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FOR RELEASE

Center Endows 2nd Chair to Study Violence Against Women

LEXINGTON, Ky. (June 11, 2008) – The [University of Kentucky Center for Research on Violence Against Women](#) and the [UK College of Medicine](#) announced today the selection of forensic psychologist Diane Follingstad as the center's first Women's Circle Endowed Chair of Study of Violence Against Women. Follingstad is an expert in psychology and the law, particularly in cases where an abused woman kills the perpetrator of her abuse. Follingstad's appointment will be in the [Department of Psychiatry](#), pending approval by the [UK Board of Trustees](#).

This endowed chair, the second of five being established by the center, is funded by a \$500,000 gift from the Women's Circle Endowment, a group of private donors, and a matching grant from the [Research Challenge Trust Fund](#). UK Provost Kumble R. Subbaswamy, Dr. Jay Perman, dean of the UK College of Medicine, and Carol E. Jordan, the center's director, will announce Follingstad's appointment at a banquet dinner at Keeneland on Wednesday evening.

At the dinner, the center also will unveil an endowed professorship and a graduate fellowship. Charles R. Carlson, professor and chairperson of the [Department of Psychology](#), will be the first to hold the Culton Endowed Professorship, funded by a gift from Robert and Anna Culton of Maitland, Fla. Danielle Duckett-Pritchard, a UK graduate student in sociology and a research assistant for the center, will be the first to receive the Mary Byron Graduate Fellowship, named in memory of a young Louisville woman murdered by a former boyfriend in 1993.

The dean's dinner kicks off a two-day national scientific meeting, which will feature presentations by a dozen nationally recognized scholars on topics involving mental health as it relates to violence against women. This is the third such meeting the center has hosted since its founding in 2003, and the proceedings are to be published in a national scientific journal.

Jordan said this week marks major milestones for the center on its path to national prominence.

"As we unveil a new endowed chair and professorship and host scholars from around the nation, we advance a maturing area of science, and we do that on behalf of women and children whose lives have been scarred by the crimes we are studying here," Jordan said.

Subbaswamy praised the work of the center as an "outstanding exemplar of the role of education in addressing a social, health and legal crisis that strips the quality of life from the citizens of our Commonwealth and of the world."

"The president and I share great pride that among the areas of excellence that bring UK national prominence is the way in which we focus scholarly attention to the study of violence against women and children," Subbaswamy said.

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