Greetings from the Women’s and Gender Studies Program Co-Directors! As you will be able to tell from the newsletter, we have had a productive and busy Spring Semester. The campus, community, state, and national profile of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the University of Montana has been elevated throughout this academic year. On a campus level, both Co-Directors have received campus-wide awards. Anya Jabour received the 2014 George M. Dennison Faculty Award for Distinguished Scholarship. Beth Hubble received the 2014 Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award.

Further, the newly renamed College of Humanities and Sciences selected “gender” as the topic for their annual spring event “Dialogue of Intellectual Diversity,” which took place on April 24th. WGSS-affiliated faculty members Dr. Sara Hayden (Communication Studies) and Dr. Kimber Haddix McKay (Anthropology) discussed “Gender in Everyday Life” from the perspectives of their academic fields. The event was a great success, and President Royce Engstrom personally congratulated the panelists. The event was filmed and will become available on the website for the College of Humanities and Sciences soon at http://cas.umt.edu/casweb/default.cfm.

On a community level, the events organized for Women’s History Month and the Montana Woman Suffrage Centennial drew large crowds, all of whom got to see the amazing work our faculty, staff, and students are doing in celebration of 100 years of woman suffrage in Montana.

On a state level, Anya Jabour serves on the advisory board of the Women’s History Matters project hosted at the Montana Historical Society. In addition, the traveling exhibit designed by the Montana Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee, “Leading the Way: Montana Woman Suffrage and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship,” is beginning its statewide tour! The exhibit will visit more than twenty different Montana communities, including Kalispell, Dillon, Great Falls, Bozeman, Billings, Havre, and Rocky Boy’s Reservation. For more information about both of these projects, visit montanawomenshistory.org.

On a national level, PETSA (UM’s mandatory sexual assault prevention tutorial, authored and administered by WGSS faculty) continues to receive national attention as part of UM’s response to sexual violence on our campus and in our community. Since the release of the White House Report on the epidemic of sexual violence on American campuses, we have fielded numerous requests from universities across the nation to view PETSA as a model for mandatory prevention education. UM faculty working on this issue are regularly interviewed by local and national media outlets about how UM has stepped up to address sexual violence, in the wake of the Department of Justice investigation of 2014.

To capitalize on this elevated profile and on the growing enrollment in WGSS courses, the Executive Committee is currently working on a proposal for a stand-alone major in Women’s and Gender Studies. In conjunction with this proposal, the WGSS Executive Committee voted this spring to change the name of our Program to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to better reflect both the interests of our affiliated faculty and the need expressed by our students. Both of these proposals will be submitted to the Montana University System Board of Regents in Fall 2014.

The core courses in Women’s and Gender Studies have been near, at, or above capacity this year, speaking to student interest in our interdisciplinary field of studies. We invited Catherine Palczewski from The University of Northern Iowa to conduct an outside evaluation of our program. Her visit helped formalize our plans for the future growth of Women’s and Gender Studies at The University of Montana.

—Elizabeth Hubble and Anya Jabour
Each year The University of Montana recognizes one faculty member who has made outstanding contributions that support the University’s mission on diversity with the Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award, named in honor of a former Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. The faculty member is chosen based on how the individual has served as an example to others, provided service significantly beyond the normal expectations of his/her position, demonstrated through action the ideals of cultural diversity and furthering unity, helped others gain greater understanding of diversity and multiculturalism, and demonstrated exceptional talents that brought special recognition and pride to The University of Montana. This year Elizabeth Hubble, Women’s and Gender Studies Program Co-Director, was awarded the Borgmann Diversity Award!

Beth’s Hockey Team participated in the Blue Mountain Clinic annual event Off the Rack in 2014 to raise awareness about sexual and gender diversity and sexual health in our community.

“As Beth’s days in the office are filled with student interaction, students from all disciplines look to her for support in their studies, as well as life experiences. Beth is known as a trusted mentor to students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. Beth has offered guidance to those who deal with issues related to disability, sexism and racism. Because of Beth’s reputation, the Women’s and Gender Studies office has become a safe space for all of campus. What I find most encouraging is Beth’s unique ability to encourage interactions among all students, regardless of sex or gender, and to draw a diverse group of students to the Women’s and Gender Studies Program.”

-JAMIE BOSCHEE, WGSS PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND ALUM

As Co-Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Dr. Hubble promotes the ideals of diversity in all aspects of her work. Her teaching explores the intersection of gender, race, class, sexualities, and disabilities; she is a regular participant in campus and community forums aimed at promoting understanding between diverse communities (Day of Dialogue; Transgender Day of Recognition); and she is a stalwart ambassador to the Missoula community who showcases the university’s commitment to promoting a diverse campus and community. Beth serves on the YWCA Taskforce on Racial Justice, speaks regularly for the YWCA’s Brown Bag series on diversity, and serves on the Executive Board for Women’s Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD). Finally, Dr. Hubble was a lead player in the development of PETSA, the cornerstone of UM’s efforts to address sexual violence.

Congratulations and thank you for all that you do, Beth!
SPRING 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: JOHNNY BARBER

Johnny Barber, a Women’s and Gender Studies and History double major, first learned about the Women’s and Gender Studies Program through various friends involved in the program. Johnny is interested in feminism and has been involved with queer activism as drag king persona, Johnny Spritzer. Barber hails from Iowa. When Johnny was nine years old, after a short stay in Missouri, Johnny’s family moved to Miles City, where his father works as pastor at the Assembly of God Church. Johnny graduated from Custer County District High School in 2006 and moved to Missoula in 2007. Throughout his undergrad career, Barber has been dedicated to queer and feminist activism. Johnny held a work-study position for the Western Montana Community Center and was vice-president of Lambda in 2008. He has given lectures for the Transgender Day of Recognition and the Gender SpectrUM events on campus, discussing sexuality and gender non-conformity; served on many discussion panels, for groups such as Lambda, regarding gender identity, evangelical upbringing, and coming out. Barber has also been a member of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana (ISCSM) since 2007. After completing both undergraduate degrees, Johnny would like to attend graduate school and complete a doctorate in either Queer Studies with a historical emphasis, or Women’s History with a queer studies emphasis. Ultimately, Johnny would like to be a professor of history and feminist/queer theory. Barber says, “I would like to teach classes through a historical lens, tracking key moments and movements in the past which have culminated in the queer and feminist theory, politics, movements, etc. of the present. This program has imparted a passion within me for a lifelong commitment to the struggle for equality of all human beings. I would like to pass this on to future students and activists.”

Congratulations, Johnny!

FEATURED ORGANIZATION: CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

2014 is the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in Montana, and a group of UM university faculty, staff, and students and Missoula community members comprising the ad hoc Centennial Committee want to make sure everyone knows it. To help all Montanans know more about the political actors of the past, the Centennial Committee is coordinating a variety of local and statewide projects through the UM Women’s and Gender Studies Program. The Department of Archives and Special Collections at Mansfield Library created both physical and online exhibits documenting the history of women in Montana politics. This online exhibit features a timeline highlighting the role of women in Montana and University of Montana politics and political activities from 1882 to the present. The exhibit also includes a guide to collections by and about women held in Archives and Special Collections at the University of Montana’s Mansfield Library. To view the exhibit, visit exhibits.lib.umt.edu/women-in-politics. Another Centennial Committee project is the creation of a traveling exhibit on the history of women, suffrage, and citizenship in Montana. Featuring archival photographs and rare documents, the exhibit illuminates women’s political activism from Sacajawea’s participation in the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 to the Constitutional Convention of 1972. The Centennial Committee includes Anya Jabour, History/Women’s and Gender Studies (chair); Kayla Blackman, History; Julie Biando Edwards, Mansfield Library; Tobin Miller Shearer, History/African American Studies; Nancy Cooper, School of Music; Donna McCrea, Archives and Special Collections; Janet Finn, School of Social Work; Carlie Magill, Archives and Special Collections; and Diane Sands, president of the Missoula chapter of the American Association of University Women. For more information, please contact Anya Jabour at 406-243-4364 or via email at anya.jabour@umontana.edu.
Anya Jabour, Professor of History and co-director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, received the George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishments that have brought significant recognition to the University of Montana at the regional and national levels. Anya has also been selected as one of this year’s recipients of the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award. This award was established to recognize UIM faculty members who excel in guiding undergraduate students in their research projects in the Davidson Honors College. Kathryn Tokle, who completed her Honors Thesis in December 2013, nominated Anya for this award. Tokle’s thesis was entitled "In the Wake of Death and Disaster: Widowhood in Butte, America, 1900-1920.” Jabour was also awarded a $7500 Major Grant from Humanities Montana to support the creation of a traveling exhibit, “Leading the Way: Montana Woman Suffrage and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship.” With Bari Burke (Law) and Nancy Cooper (Music), she also organized a panel on professional women in the twentieth century at the Western Area Women Historians conference in Pomona, California, May 1-3, 2014. Her paper was entitled “An Activist Academic: Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge.”

Andrea Olsen, Faculty Affiliate, is a candidate for the Montana legislature for House District 100, the center of Missoula.

Clary Loisel, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Professor, acted as the faculty mentor for a former GLI student, Jada Kishimoto. Kishimoto recently presented "Gender Construction in Contemporary Latin American Film and Literature" at the DHC’s Undergraduate Research Conference. Clary has also begun recruiting for the faculty led study abroad program to Oaxaca for spring 2015. He will attend "UF in Rio", i.e. "The University of Florida in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil" during the second summer session to pursue interests in the Portuguese language, Brazilian culture, and Brazilian queer theater. Clary received a University Small Grant to go to Rio de Janeiro to conduct research for his anthology on Brazilian Queer Theater.


History M.A. candidate Kayla Blackman, who also is completing a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, has been selected as the recipient of the Richard Drake Award for 2014. The Richard Drake award is designed to honor excellence in writing in the humanities; specifically history, literature, philosophy, religion, politics and the classics. Papers are judged on the basis of excellence in writing, imagination in research, and force of argument.

Ann Truesdell, a Social Work MA candidate, who is also completing a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, is one of five graduate and doctoral students out of a pool of 59 applicants awarded $1000 scholarships from the Missoula branch of the AAUW (American Association of University Women).

Courtney Damron, Women’s and Gender Studies minor, has been awarded Outstanding Senior by the University of Montana Disability Services for Students Office.

Torie Madgwick, Women’s and Gender Studies major, was awarded the 2014 American Disabilities Act Leadership award.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program would like to welcome Hillary Gleason, graduate student instructor of the 2014 summer Women’s and Gender Studies 263 course. Hillary is a Clinical Psychology doctoral student in the WGSS graduate certificate program. She received her BA in Psychology and WGS from Clark University in 2011. Her interests include LGBTQ health, stigma and resilience, intersectionality, and interpersonal violence. She has been involved in LGBTQ activism and community building for the past 10 years, and is drawn to research that can be translated into advocacy.
2014 is the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in Montana. The Centennial Committee is making sure everyone knows it! (See page 3 for more on the committee.)

The Montana Historical Society in Helena is hosting a website, “Women’s History Matters,” dedicated to the centennial at montanawomenshistory.org. The site features a blog with twice-weekly posts on Montana women’s history, highlighting both famous and forgotten women and offering a representative cross-section of the population. The site also provides research resources, including links to every article published in Montana: The Magazine of Western History, on women’s history. In addition, the site has resources for teachers; a state-wide calendar of events; links to on-line exhibits; and suggestions for community celebrations of the centennial, including a list of public speakers.

In Missoula, a group of UM university faculty, staff, and students and Missoula community members comprising the ad hoc Centennial Committee is coordinating an array of events and exhibits, including an exhibit on “Women and Politics in Montana” on the 4th floor of Mansfield Library, a statewide essay contest, and lectures and concerts.

The Centennial Committee also has a subcommittee dedicated to developing a traveling exhibit on the history of woman suffrage in Montana. Subcommittee member Julie Biando Edwards, Ethnic Studies Librarian and Diversity Coordinator at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, comments: "I am especially excited because this exhibit will be donated to the Montana State Library. The State Library will be able to make it available to libraries around the state so that patrons in communities large and small can take part in the suffrage celebrations. This is really a wonderful collaboration between libraries and I am so pleased to be a part of something that will directly support public programming in Montana's libraries."

The traveling exhibit is funded by a grant from Humanities Montana, with matching funds from the African-American Studies Program, the History Department, Mansfield Library, the Office of the President, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, and the Missoula chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Kayla Blackman, an M.A. candidate in History and Women’s and Gender Studies, the lead researcher and content developer for the traveling exhibit, and the intern for the “Women’s History Matters” project, reflects: “Celebrating the centennial of woman suffrage in Montana is important. Today we consider voting a fundamental right of living in a democracy. One hundred years ago, women fought for that right. They organized, protested, and ultimately succeeded in securing their own suffrage. This exhibit will hopefully remind Montanans what a great privilege it is to live in a democracy and encourage the political participation which women fought so hard to attain.”

Cate Palczewski generously shared her collection of anti-suffrage memorabilia as part of the traveling exhibit.

"Leading the Way: Montana Woman Suffrage and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship," was displayed at the historic Missoula Mercantile this spring.
As usual, our WGSS Capstone Group continues to amaze us with their ingenuity and passion. This year several of our students (and their friends and family members) are conducting photo shoots of individuals and families to be used in public art/public protest/public policy projects. One group is conducting a photo shoot to document the diversity of families, while another is conducting “on the street” interviews about Missoulians’ ideas about “family,” “woman,” “man,” and so on.

The resulting photographs and accompanying captions were displayed at the Western Montana Community Center as part of the First Friday Art Walk on May 2. Another group conducted on-camera interviews with low-income Montanans about Medicaid expansion for use in a promotional video for Montana Women Vote!

And yet another group engaged in guerrilla action. The group posted materials about preventing gender-based violence in some unexpected places. All of these exciting projects culminated in “Women’s and Gender Studies Week” in early May.

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS CONT.**

*Nancy Cooper,* a faculty member in the School of Music, presented a paper, "Finding Anna Maude Van Hoose: Reconstructing a Musical Life" at the Pacific Northwest Conference of the College Music Society on April 11th, at the University of Montana. She presented a similar version of the paper as part of a panel, entitled "Professor, Musician, Lawyer: Women Professionals in the Twentieth-Century West," with colleagues Anya Jabour and Bari Burke, as part of the Western Association of Women Historians conference in Pomona, California, on May 1st, for which she received a WGS travel grant.

*Tobin Miller Shearer,* Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies Director, has been accepted into an NEH summer institute, "Finding Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative: Struggle, Institution Building, and Power at the Local Level." He will spend three weeks in Jackson, MS, with scholars from across the country who will together explore the struggle for freedom in Mississippi. Tobin also received tenure this year.
Women’s and Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary program founded in 1971, encourages the production, discussion, and dissemination of knowledge about women’s experiences, oppressions, and achievements, in Montana, the U.S., and the world. In the last decade, this focus has broadened to include study of the social and cultural construction of gender, sex, and sexualities. By fostering awareness of cultural and international diversity, as well as of the circulation of power mediated by race, class, age, and sexual orientation, Women’s and Gender Studies encourages students to think critically and to envision justice for all peoples.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program has established special funds to honor individuals from the campus and local community who have been leaders in advancing feminist activism and in promoting scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality.

The Maxine van de Wetering Women’s History Month Fund honors beloved professor emeritus Maxine van de Wetering, who offered one of the earliest women’s studies courses on campus, “Women in America,” in the mid-1970s. Contributions to this fund provide sources for programming for Women’s History Month, including the Maxine van de Wetering “Women Making History” Lecture Series.

The Judy Smith Student Activist Scholarship Fund honors long-time community activist Judy Smith, who reinvigorated the UM campus’s Women’s Resource Center, played a key role in establishing Blue Mountain Clinic and Women’s Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD), and co-taught the original women’s studies course on campus. Contributions to this fund provide a scholarship for a Women’s and Gender Studies student who has shown exceptional commitment to community activism.