the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Event.

The Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is an opportunity for girls and boys (recommended ages 8-18 years old) to share their dreams and communicate their expectations for the future with their parents and guardians in the work environment.



Also in April, the Women’s Center staff and students celebrated an end-of-semester event (which included a surprise baby shower for Tiarra) at Lynn’s Paradise Café.



Tiarra Clark proudly displays one of the baby gifts she received. On the left, Mary Karen Powers, Bits Dansberry, Valerie Casey, and Tiarra; on the right: Zenaida Sanchez, Pasty Russell, and Phyllis M. Webb. Absent was student worker, Mee Mee Lee.

Louisville Field Hockey Shines on Campus and in the Community

by Amy M. Seng, Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Development, U of L Athletics

The student athletes of the University of Louisville Field Hockey team excelled on the field and in the classroom this past year. This spring the team produced a grade point average of 3.6. In the fall the team earned a Top 20 National Ranking for the majority of the season as well as producing four All-Region selections and one All-American in goalkeeper Heather Bustanoby.

Team Cardinal is dedicated in the community as well. The team recently earned the Cards Care Award at the Athletic Department's All Sports Banquet. During the 2009-2010 academic year, the team volunteered for nearly 850 hours of community service. What makes this feat so impressive is that with only 19 student athletes on the team roster, they each averaged 45 hours of community service throughout the year in addition to their rigorous travel, training, and academic schedule.

"We get involved in the community because it's the culture of our team. We want to give back to those who support Team Cardinal as well as Louisville Athletics. It's also a chance



Members of the Field Hockey team during an intense game of wheelchair basketball.



Junior Jenna Ahern at the Boys & Girls Club during a cookie decorating activity with the kids.

for us to appreciate the opportunities we have as student-athletes and for us to bond as a team and have some fun," commented team captain Tuli Lim, who helps to coordinate all the community outreach for the team. Team Cardinal (a nickname Field Hockey has embraced for years) dedicated their time and talent to many programs and events this

past year including, Best Buddies of Louisville, Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana, Fit4Me, UofL Dance Marathon, and the Wheelchair Basketball and Rugby program, which is part of the Douglas Community Center Adapted Sports Program.

The Cardinal Athletic Department is proud of the team and their accomplishments, as the women truly represent what it means to be student-athletes and good citizens in the community.

(Holly Sheilley, who has written several articles highlighting women athletics for the *Women Center News*, has accepted a position with the NCAA in Indianapolis. We wish her the best).

(Photos courtesy of U of L Athletics)



U of L Women Center staff members, Patsy Russell, Phyllis M. Webb, and Mary Karen Powers, Director, are pictured with Governor Steve Beshear and Kentucky Commission on Women board member Linda Breathitt (on right) at the unveiling of portraits of important women in Kentucky's history during Women's History Month in March. Dr. Grace Marilyn James (1923-1989), a pediatrician in West Louisville for 36 years and the first black female faculty member at the School of Medicine, was recognized at the unveiling. She was nominated by the Women's Center.

Photo courtesy of John Perkins, Kentucky Office of Creative Services

The Women's Center will be involved in The Norton Women's Pavillion Champions 4 Her Walk, Run & Festival at Waterfront Park on June 19. This is a community event to raise funds and morale for issues facing women and girls. Teams include the U of L Women's Center, <http://www.firstgiving.com/valeriecasey>; the Kentucky Women's Book Festival, <http://www.firstgiving.com/kentuckywomenbookfestival>; and the Women4Women Student Chapter, <http://www.firstgiving.com/gabriellemaxedon>. Support either team and, at the same time, make a contribution to the Women's Center programs.



Transformation Tea Empowers Women

by Phyllis M. Webb, Women's Center

The University of Louisville sponsored the 12th Annual Transformation Tea this past April at Masterson's Restaurant on Third Street near the campus. The Women's Center has served as a co-sponsor and member of the planning committee for the Transformation Tea since 1998. It began as an open forum for the diverse population of women to have an opportunity to share concerns, issues and positive suggestions. Over 80 women from the campus and community attended the event.

The theme, "Today's Woman: Living a Healthier Lifestyle" included panel participants, Anna Huang, M.D.,



2010 Transformation Tea planning committee members included Karen Johnson, Sharron Abernathy, Inna Elkin, Nancy Baker, and Phyllis M. Webb. Other committee members included Susan Rhodes, Sharon Larue, and Georgette Moore, Chair.

missions Office and included committee members representing the Women's Center, Information Technology, School of Law, Human Resources, PEACC Program, and the Office of Community Engagement. In addition to the speakers, participants enjoyed networking opportunities and the chance to win door prizes from a number of campus and community contributors.

Sponsors included the U of L Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality (CODRE); Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), Kent School of Social Work, Office of Community Engagement, Office of the President; Office of Vice-Provost for Diversity and International Affairs, Pan-African Studies; PEACC (Prevention, Education and Advocacy for Campus & Community) Program and the U of L Women's Center.



Panelists, Seleila Booker, Drs. Paranita Bratton and Anna Huang, and Pharmacist, Pheli Roberts, are seated as Susan Rhodes, committee member, prepares to introduce them.

Director of U of L's WINGS Clinic; Pheli Roberts, RPh. PharmD, Clinical Care Coordinator, Kroger Company; Paranita Bratton, M.D., Family Practice Physician; and Seleila Booker, Staff in U of L's College of Education and Human Development. Topics ranged from AIDS/HIV, over the counter and prescribed medicines, heart disease, managing diabetes, and living a healthy lifestyle, among others.

Designed as a networking opportunity for U of L women of color and their allies, the 2010 Transformation Tea Planning Committee was chaired by Ms. Georgette Moore of the Com-



PEACC staff members, Melissa Johnson; Sharon Larue, a Tea committee member; Jennifer Cheng, VPUA-Administration; and Weiling Liu, Libraries Associate Professor, enjoy their time at the tea.

The Women's Center News

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