Student NewsWinter 2014

Volume 2, Issue 1 Student NewsWinter 2014

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Women Students Share Their

Experiences via the Women’s

Center Student Newsletter

by Valerie M. Casey

Interim Director, UofL Women’s Center

Welcome to the Women Center’s

student newsletter. At the Center, our

focus is the empowerment of women

students. We embrace diversity and

enjoy a positive, collegial atmosphere

for our staff and students. We work

to guide and assist women students

as they hone their leadership skills,

network and develop strategies to

achieve their professional and personal

goals. Therefore, this newsletter will

highlight some of the accomplishments

of our student leaders and provide

information on opportunities to get

involved. I hope you will find the issue

interesting and will step up, lean in

and be counted as a woman leader by

contacting the Women’s Center and

getting involved.

SPECIAL THANKS to the University of Louisville’s

students, staff, faculty and community who donated

clothing, toys and other items to the 2013 Student-

Parent Association Clothing Exchange Project

and to the special collection for women homeless

veterans). Your generosity made it possible to help

others in need and is much appreciated. Again,

thanks!

—From the UofL Women’s Center staff

2013 Nichols Award

UofL Nichols Award Recipients to Give National Presentations

by Phyllis M. Webb, M.Ed., U of L Women’s Center

University of Louisville graduate students

will be traveling to various cities this spring

to present research as part of their portfolio

and as recipients of the 2013 Dr. M. Celeste

Nichols Award. It is presented by the UofL

Women’s Center, UofL Student Affairs

Division Dennis C. Golden Torchbearer

Endowment and Program, and the

Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality

(CODRE).

In February, Cassandra C. Rausch will chair

the panel in which she will be presenting

Interns and students in the Women’s Center talk about their

experiences working in the office and their upcoming projects. Pictured

at the podium is Emma Chapman, President, Women 4 Women

Student Board; (left-to-right); Whitney L. Wilson, Student Parent

Association; A’Yanna Eley, W4W Student Board; Ashley Wimsett,

Graduate Assistant-Women’s Center & W4W Student Board; and

Aaisha Hamid, W4W Student Board. (Luncheon photos by Tom

Fougerousse, UofL photographer)

“Theoretical Explanations of Criminal Behavior”

at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of

Criminal Justice Sciences, in Philadelphia,

Pa.; Amy J. Lueck will present “Participatory

Engagement and the Construction of

Knowledge at Academic Conferences” at

the Writing Research Across Borders III

Conference at the Universite’ Paris-Quest

Naterre La Defende in Paris, France; and

in March, Jessica P. Whitish will present

research on an oral history project focusing

on Dr. Lucy Freibert, who taught the first

women’s literature course and

helped start the Women’s &

Gender Studies Department at

UofL. She will present at the

Southeast Women’s Studies

Association Conference in

Wilmington, N.C.; Yvette

Z. Szabo will present two

abstract poster presentations

at the American Psychosomatic

Society Annual Scientific

Meeting in San Francisco, Calif.;

and Margaret B. Barnett will

present research on “Creating

and Maintaining Trust in

Hearing Healthcare Services:

Perspectives of Adults with

2013 Nichols Award recipients are pictured at

the Empowerment Luncheon this past November.

(Left-to-right: Yvette Z. Szabo, Margaret B. Barnett,

Jessica P. Whitish, Cassandra C. Rauch, and Amy

J. Lueck). This year’s award is sponsored by the

University of Louisville’s Commission on Diversity &

Racial Equality (CODRE), the UofL Student Affairs

Division Dennis C. Golden Torchbearer Endowment

and Program and the Women’s Center.

The award was presented by Phyllis M. Webb,

Program Coordinator and Chair of the Nichols

selection committee and Dr. V. Faye Jones, Chair of

CODRE.

Hearing Impairment” at the American

Student Academy of Audiology (AAA)

Audiology Now! Conference in Orlando, Fla.

