

Launch of the WC Student Newsletter

by Valerie M. Casey
Interim Director, UofL Women's Center

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the UofL Women's Center **Student Newsletter**. The Center has so much to offer students, thus this newsletter will be a vehicle to help spread the word. Included will be information on resources and programs, and highlights on student experiences and leaders in women's issues. A key feature will be student events and articles written by students themselves. If you or someone you know have an interest in women's issues and would like to submit an article or event for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact our office at 502-852-8976 or e-mail womensctr@louisville.edu.



The UofL Women's Center Student-Parent Association/Moms Support Group hosted its annual Student Parent Visibility this past November in the UofL Red Barn. Student-parents were able to receive free clothing, shoes, toys and stuffed animals. UofL's Dept. of Public Safety and 4 C's (Community Coordinated Child Care) was on hand to distribute invaluable information. Special thanks to the staff, faculty and students who donated items. (Photo by UofL Women's Center: Mary Alice Endicott)



UofL Student-Veteran, Jennifer Frieders talks with Susan Duncan, Interim Dean of the School of Law at the Women's Center Anniversary Celebration.

Women's Center Seeks to Form Support Group for Women Student-Veterans

The UofL Women's Center's mission is to educate, advocate and build diverse communities. We are seeking UofL women student-veterans (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marines/Coast Guard) or women serving on Active Duty, Reserves, or the National Guard to help start an on-campus Women Veterans Support Group.

If you are interested and have ideas to share, email the Women's Center at womenctr@louisville.edu or contact Phyllis M. Webb at phyllis.webb@louisville.edu. You can also call the Women's Center at (502) 852-8976. Leave your name, contact information and the best time to reach you.

We hope to hear from you.

(Note: If you are calling from outside the Louisville, Ky., area, use "502" area code.)

Women's Center Service Learning Trip

by Valerie M. Casey, Interim Director, UofL Women's Center

Have you heard about the Women Center's Service Learning Trip to Peru? This July 3-13 the Women's Center will lead a trip of up to 20 people to the ancient Peruvian cities of Lima, Cusco, Ollantayambo, Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu. Our intrepid group will climb not only one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Machu Picchu; we will also have an opportunity to climb an ancient trail up the side of Wayna Picchu for a bird's eye view of the ancient



ruins. This trip is part of the Center's Women Empowerment Program, which includes participation in Leadership and Human Trafficking Conferences produced by our Women 4 Women student group.

I visited Peru to establish this tour in September and can tell you first hand that the trip will be an amazing experience. We will walk to the top of ancient ruins in downtown Lima and learn about the ancient Peruvians before the Spanish conquest in the 1500s. We will tour the Market, the arts district, the Spanish cathedral and catacombs. We will then fly to Cusco, tour the Sacred Valley, and travel on by train and bus to Machu Picchu on the edge of the Amazon rain forest to hike on the grounds of this ancient Inca site. From there we travel back to Cusco,



the ancient capital of Peru at 12,000' in elevation where indigenous Quechua people still live and retain their ancient customs. We will tour the square, shop in the markets and attend an evening show of traditional dance. A profound experience will be a visit to a facility housing young women, some of whom are victims of human trafficking. In the coming months, our group will plan interactive activities and collect clothing to distribute to the residents. Men on our trip will have an alternate opportunity to visit with the young boys who are orphans and live on the premises.

Rounding out our trip will be free time to eat in local restaurants and shop for high quality alpaca and Peruvian cotton clothing and accessories. Cost for the tour and all details are on our Facebook site SLTPeru or call our office at (502) 852-8976 for details. I hope to see you in Peru for an unforgettable experience.

Congratulations to Nichols Award Recipients

by Phyllis M. Webb, UofL Women's Center

Congratulations to the 2012 Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award recipients: Erin Ruth McCoy, who is pursuing a Ph.D. Humanities (emphasis on cultural studies); Laneshia R. McCord, a doctoral candidate in Social Work; and Erica Caton, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Work—all at the University of Louisville.

McCoy will attend and present her research at the Humanities Education & Research Association (HEAR) Conference in March 2013 in Houston, Texas. Her dissertation will focus on how popular music lyrics inform our understanding of American cultural history during the Vietnam War era.

McCord presented her poster research at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Scientific Meeting this past November 2012 in San Diego, California. Her paper, "Attention HIV: Older African

American Women Define Sexual Risk Behavior," was a chance to engage in a myriad of conversations about different aspects of her study.

Caton will be attending a PhotoVoice Training Workshop (PhotoVoice is a participatory social-action research methodology), in London, England, in May 2013 as part of her research.

The award, sponsored by the University of Louisville's Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality (CODRE), Dennis C. Golden Torchbearer Endowment through Student Affairs, and

the UofL Women's Center, was presented at the Women's Center Elizabeth Cady Stanton Empowerment Luncheon this past November.

(See the UofL Women's Center web site for more details and photos, <http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter>)

Nichols Award Winner Shares Conference Experience

With the support of the Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award, I was able to present on my independent research at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 65th Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, California, in November. GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting is a national and global gathering of practitioners, scholars, and scientists vested in the advancement and deeper understanding about aging. Earlier this year, I conducted a focus group with older African American women, wherein I asked them to define sexual risk behavior. As my dissertation topic is about HIV risk behavior, I learned older African American women are a fast growing demographic of HIV incidence in this nation and felt it important to explore the nature of sexual risk behavior.

Akin to Dr. Nichols' legacy, I am dedicated to bringing women's issues to the forefront, especially those that influence our health

outcomes. The opportunities at this conference were undoubtedly insightful and empowering in my development as an emerging scholar in the field of social work and aging. During my poster presentation, I had the opportunity to engage in a myriad of conversations about different aspects of my study, with ideas to expand on in the future, and more philosophical discussion about underlying issues related to HIV transmission in the older community. I was able to network with current professionals and scholars, exchanging contact information as well as resources. I was also able to interact with peers and colleagues, sharing the experience I had as a learning moment for the students. Additionally, I connected with several academic institutions and identified additional resources to explore upon graduation.

What I took away from this experience was

the significance of establishing yourself as a professional woman in academia. Doing the work is one side of it, yet the dissemination and promotion of your work is equally important. We spend a great deal of time learning the process by which research is conducted and identifying the implications of our work. However, the challenge is translating that information into something that is accessible and applicable across disciplines. This is key in order to transform the way in which we think, which also affects how we serve those we care about. I am truly appreciative of Dr. Nichols' work that paved the way for future scholars, and I hope that others are able to take advantage of such opportunities and have such grand outcomes as I.

Laneshia R. McCord
2012 Nichols Award Recipient



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An Inside Point of View

by Mary Alice Endicott, Junior English Major

W4W Annual Luncheon Celebrates Women

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Women for Women luncheon here in Louisville. As a new student worker in the Women's Center, it was amazing to see women from all different walks of life sharing ideas and experiences—especially the advice of the featured speaker, author and financial editor for NBC, Jean Chatzky. She gave tips on how to set achievable financial goals, and proposed that the ever-elusive “balance” between career and family life may never be stable. It is not that successful women must sacrifice some of one or the other in order to have both, but that trying to achieve a perfect balance between the two might only increase stress. She further stated: “If you spend all of your time trying to anticipate every problem that you may face in work or in life, what time is left to enjoy things?”

Take Back the Night

During a time of extreme anti-women rhetoric from politicians, Take Back the Night (TBTN) offered students and community members the opportunity to show solidarity for women and for women to share their own stories and experiences. Some voices were loud, some were tearful—but they were all passionate and genuine. TBTN empowers women by giving them a platform for their voices, but participation in events like this is also important in order to keep a dialogue going about rape culture on campuses and violence against women. Men also have a stake in these issues because they disrupt the ability of men to have healthy, meaningful relationships with women. When you hear about an event addressing rape or domestic violence, participate and show solidarity for the

amazing women in our community and in our lives.

Response to Violence Task Force Forum in the School of Law

The School of Law hosted a talk with a panel of community and campus members relating to the Mayor Greg Fischer's task force which was organized as a response to the recent fatal shootings in west Louisville. The panel consisted of Susan Duncan, Dean of the Law School; Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, Professor at the School of Public Health; Judge Brian Edwards; Christopher 2X, antiviolence advocate, and was moderated by Ben Richmond.

Mayor Fischer sought to organize the task force in response to violence disproportionately affecting African Americans in the west end. Panelists discussed many issues regarding the social and historical backdrop where the violence is occurring. Christopher 2X reminded the audience that “it is not within our power to stop every aggression” and that change in individuals comes from within. He also emphasized how individuals in the community can change, and the fact that some resources in the community are not known or broadcasted to community members. Other panel members pointed out that systemic changes need to be made in order to decrease the violence. Dr. Nesbitt also responded to the question of why the rest of Louisville should care by citing high costs of gunshot wound medical care, the dampening of business because businesses are scared to move to the area, and joblessness decreasing the tax revenue. The group discussed how young people doing positive things don't get nearly as much attention as stories about



Mary Alice Endicott, a work study student in the UofL Women's Center (pictured in the bottom far left corner) represented the Women's Center at the Take Back the Night event this past September 2012.

violence, and the fact that most children don't act out violently. Christopher 2X brought up the fact that social networking sites such as Facebook are used to communicate threats and instill fear in the community. The panel was open for questions after the talk, and the audience was encouraged to visit www.LUL.org and call local councilpersons to find out about community programs.

Student-Parent Meeting Opportunities

If you are a student-parent looking for a group in which to get involved, keep an eye out for the Student-Parent Association meetings. Meetings this semester included talks by community experts covering legal and medical issues. The meetings are also a great opportunity to meet other student-parents. Be sure to look for meetings in the spring semester.

Brandeis School of Law Diversity Committee presents “Stopping the Violence: How Can We Help?”

The conversation started at the first event on violence in west Louisville was so successful that a follow-up event was held on Nov. 20 with a different panel. The panel included Dana Jackson, Executive Director

of the Network Center for Community Change (NC3); UofL graduate and Youth Advocate, Kristen Williams; and Anthony D. Smith, Director of Network Organizing, Network Center for Community Change, Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program. The program was moderated by President of the Black Law Students Association, Aaron Marcus. Jackson emphasized the importance of grassroots organizing which her organization utilizes, and Williams made a powerful statement about individuals participating in social change: “If you're sitting in school and learning about social justice, you have to apply it.” There were many different opinions voiced, including systematic disenfranchisement and the fact that contractors working east of Ninth Street get favors and perks that are not available to those building in the west end. The panelists also discussed how diversity is vital to groups moving for social change.

Mary Alice Endicott is also studying French and creative writing and she serves on the Kentucky Women's Book Festival committee.

The Inspiration of Women 4 Women, Student Chapter

by Melissa Bagley

As I look back at my undergraduate career, the only regret I have is not joining the UofL Women 4 Women (W4W) student chapter sooner. As a timid sophomore, I was invited to a W4W student group meeting by a fellow volunteer. After attending just one meeting I realized the value of joining these motivational young women. As a member, not only are you surrounded by upbeat women who encourage each other but you can also discover so many opportunities to help you through your college career. The Women 4 Women student chapter teaches young women how to be a leader and also how to begin a career path. One of my favorite opportunities was being assigned a mentor in broadcasting, which

is what I aspired to do. Upon talking with my mentor and finding out more about the field, I realized it was not the ideal career for me. I remained a communication major but have since become interested in the field of business and started the MBA entrepreneurship program this past fall. Another benefit from being in the Women 4 Women student chapter was having the encouragement from fellow officers and members to step out of my comfort zone in order to excel. One way I did this was to become an officer. I would not have even considered myself qualified if I didn't have the positive reinforcement from student women within the group. The confidence and leadership which I have gained from the Women 4 Women student chapter also helped me participate in two trips with the international service learning program (ISLP). During the beginning of May I went to Botswana on an ISLP trip to teach middle school kids about several different topics such as bullying, listening, expressing, and analyzing. Toward the end of May I went on a similar trip to Croatia. Words cannot express the experience I gained from traveling abroad and helping others—it was truly amazing. I have no doubt that without being in this organization and learning how to be a leader I would not have been selected for the program. I am forever grateful for the opportunities and stepping stones the Women 4 Women student chapter provided for me as I completed my undergraduate studies. I would not be the woman I am today without this wonderful organization.

Pictured is Melissa Bagley, a media graduate assistant in the U of L Alumni Association



Women 4 Women—My Testimony

by A'Yanna E. Eley

When I first heard about the Women 4 Women student group, I was unsure about seriously looking into it for membership. Not that I was against women or women's organizations, but it's just that I had never been interested in doing work with women, for women only. That is what it sounded like to me. My interest was always in working with children or all people collectively, not just women. But when I decided to attend a meeting one Friday, I found that there was more to it than I thought.

Not only were the members of the organization friendly, inviting, and diverse; but they were also very professional during the meeting. That was the first thing that was attractive. The meeting minutes, I remember, were almost overwhelming. This organization was doing a lot, and a lot for all people, not just women, and I could tell they were doing some major planning. That was the second thing that was attractive. Then, I remember the president speaking to me and selling the organization to me. She not only sold it with the things the organization did, but most importantly she sold it with a sincere heart and with information about what I can also get out of the organization for my own benefit. That was the third thing that was attractive. Finally, I decided to attend a Women 4 Women event that sounded interesting to me. It was the “International Birthday's” event. Although it was very small (which I noticed was not expected), I met many ladies from different cultural backgrounds and I greatly enjoyed myself. In the small setting, it was easy for us to get to know each other altogether as well as learn more about the organization. In that moment, which was the fourth thing that was attractive, I found that I needed nothing more. I immediately thought, “What



A'Yanna Eley is a UofL junior Marketing major with a minor in Entrepreneurship and currently serves as Vice President of the Women 4 Women Student Group and Chair of the College Women's Leadership Conference. This past summer, she studied abroad at The University of Seoul in Seoul, South Korea.

could I do to help make this event and other events better?” At the next meeting, I signed up to become a member of the organization and I have not regretted it.

In joining the organization, I gained more knowledge of the organization and what it stands for. I gained friendships, networks, opportunities, and an understanding for why I now love the organization so much. I became heavily involved with the organization because I wanted to help make it known and help make everything it does a success. I talked about the organization to other students and was able to help promote and market events we sponsored. Moreover, this organization has taught me some important, life-changing things. I found a new respect for women's organizations, because it is necessary to have something specific to us to be able to help each other and others cooperatively. And, of course, it is wonderful to know that you can be amongst a group of women and not have issues, because only the ones who are genuine are going to join this organization. I have learned that some people are put in your path to help bring you where you need to be. People in this organization have been placed in my path and have helped me tremendously in becoming the person I long to be. Women 4 Women student group has been a stepping stone and I wish to continue the legacy of it.