

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

**Greetings from the Director**

As we finish Academic Year 2015-2016, the WGSS Program has a lot to celebrate. Spring Semester 2016 marks the first time students at The University of Montana are graduating with B.A.s in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). Jasmine Talbert, Mackenzie Stiff, and Matthew Rodriguez are the first three UM students to receive the WGSS B.A. Jasmine is also a major in Psychology, and found time in her last year to complete the requirements for the WGSS major which complements her psychology research. Matt came to WGSS through his work in Communication Studies where he works on rhetorical analysis and gender. He plans to go to law school. Mack transferred to UM from Montana State University because UM offers a WGSS major, the only one in the state. Mack found a home at UM through WGSS and the UM Women's Resource Center.



**Jamie Boschee, WGSS Program Coordinator.**

The WGSS Program will say goodbye to Jamie Boschee this summer. Jamie has been the WGSS Program Coordinator since August 2011. Jamie came to WGSS as an alum of the program. For her undergraduate studies, she majored in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in WGSS and in Anthropology. Her dedication to our program mission combined with her organizational and customer service skills to make our office always inviting and helpful to students, faculty and staff. One of the running jokes during her employment with WGSS has been that she is always one (or two) steps ahead of the directors. Just this spring, I realized that I had not remembered to order diploma holders for our new major graduates. But, not to worry, Jamie had ordered them weeks earlier. In Fall 2016, she will matriculate at Rutgers University in New Jersey to pursue a Masters of Social Work. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her the best.

At a time when UM is facing a budget crisis, WGSS has been able to creatively expand its courses and program. Over the past two years, one of our required courses WGSS 263S Social and Political Perspectives on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (formerly known as Intro to WGS) has grown from a course offered once per year to 35 students to a course offered every term, including summer, to over 100 students per year. In Fall 2016, we will offer WGSS 391 LGBTQ Studies for the first time. That course is already full with students on the waiting list. As you will see in this newsletter, it has been a busy semester. If you would like to support our programs, students, and courses, visit our website and make a donation. Donations to WGSS directly help our students through scholarships and programming.

**-Elizabeth Hubble**

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## IOTA IOTA IOTA (TRIOTA)



This year Triota's fundraiser made over \$100. The group created and sold gender-neutral and varied Valentine's Day cards to the campus and community. Next year they hope to provide more designs and sell for the entire week of Valentine's Day. Keep your eyes peeled in February 2017!

For Women's History Month, Triota built and posted 40 signs around the oval depicting women from history (see photo to right). The women ranged from Vandana Shiva to Fannie Lou Hamer. The project is an easy way to engage students who are not enrolled in, nor will ever be enrolled in, courses that include information about women in history. There is a surprising dearth of coverage of this front, and we hope that by posting the photos and information in a common area, they might catch the eye of someone who would otherwise not be exposed. The goal is to inspire and encourage further research and interest in women's contributions to culture and society. The group hopes to continue the project in future years. (continued on page 5)



***Triota Co-Presidents, Claire Michelson and Aislinn Hillmon, sell gender-neutral and alternative Valentine's Day cards I the UC. The proceeds were used to host a student-faculty mixer in this April.***



***An example of the posters of less celebrated women posted around the oval for Women's History Month.***

**MEET OUR LOUISE GREENE AND ELIZABETH  
SMITH SPRING 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: MARI WOLVERTON**



Mari Wolverton, originally from Portland, Oregon, is a Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies major. Mari says that since she came out at age 14 she has "wanted to speak out against perceived inferiority. I wanted to have an equal voice to my straight friends and peers, and when that proved to be a battle, I knew I would never stop fighting for equality for all. Once that became apparent, there was no question I would major in WGSS."

In high school, Mari started Sentinel High Schools first successful Gay-Straight Alliance. The group faced a lot of censorship on behalf of the administration. Enraged by the homophobia and heteronormativity that was plaguing not only the students, but school leaders and parents as well, Mari refused to back down. Mari asked the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Involved to begin a conversation. Of that time Mari says, "The hurt I felt in high school fueled me away from being a nurse like my mom, and two of my sisters, and into what I know will be a lifelong passion for social justice." In the future, Mari would love to start a restaurant that empowers women of color and other marginalized communities, from folks who identify along the LGBTQ spectrum to homeless men and women, in order to create an environment which not only helps people live a sustainable life financially, but also environmentally, emotionally, professionally, and socially. Mari believes that it is "important for the places that nourish our bodies to also be placed that nourish our communities." When not studying, Mari loves to cook, bike, walk her blue heeler (Billie Jean), hike, skateboard and golf. Mari also plays in a band called Baby & Bukowski. You can find the music at [babyandbunkowski.bandcamp.com](http://babyandbunkowski.bandcamp.com).

Congratulations Mari!

*"I want people to know that Women's, Gender and Sexuality studies has done more for me to build my critical thinking skills, and make me fall in love with learning, than any field of study I have come across in my 17 years of schooling. I will always be a WGSS scholar, and forever a feminist."*

**-Mari Wolverton, WGSS Major**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

For just over four and half years I have watched the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program evolve. I witnessed a name change and the creation of a stand-alone major. I watched as our enrollment doubled, and as we persevered through budget cuts. Working for the program offered me the opportunity to help students through trying times, to watch them succeed and grow, and to develop relationships with many inspiring people. I had the pleasure of founding and advising Triota, the Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society. I had the opportunity to assist with the sexual assault prevention efforts of the university, and work alongside an amazing group of folks from across campus to improve our response to campus violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program for giving me an opportunity to work with talented faculty and students, and to gain knowledge and skills that I believe made it possible for me to move on to the next chapter in my life. I want to thank the Executive Committee for support and encouragement, and the directors I worked with over the years: Ione Crummy, Anya Jabour, and in particular, Beth Hubble. Beth has been extremely supportive in all my endeavors, and I consider her a mentor and a friend. It has been a pleasure and I wish the program, and all involved, the very best!

**- Jamie Boschee, WGSS Class of 2011**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016

**Lily Boshier**  
**Christina Bovinette**  
**Bronte Burnette**  
**Alicia Kelly**  
**Madeline Pearson**

**Jan Roddy**  
**Matthew Rodriguez**  
**Jasmine Talbert**  
**Kenzie Nash**  
**Mackenzie Stiff**



**James Warwood**



**Two of our first three WGSS Major graduates, Jasmine Talbert and Matthew Rodriguez with Director Beth Hubble.**



**One of our first three WGSS Major graduates, Mackenzie Stiff with Director Beth Hubble.**

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Professor Anya Jabour** taught a MOLLI class based on the PBS miniseries "Mercy Street," for which she served as historical consultant. The show, which drew more than 5 million viewers, has been renewed for a second season. She also published "Sophonisba Breckinridge (1866-1948): Homegrown Heroine," in *Kentucky Women: Their Lives and Times*, ed. By Melissa A. McEuen and Thomas H. Appleton, Jr. (University of Georgia Press, 2015), 140-167. She gave the keynote presentation, "The Making of a Southern Feminist: Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge," at the annual meeting of the Southern Association for Women Historians, November 14, 2015, Little Rock, Arkansas. She also gave community lectures on "Montana Women Making History" in Kalispell, Lolo, Drummond, and Missoula and was a participant in the Community Lecture Series at UM, giving a lecture, "Making Meaning from Memories: Autobiography of an Activist" on February 17, 2016.

**Professor Bryan Cochran** is on the Mental Health and Research Advisory Boards of the Trevor Project, which provides crisis services 24 hours/day, nationwide, to LGBTQ individuals through telephone, text, and chat. He recently published Flentje, A., Bacca, C.L., & Cochran, B.N. (2015). Missing data in substance abuse research? Researchers' reporting practices of sexual orientation and gender identity. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 147, 280-284 and Livingston, N.A., Heck, N.C., Flentje, A.F., Gleason, H., Oost, K.M., & Cochran, B.N. (2015). Sexual minority stress and suicide risk: Identifying resilience through personality profile analysis. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 2, 321-328.

## CAPSTONE CORNER

Every spring the graduating seniors in WGSS (majors and minors) come together to create their own class as the “capstone” on their undergraduate degrees. This spring was the first time the course included students majoring in WGSS. For the first half of the semester, the students proposed and organized their own topics and discussions. As always, the students amazed with their insightful and challenging readings. Over the course of the first half of the semester, we examined Women’s Health and Violence; LGBTIQ+ Health and Sexual Education; and Pop Culture, Identity, and Relationships.

The students used those themes to develop two amazing projects during the second half of the semester. Group One developed a comprehensive sexual education curriculum that expanded the traditional notions of sex-ed to include what it should truly be: Healthy Relationships from Kindergarten through High School and beyond. This group included Jasmine Talbert, Kenzie Nash, Alicia Kelly, Cass Stoltzfus, and Sammi Thomas. Kenzie drew on her psychology background to propose sensitive ways to introduce children to issues of gender-based violence. Jasmine proposed engaging and age-appropriate ways to introduce kids to LGBTIQ+ related issues. Alicia expanded work she has done in other classes on the pathologization of teen pregnancy. Sammy argued for the importance of media literacy and consent related discussions in sex ed curricula. Cass worked to contact local schools, and plans to continue this work next year as an independent study to bring comprehensive sex ed to Missoula, and continue the great work they started for the whole community.  
(continued on page 7)

## IOTA, IOTA, IOTA (TRIOTA) CONTINUED

The first annual Triota Mixer was held on April 20. Several faculty, students and community members attended to talk with students about research opportunities, employment in the field and to provide advice about further education. The mixer will be held each spring in hopes of providing students with a way to engage with faculty and supporters they otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet. We also hope it will bring interested students from all departments over to our neck of the woods to check out WGSS! Are you interested in getting involved? Triota is always accepting applications. Please take a look at our constitution and bylaws and fill out an application here: <http://hs.umt.edu/wgss/triota/default.php>



*Students, faculty and local supporters mingle during the first annual Triota Mixer this April.*

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



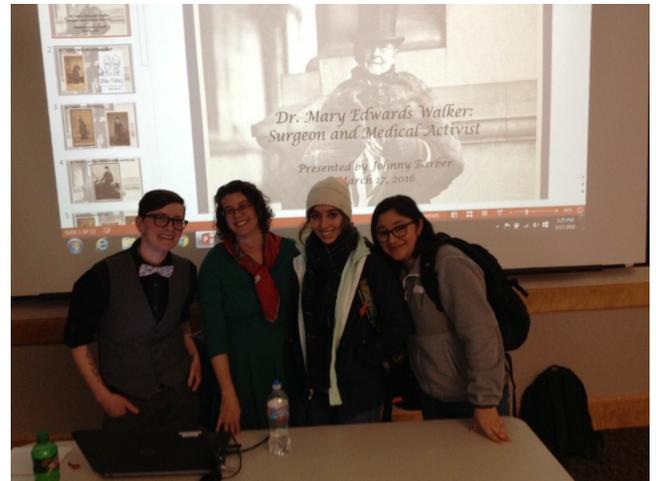
***An example of the posters of less celebrated women posted around the oval for Women's History Month.***

Anya Jabour, professor of History and former WGSS co-director, and Johnny Barber, graduate student in History, presented "Women and Medicine during the Civil War Era". Anya Jabour is a consultant for PBS's hit series "Mercy Street" which focuses on a Civil War hospital in Virginia. Johnny Barber's research on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Civil War Surgeon, has garnered a good deal of attention over the last year from both presentations and exhibits. Winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War, Dr. Walker is a little known figure from feminist history whose story needs to be told, and Johnny is filling that gap.



***Professor Anita Bernstein, courtesy of Brooklyn Law School.***

To kick off Women's History Month 2016, Triota, the Women's Studies Honors Society, posted photos of lesser known women from history around the oval. (See photo to the right). The goal was to inspire and encourage further research and interest in women's contributions to culture and society. The group hopes to continue the project in future years. Check out page 2 for more information about Triota, photos and how to get involved.



***Johnny Barber, Anya Jabour and attendees at the "Women and Medicine during the Civil War Era" talk.***

Finally, we were fortunate to have the ability to bring Anita Bernstein, Professor of Law from Brooklyn Law School, to UM for two presentations. Anita presented "How Online Abuse and Harassment Diminish Free Speech" on March 24 at the Mansfield Library. Her presentation cogently explored how the rise of "internet trolling" and internet hate speech functions not to provide examples of free speech but rather to stifle the free speech of the groups being attacked. She cited numerous examples of bloggers who chose to stop posting because of the hate speech and threats they received, therefore diminishing free speech.

## CAPSTONE CORNER CONTINUED



**"Sappho First Wave " by Riley Jean Graham, a work submitted to *Some Exclusions Apply*\***.

Group Two also provided a legacy for WGSS by developing an online journal dedicated to WGSS topics. This group included Charley Bromley, Matt Rodriguez, Mack Stiff, Shelby Stormer, and Bronte Burnette. Titled *Some Exclusions Apply*\*, the journal "is dedicated to publishing the experiences of individuals regardless of gender, sex, orientation, race, age, ability, appearance, or education by celebrating creativity in the face of adversity; a safe place for upholding the standards of collegiate level art." They sent out a request for submissions, and received a great response. Visit the website here: <http://someexclusionsapply.weebly.com/>. Categories include Academic Works, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and Visual Art. The journal will continue through the auspices of WGSS and the WGSS Honors Society, Triota. The journal provides a

venue for WGSS students and others to share their work in

*some*  
**EXCLUSIONS**  
*apply\**

an inclusive space. For example, Riley Jean Graham, a WGSS Junior, submitted an art series she produced in LSH 391 Sappho Through the Ages in Fall 2015. Featured here is "Sappho First Wave."

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

**Professor Clary Loisel** Professor Clary Loisel (MCLL-Spanish) taught a new 391 WGSS course "Feminism in Latin American Film and Literature" during Wintersession and a 432 Latin American literature and film course (in Spanish) "Between Inequality and Hope" (spring 2016), which concentrated on poverty and its effects in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the US at large, and the Missoula community. In scholarship, Professor Loisel finished the draft (in Portuguese) of his manuscript *Ordem e Progresso (Order and Progress)* on Brazilian history. He also sent an article on the Argentine novel *Sin Rumbo (Without Direction)* to the journal *Sieteculebras* for possible publication. In service, Professor Loisel assumed leadership as Spanish Section Head and Director of Latin American Studies. He also began recruiting for his faculty-led study abroad program to Oaxaca, Mexico for spring 2017. In February, he presented "How to Live to be 100" to students in the Global Leadership Initiative, and in March as part of Foreign Language Day, he gave a presentation to a group of visiting high school students on the importance of studying abroad. In April, Professor Loisel invited Visiting Scholar, Dr. Robert Stone from the Naval Academy and specialist in (Spanish) "Golden Age Literature" to participate in classes and to give a public, scholarly presentation on María de Zayas, one of Spain's most important writers. Most recently, Professor Loisel was the recipient of the "Research Award" from WGSS for his book *Mexican Queer Theater*.

**Professor Sara Hayden** published Hundley, H. and Hayden, S., Eds. (2016), *Mediated Moms: Contemporary Challenges to the Motherhood Myth*. New York: Peter Lang; Hayden, S. (2015); *Maternal Crime in a Cathedral of Consumption*. In Anne Teresa Demo, Jennifer L. Borda, and Charlotte Krolokke (Eds.) *The Motherhood Business: Consumption, Communication & Privilege*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press; Hayden, S. (in press); *The Rhetorical Contexts of Maternity: Michelle Obama, Mom-in-Chief*. Women's Studies in Communication.

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In the 1970s, the University of Montana began offering courses for credit in Women's Studies. In the last decade, this focus has broadened to include study of the social and cultural construction of gender, sex, and sexualities. Women's, Gender and Sexualities studies encourages the production, discussion, and dissemination of knowledge about women's experiences, oppressions, and achievements, in Montana, the U.S., and the world. By fostering awareness of cultural and international diversity, as well as of the circulation of power and privilege mediated by race, class, age, ability, ethnicity and sexual orientation, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies encourages students to think critically and to envision justice for all peoples.