Greetings from the Co-Directors

Spring has finally sprung in Montana, and we are preparing to celebrate a graduating class of 18 students.

We continue to see the program grow and thrive, and we are excited to announce our new program name, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, as well as our new Major, both of which will officially go into effect in Fall 2015. We already have exceeded our anticipated number of majors - students have begun to sign up even though they cannot officially register until fall - and expect to have many more next year once we officially roll out the state’s only major in the field. Our Graduate Certificate program also continues to grow, with M.A. and Ph.D. students from History, English, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and other fields joining our ranks. Check out our course listings for Fall 2015 at http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog/

We are pleased at the positive response to our first-ever Program Review, which we completed this year with the assistance of outside evaluator Professor Catherine Palczewski of the University of Northern Iowa. In conjunction with this process, we have reached an agreement with Dean Christopher Comer and Provost Perry Brown that the “pass-through” money from the Provost’s Office will be transferred to the College of Humanities and Sciences and added to the WGSS base budget, which will allow us to create a new line for long-time instructor and co-director Beth Hubble and thereby achieve our longstanding goal of ensuring continuity in the instruction of our core classes and our directorship. As a result, Anya Jabour will be stepping down as co-director at the end of this academic year, and Beth will assume sole directorship in Fall 2015. However, Anya and Beth look forward to continuing to collaborate on the GLI first-year seminar, “Women’s Rights and Women’s Roles Around the World,” which they will offer for the second time in Fall 2015.

This semester the newly formed Women’s Studies Honor Society, Iota Iota Iota (Triota), became an official ASUM group. We are actively recruiting student members for fall 2015. For more information, please visit http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog/.

Please see the back of the newsletter to “save the date” for several exciting summer and fall events, as well as information on how to donate in support of our newly formed major, our annual Maxine Van de Wetering lecture, Triota or the program in general. Thank you for your continued support!

-Anya Jabour and Elizabeth Hubble
During winter-session 2015, Dr. Ione Crummy, WGSS affiliated faculty, led a study abroad program to Paris to attend a dozen French plays. Eight students, who had studied the plays fall semester, participated: Emelyn Falley, Autumn Garrison, Hunter Hash, Olivia Keith, Mackenzie Lombardi, Ren Neuman, Stephanie Parker, and McKenzie Watterson. On January 3, Professor Crummy met the students at Charles de Gaulle airport and settled them into their apartments. The next day the group explored the Musée d’Orsay and attended Labiche’s *Un Chapeau de paille d’Italie* at the Comédie Française (where they later saw Molière’s *Tartuffe* and Marivaux’s *La Double Inconstance* performed). During their three weeks in Paris, the group also attended performances of Sartre’s *Huis Clos*, Beckett’s *Fin de Partie*, Racine’s *Phèdre*, Ionesco’s *La Cantatrice chauve*, Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and Victor Hugo’s *Lucrèce Borgia*, respectively at the Théâtre de Poche Monparnasse, Essaïon, Théâtre du Nord-Ouest, Théâtre de la Huchette, Comédie Saint-Michel, and Théâtre Roger Barat at Herblay. The students found attending live performances, after having read the plays, very rewarding – in particular Beaumarchais’ *Le Mariage de Figaro* at the Théâtre 14. They experienced an innovative ballet, *Juliette et Romeo*, at the ornate Opéra Garnier (of which they had a guided tour) and a Baroque dance version of Perrault’s *La Belle au bois dormant* (Sleeping Beauty) at the Théâtre National de Chaillot. Two students also attended a magnificent performance of Mozart’s opera *Don Giovanni* at the modern Opéra Bastille. In addition, they visited the graves of Sartre, Beckett and Ionesco at Montparnasse cemetery, the Louvre, Carnavalet and Cluny museums, Notre-Dame, the Panthéon, Sainte-Chapelle, and the châteaux of Versailles and Fontainebleau.
Cass Stoltzfus, minor in Women’s and Gender Studies, is this year’s Louise Greene and Elizabeth Smith Women’s and Gender Studies Program Scholarship in Academic Excellence winner. Cass, originally from Bozeman, came to the University of Montana in 2012. One of her first college courses was the Global Leadership Initiative course through the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. The Global Leadership Initiative program allows students from different disciplines to confront various global issues through themes such as injustice and inequality. Cass cites the faculty as one of the best features of the program. The people she has met through the program had a great impact on her college experience.

Cass hopes to ultimately teach English, and infuse her knowledge of women’s and gender studies into the classroom. She is also interested in creating a student group to promote safe sex and healthy relationships, as well as general discussions of equality, in the public school system. When Cass is not studying, she enjoys skiing, kayaking and has a passion for music. Congratulations, Cass!

“THE MINOR IN WGSS HAS PROVIDED A CONSTANTLY ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS ME STAY PASSIONATE ABOUT SCHOOL.”

**CASS STOLTZFUS**  
**WGSS MINOR**

**FEATURED ORGANIZATION: IOTA IOTA IOTA (TRIOTA)**

This spring, Iota Iota Iota (Triota), the Women’s and Gender Studies Honor Society, was formally recognized as a student group by the Associated Students of the University of Montana. Triota's goal is to promote interest in women's and gender studies, to promote volunteerism and advocacy, and to honor the academic prowess of WGSS students. The University of Montana Gamma Chi Chapter is starting the recruitment process. The group will be organizing volunteer and fundraising events in the fall of 2015.

For more information, to donate to the organization, or to get involved, visit the WGSS website or contact Jamie Boschee at jamie.boschee@umontana.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015

Johnny Barber  Cassidy Belus
Lily Boshier  Samantha Buechler
Kaylin Epperson  Raina Gavin
Eileen Gregori  Casey Hoffman
Cris Jardon  Erin Loranger
Amy Martin  Meagan McKay
Marit Olson  Julianne Peterman
Michael Phelps  Hannah Rees
Jan Roddy  Ashley Walters

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS


Professor Clary Loisel directed the semester-long Spanish study-abroad program to Oaxaca, Mexico for fifteen participants. Students studied Spanish, Mexican Culture, Latin American Literature, and Mexican Cinema. In addition to the academic part of the program, students participated in three excursions to surrounding areas to further experience Mexican culture: a visit to the archeological ruins of Monté Albán, Mitla, and Yogúl; a demonstration of how Mexican rugs and blankets are made; and tours of markets and churches. For fun, most students enrolled in late-afternoon workshops to learn Mexican cooking, weaving, and salsa dancing. This was the sixth time that Professor Loisel has taken students abroad. Professor Loisel was also awarded the University of Florida Latin American Collection Library Travel Grant for summer 2015.

Professor Ione Crummy presented: a paper titled “Portraits of the Author as a Woman: George Sand in Film” at the Literature/Film Association Conference at UM (October 2-4); a research paper entitled, “Rural Conflict in Balzac’s Les Paysans and in Lady Morgan’s “Manor Sackville”,” at the annual Society of Dix-Neuvimistes Conference, held at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, April 13-15, 2015. During winter-session, she led a study abroad program from January 3-24 to Paris to attend a dozen French plays. (See story above for more information about Ione’s trip!)
Last semester I made the decision to take Dr. Tobin Miller-Shearer’s class “Prayer and Civil Rights,” and what a wonderful decision it was! The objective of the course was to write a twenty page research paper that had to do with acts of public prayer in the Civil Rights Movement. I knew I wanted to write a paper on women’s leadership and participation in the Civil Rights Movement because women are often represented as minor, or subordinate, participants if they are mentioned at all. After a little research, I began to look into Fannie Lou Hamer of Mississippi. I was immediately fascinated by her and the unique leadership style she utilized during the Civil Rights Movement. The excitement of this research did not end with my subject and thesis. I wanted to continue my research this semester in an independent study with Dr. Shearer (who is an AMAZING faculty mentor.) I applied for a Davidson Honor’s College Research Scholarship in the hopes of travelling to Jackson, Mississippi, to gather primary research at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and I ended up winning the scholarship! I also received a Research Award from the African-American Studies Department. I was incredibly fortunate to win these research awards, and they covered almost all of my travel costs to Jackson at the beginning of February, 2015. I was able to spend five full days in Jackson. The archives were incredibly exciting and really confirmed my passion for feminist historical research and writing. I spent four full days in the archives, and the final day of my trip I was able to devote entirely to museums.

After all of this information about me and my travels, you are probably wondering about the details of my research. Fannie Lou Hamer grew up in an impoverished sharecropping family in Ruleville, Mississippi. In 1962, she became active in the Civil Rights Movement, and her dual leadership style would prove central to the African-American struggle for civil rights. The duality of Hamer’s model of leadership centered on acts of public prayer in a prophetic style, through public speaking and discourse, and a pastoral style through the use of sung prayer. The research for this project examines why Hamer used this model of leadership, how this leadership style was constructed, and relays why this leadership style proved to be so influential to the grassroots organization of the Civil Rights Movement. Unlike past biographical accounts of Hamer’s life, this work examines her dual leadership style which provides a deeper understanding of African-American women’s leadership during the Civil Rights Movement. Women’s participation historically has been understood in terms of supporting roles instead of leadership positions. Rarely explored, Hamer’s foundational activism embodies both religious heritage and African-American women’s traditions. -Johnny Barber
Women’s History Month

This year’s celebration of Women’s History Month offered a variety of perspectives on U.S. and Montana women’s history.

Dr. Pamela Stewart from Arizona State University came to campus to give a talk on Ina Gittings, a pioneering physical education professor, a wartime physiotherapist, and a Montana homesteader who taught at the University of Montana in 1917. Support for this lecture came from the Faculty Professional Enhancement Program, the African American Studies Program, and the History Department. Dr. Stewart also gave a professional development seminar on finding professional satisfaction in academia in changing times.

Nancy Cooper from the School of Music gave a presentation on women on the Chautauqua circuit in Montana. While virtually forgotten now, in the early twentieth century, the Chautauqua movement gave people in small towns unique opportunities for what we would now call “continuing education.” As one publicity brochure put it, “Chautauqua is a sort of twentieth century county fair which features intellect, oratory, art, music, and entertainment rather than prize pigs.”

Finally, in her alter ego as Joan Jett, WGSS co-director Beth Hubble screened the film Sisters of ’77, a documentary about second-wave feminism, as part of the WGSS Program’s annual pizza-and-movie night.

In addition to these programs on campus, WGSS co-director Anya Jabour gave talks on “Montana Women Making History” to a variety of community groups, including the YWCA and the Sunrise Rotary Club of Missoula and The Museum at Central School in Kalispell. In addition, she gave this talk at MSU-Havre as part of the Chancellor’s Lecture Series.
CAPSTONE CORNER

Our capstone group did a number of guerilla feminism/craftivism projects. Several included fliers that we hung in bathroom stalls around campus. One asked the reader to play “Check Your Privilege Bingo” with categories including white, male, native English speaker, heterosexual, and Christian. We also hung fliers outlining components of identity, and name tags with lists of potential preferred gender pronouns to encourage people to rethink the gender binary. In connecting to body positivity, we wrote body positive quotes and phrases on bathroom mirrors in Expo markers. We hung posters with the number 342, to represent the number of UM students who will be victims of targeted or completed sexual assault.

To represent the lack of access to safe abortions in Montana, we made several maps displaying the few abortion clinics. We also printed out $20 bills with cool women on them. -Mackenzie Salitsky

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk is now co-chair of the Rural Gender Research Interest Group of the Rural Sociological Society and her forthcoming publication (due out in May) is titled "Good’ Sons and ‘Dutiful’ Daughters: A Structural Symbolic Interactionist Analysis of the Migration and Remittance Behavior of Northern Thai International Migrants," in Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia, Ed. Lan Anh Hoang and Brenda Yeoh. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015.


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.

Would you like to donate to the Women’s and Gender Studies Program? Send a check to The University of Montana Foundation PO Box 7159 Missoula, MT 59807-7159 with a note on the memo line indicating that the donation is for the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. Donate securely on our website: www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog For more information on gift giving, contact the UM Foundation at (800) 442-2593, (406) 243-2593 or UMFoundation@mso.umt.edu.

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SAVETHE DATE!

Summer and Fall 2015 events:

June 19-21: Big Sky Pride, Downtown Missoula
August 19-21: Not In Our State Summit, University Center, Missoula
October 1-3: Gender Expansion Trans Health Conference, University Center, Missoula
October 9-10; 16-18: Slut: The Play, Crystal Theater, Missoula
October 22: African American Studies hosts a lecture by Jervette Ward.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog