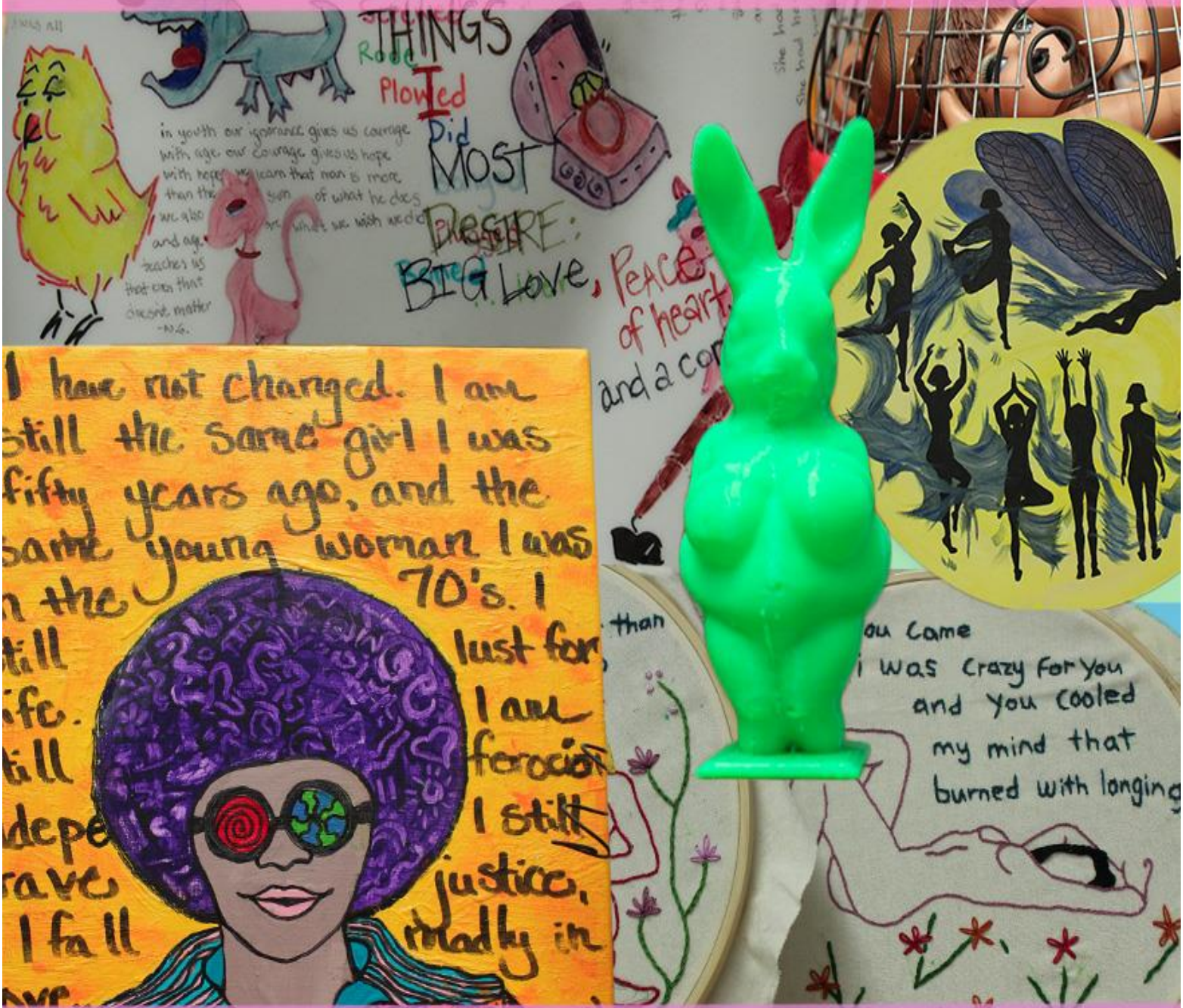
Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



