

Two Powerful Women Leaders Took the Stage in March



Jill Abramson

Jill Abramson, Executive Editor of the *New York Times* presented the 2013 Mullin Welch lecture March 19. Abramson, the first woman to hold that post at the *Times*, spoke primarily about her career path and about truth and trends in journalism.

At the core of her talk was the need for bold, investigative journalism in the midst of a time of transition. Her call for independent quality journalism reflected

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Donna Brazile

Donna Brazile, well known Democratic political strategist, kicked off the 2013 U-M Women of Color Task Force (WCTF) annual career conference with refreshing humor and insight. In her keynote address, Brazile shared her list of essential leadership traits including honesty, perseverance, compassion and flexibility—all

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CEW Center for the Education of Women University of Michigan

Spring 2013

CEW Receives Ford Foundation Grant to Lead Women's Economic Mobility Project

The Center for the Education of Women has embarked on *The Michigan Partners for Women's Economic Mobility*, an exciting new project funded largely by the Ford Foundation. This three-year project will be the foundation for ongoing CEW advocacy efforts in the years to come. The Ford Foundation has generously provided over \$380,000 to CEW towards developing this project.

CEW as convener

The project is a collaboration involving faculty and researchers from all three U-M campuses, as well as from other Michigan colleges, along with representatives of nonprofit organizations, advocates, and low-income women themselves. The primary role of CEW is that of convener of a joint effort by these partners to 1) identify policy and system barriers and supports to increasing the economic mobility of Michigan's low-income women of color, 2) to share what is learned, and 3) to sustain and support positive outcomes for the long term.

In conjunction with this project, and as part of CEW's 50th anniversary, the Center will also be hosting a May 2014 conference on economic security and mobility for women. This conference, funded as a "Michi-

gan Meeting" by the Rackham Graduate School, will include not only partners in the Michigan Partners Project but other state and national experts who can contribute to the discussion.

Partners are essential

In order to accomplish the goals of the project, the design brings a wide range of stakeholders together during the first year to develop the ongoing network and to determine the agenda for the next two years. Already a core group of partners has been involved in developing the funding request for the Ford Foundation and the intra-University proposal for support of the 2014 Michigan Meetings conference.

We anticipate our partners addressing these questions as they meet together:

- What are the greatest barriers to low-income women attempting to leave poverty?
- Can we identify policies or practices that help to support women in this goal?
- Which barriers emerge as the most imperative to address, or as the most likely to make a difference?

Because the urban centers of Detroit and Flint include high percentages of single women heading households, women of



Ebony Reddock heads new initiative

In order to quickly begin our project work, we have hired Ebony Reddock as the Coordinator of the Michigan Partners Project. Ebony's experience working in academia, as well as in nonprofits that address the issues of women and girls, will enable her to connect with the collaborating partners with an understanding of their concerns, approaches, and desired outcomes. In addition, Ebony has a deep knowledge of the issues facing low-income women, including her dissertation work on African-American paternal grandmothers caregiving for teen fathers. She expects to receive her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Michigan this spring.

If you would like to contact Ebony about this project, email her at esandusk@umich.edu

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from THE DIRECTOR

The long-term goal of this three-year project is two-fold: to build the foundation for CEW's advocacy thrust in the next decade and to initiate an on-going collaborative partnership that keeps women's economic mobility on Michigan's policy agenda.

I am thrilled to announce two major developments in CEW's advocacy work. The Ford Foundation has provided a \$380,000 grant to CEW for the *Michigan Partners for Economic Mobility Project*—a collective endeavor led by the Center. The purpose of the project is to identify the barriers that keep low-income women in Michigan from achieving economic security, and then to create a partnership between academic researchers, community activists and service providers, and low income women themselves to jointly address these barriers (*see full story page 1*). The long-term goal of this three-year project is two-fold: to build the foundation for CEW's advocacy thrust in the next decade and to initiate an on-going collaborative partnership that keeps women's economic mobility on Michigan's policy agenda.

In concert with the Michigan Partners Project and with the 50th anniversary of CEW, the

Center has also received financial and facilities support from U-M's Rackham Graduate School for a May 2014 conference *Economic Security and Mobility for Women*. The conference, one of Rackham's two Michigan Meetings selected annually to address issues of national scope, will offer a cross-disciplinary approach to the topic, including presentations by faculty from across the campus as well as national experts, opportunities for dialog, and artistic expressions.

While economic equity for women has long been a CEW concern, these initiatives mark an increase in our attention to women's

economic security. Why this focus? Across the United States women comprise a majority of people living in poverty. Nationally, 23% of Black women, 22% of Hispanic women and 9% of White women live below the poverty level. Multiple barriers compromise the ability of poor women to escape poverty. They often lack transportation, safe and affordable childcare can be especially difficult to find, their housing situation is insecure, and they often lack health care for themselves and their children. They are frequently the victims of domestic abuse. Their unemployment rates are high. When employed, they face a gender wage gap and occupational segregation.

In addition to these new endeavors, CEW staff are gearing up for our 50th anniversary in 2014. Planning has begun not only for the conference, but also for a kickoff event and a finale. (*See adjacent column below.*) We are also working with U-M's Bentley Library to publish a history of the Center. Look for additional information on events and dates in the coming months. We're looking forward to engaging all CEW friends and supporters in this celebration.

CEW's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2014

In 2014, CEW will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a year of programming that honors the past and looks to the future. Join us! We'll have more information in the Fall newsletter, but initial plans include:

Kickoff: February/March 2014 Working with community partners, CEW will launch the 50th with a high-profile public program featuring a woman (or women) leader (s) speaking to the role women play in building, improving, and sustaining their communities.

Women's Economic Security and Mobility Conference: Early May, 2014

A two and one-half day interdisciplinary, multi-sector conference will focus on combating barriers that low-income women face as they seek economic security and mobility. A keynote presentation will be open to the public.

Finale: October 17-18, 2014 Culminating the year, CEW will honor the achievements of CEW Scholarship recipients and the ripples they create in the larger world. A special Scholarship Awards Ceremony and a celebration banquet are planned.

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the *New York Times*' own realization that reporters and editors had made mistakes in their pre-Iraq War coverage concerning missing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, Abramson spoke of the new business models being developed by print news organizations. While optimistic about the future of independent journalism, she outlined the difficulties of moving into a digital age. She commented on how newspapers are addressing the mix of online and print availability for subscribers, the need to integrate media into news stories, and the advertis-

ing revenue challenges of online media. In addition, Abramson pointed out the disappearance of many local and regional media outlets which, she said, eliminates an important aspect of holding local governments accountable for their decisions.

The Mullin Welch Lecture Series, established in 1989 by Frances Daseler and Marjorie Jackson in memory of their sister Elizabeth Charlotte Mullin Welch, brings to campus lecturers who exemplify Elizabeth's characteristics: creativity, strength of character and expansive vision.

Donna Brazile (Continued from page 1)

of which, she noted, tend to be common characteristics among women leaders.

Calling attention to International Women's Day on March 8, Brazile also emphasized the importance of advancing the "gender agenda" in the face of current political attacks on key women's issues. Brazile, a proud native of New Orleans and Louisiana State University graduate, has a long list of accomplishments and honors. Among them, she is a noted political commentator, Vice Chair of the

Democratic National Committee, and founder of Brazile & Associates, a consulting and grassroots advocacy firm in DC. As Al Gore's 2000 campaign manager, she is also the first African American to run a presidential campaign.

WCTF conference attendees delighted in Brazile's engaging and thought-provoking remarks, a perfect kick-off to a rewarding day. CEW and the WCTF would like to thank TIAA-CREF for being the conference Platinum Plus sponsor.

If you are interested in viewing these lectures, they are periodically available on the Michigan TV channel (check <http://www.michiganchannel.org> for listings). You can also watch them on the YouTube Michigan Channel, Search YouTube by U-M and then the name Abramson or Brazile.

color, and women in poverty, the Michigan Partners Project will focus its attention first on those two areas. It is there that the partners will begin to address the needs identified in year one. In addition, we will expand the network by supporting graduate

The importance to our state cannot be overemphasized: the challenges that Michigan women and their families face when trying to become self-sufficient are as multifaceted as they are difficult.

student research, providing two local activists with sabbaticals so that they might advocate for policy regarding a specific issue, and bringing in additional local partners.

The results of the work conducted in the first two years will inform year three, which will focus on developing sample policies and practices for dissemination to similar groups across the state and beyond Michigan. At the same time, the Center will use its national networks to share both the project's collaborative model and generalizable research

findings with others.

At CEW, we consider this project to be just the beginning of an emerging and evolving statewide partnership. As we look beyond the next three years, we anticipate bringing the model to other metropolitan areas in Michigan and, ultimately, developing statewide recognition of and engagement with the difficulties low-income women have in achieving economic mobility.

The importance to our state cannot be overemphasized: the challenges that Michigan women and their families face when trying to become self-sufficient are as multifaceted as they are difficult. For example, almost 10% of Michigan women are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Although well-represented in Michigan's institutions of higher education, low-income women struggle to complete their degrees due to work and family obligations. The Michigan economy was among the hardest hit in the recession of recent years; our aim is to ensure that low-income women participate in and benefit from the current recovery.

CEW Welcomes Two New Leadership Council Members



Margaret Kephart and Tiffany Ford are new members of CEW's Leadership Council, serving the Center in an advisory capacity.

Margaret Kephart, Senior Vice President & Portfolio Manager at Retirement Income Solutions (RIS) in Ann Arbor, has worked collaboratively with CEW for several years. In her previous

tenure with TIAA-CREF, Kephart was instrumental in developing interactive retirement planning seminars focused specifically on women's retirement goals and women's career paths. She worked closely with CEW in piloting these sessions. We are fortunate to have another Council member with knowledge and interest in women's financial concerns, retirement, and the course of women's careers.



Tiffany Ford is President and CEO of the University of Michigan Credit Union, a \$495 million credit union with over 52,000 members from the University of Michigan and community. Ford became President and CEO of the University of Michigan Credit Union in October of 2011.

A Detroit native, Ford attended Regina High and received both her BA in Accounting and her MBA from Michigan State University. Over the years, CEW and the UMCU have partnered on financial education programs, and the addition of Ford as a Leadership Council member expands that relationship. With her understanding of financial education and her role as a visible leader in the local community, we anticipate that Ford will be a valuable contributor to the work of CEW.

Thank You

The Center is thankful for the many individuals, families and foundations that choose to support our work with financial contributions. Without these gifts, many lives would go untouched by the power of the Center's programs, services and support. The Center staff, CEW Leadership Council, and clients offer our heartfelt thanks. This Honor Roll reflects contributions received from January 2012 through March 15, 2013.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize if your name has been misspelled, omitted or incorrectly listed. Please notify Kristina Bee at 734.764.7271 or kbee@umich.edu so that we may correct our records.

Carol Hollenshead Award 2013

The Carol Hollenshead Award for Excellence in Promoting Equity and Social Change was presented at CEW's annual Mullin-Welch lecture on March 19th. Awards were given to Professor Carol Fierke, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and Carol Hutchins, Head Coach of the Women's Softball team. Awardees may be faculty, staff, or students whose sustained efforts have resulted in greater equity in regard to gender, race, class, age, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The Hollenshead Award was created to honor CEW's former director who has been a tireless advocate for access and equity. Under her leadership, CEW became an international model for campus-based women's centers. As chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Women's Issues, Hollenshead led the University to adopt many policies that continue to benefit members of the campus regardless of gender.

CEW thanks selection committee members Rebecca McGowan, former Regent of the University, Chrissi Rawak, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development, Jessica Greenfield, Masters of Social Work student, and Edie Lewis, Emerita Professor of Social Work and one of the inaugural winners of the Carol Hollenshead Award.

Carol Fierke

Since 1999, Fierke has led the Chemistry department through a rigorous evaluation and transformation process. Through the STRIDE committee, she educates faculty about "Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence." She increased transparency in the tenure and promotion process, and launched an enhanced mentoring structure that will be extended to all STEM disciplines in LS&A and Engineering. The climate in Chemistry now fosters inclusion and success for all its members. With a more diverse, interdisciplinary, and vibrant assortment of faculty, U-M Chemistry has moved into the top 10 of U.S. chemistry departments.

Carol Hutchins

Carol ("Hutch") Hutchins' commitment to gender equity in intercollegiate athletics began as a student-athlete at Michigan State University when she successfully sued MSU regents to demand equal rights for the women's sports programs. Throughout her 31 years coaching at U-M, she has fought to provide equal resources and experiences for her student-athletes. Her advocacy ensures that women have the scholarships, positive experiences, and educational opportunities to develop into incredible leaders. As the winningest coach in Michigan Athletics history, Hutch's leadership, spirit, and generosity have elevated the recognition of women in sports, within the Big 10 and beyond.



Evelyn Kennedy with CEW Director, Gloria Thomas

Kennedy Gift Enhances Community Counseling Endowment

Evelyn Kennedy graduated from the University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in zoology and botany in 1949, at a time when few other women did so. "There certainly were no women on the faculty when I was there," she explains.

Afterwards, Kennedy worked at a blood-bank lab on campus—before marrying and moving to Flint. She also became involved with one of the University's alumnae clubs, and from that association first learned about the Center for the Continuing Education of Women (now CEW).

From the beginning, Kennedy explains, she was impressed by the quiet diligence of the Center, "accomplishing a lot with a non-confrontational approach to women's rights." From that time until today, according to Kennedy, she has been committed to supporting women and their issues. "We still need to push. We're not there yet."

In the early 1990s, Kennedy began supporting CEW with annual gifts. During the last "Michigan Difference" Campaign, she wanted to do something special and, over a period of years, contributed \$75,000 to the Counseling and Programs Endowment at CEW.

Kennedy is supportive of all of CEW's work, and is a big fan of the bi-annual newsletter. She especially likes reading about studies done both here at the Center and elsewhere, on topics that she's not likely to learn about from other sources. "And I like the fact that young students get a chance to help conduct the research. They can't start at the top, so it's a fine way for them to learn."

It was from the Fall, 2011 newsletter that Kennedy learned of CEW's special need for Community Counseling funds. After consulting with her family, she decided to make another gift. Last fall, she contributed \$25,000 to CEW's Community Counseling Endowment. She says that it is essential to keep CEW's career and educational counseling open to any community member who needs them, and is especially pleased to support that service through endowment giving "so it will always be there."

We are grateful to Evelyn Kennedy and her family for their belief in, and generous support of, CEW's work.

“I had long been fascinated by psychology, especially related to performance anxiety, since I’ve always suffered from stage fright to some degree,” Julie explains. “But I didn’t know if and how I could make the switch from music to the social sciences.” And that’s when CEW came into her life.

Successful Scholar Credits CEW With Influence

Julie Jaffee Nagel, a former CEW Scholar, has just had published a book entitled *Melodies of the Mind: Connections between Psychoanalysis and Music*. Julie epitomizes the commitment, creativity and talent of all our scholars.

A classical pianist, Julie began her academic career with undergraduate and graduate degrees from The Juilliard School. “From childhood, I dreamed of being a classical performer,” she explains, “but my life has taken me in other, amazing directions.”

With her husband, U-M music professor Louis Nagel, Julie moved to Ann Arbor in 1969. She taught in the Ann Arbor public schools for two years before having a daughter and becoming a private music instructor. Along with Louis, she also performed in concerts, including at Interlochen Music Camp, where they both taught piano for 13 summers. At some point, however, Julie decided she wanted to do more. But what?

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to some degree,” Julie explains. “But I didn’t know if and how I could make the switch from music to the social sciences.” And that’s when CEW came into her life.

“I walked into the Center and met Jean Campbell and Myra Fabian. I cannot adequately express how

much they influenced me. They listened. They believed in me, helped me figure out what was right for me, and encouraged me to follow my dream. When I won

a CEW scholarship in 1981, the financial assistance was great—but the vote of confidence for my ambitions was even more meaningful.”

Julie eventually earned an MSW, an MA in psychology, and a Ph.D. in psychology and social work from the University of Michigan. She then became a psychoanalyst, studying for four years at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute. Today, Julie has her own practice. At her office near the U-M campus, she does assessment and evaluation as well as short- and long-term therapy. Julie also gives presentations on

stage fright, music and emotion, and career choice to teachers, students, and various other groups locally, nationally, and internationally.

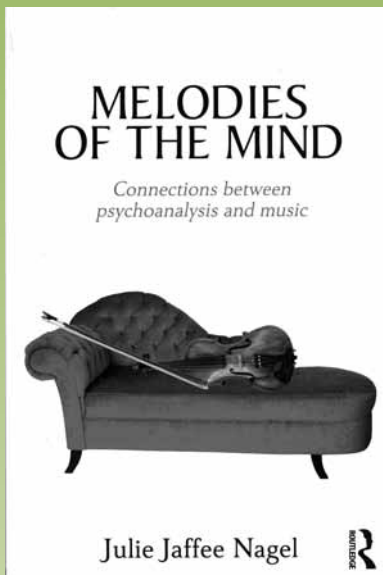
According to Julie, *Melodies of the Mind* is, in a sense, autobiographical, since it synthesizes her love for music and psychoanalysis. “There are amazing similarities between the two. Music and psychoanalytic theories and ideas both convey a language, one expressed aurally and the other verbally. Both adhere to specific rules of style, grammar and form as well as literal (manifest) and abstract (concealed) meanings.”

Melodies discusses these similarities. It celebrates the power of music to touch our emotions, especially when words fall short, and to help us reach a deeper understanding of ourselves. Julie uses the music itself as her data, presenting in-depth analyses of Bernstein’s *West Side Story* and Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf*, among other works, to point out the ways that music and psychoanalytic concepts enrich each other.

CEW is delighted to have played a role in Julie Jaffee Nagel’s amazing life journey. We congratulate her on her new book and encourage you to read more



Julie Jaffee Nagel



about her work. Copies of *Melodies of the Mind* are available on amazon.com (Kindle, paperback and hardback), at Routledge Press, and at Nicola’s Books in Ann Arbor.

Calling all former CEW scholars

Do you also have recent work that you want to share with CEW and other scholars? If you have recently published a book, or are working on an exhibition or performance you think would be of interest to other Scholars and the larger CEW community, please contact us! We may be able to feature some of your stories in future CEW newsletters.

Please e-mail a description of the work to Kristina Bee, Scholarship and Development Assistant: kbee@umich.edu

Connect with other scholars through LinkedIn

Another easy way to share is through the CEW Scholars LinkedIn group. To join:

1. Log in to your LinkedIn account.
2. Switch the search option to “Groups” and search for “University of Michigan CEW Scholars”.
3. Click the “Join Group” button.
4. Once you are approved, you can start discussions with the group and share what you are doing!

Please note: This LinkedIn group is only for former scholars; once we have confirmed that you received a scholarship you will be approved.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Recent Events at CEW



1. Margaret Ann (Ranny) Riecker celebrates with 2012 Margaret Dow Towlsey Scholars. CEW has awarded over 500 scholarships since Ranny's mother endowed this scholarship in 1990.

2. Colleen Sherman and Cathy Mizgerd at the Mullin Welch Jill Abramson lecture.

3. Theresa Serafimovski from TIAA-CREF presenting a financial workshop at the 2013 Women of Color Task Force (WCTF) conference.

4. At the Women of Color Task Force (WCTF) conference 2013

5. Current, founding and former Directors of CEW: Gloria Thomas, Jean Campbell and Carol Hollenshead at the 95th birthday celebration of Jean Campbell, CEW's founder.

6. CEW friends Philip Power and Marina von Neumann Whitman, at a special event celebrating Marina's recently published memoir, "The Martian's Daughter."

7. Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow, Rabia Belt, at the 2013 Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

8. Surprise guest and former CEW scholar, Sanja Savic-Berhamovic, with Molly Dobson, CEW supporter, at a luncheon to celebrate Molly's receiving a U-M Honorary Degree.

9. Donna Brazile with WCTF Coordinator Janice Reuben, at the WCTF conference.