(They will discuss their conference

participation in upcoming issues of the

Women Center News, a quarterly online

newsletter of the UofL Women’s Center. For

more details about the award, visit http://

www.louisville.edu/womenscenter.)

Mark these dates on your 2014 calendar

The UofL Women’s Center and Women

4 Women Student Board have planned

some exciting, thought- provoking

programs for students, staff, faculty and

the community. Mark these dates on your

calendar for the Human Trafficking

Awareness Conference (Jan. 22);

International Women’s Day Cultural

Awareness Event (Feb. 27) and the

Kentucky College Women’s Leadership

Conference (June 5-June 7).

>

The Human Trafficking event will take

place in the Student Activities Center

starting at 5:30 p.m., Jan. 22. Speakers

will include survivors of Human Trafficking

from the Thistle Farms; Rus Funk, the

Executive Director of Menswork and

Carl Ralston, President & Founder of

Remember Nhu. There will also be

non-profit organizations on hand to

pass out invaluable information about

http://www.eventbrite.com/e/humantrafficking-

awareness-conferencetickets-

8454598933

>

Dance performances and presentations

about different cultures will be the

highlight of the International Women’s

Day Cultural Awareness Event on Feb.

27. The event will take place in the U of L

Red Barn, 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

>

The 2nd Kentucky College Women’s

Leadership Conference will take

place on the UofL Belknap campus

this summer, June 5-June 7. College

women throughout the state of Kentucky

will convene to participate in interactive

workshops, networking sessions and

hear multicultural professional women

talking on the theme of “Invite the Power

of WE, Evoke the power in YOU,” and

they will learn to develop personal and

professional development strategies.

The Student-Parent Association and

Women’s Veterans Student Support Group

is also planning some programs of interest

and seeks your involvement.

Check out the Women’s Center web site,

http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter for

more details on other events planned or call

the office at (502) 852-8976.

Women Student-Veterans

Are Invited

UofL women student-veterans from all

branches of the military, women serving

on Active Duty, Reserves, or the National

Guard are invited to take part in the

Women’s Center Veteran Support Group.

Meetings will be announced soon for the

spring semester. For more information, call

the UofL Women’s Center at (502) 852-

8976 or email Phyllis M. Webb at phyllis.

webb@louisville.edu.

Human Trafficking. Register online at

What’s your Flight Plan?

by Whitney L. Wilson, Student worker in the UofL Women’s Center

Every year an Advising Fair is held on the as possible. They have “flight plans” for

west plaza of Belknap campus. This year’s every major, which is a basic outline of what

event boasted a dunk tank where you could classes should look like for the four (or five)

dunk some of the advisors and even the years you are a student. Each school and

Dean of the Kent School of Social Work, department within the unit has their own

and an inflatable basketball game. There advisor. You should meet with your advisor

was a great turnout, with free hotdogs and on a regular basis to make sure you are on

hamburgers to boot. The Advising Fair track for graduation. As a freshman and a

doubled as a pep rally for the football game senior, advising is required to register for

against the University of Kentucky. The classes. In addition, to attend graduation

band marched in and played some tunes for you also must meet with your advisor, so

everyone. It was definitely a sight to see. make sure you have a regular appointment.

For more about advising you can visit http://

There were advisors on hand to help

louisville.edu/advising/.

students set out a plan for their classes to

help them get through college as smoothly The REACH center, another great asset

on campus, was also represented. It

provides tutoring for different subjects at

the University, with the tutors being highly

experienced in the class in which they are

tutoring. They have a tutor for most subject

areas. For more information about REACH

and the classes they tutor, check out their

website at http://reach.louisville.edu/.

If I could offer any advice to current and

future students, it would be just three things.

Make sure you go to class, do your readings

and homework and, one of the biggest, use

all the free resources on campus. They are

there to help you at absolutely no cost. It’s

your future and you are paying for it. Why

not do the best you can and get help where

it is needed?

(button)

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Makers: Women Who Made America—a Review

by Stephanie N. Parks

On Aug. 26, 2013, UofL’s Women’s Center

commemorated Women’s Equality Day by

screening the PBS documentary series”

Makers: Women Who Made America”. The

series—shown consecutively in a three-

hour block—explores the social, political,

economic, and even sexual revolution that

was the rise of feminism.

The first part chronicles the restlessness

inherently felt by many women who took

on the role of housewife in the 1950s. It

was this very sentiment that inspired Betty

Friedan to write “The Feminine Mystique”

(published in 1963). From here, we see

the quiet world of the Happy Homemaker

completely shaken up—the fallacy is

exposed! Friedan goes on to become the

leader of the National Organization for

Women (NOW), which opens the gates for

more radical social activism.

The Ladies Home Journal and Miss America

both become targets for protest, because

of their infamous treatment of women—Miss

America for the objectification of woman,

and the Journal having promoted the cult

of domesticity. The sit-in at the office of the

Journal results in the allowance of an eight-

page space for the women’s movement,

which prompts a mass demonstration

on the 50th anniversary of the Suffrage

Movement—Aug. 26, 1970. Women from

40 cities across the country organize in the

name of equal rights, including 50,000 who

flooded Fifth Avenue in New York City.

A year later, Congress passed a bill to

declare Aug. 26 as Women’s Equality Day.

In the second episode, we’re now into the

heart of the 1970s and a sexual revolution.

The divorce rate has skyrocketed, and the

birth control pill is now allowing women

more sexual freedom than ever before.

Independent women are becoming more of

the cultural norm, as television series’ (from

the campy “That Girl” to ”The Mary Tyler

Moore Show” and “Designing Women”)

begin to not only include them in the cast of

characters, but also made them the primary

focus. Title 9 comes into effect, which

threatens the funding for sports programs

if young women aren’t accepted and give

women a greater chance to be accepted

into a university program of their choice.

Through all this progress, we also see

the ultimate backlash against the various

equal rights movements as the 1980s

approaches. Roe vs. Wade, a considerable

victory that draws attention to the need for

safer abortion options, stirs violent protests

against clinics and Planned Parenthood.

The Equal Rights Amendment, “Section 1.

Equality of rights under the law shall not be

denied or abridged by the United States or

by any state on account of sex”, is ultimately

overruled. The future is looking bleak.

In the final installment, the Women’s

Movement tries to recover from the

devastating loss, and shifts its focus to

other issues. Violence against women has

always been an issue, yet has never been

addressed. But, after the case of Thurman

vs. The City of Torrington (in which Tracey

Thurman, who had called the police for help

on several occasions and was continuously

ignored, filed suit against the police

department after having been stabbed

by her husband and left paralyzed), equal

protection under the law is now enforced.

Organizations are established to raise

awareness about rape, sexual abuse, and

sexual harassment – including Take Back

the Night. All of this is brought to light by the

Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill debacle.

As the documentary begins winding down,

we start to realize that the movements

that paved the way for so much of the

change that effects women today have both

transformed and are in stasis.

Women are still not given equal pay—only

earning 76 cents to every dollar a man

makes. Our labor system is still set up for a

man to be the breadwinner (not taking into

account the cost of childcare for working

women) , while the economy makes it

nearly impossible to be a stay-at-home

mother. Perhaps most disheartening is the

realization that the health care of women is

still, largely, decided by men.

And what has become of feminism?

Feminism has shifted to more of a personal

conviction—meaning something different to

Staying on Track with Finances

by Whitney L. Wilson

Every year, the University of Louisville hosts

a Financial Festival. This year’s festival was

very informative and had a great turnout. It

consisted of vendors with great information

for the student body, as well as food and

prizes—all at a great price of $0 to the

attendees.

This year’s festival was one of a kind. The

vendors were from different banks, the

Better Business Bureau (BBB), and the UofL

REACH center. Some of the focuses of this

festival were financial aid, credit reports,

banking, and so much more.

The Better Business Bureau representative

discussed common scams that people try

to run on students and how to build credit.

They distributed a lot of great information.

The BBB does a lot in keeping people safe,

financially speaking and otherwise. They

have listings of common scams and of

reputable businesses around the country.

You can find more information on their

website at http://www.bbb.org/. Another

great website offering a free credit report

and registration for the “Do Not Call” list

and so much more is http://ftc.gov/.

REACH (Resources for Academic

Achievement) staff members were on hand

to greet people attending the festival and

they also had a table of basic information

for students. Did you know that students

and faculty can get some really good

discounts with their Cardinal Card? Not only

can you ride TARC for free, but you can get

discounted tickets at many of the theaters

around Louisville. With that little card, you

can get food discounts at places like

Bearno’s and Penn Station, and also when

you are shopping at places like Alumni Hall,

Ann Taylor, The Limited and even T-Mobile

phone service.

The Cardinal Card is also used for meal

plans, printing and so much more. You

can upgrade your meal plan to different

levels or add money to the card for printing.

UofL Dining Services were on site to go

over meal plan budgets with students and

discuss options with them for upgrading

their plan. For more information about the

Cardinal Card or to add money to it, go to

http://louisville.edu/cardinalcard/.

The Career Development Center was

represented as well. They are definitely a

resource to look into no matter where you

are in your career. They will help you build a

résumé, prepare for an interview, job search

and prepare for attendance at graduate

school. They hold part-time job fairs and

have a program called Cards Mentors.

Cards Mentors is a group of Alumni that

is willing to talk to students looking to go

in to the same career field and share their

expertise. For more information on this

program and all the other great assets the

important events. I also admired the

fact that various views of the Women’s

Movement were shown—the early exclusion

of lesbians and African American women,

and division among NOW and the more

radical groups (Women’s Liberation), and

political opposition from other women in

positions of power.

I extend a special recommendation to

anyone you ask. The three most common

ideas expressed in the documentary, and

in my own conversations, are feelings of

contentment—that the Women’s Movement

has completed all that was necessary,

feelings of insufficiency—that there is so

much more that could be done, or feelings

of negativity—that they did too much

without considering the struggles future

generations would have.

Makers is a fantastic series, and I

encourage anyone of any age to watch it if

given the opportunity. Not only did it keep

me completely enthralled, it was a great

chance to see personal tales alongside

any woman of college age or starting their

career to watch this and consider what can

be learned, and why this is important. It is

an old (but true) cliché, but to know where

you are, you’ve got to know where you’ve

been.

Now we’d like to hear from you. What do

you think of feminism and the Women’s

Movement? Do you identify as a feminist?

What do you think are concerns for women

today that need to be addressed? Send

your comments to our service account,

womenctr@louisville.edu.

(Stephanie N. Parks worked in the office as a work/study

student during the fall semester. She is a junior Art major

at the University of Louisville.)

Vendors at the Student

Parent Visibility Day in the

Red Barn included: University

Police (Cherie Smith);

Family Scholar House (Anna

Walton), Women’s Choice

Resource Center (Lauren

King) and Seven Counties

(Kris Bass). They were on

hand to distribute invaluable

information to those in

attendance. Photo by Phyllis

M. Webb, UofL Women

Center photo files.

Career Development Center has to offer,

visit their website at https://louisville.edu/

career/.

These are just a few of the vendors

that were at the Financial Festival. You

can always find more information

about financial literacy on University of

Louisville’s webpage at http://louisville.edu/

financialliteracy.

Another aspect of the festival was the food,

graciously provided by Moe’s Southwest

Grill, and the prizes. When you entered the

festival, you received a card with a listing

of the vendors. Once you visited seven of

them, you could get your free food. After

visiting them all, your name was entered

to win the grand prize, a Blu-ray player.

Throughout the event, raffle ticket numbers

were called for smaller prizes ranging from

t-shirts and blankets to lanyards, footballs,

and lawn chairs.

This year’s Financial Festival was a huge

success, with a lot of information to absorb.

Knowing about your finances and what

different, seemingly unimportant, things you

can do to your future and your credit report

is crucial to your future. Some key things

to remember: always pay attention to your

credit score and get a report annually (at minimum); if something seems too good to

be true, it probably is [a scam], and make a

budget and stick to it.

Global Trip to Peru and Upcoming Trip to Spain

by Ashley Wimsett, Marketing & Graduate Assistant-UofL Women’s Center and

Valerie M. Casey, Interim Director

Last May we had the privilege of attending

the Women’s Center global trip to Peru,

which was an amazing opportunity. We

were able to see one of the new 7 wonders

of the world, Machu Picchu. We also

climbed Wayna Picchu. While at times we

were scared on this steep hike, our breath

was taken away not by the high altitude but

by the beautiful views of Peru and Machu

Picchu. In addition to Machu Picchu, we

attended two traditional dance shows. The

traditional dance attire and the dancers

were phenomenal. We even had a few

of our trip participants get involved in the

show, parading through the crowd with a

traditional dance boa. Also, we traveled

on a traditional train, meeting and making

friends with a family from Germany. We

visited Peru’s hot springs which was a

rather different experience. In addition, we

took a horseback ride through the city of

Saqsaywaman, giving us a calm, peaceful,

and serene afternoon. Not only was the

trip fantastic, but we had the best tour

guides. Roxanne and Christian were so

kind and helpful, always taking care of us

from restaurants, places to go, to helping us

avoid an education strike in Lima. This trip

was an amazing experience and one we will

never forget.

While in Cuzco, Peru, the students visited

a government-run residential facility

for adolescent girls involved in human

trafficking and an orphanage which is on

the same site. Our students spent the day

interacting with the residents, decorating

baseball caps, playing volleyball, and

learning international dances. At the end

of the day, the students also met with the

young orphans in the boys facility and

passed out slices of American candy

oranges. The experience was life-altering for

all involved and we hope one day to be able

to return.

Urmi Basu, a True Daughter of Greatness

by Ashley Wimsett, Marketing & Graduate Assistant, UofL Women’s Center

What a great experience attending

the Daughters of Greatness breakfast

where Urmi Basu spoke. Urmi is from

India where she works with New Light,

a nonprofit organization in Kolkata,

India. This organization works to save

girls from becoming victims of sexual

exploitation and to improve lives of the

children of sex workers. Urmi and her

organization were highlighted in the

documentary film “Half the Sky.” At the

breakfast, the Muhammad Ali Center

played the Kolkata, India, segment of

the documentary. As someone who

had not seen it before, I was amazed

at the accomplishments of Urmi’s

organization. Also, I was awestruck by

how brave Urmi had been to give up

her marriage and pursue her dreams of

a better life for the children of Kolkata.

After the film, Urmi spoke about Kolkata

and the work she had done. Her love

for the children and her work clearly

moved the crowd as she spoke. Urmi

is an inspiration to all women. She is

proof that no matter how difficult it may

seem to achieve a goal, if you work

hard enough and pursue your goals

with everything you have, you will find

success. I am so glad the Women’s

Center sponsored me to participate in

this once in a lifetime opportunity.

(Emma Chapman, Women’s Center

intern, also attended this event.)

NOTE: Throughout the year, the

Daughters of Greatness breakfast

series, sponsored by The Muhammad

Ali Institute, invites prominent women

engaged in social philanthropy, activism

and pursuits of justice to share their

stories with the Louisville community.

The Daughters of Greatness series

provides a place for dialogue and

discussion on current issues of justice,

community engagement, and social

movements within the Louisville area

and beyond.

Members of the W4W Student Board pose for a photo after attending the Daughters of Greatness

Breakfast at the Ali Center.

Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students

“Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and

Parenting Students: Under the Title IX of the Education

Amendments of 1972” is a revised (June 2013) pamphlet

published by the U.S. Department of Education Office

for Civil Rights. The first section provides background

on school retention problems associated with pregnant

and parenting students. The next two sections, “Title

IX Requirements Regarding Pregnant and Parenting

Students” and “Frequently Asked Questions Pertaining to

Title IX Requirements Regarding Pregnant and Parenting

Students,” provide information on the law’s specific

We’re Bound for Spain!

After the great success of the trip to Peru, the Women’s Center has decided that the

next Global adventure will be a trip to Spain coming up May 19-May 29, 2014. On this

trip, we will visit Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, and Sevilla. The trip is $3,900

which includes all flights and transportation costs, a flamenco dance show, a tour of

a bullfighting arena, tours of each city, a tapas tour, a cooking class, and two dinners.

We are very excited about the trip to Spain and hope you will be able to join us on this

journey. For more information, questions, or comments please email us at womenctr@

louisville.edu or call us at (502) 852-8976.

Who is the E-Board?

Submitted by Whitney L. Wilson, Student Parent Association President & Work/study student, UofL

Women’s Center

The Student-Parent Association (SPA)

is a new addition to the wide variety of

recognized student organizations on

campus. What started so small is now

growing at a steady pace. The Student-

Parent Association is currently under the

guidance of a five-member executive

board. Those positions are filled by

members who are involved and can

actively help make a difference in the lives

of other student-parents on campus and,

like any other member of the organization,

attend school and are parents. The five

positions that make up the executive board

are the president, vice-president, secretary,

treasurer, and public relations officer.

Each has its own important role to play in

making the organization run as smoothly

as possible. To better acquaint you with

the executive board, I have conducted

brief interviews. I will start with myself.

I am Whitney L. Wilson,

the president. I am the

mother of two little girls,

ages two and four. I work

in the Women’s Center at

the University of Louisville.

I also attend school here

full-time, most semesters

petitioning to take extra

credit hours. I am a triple major in political

science, paralegal studies, and psychology,

and currently in my sophomore year. I am

looking to go on to graduate school for

political behavior/psychology once I finish

my associate and two bachelor’s degrees. I

have a wide range of hobbies and interests

which include reading, watching sports,

playing with my daughters, going to the

park, shooting pool and cooking. But,

enough about me, let’s move on to the

other officers.

The vice-president is LaShea Burt. She is a

senior at UofL majoring in political science

with a concentration in paralegal studies.

Whitney L. Wilson

She has one son and

enjoys taking mother-

son trips and playing

around the house with

her son. She is always

debating with her family

and friends, and after

graduation she plans to

take a job in the paralegal

field to gain experience in the legal field

that will lead to law school.

The secretary is Cherrelle Marable. She is a

senior communications major at UofL and

the mother of two sons.

LaPrecious Brewer is the treasurer and is

a communications major as well. She has

one daughter. Currently, in addition to the

Student-Parent Association, she is working

on many endeavors, including taking part

in the Miss Black Kentucky USA pageant.

Last, but certainly not least, is the public

relations officer, Nakristia Bass. She is a

mother of two sons and a full-time student

at UofL, currently in her senior year. She

is majoring in social work and plans to go

on to get her master’s

in social work upon

graduation. Her hobbies

include watching sports

(mainly football and

basketball), playing with

her kids, reading, eating

and working and framing

puzzles.

As you can probably

tell, our executive board

is made up of an interesting group of

individuals. All of us are very different in our

own way, while ultimately having the same

goal of being the best mothers we can

be, giving our children a better life through

education, and helping other student-

parents on campus remain motivated to do

the same.

LaShea Burt

Nakristia Bass

requirements regarding pregnancy and parenthood.

The final two sections, “Strategies to Assist Educators

in Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Students” and

“Programs Designed to Support Pregnant and Parenting

Students,” include strategies that educators can use

and programs that schools can develop to address the

educational needs of students who become pregnant or

have children.

To get a copy for your review, go to: http://www2.ed.gov/

about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf

(Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Supporting

the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students under Title IX of

the Education Amendments of 1972. Washington, D.C., 2013.)