



THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WOMEN'S CENTER and its student groups had a number of events this past academic year, including the International Women's Day, College Women's Leadership Conference; Human Trafficking Awareness Conference; Student Parent Association Picnic/workshops; and the Kentucky Women's Book Festival. Students are welcome to join one of the groups and committees. For more information, call the Women's Center at 852-8976 or stop by and visit us in the Administrative Annex Building, lower level.

Above: International Women's Day (IWD) took place this past March with an array of beautiful costumes and colors.

Welcome from Valerie M. Casey, Director of the University of Louisville Women's Center

This year the Women's Center celebrates its 25th anniversary on the UofL campus. To commemorate this exciting milestone we will celebrate throughout the academic year. Our kick-off was a special invitation event for student leaders along with a financial literacy presentation led by Class Act Federal Credit Union on the Friday before classes, and from there our programs get more exciting and more fun!

Look for information about the American Association of University Women UofL student group and the award-winning Women 4 Women (W4W) Student Board. These groups provide extraordinary opportunities for students with fantastic leadership and networking programs. If you are a student-parent, we offer some wonderful opportunities and support through our Student-Parent Visibility Day and our annual Angel Tree. Student veterans also have a place at the Women's

Center through our association with Athena Sisters.

Our student groups have the wonderful benefit of being inclusive and diverse. Students drive the focus of our groups and their interests range from leadership, activism and human trafficking to Zumba and health issues. There is something for everyone. Our excellent staff is here to help you get involved on campus and enhance your college experience. Come visit the Women's Center and give us a try.

We hope you will consider being part of this fantastic community by joining a student group and attending our programs. Whatever your interest, **"You Belong"** at the Women's Center and the Diversity Offices at the University of Louisville.

Looking forward to hearing from you!
Valerie

Nichols Professional Development Award

Lauren Evanovich and **Heidi Williams**, recipients of the 2015 Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award talk about their research and travel experiences. (See **Nadia Nelson** article in the Women's Center Newsletter, fall 2016 edition).

(Note: Graduate students interested in applying for the **2016 Award** can do so through Oct. 7. The award—up to \$500—is to support academic and professional enrichment beyond normal graduate program expenses. To download an application and criteria, visit: <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/resources/uofl-women-center-awards-and-scholarships>

Lauren Evanovich

The 2015 Nichols Award allowed me to be able to present my dissertation research at the 34th Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders in Kansas City, Mo., in Feb. 2016. Without the support of the University of Louisville Women's Center and the Nichols Award

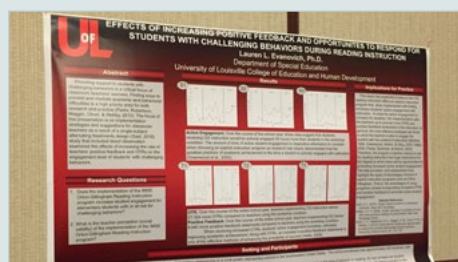


funding, I would not have been able to start the dissemination of research aimed to improve the quality of instruction and ultimate success of all students, specifically those who are traditionally underserved and included in Special Education.

The study presented evidence that Orton-Gillingham (OG) reading instruction offers an explicit instruction program that, when implemented with fidelity, increases students' active engagement with instruction. In general, the most effective strategies are those in which the teacher is able to engage the student with the content of instruction (Berliner, 1990; Greenwood, Horton, & Utley, 2002; Hattie, 2009; Pianta,

Stuhlman, & Hamre, 2002). Therefore, the program a teacher selects to use for reading instruction has huge implications for the degree to which there will be opportunities for promoting increased active student engagement. The data provided and extrapolated here highlight the types of advantages inherent in explicit instruction programs such as Orton-Gillingham. That is, the advantages of using programs include incorporating increased OTRs and positive feedback to promote active student engagement.

Note: Lauren Evanovich graduated from UofL this past May with a Ph.D. in Special Education and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Florida.



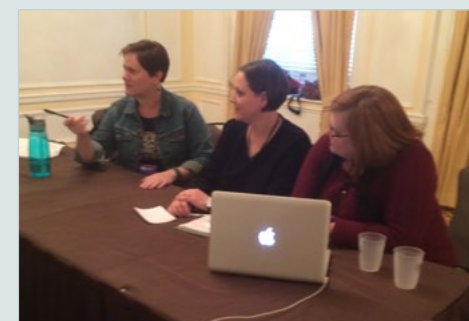
Lauren Evanovich's work on display at the Midwest Symposium for leadership in Behavioral Disorders Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Heidi Williams

As a graduate student in an applied sociology program, I was required to complete an internship with an organization that aligned well with my research efforts. As a family scholar, I chose an internship placement with a nonprofit organization (which wishes to be anonymous) that offers unilateral support to single parents as they pursue their baccalaureate degrees. As we know, low-income, disadvantaged families have felt the deleterious effects of welfare reform for the past two decades. In particular, they have faced unrelenting mandates to fulfill work requirements, which often led to the marginalization of their educational aspirations. One interviewee commented that before she participated in the studied organization she "didn't have an opportunity to be a mom". After engaging with the organization, she said she gets to be a mother and "pursue a career goal."

As a recipient of the M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award, I presented interview findings at the Sociologists for Women in Society 2016 winter meeting, held Feb. 4-7, in Memphis, Tennessee. Specifically, I served on

the panel "Do community programs make 'better' mothers?" with two of my colleagues, Cheryl Crane and Christa Moore. Through this presentation we were able to demonstrate that program evaluations are an effective way for 1) the researcher to obtain data and, 2) the organization to receive critical feedback and recommendations. I intend to include the Nichols Award as a contributor to any publication that emerges from this data. My thanks to the Women's Center for selecting me as a recipient of this award, as the funding allowed me to share single mothers' stories of hope and success.



Heidi (center) with other student panelists at the Sociologists for Women in Society Winter meeting in Memphis, TN.



UofL Olympians Win Gold

Congratulations to all the UofL Athletes who participated in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Angel McCoughtry, UofL Alumnae and current Atlanta Dream player, helped Team USA bring home the gold in Women's Basketball and UofL swimmer Kelsi Worrell won an Olympic gold medal as part of the United States' 4 x 100 medley relay. Worrell swam the butterfly leg during one of the preliminary heats. Worrell is the first Cardinal in school history to win an Olympic swimming medal of any color. She is a four-time NCAA Champion and Honda Cup winner.



Brigid Connelly & Rebecca Lepovsky, committee chairs and Women 4 Women Student Board members are pictured with Angela Renfro, founder of the Christy Love Foundation at the Human Trafficking Awareness Conference, held last February at UofL. The 2017 Human Trafficking Awareness Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 8. Call 852-8976 for additional details.

Student Reflections

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from our donors, the Women's Center was able to send three University of Louisville students to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) National Conference for College Women Leaders (NCCWSL) this past May at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. They were accompanied by Jamieca Jones, a Program Coordinator in the UofL Women's Center. The group also visited Congressman John Yarmuth's Office in Washington, D.C., prior to the conference.

Here are the students' comments about their experiences.

Hadley Hendrick, a junior Bioengineering major from Naperville, IL

I had an amazing time on the trip! I would definitely recommend this to be a program for continued sponsorship, not only for the wide array of topics that were covered at the conference itself, but also to provide the opportunity to expose students to different parts of the country. The speakers were all great and I loved the variety offered as far as breakout sessions. It gave students the opportunity to fit the conference to what would really benefit them.

Macie Owens, a sophomore Women & Gender Studies (WGST) major from Lexington, KY

I loved the conference and would definitely recommend it for next year's students! The Elect Her pre-conference (which we went

to because I was sponsored by AAUW) was very interesting and helped a lot with networking skills and gave me many tools for the future. This session was also geared towards women who were interested in entering politics. Women of Distinction awards was amazing. I loved hearing from all five women. Being in a room with so much love, knowledge, experience and empowerment was an incredible feeling.

The keynote speakers were very powerful. And the performances by each one were amazing. We had a West African inspired drumming group perform for one and an all-women a cappella group for the other.

At the end of the conference I felt like I could do anything!

Elizabeth Pena, a sophomore (major undecided) from Chicago, IL

I loved the experience at the conference! The travel arrangements went smoothly and I appreciate that the center sponsored the trip. The conference was informative and inspirational. All of the speakers were exceptional women and had very moving speeches. The topics of the conference were excellent. I liked all of the sessions I attended. There were a great variety of sessions, such as street harassment and how to negotiate salary, as well as ones pertaining to student activism. The tour was fun and our host was kind. He was knowledgeable and we were able to experience all of the capitol.



UofL students, Hadley Hendrick, Mackie Owens and Elizabeth Pena with Jamieca Jones, Women's Center staff (on left), at the Women of Distinction dinner held at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. The group attended the American Association of University Women College Women Leadership Conference this past June.

College Women's Leadership Conference

by Hadley Hendrick, junior Bioengineering major

This year I had the privilege of helping plan the third annual College Women's Leadership Conference. Through this experience I was able to meet wonderful women who shared my passion in empowering young women to succeed. While planning this conference to help college women achieve their dreams I realized how much the planning was also helping me grow as a leader even before the day of the conference. I was able to have incredible guidance, gain confidence, and leadership experience all within a few short months. The conference itself was incredible with our wonderful speakers, venue, and attendees. We had local speakers as well as Natika Washington from the Department of State from Washington, D.C. to speak about networking and guide a speed networking

session. The hands-on approach to this conference was well received and made the whole experience so much more beneficial and intimate. As much as everyone learned from the speakers, I learned the most from being on the committee and building skills to network, gain sponsorship, and secure venues. I am beyond pleased with how the conference turned out, and we only hope to continue to expand it to 2018. I can't wait to have the opportunity to be a part of it again.



Spotlight: Yvette Szabo

Yvette Szabo is a fourth year Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and is currently a psychology intern at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston. She received funding for her research project at UofL from the Women's Center and other sources.

My interests, broadly, are in stress and stress resilience. Psychological and traumatic stress are implicated in both physical and mental health problems, though not all persons are affected by stress to the same degree. My research interests are in factors that influence different responses to stress. In my studies, I have been especially struck by sex and gender disparities when examining risk and resiliency factors in stress. Women tend to be exposed to fewer events than men, but develop mental and physical health problems at a greater rate.

As a graduate student with interests in biological markers, grant funding is imperative in order to conduct research.

I am grateful to the UofL Women's Center for providing a sponsorship to my dissertation, contributing invaluable funding to purchase kits to test for immune proteins in saliva. Along with other grants, primarily internal grants from UofL, I have acquired the funding needed to complete my study aims. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to conduct research I am passionate about that will further our knowledge about women's health and prepare me for my future career.



A diverse group of women in attendance at the 10th annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival this past March. (Photo by Tom Fougousse, UofL photographer)



UofL Post-doc students enjoying their motivational mugs at one of the monthly post-doc lunches co-sponsored by the UofL Women's Center.

Janine Hogan, a senior education major, represented the UofL Women's Center Student Parent Association at the Cards Expo for incoming students this past summer.



Students at the College Women's Leadership Conference luncheon held at the University Club this past June.

you belong.