



## WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Greetings from the Director

The past year has witnessed many changes in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program. This Autumn Semester 2015 marks our first semester with a dedicated major in WGSS. To date, we have signed up seventeen students,

surpassing our projections. In addition, I am directing the program on my own thanks to the support of the WGSS affiliated faculty and the College of Humanities and Sciences. We worked with the H&S Dean's Office to create a permanent position for a WGSS Director/Instructor to oversee the WGSS Program and teach the core courses in WGSS. I would like to thank the WGSS Executive Committee and Jamie Boschee for facilitating this opportunity, and I'd especially like to thank Bryan Cochran, Ione Crummy, and Anya Jabour who all served as co-director with me over the past several years.

# Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

The University of Montana has received consistent media coverage over the past several years. That coverage continued this fall with news of declining enrollments at UM. The WGSS Program stands in solidarity with our affiliated programs facing challenges, and we are working with all departments and programs in the College of Humanities and Sciences to respond to these challenges.

WGSS courses, in fact, had record enrollments this fall. The enrollment in one of our core courses, WGSS 263S "Social and Political Perspectives on Women, Men, and Sexuality" (formerly known as "Intro to WGSS") has exploded this year. During Autumn 2015, the course was full with sixty students enrolled—the most students to ever take this class in one semester. We opened another section for Spring 2016 (taught by Hillary Gleason, a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology, and a former WGSS graduate scholarship winner)—and that section is already full with students on the waiting list.

Anya Jabour and I team-taught our Global Leadership Initiative first-year seminar again this semester. Titled "Women's Rights and Women's Roles around the World," this course exposes WGSS faculty and topics to first-year students, many of whom have declared majors or minors in WGSS as a result of this course, similar to our experience when we taught the course for the first time in Autumn 2013. In fact, one of our GLIers from that 2013 course is our undergraduate scholarship winner this fall (see p. 2 for the profile of Claire Michelson). More information about some of the GLI course projects can be found on p 6.

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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**MEET OUR FALL 2015 LOUISE GREENE & ELIZABETH SMITH UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: CLAIRE MICHELSON**

Claire Michelson, a born and bred Missoulian, found the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program through the first WGSS Global Leadership Initiative course Women's Rights and Roles Around the World, taught by the director and former co-director of the program, Elizabeth Hubble and Anya Jabour. While she is also majoring in Psychology, Claire was drawn into the WGSS program by the content, the classmates, and the instructors. She had always had an interest in women's issues, but the GLI really sold her on taking the coursework on as a second major. "I have really loved how relevant and applicable these studies are. It seems like every day I learn something new in the field and that's exciting. I also love the peers and professors I've met. It's really inspiring to be in a program where you don't feel pressure to compete against one another but are excited to work together and learn from all of your pooled experiences" says Claire of the program.



Claire cites the activist work that she has done as enriching her studies.

"Sometimes WGSS and Psychology can get overwhelming or depressing, so being able to participate in activism that is aimed at relieving some of the issues at hand makes things more manageable. It's also really empowering to empower others, and it's a skill I think anyone, at any age, with or without a degree, can do!"

Claire plans to attend graduate school for a PhD in Psychology and a Master's degree in WGSS. She would love to have a career in the academic world doing research on issues of gender constructions and systems of oppression, as well as teaching students the lessons she has learned at UM. Outside of the classroom, Claire loves to spend time with her family, travel and go to the river and swim or fly-fish. Congratulations and best of luck to Claire!