Fall 2016 Newsletter

Table of Contents

- **Director's Message……..……..….……2**
- **Jess and Cali…….…..……3**
- **A Word from Our Office Interns…….……3**
- **Triota…….……...……..…4**
- **5th Annual Queergiving……...……..……4**
- **Fall 2016 Scholarship Winners……...……..5**
- **Featured WGSS Alum……..……5**
- **Featured Faculty……...……..6-7**
- **NWSAC 2016……...……...……8**
- **Features Organization……...……...…..9**
- **First LGBTQIA+ Studies Course……..……..…10**
- **Faculty Achievements (cont.)…….. ……..11**
- **Contact Us…….……...……11**

Director's Message

Autumn 2016 has witnessed a number of important changes in the UM Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. We are entering our second year of having a major in WGSS, and forty-six students have declared a major in WGSS, greatly exceeding our projections. Enrollments in core courses like WGSS 263S Social and Political Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality have also increased, bringing more and more students and perspectives to our program.

WGSS Director Beth Hubble with Cali, the service dog

As was reported in the Spring 2016 Newsletter, we lost our long-time Program Coordinator, Jamie Boschee, to graduate school this fall. She is now pursuing her Masters of Social Work at Rutgers University. Unfortunately, as part of the continued budget crisis at UM, WGSS's administrative support position was cut by 50% to 10 hours/week, and we now share our Program Coordinator with the Philosophy Department and the Liberal Studies Program. Thankfully, we were able to hire the amazing Jess Skipper (and Cali)—read about them in this Newsletter. In addition, our wonderful students stepped forward to keep our office doors open for more than 10 hours/week. In fact, the WGSS Office is open during all business hours this fall, with student interns performing some of the duties that the Program Coordinator used to do—again, see the article about their extraordinary support below.

In Summer 2016, we were incredibly fortunate to receive a sizeable donation from John and Janet Stone, long-time WGSS supporters whose previous donations fund our student scholarships (this semester's winners are featured below). Their donation has allowed us to continue providing the outreach and programming for which WGSS is known, including helping send Jenny Stoneking, the student director of the UM Women's Resource Center, to Montreal, Canada, for the 2016 National Women's Studies Association Conference (read about her trip below). The support and enthusiasm of our faculty, students, and donors is what keeps us going in these difficult budget and political times. Thanks so all of you!

--Beth Hubble, Director, WGSS

WGSS Office Welcomes New Program Coordinator

Khaleesi (aka Cali)

Students and faculty have gotten to know two new faces around the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality office this fall. Jessica Skipper and her one-and-a-half year old terrier mix Khalessi have been helping students all semester. Skipper grew up in a small agricultural community outside of Spokane before moving to Montana after her freshman year of college. She started at Montana State University before transferring to the University of Montana to finish her Bachelor's in Psychology with a research emphasis and a minor in Human and Family Development.

Jess and Cali snuggle in the Autumn sun.

Khalessi (or Cali for short) does not have a college degree herself, but she is a psychiatric service animal. Skipper trained Cali herself, starting when the pup was six months old. Skipper and Cali split their time between the WGSS, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies offices, and Cali has become a big hit with the different offices.

Skipper is looking forward to continuing her education. Her long-term goal is to get into interior design for healthcare facilities, specifically for dementia patients to help quality of life. This specific field, though growing in Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, is almost unheard of in the United States.

The WGSS program has been a great fit for Skipper and Cali. "I'm really glad to have this experience. It's a great community with the students and faculty. It's unlike any other department I've seen on campus, in a positive way of course." * Charley Macorn

Why is the WGSS department important to the WGSS Interns?

Aislinn Hillmon, Senior

"If I hadn't found this department, I don't think I would still be at U of M. I have found such a home in this department, line of study, and group of people."

"The WGSS department really helped me understand myself and the world around me. It has made me a much better person and much more engaged with my community. I want to give back to those who might need the help I needed when I first came to it."

Charley Macorn, Senior

Jonathan Eastwood, Junior

"It's my major and I like to give back to the department by interning. Plus, I really enjoy the people in and around the office. That makes it easy to commit to interning."

Check Out What Triota Is Doing!

Barbie Game at Mixer 1

Triota: Love Your Body Day

Coloring Game at Mixer 2

Triota is the National Women's Studies Honor Society dedicated to volunteering, advocacy, and activism efforts to promote the feminist values of Women's Studies. Under the guidance of former WGSS Program Coordinator, Jamie Boschee, WGSS started their chapter of this national organization in 2015. Now, in their second year of existence, Triota has already made a difference on our campus, they hosted the hugely successful Fall Mixer pictured above which featured Twister, The Barbie Board Game, and Feminist/Queer Self-Care Coloring Pages. In November, they also had their first Problematic Bingo Movie Night at the Roxy Theater, Plans are currently underway to sell their massively popular Inclusive Valentine's Cards, to decorate the Oval with posters of historical women for Women's History Month, and hopefully host a few more movie nights and mixers!

Mason and Dustin at the 5th Queergiving dinner

The 5th Annual Queergiving

Many members of the LGBTIQ+ community find themselves without a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner. Mason O'Kiernan, UM student and current president of the UM Lambda Alliance, came up with the idea of hosting a Queergiving Dinner in Missoula six years ago to address this sad fact. This year's dinner took place at Burn's Street Bistro, and was supported by the WGSS Program and Lambda, in addition to local businesses that donated items for the raffle and food for the dinner. This event continues to grow and welcome more and more people every year. Contact us if you'd like to know more.

Huge thanks to Betty's Divine, Big Dipper Ice Cream, Big Sky Brewing, Great Burn Brewery, Jakers Bar and Grill, Clyde Coffee, Fact and Fiction, Five on Black, Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, Montana Bookstore, Hide & Sole, Lake Missoula Tea, A Carousel for Missoula, Carmike Cinemas, Imagine Nation Brewing, Ruby's Inn, and Bernice's Bakery

Fall 2016 Louise Greene/Elizabeth Smith Scholarship Winners

Undergraduate Scholarship Winner: Jennifer Stoneking

Jenny Stoneking is the Fall 2016 recipient of the Louise Greene/Elizabeth Smith Undergraduate Scholarship for Excellence in Activism, Jenny is the student director of the UM Women's Resource Center and the vice-president of Triota, the UM Chapter of the National Women's Studies Honors Society. Her activism informs her future plans of working in campus women's leadership.

Graduate Scholarship Winner: Gris Jardon

Cris Jardon is a graduate student pursuing a master's in literature with a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies after majoring in WGSS and English as an undergrad at UM, They are entering their final semester of their master's program. Their graduate research focuses on the representation of gender in medieval literature, especially founded in a queer theory perspective. After completing their current master's program, Cris plans to pursue a Ph.D. so that they may become a professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This field is one they are very passionate about both academically and personally given their identity as a transgender person. In addition to their academic and activist work related to gender and LGBTQ+ issues, Cris loves animals and spends most of their free time playing with their own dogs and cat or volunteering at the Missoula Humane Society training and socializing homeless animals.

Featured WGSS Alum: Shelby Duncan

Blue Mountain Clinic Abortion Counselor

Shelby Duncan graduated from UM in 2011 with a degree in English and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies (in the days before our major). After graduating, Shelby naturally gravitated towards local Missoula feminist organizations. She began volunteering at the Missoula YWCA, and through that work she learned that Blue Mountain Clinic was looking for an abortion counselor. Blue Mountain Clinic is Missoula's independent health care clinic, providing comprehensive, inclusive, feminist health care for our community. At BMC, Shelby found an organization where she could do feminist work within a pro-choice organization. She says that the best thing about her job is contributing in a meaningful way to our community by helping and empowering women who come to BMC for abortions. Abortion counselors are advocates for women seeking abortions. They are not health-care providers, but are solely there to explain the process and stay with the patients during their time at the clinic—a unique service that demonstrates Blue Mountain Clinics' focus on patient care. BMC Abortion Counselors are trained to provide compassionate care for patients who may be in distress, and to tailor each experience because each patient is different, and "you have to meet people where they are." Shelby loves working at BMC because of the open, supportive environment, the amazing co-workers, and using her WGSS background.

Shelby Duncan and her cat pose for a picture in the autumn afternoon.

Dr. Anya Jabour Named Montana University System Regents Professor!

Former WGSS Co-director and History Professor Anya Jabour and the Montana University System Board of Regents

On November 17th, 2016, Professor Anya Jabour (longtime WGSS Co-Director) was unanimously named Regents Professor of History by the Montana University System Board of Regents. She is only the second woman from UM to receive this honor.

Anya and Beth

From the Press Release:

"Regents Professor is the top rank awarded to faculty members in the Montana University System. The Regents Professor title was established in 1991, and the full UM list of those who have received the honor is online at UM Regents Professors.

Jabour, who specializes in U.S. women's history, has been a professor in the History Department at UM for over twenty years, having taught a variety of courses in the History Department, the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, the Global Leadership Initiative, and the MOLLI Program. She has authored three books, *Marriage in the Early Scarlett's Sisters,* and *Topsy-Turvy,* and has edited a collection on *Major Problems in the History of American Families and Children* and another on *Family Values in the Old South*, and has published numerous articles and essays. She is currently working on a biography of educator and reformer Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge (1866-1948), for which she received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 2013, she was named the University of Montana's Distinguished Scholar. She has also received the Helen and Winston Cox Award for Excellence in Teaching (2001), the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award (2014), and the George M. Dennison Presidential Award for Distinguished Accomplishment (2014). She also serves as a historical consultant the PBS Civil War-era miniseries, "Mercy Street," which returns for Its second season in late January 2017.

(The rest of this article is continued on page 7)

In addition to her teaching and research, Jabour is known among students to be a dedicated instructor, advisor, and mentor. She advises graduate students in all periods of U.S. history whose interests intersect with her specialties in gender, sexuality, race, and reform. Her current and former graduate students work on topics such as marriage and divorce in the Old South, courtship and family life in the Victorian West, prostitution policies in the Progressive Era, and African American women's role in the Civil Rights Movement."

Faculty Achievements Fall 2016

Professor Cochran colors feminist coloring pages at the Fall WGSS/ Triota Mixer with Sociology Professor Teresa Sobiesxczyk.

Professor Bryan Cochran (Psychology)

Bryan serves on the Research Advisory Committee for The Trevor Project. The Trevor Project is an American non-profit organization founded in 1993 focused on suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning and other queer youth.

Professor Kathy Kuipers (Sociology)

Kathy was elected Vice President of the Pacific Sociological Association.

Professor Sara Hayden (Communication Studies)

Sara was on faculty exchange at University College Cork, Cork, Ireland Fall 2016. While there, she gave a talk to the Women's Studies program titled "The Rhetoric of the Abortion Debate in the US and Ireland."

- Hundley, H. and Hayden, S. (Eds). (2016). Mediated Moms: Contemporary Challenges to the Motherhood Myth. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.
- Hayden, S. (2016). The Racialized Rhetorical Contexts of Maternity: Michelle Obama, Mom-in-Chief. Women's Studies in Communication.
- Hayden, S. (29 November, 2016), America Says Goodbye to Michelle Obama, Mom-in-Chief, The Conversation. This essay has been published in 17 outlets including Salon.com and as of 12.7.16 has more than 22,000 reads.
- Hayden, S. (2015). '"Maternal Crime in a Cathedral of Consumption: Child Endangerment at the Gallatin Valley Mall/ In Jennifer L. Borda, J. L, Demo, A. T., and Krolakke, C. H. (Eds.) The Motherhood Business: Consumption, Communication & Privilege (pp. 175-196). University of Alabama Press.

(You can read about more Faculty Achievements on Page 11)

Traveling to the 2016 National Women's Studies Association Conference: Jenny Stoneking

Attending the National Women's Studies Association's annual conference of 2016 in Montreal Quebec was a once in a lifetime opportunity. By participating in this conference, I was able to learn of, and be directed towards, the nation's latest paths in feminist scholarship. It was very beneficial for me to be in a space that knew the importance of gender studies in academia, and contribute my effort towards an Association that encourages success through the implementation of events, services provided, and funding available to both aspiring and professional scholars.

Jenny Stoneking ready to head to a day of workshops and lectures at the NWSA 2016 conference.

Because of the generosity from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, The Stone's donation, ASUM, as well as the College of Humanities and Sciences, I was able to attend the annual Pre-Conference that was entirely dedicated to Women's Centers. My participation was an excellent way for me to network with other Women's Center administrators, as well as listen to successful strategies in promoting and advertising. For the rest of my time spent abroad, I attended the NWSA's General Conference that was themed Decoloniality.

One of my favorite lectures had a main focus of women's access to abortion within the United States, which studied the harmful rhetoric in written legislation provided by pro-life activists. By learning from poster presentations, I was inspired to conduct my own independent research that I will be submitting in February for the NWSA's approval to present at their 2017 Conference. My hope is to conduct a study that can further help me in regards to fundraising for the Women's Resource Center in a purple state.

All in all, being surrounded by 1,700 other feminists during election week was extremely empowering and I am excited to share my new knowledge throughout my work this year at the University of Montana and beyond.

*** Jenny Stoneking, UM Women's Resource Center, Student Director**

To learn more about the NWSAC, check out their website: http://www.nwsa.org/

Featured Organization: African American Studies Program

The University of Montana's African American Studies Program is the third oldest AAST Program in the United States, founded in 1968 by former UM Professor Ulysses Doss. As reported by AAST and WGSS student Charley Macorn in an article for the Missoula Independent:

Ulysses Doss felt lost and burnt out following the 1968 assassination of his friend and fellow civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, Doss, also a faith-based, grassroots organizer, decided he needed to get away from his work in Chicago and he took a trip to visit an acquaintance in Missoula. His friend, who worked as campus minister, showed Doss around. UM, like many campuses during such a volatile time, was undergoing its own struggle with civil rights. Weeks before Doss' visit, students had marched into Main Hall and demanded UM hire a black faculty member. On his visit, Doss was introduced to then-President Robert Pantzer, who offered him a job either coaching football or teaching humanities.

Professor Tobin Miller Sheaer in front of his office door.

Doss took the teaching job and, once settled in his new offices, hung a sign on the door identifying himself as the Director of Black Studies.

This fall, AAST began offering a major in African American Studies, expanding the interdisciplinary and social justice degree offerings at UM.

AAST Director, Professor Tobin Miller Shearer, is a dedicated member of the WGSS affiliated faculty which has resulted in increased collaboration in intersectional curricula and programming at UM. In addition, the WGSS faculty voted to publicly declare their support for Professor Shearer who was put on a professor watch list this fall. Turning Point USA, the conservative group behind the list states, "students, parents, and alumni deserve to know the specific incidents and names of professors that advance a radical agenda in lecture halls." WGSS fully supports Shearer's free speech and academic freedom and opposes watch lists that attempt to intimidate and threaten academics.

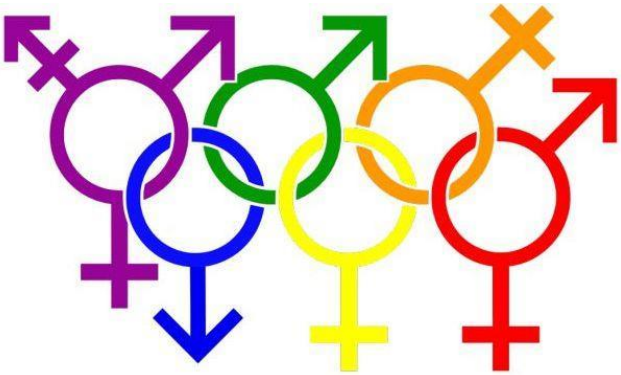
As reported on Montana NPR, Shearer said, "The reason I'm on that list is because I'm talking about ideas of racism and white privilege that have been documented and thoroughly vetted for decades now. The makers of that list are suggesting that I shouldn't talk about that, because it's somehow uncomfortable."

Professor Miller Sheaer has declared his office space safe for all.

AAST Mission Statement:

African-American Studies at the University of Montana prepares students to speak, write, and think critically about social, cultural, and political dynamics within the African-American community. Students who take the minor are equipped for any job that demands a keen awareness of this country's racial fracture lines. Through excellent teaching and creative scholarship, faculty guide students to a deep understanding of the contributions, movements, and identities among African Americans in the U.S. and the world.

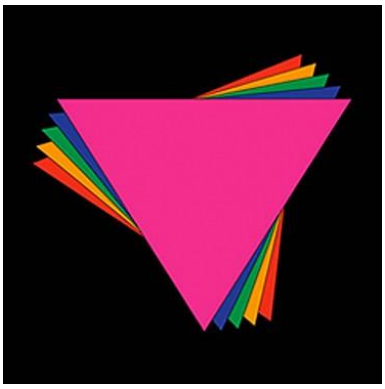
First LGBTQIA+ Studies Course at the U of M



This semester, students had the opportunity to take a Special Topics WGSS course titled "LGBTQIA Studies". This was the first time it was offered at the University of Montana and, hopefully, will not be the last. The professors who taught the course were Hillary Gleason and Kathryn Oost. Gleason and Oost are both Doctoral Students in the University of Montana's Clinical Psychology program. Both considered teaching a course like this as a "dream opportunity." "We both love to teach and both of us have backgrounds in Queer Theory and Feminist Theory," said Gleason. "Teaching this course gave us an opportunity to step outside of the Psychology Department and take on a different viewpoint, Oost wanted to teach this course because they "wanted to work to develop and explore an interdisciplinary course that explored several different issues that relate to queer and trans identities and experiences." Oost has utilized their work as a doctoral student to examine how gender expression and gender nonconformity predict experiences with victimization across different sexual orientations. Their dissertation examines the validity of psychological assessment procedures for use with transgender populations, Gleason has likewise used her experience as a doctoral student to assist queer individuals.

"I study mental health providers' competencies for working with sexual and gender minority individuals," she said. "I wanted to teach this class to emphasize the fact that our lived experiences are necessary building blocks for any academic study of LGBTQIA experiences."

Students in the course learned not only the basics of queer theory, but also how it can be applied to areas outside of a queer studies course, As Gleason says, "Queer theory is made for an academic audience even though it describes our lives. Therefore, it is not accessible, Queer theory happens in conversations, it doesn't happen from textbooks."



The course covered intersectional identities, important issues facing gender and sexual minorities, the stigmas face by those minorities, and how to break them apart. "I think Queer Theory gets you to ask "Why" and not settling for the answer 'Just Because'," said Gleason. The course also emphasized the statement "the personal is political" by creating an environment in which students could contribute to conversations with their own personal experiences.

Hopefully, this is only the beginning for Queer Theory and LGBTQIA+ Studies courses at the University of Montana, *Riley Jean Graham

Faculty Achievements Fall 2016 (cont.)

Professor Tobin Miller Shearer (History and African American Studies)

Academic articles:

- "A Principled Pedagogy for Religious Educators," Religious Education (at press), (coauthored with David Evans)
- "Mennonites," Oxford Bibliographies in *Atlantic History*, www.oxfordbibliographies.com, (November 2016).

Public Lectures:

- "An Intimate Demand: Strangeness, Respectability and Intimacy in the Works of Present Tense/ MMAC, October 21, 2016, panel member
- "Why Black Lives Matter in Montana," Montana Human Rights Network, Kalispell, MT, October 22, 2016

Conference presentations:

- "Dislocation, Relocation, Cultivation: Pedagogical Strategies for Reaching White Mennonites/ Mennonite Scholars and Friends, American Academy of Religion, November 13, 2016

Professor Anya Jabour (History)

Jabour is on sabbatical completing a book manuscript, "Forgotten Feminist: Sophonisba Breckinridge and Women's Activism in Modern America," under contract with the University of Illinois Press, and consulting on Season Two of the PBS Civil War miniseries, "Mercy Street," airing in January 2017,

She recently published

- "Uphill All the Way: Grace Abbott and Women's Work in Building the Welfare State," (essay review of John Sorensen, *A Sister's Memories: The Life and Work of Grace Abbott from the Writings of Her Sister, Edith Abbott* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), Social Service Review, Vo I, 90, No, 3 (September 2016), 551-561.

Jabour gave a presentation

- *"We Have Justified Our Presence Here: Maggie Smith Hathaway, Social Feminism, and State Politics"* at the Montana History Conference on September 23, 2016 in Hamilton, Montana.

Want to learn more about WGSS?

Come by our office in Liberal Arts 138A or call us at (406) 243-2584. You can also email our Director, Beth Hubble, at elizabeth.hubble@umontana.edu.

Also, don't forget to check us out on Facebook and Twitter (@umwgsprogram) for upcoming events and happenings!