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The Women's Center

www.louisville.edu/womenscenter

News

Women's Center Empowerment Luncheon set for Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015

by Phyllis M. Webb, M.Ed., Program Coordinator, UofL Women's Center



Sadiqa Reynolds

Sadiqa Reynolds, the newly appointed President & CEO of the Louisville Urban League will be the keynote speaker at the 13th Annual Women's Center Empowerment Luncheon. This event will take place on Tuesday, November 10 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the University Club located on the UofL Belknap Campus.

In addition to the speaker, the luncheon will recognize winners of annual awards named in

memory of two scholars and educators who contributed greatly to their respective fields and served as role models for many women. One is the Tachau Award, which is named in honor of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau (1926-1990). She was a constitution scholar, the first woman to serve as chair of the UofL History Department and the first woman chair of the Faculty Senate. The award will be presented to a member of the University of Louisville community whose performance and contributions promote equity for women, are consistent with the scope of the Women's Center and UofL's Commission on the Status of Women, and reflect the interests of Dr. Tachau.

The second award is the Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award, named

in honor of Margaret Celeste Johnson Nichols (1951-1996), the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. from UofL's English Department. Dr. Nichols taught African-American literature and basic writing at UofL, Kentucky State University, and Bellarmine University before her death in 1996 at age 45. The award will be given to a graduate or professional student to support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses.

The Women's Center will present its Empowerment Award to a member of the community. This award is given to a person, organization or corporation who exemplifies and supports the attributes necessary to empower women. Through determination, skill and persistence, they have

achieved professional success and broken barriers for women. They also are well-regarded and proven leaders in their professional lives, serving as role models and advocates for women.

Criteria and applications for both awards can be obtained by emailing the Women's Center service account at womenctr@louisville.edu. To read more about each award, visit the Women's Center web site at <http://www.louisville.edu/womenscenter>. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 9, 2015.

The luncheon seeks to empower women in all aspects of their lives—politically, socially and economically. Tickets are \$50 per person. Reservations can be made by calling the Women's Center at 502-852-8976 through Nov. 3.

Kentucky Women's Book Festival Celebrates 10th Year in 2016

The Kentucky Women's Book Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary at UofL next year. Sponsored by the UofL Women's Center and UofL Libraries, the festival of women authors and writers features talks and book readings as well as lively discussions. Next year's festival will be March 5, 2016. For more information, visit:

<http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/programs-events/community/kwbf> and
<http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/programs-events/community>





Valerie M. Casey
Director

Message from Director Valerie Casey

Welcome to the University of Louisville Women's Center Newsletter.

The Women's Center is very pleased to bring you an exciting list of

programs and engagement opportunities for students this academic year.

The Center engages students and teaches leadership skills through student groups. These groups include the Women 4 Women Student Board (W4W), American Association of University Women UofL, Student Parent Association and Student Women Veterans. Serving as liaison to the W4W Student Board and the AAUW Student Group is Jamieca Jones. She joined us initially in June and officially in March. Jamieca is doing a terrific job overseeing these groups which are flourishing under her guidance. Welcome Jamieca!

Programs offered by the Women's Center and our students include Women's Equality Day, Elect Her, \$tart \$mart negotiating training, Self-defense, a Zumbathon, Equal

Pay Day, International Women's Day, College Women's Leadership Conference, Kentucky Women's Book Festival and the Transformation Tea. The Human Trafficking Awareness Conference, which was started five years ago, reached an all-time high of over 200 people and is expected to grow. Please look for a full list of events on our web site at, <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter>.

Very popular this past academic year were Campus Talks led by Student Events Coordinator Sara Pickett, open to all community members. Talks were led by local experts including NAACP president Raoul Cunningham and Attica Scott, former councilwoman. Topics included: Domestic Violence and Women Survivors, Sundown Towns and Housing Segregation in Kentucky, Gender Expression and Fluidity and Addressing Myths in the LGBT Community.

Once again we hope to provide sponsorship to students thanks to the generous support of our donors. These sponsorships provide outstanding personal and professional development for students who would not otherwise be

able to participate. Last academic year's sponsorships allowed graduate students to present their research at professional conferences. Students received training on ending sexual assault and domestic violence. Four students attended the American Association of University Women Student Leaders Conference at the University of Maryland. Students received sponsorships to the GameChangers Retreat for student leaders, the United Nations Association and Daughters of Greatness talks at the Ali Center. Two students also received full sponsorships to investigate woman's roles in society, human trafficking and refugee issues on our global trip to Morocco. Educational trips abroad expose students to new cultures and they learn firsthand of the issues women and families face globally. Reflections and photos are included in this issue on page 5.

Students will also be attending our annual Women's Empowerment Luncheon in November to tell their personal stories. We hope you will be able to attend and will also consider making a donation to these deserving programs. Thank you for your interest and for your support!

Welcome to Louisville and UofL!



Luisa Trujillo joined the Women Center staff this fall as the new Student Events Coordinator. A native of Bogota, Columbia, Luisa has lived in the United States for the past ten years, most recently in Lexington, Ky.

Among her goals, she hopes to increase the engagement of students in Women Center programming; develop new initiatives in addition to research. She has a B.A. degree

in Integrated Strategic Communication from the University of Kentucky and a B.A. in Industrial Design from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Currently she is working on a Master's degree in Urban Planning from UofL.

Women Student Veteran Group

The UofL Women's Center and Student Veteran group continues its Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Workshop Series in partnership with Athena Sisters organization throughout the fall semester. The workshops are in the interest of women veterans, active duty, national guard, reservists, military families and widows. For a list of dates, times and locations, visit the Women Center web site at <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter> or call 852-8976.



Nichols Professional Development Award Nominations due Oct. 9, 2015

Nichols Award Recipients Discuss Their Research & Travel Experiences

University of Louisville graduate and professional school students can apply for the 2015 Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award through Oct. 9. The award—up to \$500—is to support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses.

Rachel Gramer and Kelly Mouapi reflect on their research and travel experiences as recipients of the 2014 Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award.

Rachel Gramer is a PhD student in rhetoric and composition in the Department of English

As a graduate student and teacher, I cannot overestimate the power of teaching and learning with peer and mentor support—especially when



Grad student Megan Faver Hartline, Professor Brenda J. Brueggemann, and grad student Rachel Gramer collaborated on the Digital Composition Colloquium for UofL writing instructors.

working with technology. The Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award facilitated one such means of support through my participation in the Digital Media and Composition (DMAC) Institute at The Ohio State University's Department of English in May, 2015. In addition to using and creating with digital tools, I gained invaluable experiences in promoting equitable practices surrounding digital media—which is still saturated in issues of gender, race, class, and ability, especially in relation to educational and professional advancement, particularly for women.

Digital skills and facilitating conversations about incorporating them intentionally and meaningfully will be instrumental in the project I am bringing back to UofL. During DMAC, I collaborated with UofL graduate student Megan Faver Hartline and Director of Composition Dr. Brenda Brueggemann to plan the Digital Composition Colloquium (DCC), a 2-day workshop for writing instructors in the Composition Program at UofL (Aug., 2015).

As a DCC facilitator—and as Assistant Director of

Composition and Digital Media Research Assistant—I am proud to contribute to cultivating a culture of digital composition that supports learners while also being attuned to complex issues of access and participation. And I am most grateful for the opportunity to model feminist structures for peer teaching and low-stakes learning with digital media as part of our program's professional development next year. I hope that my DMAC participation, with the support of the Nichols Award, will not be a satisfactory end but rather an encouraging beginning.

Reaching for Unprecedented Peaks in Toronto

by Kelly Mouapi

I was able attend the XXV Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH 2015) held in Toronto, Canada, thanks to the Dr. M Celeste Nichols Award. Over 7,000 physicians, scientists, allied health professionals and pharmaceutical representatives from more than 100 countries were present at this conference to share and discuss their findings, prospects, and solutions to heart disease.

I had the privilege to present my research in an oral communication and also co-chair one of the oral sessions

on Fibrinogen and Fibrin. My research, titled "Characterizing reactive glutamines in Fibrinogen and Probing for FXIIIa substrate specificity," was received with many positive comments and feedback for areas of future exploration and experimentation. Aside from acquiring new technical knowledge, I was presented with the opportunity to meet pioneers and distinguished researchers in the field, many of whom I have only read about in publications. Meeting these individuals and putting a face to a name has motivated me to continue to work hard as I strive

to reach unprecedented heights in my personal and professional life as a young investigator.

I give thanks to Dr. Muriel Maurer, my advisor, for her guidance throughout this research and conference. I would also like to thank the Women's Center for providing students with such a wonderful opportunity to carry on the legacy of Dr. Celeste Nichols.

Kelly Mouapi pictured at the ISTH 2015 Congress in Toronto, Canada.





Community Walks for Women's Health: Join the Fight

by Phyllis M. Webb, M.Ed., Program Coordinator, UofL Women's Center

*Nearly two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's disease are women, and a recent Alzheimer's Association report estimates that at age 65, women have about a 1 in 6 chance of developing Alzheimer's during the rest of their lives, compared with a 1 in 11 chance for men. Not only are women more likely to have Alzheimer's, they are also more likely to be caregivers of those with Alzheimer's.

*About 90% of people living with lupus are women. While nobody knows for certain what causes the disease, lupus appears to have a genetic component and can run in families. A number of factors may potentially trigger the disease, including infections, toxins, and environmental

factors. Ultraviolet light, such as sunlight, has been shown to trigger lupus disease activity in up to 70% of people living with lupus.

*People of all ages, sexes and races can and do have arthritis, and it is the leading cause of disability in America. Nearly 53 million adults and 300,000 children have some type of arthritis. It is most common among women and occurs more frequently as people get older.

(*Sources: Fact sheets from the Alzheimer Association, Lupus Foundation of America and the Arthritis Foundation).

This fall, put on your comfortable shoes, get with family and friends and join in the fight for women's health. Whether you run, walk, volunteer or donate, your

support is welcomed and appreciated.

Walk to End Alzheimer's,
September 12, Great Lawn,
Waterfront Park
<http://www.alz.org>

Kentuckiana Heart Walk,
Sept. 19, Great Lawn,
Waterfront Park
<http://heartwalk.kintera.org>

Louisville Aids Walk & Pet Walk, Sept. 20, The Belvedere on the Waterfront
<http://www.kyaims.org/walk>

Walk to End Lupus Now,
Sept. 26, E.P. Tom Sawyer
State Park
<http://walktoendlupusnow.kintera.org>

Dare to Care Hunger Walk/5K, Sept. 27
http://daretocare.org/events/hunger_walk



National Kidney Foundation Walk, Sept. 27, Waterfront Park
<http://donate.kidney.org>

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Oct. 10, Louisville Slugger Field
<http://louisvilleky.gov/events/susan-g-komen-louisville-race-cure>

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis, Nov. 14, E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park
<http://jbr.org>

(Please note that the list above is not all inclusive. Check the Internet for additional walks in the community that may be of interest to you.)

Spotlight on Erika Stith DeSha

by Brenda D. Gunn, Women's Center Editorial Board Member

Note: There are probably a large number of UofL employees who began as a student and remained years after graduation. But Erika Stith DeSha is special because she was hired by me as a student all those years ago. Even then, I could tell she was not the normal student-out-of-high-school needing a job. She worked as hard, or harder, than any full-time staff person I knew. Her work ethic was like none I had ever seen for a young teen.

Tell me about your longevity at UofL, beginning with your student days up to now.

I actually came as a student to UofL in 1988, right out of high school. I worked as a work-study student at first, then I found a new job on campus. I was fortunate to

find one I liked, staying for the next four years working part-time and going to school at JCC. After learning the job so well and the different areas of the department, I applied when it became open as a full-time position. I was hired and the rest as they say is Herstory! I enjoyed what I did. I learned a lot about myself, about working, and I was able to go back to school at UofL part-time. After a year off due to a serious illness, I was able to come back and finish my

degree in Sociology. I also pursued my Master's degree in the Kent School of Social Work, and in 2009 proudly completed the requirements.

What is your current position?

My current position is Sr. Program Coordinator at the UofL Muhammad Ali Institute. I have a wide range of responsibilities including personnel/records, staffing, budgeting and all-around coordination of logistics of programs for the office and the student group, the Muhammad

Ai Scholars. I have traveled with the Scholars twice; in 2004, we traveled to London, Paris, on to Senegal, Africa. That was an amazing trip. It was my first time traveling abroad. Since then I have traveled with the Pan-African Studies department to Trinidad and Tobago and again with the scholars to Belize in 2011-12. As new goals for the Institute are implemented, I would love to have it become more viable to the mission and vision of





the university, and be a part of a transformation to take the Scholars program globally.

In the future, what do you hope to accomplish in your career?

In the future I would like to use my skills in the non-profit sector, just helping people with whatever services that are needed. I also see myself working with the Human Relations Commissions, tracking cases and reporting on injustices.

Tell us about your organization experiences.

I currently serve on the Staff

Senate and am a former member of the BPW (Business & Professional Women)/U of L organization when it existed. BPW/Louisville was so different from the Staff Senate as it was a good grassroots organization that did a lot of work in the community. The camaraderie of these professional women was something I miss now that I am older. I really could not have asked for a better foundation of work ethic(s) when I was younger and just starting out.

Are you in any other organizations related to your position and/or education?

I am a member of a couple of educational organizations, such as the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), and a former member of the Association of Social Workers Board (ASWB).

How has the role of women in the workplace changed, if any, since you began your career as a student assistant?

When I came to work at UofL 27 years ago, it really was a great place to work. You could work and go to school and work your way up into a higher position with better pay. The support received made you feel like you were getting somewhere and making a difference. The role

of the woman hasn't changed drastically. Unfortunately, it still holds true "it's not what you know but who you know. Personally, I find that we still have to work harder than our male counterparts for what we actually achieve.

Do you have any favorite professors?

Yes. I have a couple of favorite professors. Rev. Dr. Wanda Lott Collins taught Religion and Social Work; Dr. Sharon Moore taught Intro to Social Work and Diversity, and Dr. Shawn Schwaner, no longer at the university—who taught Criminology, Crime and Delinquency.

Reflections on Morocco and NCCWSL 2015

Below are reflections from students who travelled to Morocco and from those who attended the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Leadership Conference as mentioned in the Director's article on page 2.

Yomna Amer

My experience in Morocco is unforgettable. I learned a lot about the culture, migration to and from Morocco, the world, and even about myself through my exposure to another country abroad.

Mahogany Mayfield

This trip really enlightened me of the rich legacies and pieces of the history within the Motherland. The variety of landscapes, cultures, and identities we came across while traveling throughout the country reminded me of the wonders of the great continent: our stay in the desert, roaming through the Roman Ruins in Volubolis, the breathtaking architecture, and the crisp air of the gorge's breeze—all truly endless. Aside from the treat of learning about a new culture through

interactions, seeing the beauty of a different country makes you want to contribute to your own.

Courtney Albers

Attending the NCCWSL was a truly worthwhile experience. It allowed me to connect with like-minded individuals and learn about useful resources as well as gain knowledge of being an effective student leader and advocate. I will be able to absorb the knowledge I gained from the conference to be useful with my organizations.

Kaelin Black

This experience will help me in coming up with events and to raise awareness on the UofL campus. I have so much passion for gender issues and want to someday do something to better the lives of women all around the world.

Sexism does not only affect women; it also affects everyone from children to men to the elderly. This is an issue I hope our generation will be able to fix, and I hope to be a part of the solution.

Tiarra L.S. Clark

With 1,000 participants from 24 states and 3 countries, NCCWSL was the best place I could ever have been to witness the growth, positive support, and encouragement of female student leaders of the world.

Holly McTaggart

Overall, the conference was

empowering to say the least. It was so encouraging to be surrounded by so many fantastic women with such large goals. Thank you to AAUW and UofL Women's Center for sponsoring this chance for me to gain the knowledge I need to better lead women on campus, at work, and in my personal life.

You can read the student's full articles in the Fall 2015 edition of the Women Center Student Newsletter.



Tiarra L.S. Clark, Courtney Albers, and Kaelin Black outside the office of Congressman John Yarmuth in Washington this past May. The students, accompanied by Women's Center staff member, Phyllis M. Webb, also visited the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in Virginia.

UofL Senior Swimmer Kelsi Worrell far Exceeds Expectation

by Nancy Allison Worley, Associate Director, Sports Information

University of Louisville swimmer Kelsi Worrell has exploded on the national stage this year. Dubbed the new Madame Butterfly by both social media and the swim media, the rising senior is making major waves in the world of swimming.

Worrell is the 2015 NCAA Champion in the 100 and 200 butterfly, setting the American and NCAA record in the 100 butterfly. She earned All-American status in three individual events and three relays. She was also named the Atlantic Coast Conference Swimmer of the Year as the champion in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle, setting ACC records in both events at the ACC women's swimming and diving championships. She was a two-time ACC Swimmer of the Week, and last fall was

named to the US National Team for the 2015 Pan American Games held in Toronto this past July.

Worrell, a Honda Award Finalist, led the University of Louisville women's swimming and diving team to a record setting 6th place at the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving National Championships which was also held at the Greensboro Aquatic Center in Greensboro, N.C.

The Cardinals finished sixth with 197 points behind winner California (513), Georgia (452), Stanford (363), Texas A&M (231), and Virginia (229). Texas (164) was seventh followed by USC (163), Florida (129 and Indiana (126) to round out the top ten in the 46 team field.

"It is unbelievable what we were able to accomplish," said UofL head coach Arthur Albiero, who was named National Women's Swimming Coach of the Year.

"Our three-year progression is nothing short of impressive: 22nd in 2013, 15th in 2014, and now 6th. Our girls set the 'crazy' goals for the season. We were beaming with Cardinal Pride!"

The oldest of six children, Worrell has set her aim high as she embarks on her senior campaign with an eye towards Rio de Janeiro in 2016 for the Olympics.



Student Parent Association

by Tiarra L. S. Clark

The Student-Parent Association (S.P.A.), under the umbrella of the UofL Women's Center, is a recognized student organization that supports college students who have children. "The primary purposes of the organization are to promote the academic success of the university's student-parents, offer support services and resources to student-parents who are pursuing a college degree, and to help student-parents learn to balance their personal, social, academic and professional lives. Additional purposes, [sic] include, but

are not limited to ... offering information regarding campus and community resources that are beneficial to students, such as childcare, housing, academic; etc., and providing networking opportunities."1

Currently S.P.A. is working on the short-term initiative of developing programming that benefits student-parents and their children, such as the annual clothing drive co-sponsored by the Women's Center. S.P.A. is also establishing an online support system which provides materials and resources, as well as a discussion board

and an online community. One suggested mid-term initiative has been to form a childcare co-op for students who want to arrange temporary childcare while taking classes. S.P.A.'s long-term initiative is to design a themed community for student-parents and non-traditional students.

Some of the members' expressed goals were to have "happy and healthy" children who had "confidence, acceptance, and a high sense of self-worth," to have "happy careers" and be "self-sufficient leaders by example," and to have a campus with affordable,

accessible childcare, affordable housing options, and activities for children.

UofL student-parents are encouraged to take an active role in the group and attend upcoming meetings. For more information about the Association, meetings and planned events, contact the Women's Center at (502) 859 8976, or email Phyllis M. Webb, the group's advisor, at phyllis.webb@louisville.edu.

Source: <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/student-groups/student-parent-association>

you belong.

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The Women's Center News

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