**MEET OUR FALL 2015 LOUISE GREENE & ELIZABETH SMITH GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: JULIA JACKSON**

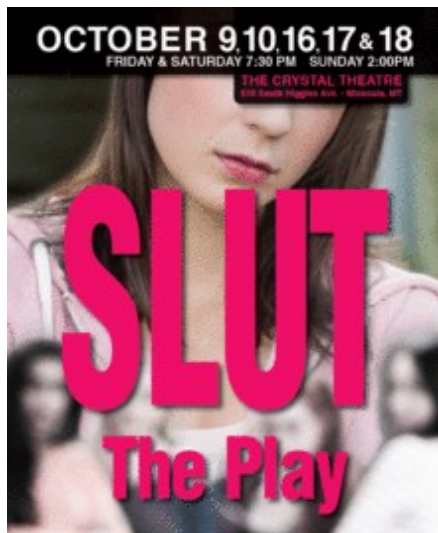
Julia Jackson grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico. During her days as an undergraduate at the University of Montana, she took Feminist Theory and became a passionate member of the Women's Resource Center, where she helped organize events like Take Back the Night. The incredible experiences and friends she made at the Women's Center infinitely expanded her mind. It was there that her interest in women's rights really ignited, and Julia decided she wanted WGSS to be part of her graduate degree as well. Julia is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and would like to teach women's and gender studies in a middle school, or high school, so that young girls can become empowered and get through one of the most challenging times in life with confidence.



Julia loves that the WGSS department stays connected to current issues and that the classes are organized in such a way that students feel confident and excited about speaking up and becoming thoroughly engaged in the curriculum. She hopes the WGSS program will continue to develop her understanding of society and how she can help transform the educational system to bring women's issues out of the periphery and into the forefront. "I hope to make girls and women a full, integral part of education in curriculum, in the classroom dynamics, in media and in other aspects of education. Since our world is balanced between men and women, it only makes sense to have education reflect that, so that in turn, the balance of power in society can become, well, balanced."

When Julia is not studying, she enjoys being outdoors, hiking, playing soccer, blogging on Feministing.com, playing music with her girl-band, and being with family and friends. Congratulations and best of luck Julia!

## SLUT: THE PLAY-USING THEATER AS SOCIAL CHANGE



In Autumn 2014, WGSS received an email from Jennifer Baumgardner, co-author of the *Third Wave Manifesta* with Amy Richards and now the Executive Director of the Feminist Press at CUNY, about a new sexual violence prevention initiative they had developed. The initiative centers around *SLUT: The Play*. The provocatively-titled play asks viewers to confront the issues of slut-shaming and victim-blaming in our society through the eyes of a high school student who has experienced a sexual assault as she is questioned by law enforcement and her friends and schoolmates struggle to understand what has happened. Baumgardner's email asked if UM would be willing to join the cause and stage the play in Missoula. WGSS responded with a resounding "yes." Hillary Sea Bard, a recent UM MFA grad, was hired as the director, and her vision for the play brought it to life.

In October 2015, Missoula's Crystal Theater was home to five performances of *SLUT: The Play* featuring Missoula-area high school women in all roles. Tickets were free, and all performances were to full houses—over 500 Missoulians supported violence prevention efforts by attending the play, and many gave donations to UM's Student Advocacy Resource Center.

The theory behind this play is theater as social change. Audience reactions and media coverage of the play speak to the effectiveness of this innovative prevention effort. In fact, the public support for the play has already resulted a planned revival of the play in April 2016 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a performance in Missoula, and then two performances in Helena, MT, supported by the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) and Helena's Friendship Center.



**Actors perform *Slut: The Play* at the Crystal Theater in Missoula. Photo courtesy of the Kaimin.**



**The marquee at the Crystal Theater.**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL PAULI



Rachel Pauli, alum of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies minor program, and recipient of the 2012 Elizabeth Smith and Louise Greene Women's and Gender Studies Scholarship for excellence in activism, joined Planned Parenthood of Montana in 2010 as a volunteer and college student. Her early experiences with Planned Parenthood sparked her budding career in activism. She is now a Navigator for Planned Parenthood of Montana and Organizer for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana.

As a Navigator Rachel helps Montanans understand and access health insurance through the ACA Marketplace. As an Organizer Rachel

engages and empowers college students and other community members in the reproductive justice movement, educates voters, and advocates for policies that protect Montanan's right to privacy and access to health care. As an advocate for young people's involvement in progressive movements, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Forward Montana Foundation and on Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Young Leaders Advisory Council.

Rachel lives in Missoula with her backyard chickens. She cites the WGSS program as a key to her success.

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Anya Jabour** 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; presented two conference papers: "'World Fellowship': International Social Work and Transnational Feminism between the World Wars," June 26, 2015, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Arlington, Virginia and "Women's Autobiography and Feminist Biography: A Case Study of U.S. Activist Sophonisba Breckinridge," Historical Auto/Biography (international conference), March 25-27, 2015, Le Mans and Angers, France; and consulted on the new PBS miniseries, "Mercy Street," debuting on January 17, 2016!

**Celia Winkler** presented "To Promote the General Welfare: From Welfare State to Common Good." at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago, Illinois. August 23, 2015.

**Clary Loisel** taught a GLI freshman seminar entitled "Human Rights Issues in Films and Literature of the Portuguese-Speaking World" to 18 students. In scholarship, Floricanto Press contracted with Professor Loisel to publish *Mexican Queer Theater*, his anthology of translated contemporary Mexican plays, which deals with LGBT issues. Professor Loisel also published an article, "Los elementos románticos y realistas en *Martín Rivas*" in *Sieteculebras: Revista Andina de Cultura*. During the summer, Professor Loisel received a Library Travel Grant from the University of Florida's Latin American and Caribbean Collection to research Brazilian theater. As for service, Professor Loisel gave a Diverse U presentation in early November called "Human Rights and Global Issues in José Saramago's *Blindness*".

## FEATURED FACULTY: ANYA JABOUR

"Mercy Street" Comes to PBS, thanks to WGSS/History faculty member Anya Jabour! In January 2016, PBS will be bringing feminist and anti-racist interpretations of U.S history to the TV viewing public via "Mercy Street," a new miniseries set during the Civil War. The brainchild of documentarian Lisa Q. Wolfinger, "Mercy Street" follows the intertwining stories of Confederate citizens, Union doctors and nurses, and "contraband" African Americans in the federally occupied city of Alexandria, Virginia, in 1862. To maintain high standards of historical accuracy and incorporate more diverse interpretations of the past, Wolfinger hired an all-star team of historical consultants, including former WGSS co-director and History professor Anya Jabour, to vet the scripts while the series was in development.

In addition to offering the scriptwriters detailed notes on gender roles, family dynamics, and race relations, Jabour also spent five weeks on set meeting with the actors, directors, producers, and members of the wardrobe, hair, and props teams, where she answered questions on subjects ranging from proper etiquette to prostitution. The highlight, she says, was seeing Hannah James, the actress who plays Confederate teenager Emma Green, reading Jabour's book *Scarlett's Sisters: Young Women in the Old South* between takes.



***Anya Jabour with Hannah James, the actress who plays Emma Green on the PBS show Mercy Street.***



***Anya Jabour on the set of Mercy Street.***

depicts the social history of the Civil War—especially the ways in which the war created space for women and African Americans to challenge the status quo. The Old South was a hierarchical society based on racial slavery and patriarchy, but the Civil War offered both African Americans and women unprecedented opportunities to circumvent white male authority and experiment with new roles. "Mercy Street" debuts on January 17, 2016, at 10 p.m.—right after "Downton Abbey," and will run for six weeks on Sunday nights with other airings on Thursdays and through streaming services. Check your local listings.

## FEATURED ORGANIZATION: PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood is one of many local organizations that the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program is affiliated with. Planned Parenthood of Montana believes that every person has a right to make his or her own reproductive choices. In addition to clinical services, Planned Parenthood in Missoula offers assistance navigating the ACA insurance sign-up process.



Many of our students have completed volunteer hours and internships with PPMT. In fact, the PPMT Outreach Coordinator, Rachel Pauli, is an alum of our program! (see page 4 for more information about Rachel's career path). Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana is always looking for assistance with fundraising, events and outreach. If you are interested in a career in healthcare or non-profit work, there are many ways to get involved. For more information, contact Rachel Pauli at [rachel.pauli@ppmontana.org](mailto:rachel.pauli@ppmontana.org).

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

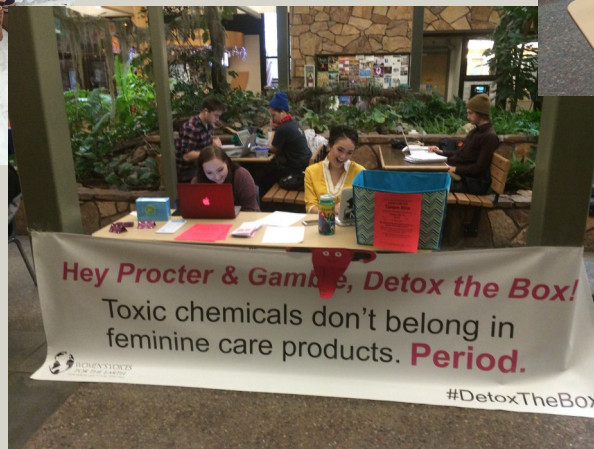
This semester, Anya Jabour and I had the great privilege to teach our Global Leadership Initiative seminar for the second time. The course is titled Women's Rights and Women's Roles around the World and counts for an Indigenous and Global Perspectives General Education Requirement course. The first-time around the course was a huge success—this semester's scholarship winner Claire Michelson was one of those students. Our second group of students was just as exceptional. The projects they completed blew us away. Check out the highlights. **—Beth Hubble**



**A GLI group hosts a tampon drive on campus.**



**GLI students provide anti-trafficking information at a table in the University Center.**



**A GLI group hosts a "Detox the Box" table in the University Center.**

## SPRING WRITING RETREAT

Once again, the WGSS affiliated faculty travelled to UM's Lubrecht Forest for the Annual Spring Writing Retreat where we work on research projects we often don't have time for during the academic year of teaching and service. Attendees included: Jill Bergman (English), Bryan Cochran (Psychology), Chris Fiore (Psychology), Tobin Miller-Shearer (African American Studies), Kathy Kuipers (Sociology), Daisy Rooks (Sociology), Ione Crummy (French), and Beth Hubble (WGSS). Here is just a



***The 2015 Spring Retreat group at Lubrecht National Forest.***

the faculty worked on during the retreat. Tobin Miller-Shearer revised one of the chapters in his forthcoming book (Cornell University Press), *Sex, Sass, Grass: Fresh Air Children and the Problem of Race in America*. Bryan Cochran worked on an article he co-wrote with UM Professor Jennifer Robohm that looks at how to better train doctoral students to work with LGBT clients. Their article appeared this fall in *Clinical Psychology Science and Practice*.

### FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

**Ione Crummy** presented a research paper entitled "Writing/Righting Rural Wrongs in Lady Morgan's National Tales and George Sand's Early Regional Novels" at the 20th International George Sand Colloquium on the theme "George Sand et ses consœurs : la femme artiste et intellectuelle au XIXe siècle" held at Verona, Italy, June 29 -July 1st, 2015.

**Teresa Sobieszczyk** is serving as co-chair of the Rural Gender Research Interest Group of the Rural Sociological Society.

**Tobin Miller-Shearer** published "Striking at the Sacred: The Violence of Prayer, 1960-1969." in *Open Theology*. 1: 126-133; "A Prophet Pushed Out: Vincent Harding and the Mennonites." in *Mennonite Life*. 69; and "Invoking Crisis: Performative Christian Prayer and the Civil Rights Movement." In the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 83: 490-512.

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In the 1970s, the University of Montana began of-  
fering courses for credit in Women's Studies. In  
the last decade, this focus has broadened to in-  
clude 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 achieve-  
ments, 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, eth-  
nicity and sexual orientation, Women's, Gender  
and Sexuality Studies encourages students to think  
critically and to envision justice for all peoples.

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The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program would like to  
extend a special thanks to those who have supported our program  
this semester:

John and Janet Stone

Sheila Skemp and Murphy Richardson

Robert and Nancy Jardon

Without this generous support, we would not be able to offer the  
quality programming and scholarships for our outstanding students.

*Thank you!*

**Women's, Gender  
& Sexuality Studies**

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA