Chair’s Message

Dear Colleagues, Alumni and Supporters,

Greetings. As we end the spring semester, the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies has much to reflect on and celebrate. Many of our faculty and graduate students’ accomplishments are detailed in this newsletter. However, I would also like to highlight the remarkable contributions and achievements made by our undergraduate students. They continue to be the foundation of the Department and epitomize the spirit and mission of WGSS.

The Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department came out of the activism of the February Sisters in 1972, becoming one of the earliest women’s studies departments in the nation. We are proud of our history. We commemorate the actions of the February Sisters annually, and, as we fulfill our academic mission, the department has remained true to its values of fairness, equality, and justice. This past year, WGSS has had the opportunity to reaffirm and build on its rich history through our students’ activism where campus sexual violence is concerned.

Last fall, WGSS student Katherine Gwynn helped organize the September Siblings — a student activist movement dedicated to bringing about changes to KU’s sexual assault policy. The September Siblings successfully raised awareness of this issue and their call to action resulted in the formation of KU’s Chancellor’s Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF). Chancellor Gray-Little appointed Alesha Doan, WGSS Department Chair, as co-chair of the SATF, and WGSS student Emma Halling was also appointed to the 11-member task force.

The SATF was charged with making recommendations to improve four key issue areas:

1) KU’s sexual assault policies
2) KU sexual assault prevention efforts
3) KU’s Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities
4) Support services for sexual assault survivors

The SATF worked throughout the year and issued a report on May 1, 2015, which included 27 recommendations designed to improve KU’s response to sexual assault. (The full report can be found at http://sataskforce.ku.edu/.)

Over the course of this past academic year, WGSS has been archiving the sexual assault activism and dialogue at KU to preserve the information for future generations of students, researchers, and administrators. WGSS students have had a central role in instigating and creating many positive changes at KU this past year. The Department of WGSS is proud to support and honor our courageous students who have given voice to the grave injustice sexual violence causes for individual survivors and our society. The transformational conversation our students have started will leave a lasting legacy at KU.

In closing, I hope that our students’ actions will inspire you that way that they inspire us. Thank you for being active supporters of and contributors to the continued success of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. We remain focused on our goals of pursuing excellence in feminist research, engaged scholarship and shaping the next generation of feminist trailblazers!

Best,

Alesha Doan, Chair

PS. If you have any news you would like to share with us and with other department alumni and supporters, please feel free to contact the department at wgss@ku.edu. We would love to hear from you and share stories, information or news via our annual newsletter or through our Facebook page.
WGSS Faculty Highlights

Faculty Spotlight: Prof. Stacey Vanderhurst
New Faculty Hire for WGSS Dept.
Stacey Vanderhurst will join the WGSS faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor, specializing in migration and human trafficking. Stacey received her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from Brown University. Her dissertation title was *Sheltered Lives: God, Sex, and Mobility in Nigeria’s Counter-Trafficking Programs.*

Faculty Spotlight: Prof. Ayesha Hardison
New Faculty Hire for WGSS Dept.
WGSS is pleased to announce that Ayesha Hardison, the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor in fall 2014, will be joining KU in fall 2015 as an Associate Professor in the departments of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and English. Ayesha earned her doctorate in English from the University of Michigan. Ayesha is the author of *Writing through Jane Crow: Race and Gender Politics in African American Literature.*

Prof. Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka: Theatre and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka was an honored guest of the University of Ilorin in Nigeria, where she gave performance workshops, and a public university lecture entitled, *The Gendered Space of Knowledge: Interrogating Nigerian Women in the Academe.* The lecture generated much interest across campus, and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdul Ganiyu Amabali, promised to establish a Women’s Studies program, or department, at the university. On Feb. 4, 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Kansas and the University of Ilorin in Nigeria.

Prof. Katie Batza: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Katie Batza has been busy since moving to Lawrence last summer to join the WGSS faculty. Katie taught her first classes at KU, led a roundtable discussion at the National Women’s Studies Association meeting in San Juan, presented a paper at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting in New York, and gave a talk on the future of the field at the John D’Emilio’s Impact on LGBT Histories, Lives, and Futures Symposium in Chicago. She also went on research trips to Chicago and New York City. She managed to find time to secure an advance book contract for her book, *Before AIDS: Health, Sexuality, and Politics in the 1970s,* and will be working on a chapter for the forthcoming *Routledge History of Queer America.* Her article, *From Sperm Runners to Sperm Banks: Lesbians, Assisted Conception, and the Fertility Industry, 1971-1983,* was accepted by the Journal of Women’s History.
Prof. Hannah Britton: Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Hannah Britton has co-authored an article with WGSS doctoral student Corinne Schwarz entitled, Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: LGBTQ Communities and Human Trafficking in the Heartland. The article will be included in the Journal of Social Inclusion in a special issue entitled, Perspectives on Human Trafficking and Modern Forms of Slavery. The article is based on their work in the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative (ASHTI) project, which Hannah directs. In the fall of 2014, Hannah led a U.S. Department of State Diplomacy Lab for KU that focused on human trafficking research.

Prof. Alesha Doan: Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Alesha Doan is serving as the chair of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. She received a 2015 fellowship from the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick to research reproductive politics and policy. She also continues to lead a collaborative research team investigating gender integration in the military. Professor Doan was appointed co-chair of the KU’s Chancellor’s Task Force on Sexual Assault in 2014. She received the 2015 Higher Education Award from the Dialogue Institute Southwest.

Prof. Charlene Muehlenhard: Psychology and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Charlene Muehlenhard is working on an invited review article exploring the topic of sexual consent. She is also working with her students on studies of several topics: college students’ interpretations of sexual consent behaviors (with Michelle Kanga); women’s and men’s reactions to having been sexually coerced (with Adijat Mustapha); women’s and men’s experiences with performative making out (situations in which they wanted to be seen making out), which illustrates the many functions of sexual behavior — many unrelated to sexual arousal (with Kate Esterline); and women’s and men’s attitudes toward transgender individuals as a function of birth sex and gender presentation (with Basak Efe). Charlene consulted with the Sexual Assault Task Force at another university on the development of their campus climate survey. She is excited about KU’s new Human Sexuality major, approved to begin in fall 2015.

Prof. Ann Schofield: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Ann Schofield has been serving in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as Interim Associate Dean for the Humanities — a fascinating perch from which to observe how the complex KU universe operates. In fall 2015, Ann will be a Visiting Professor at Leeds University in northern England doing research at the Marks and Spencer Business Archive and giving some lectures. Leeds is home to the International Gender Studies Centre, one of the largest gender studies programs in the U.K. In spring 2016, Ann will return to WGSS at KU for the semester, meeting new grad students and colleagues.
Prof. Akiko Takeyama: Anthropology and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Akiko Takeyama is currently conducting a yearlong ethnographic fieldwork project in Tokyo that will last until December 2015. Her trip was made possible by funding from Japan Foundation and sponsorship from the University of Tokyo. Akiko has attended the advisory board meetings for the Japanese government’s 2015 anti-trafficking action plan, a women’s shelter, and a press conference. She is looking forward to conducting more grounded ethnographic research at a construction site, a plantation farm, and sex-related entertainment business. Meanwhile, her first book, *Staged Seduction: Gender Politics and Class Struggle in Tokyo Host Club*, is forthcoming from Stanford University Press.

Visiting Assist. Prof. Rachel Vaughn: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Rachel Vaughn is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas in WGSS. Her research engages the intersections of food politics, food sovereignty, and feminist environmental theory. Rachel became a board member for a new local 501C3 non-profit food, environment and social justice project called Sunrise Project. Rachel is the author of a book in progress, "Talking Trash: Oral Histories of Food In/Security from the Margins of a Dumpster." She is the author of an essay under review with KU American Studies journal, ‘Pretty Little Rags and Bones’: *Popular Representations of Dumpster Diners and a Politics of Clean*; an article under review with *Frontiers*, titled "Produce, Pills and...Condoms?: Paralleling Food Politics & Reproductive Justice"; and a new article in progress, "Queering Food: Soy Makes You Gay and Other Estrogen-as-Feminizing Myths."

Prof. Marta Vicente: History and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Marta Vicente has just finished her book manuscript titled, *The Invention of the Sexes: Debating Sex and Gender in the Eighteenth-Century Spain*. Her article, "Pornography and the Spanish Inquisition: The Reading of a Forbidden Best-Seller," was accepted by *Comparative Literature* journal and will be published in Spring 2016. Finally, the article, "Staging Femininity in Early Modern Spain," has become a chapter in the edited collection, *Mapping the Early Modern Hispanic World* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). Prof. Vicente has started research on her next book project, tentatively titled *Contemporary Views on Sex and Gender*.

Graduate Director Notes with Professor Kim Warren

The graduate program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is thriving, with 10 students pursuing doctorates and another 25 pursuing a Graduate Certificate. While the graduate students have been actively involved on campus and throughout the country conducting research and preparing seminar papers and dissertations, I want to highlight the robust productivity of our doctoral students who have made tremendous strides presenting scholarship at national conferences. This past year, they have prepared research presentations for meetings of the National Women’s Studies Association, Oral History Association, Mid-American Studies Association, Society for Disability Studies, National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, and others. Presenting new scholarship at a national conference...
can be exciting, but it is also challenging and invites a wide range of feedback. KU’s WGSS doctoral students have been particularly impressive this year by meeting such professional challenges and by making their research public. Since sharing research with other scholars is an important step in graduate students’ professional development, the WGSS community should be especially proud of our doctoral students. They are already making their marks in the academic world.

WGSS Graduate Student Highlights!

Rachel Denny, through a FLAS fellowship program, attended the Haitian Summer Institute hosted by Florida International University in Miami in 2014. Rachel spent four weeks in intensive Haitian Creole language training, followed by two weeks of language immersion in Haiti. Rachel’s groups traveled around Haiti, including Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and Cap Haitien.

Andrew Gilbert presented a paper for the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Brownbag series titled, Czech and Slovak Films through the Eyes of American Videophiles.

Trevor Grizzell took part in a panel on LGBTQ Identities for Dr. Akiko Takeyama’s Cultural Anthropology class in Fall 2014. He also had a chapter published, Re-Animating the Social Order: Zombies and Queer Failure, in Zombies and Sexuality: Essays on Desire and the Living Dead. (Eds. Shaka McGlotten and Steven Jones. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2014. 123-139.)

Ashley Mog completed her Comprehensive Oral Exam for the Doctorate with Honors, in February 2015. In March 2015, she helped plan the Kansas University Professionals for Disability (KUPD) and the School of Education presentation of the 11th Annual KUPD Research Conference, with the theme Examining Social (In)Justice: Intersectionality and Inclusion Across Institutional Contexts. Ashley is on the leadership team for the Queer Caucus of the Society for Disability Studies, and she organized the Queer Caucus sponsored panel. She also gave a presentation, Bathrooms as Trans* and Crip Spaces of Resistance.

Ashley Mog and Liam Lair delivered a joint project presentation Embodiment, Identity and community: Motion, Meaning and belonging in Kansas, at the Oral History Association Conference. They also co-authored Embodied Knowledge and Accessible Community: An Oral History of Four Rehearsals and a Performance, in Oral History Review; and delivered a joint project presentation, Belonging in the Midwest: Finding Community in Kansas through Oral Histories and Ethnographic Methods, at the Mid-American American Studies Association Conference.

Corinne Schwarz worked as a Government Relations Intern for the National Organization for Women in summer 2014, at their national office in Washington, D.C. Corinne attended briefings on the hill and at feminist organizations across the city, and edited documents for the NOW National Convention. Corrine presented Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: Justice and Anti-Trafficking Prevention in Kansas City with the ASHTI group at the University of Kansas. Corrine was appointed as a Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Graduate Research Assistant for ASHTI (Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative). Finally, Corrine was selected to represent the University of Kansas at the 12th Annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit in February at the Capitol Building in Topeka, along with peers from Wichita State University, Kansas State University, and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Corinne Schwarz and Prof. Hannah Britton co-authored the article Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: LGBTQ Communities and Human Trafficking in the Heartland, in the Social Inclusion journal. The entire article can be downloaded for free: http://www.cogitatiopress.com/ojs/index.php/socialinclusion/article/view/172

Elizabeth Stigler worked with James Moreno, an instructor in the dance department. Over the course of a semester, Liz and seven other undergraduates developed a piece called Women Equal/Women Essential. This piece intimately explored the expectations, realities and struggles of womanhood. Dr. Sherrie Tucker was also involved in the project as a guest collaborator. Their dance project debuted at the annual New Dance concert in December 2014. Liz will moderate a panel of former Chicago SLUTS (Society for Lesbians United Towards S/M) members at the leather Archives and Museum in Chicago in March 2015. Liz was also a guest lecturer for WGSS 327 Perspectives in Lesbian: Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies in fall 2014 and spring 2015.
In Fall 2014, the WGSS department welcomed four new students into the PhD program:

**Marilyn Ortega** – During Marilyn’s undergraduate work, she launched a research study which argued that school policy reform is not enough to dismantle patterns of criminalization and incarceration, but must include “cultural and community-based transformations, which center reproductive justice and the epistemic authority of women of color.” Marilyn attended the NACCS Midwest Foco: Latinas and Latinos in the Midwest Past, Present and Future. WGSS is pleased to announce that Marilyn was the recipient of the Dorothy Clark Lettice Scholarship from the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Marcy Quiason** – Marcy’s research has involved militarism and sex work in the Philippines, drawing from readings in Filipina feminism and postcolonial studies to raise pointed questions about the continuation of policies and industrial basis of sex work as sex tourism beyond military occupation, and the conditions in which women find themselves caught in this system. WGSS is pleased to announce that Marcy received the Graduate Studies Diversity Scholarship from the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Mary Louisa Williams** – Louisa’s interest in the history of sexuality in the U.S. focuses on “sexual behaviors and attitudes” that are constructed as deviant and as criminal, and areas where the two converge. She plans to pursue the History concentration and is interested in studying the history of legal treatment of incest in the U.S. from the 18th to 20th centuries.

**Karinda Woodward** – Karinda’s research has focused on birthing politics and social injustice pertaining to “institutionalized socio-political barriers of early parenting, single motherhood, violence against women, and poverty.” She has interests in several concentration areas: Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology and History. Karinda’s goal is to conduct community-based participatory research on reproductive justice issues, laws and activism across socio-economic barriers.
WGSS Activities

February Sisters 43rd Anniversary Commemoration

Sarah Elizabeth Deer, a former KU Philosophy, Women’s Studies, and Law student, and a 2014 MacArthur Winner, was our honored guest speaker for the 43rd Annual Anniversary of February Sisters this year. Dr. Deer presented “Sovereignty of the Soul: Native Feminism and Violent Crime” to faculty, students and staff from the KU community and Haskell Indian Nations University. Here is a link to Dr. Deer’s presentation: https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/Sarah_Deer_2015/0r76triy8

The Annual New Women Faculty to KU Reception in October 2014 was hosted by Chair Alesha Doan. The event was a great success with 16 new women faculty in attendance and 24 WGSS faculty and Advisory Board members. This is always a fun event and gives new faculty the opportunity to meet other faculty whose research or teaching interest may intersect with their own. A special thank you to Faculty Development and the Provost Office for their additional support for this event.

NWSA - National Women’s Studies Association Conference

WGSS faculty and graduate students attended the National Women’s Studies Association. WGSS graduate students presented these papers at the NWSA conference “Feminist Formations,” in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November, 2014:

Andrew Gilbert: “Feminism and Tumblr: Rethinking Online Analysis”
Liam Lair “Disciplining Diagnoses: Whiteness, Legitimacy, and Trans* Subject Positions”
Megan Lease “Bold and Beautiful: Representations of Female Christian Athletes in FCA Magazine 1970-2013”
Ashley Mog “Biopolitics, Racialization, and Comfort: Historical Origins of Modern Discourse Around Transgender Children”
Corinne Schwarz “Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: Justice and Anti-Trafficking Prevention in Kansas City,” and “Carrying a Burden: Love and Sacrifice in Prolife Perinatal Hospice Centers”
Elizabeth Stigler “{Fashion}er: Consumption, Curation and the Wearable Archive”

40th Annual WGSS and Friends Banquet – recognition of Graduating Seniors and Graduate Certificate Students:

In May, 2014, WGSS faculty, students, staff, and Friends of WGSS presented undergraduates Katherine Gwynn, Emma Halling and Jyleesa Hampton with $150 each for our annual Virginia’s Purse Award. The Virginia’s Purse Award is presented to one or more outstanding WGSS Majors that have excelled through their activism, scholarship and/or leadership in WGSS. For our undergraduate capstone course, the Senior Seminar Thesis Prize was awarded to Candice Crafton and Hannah Jayne; each received $75 for their outstanding final papers. Our graduating seniors were: Kira Alexander (B.G.S. Women’s Studies, B.G.S. Political Science, and History Minor), Candice Crafton (B.A. Women’s Studies), Kimberly Lopez (B.G.S. Women’s Studies and History of Art Minor), Mia Montgomery (B.G.S. Women’s Studies, and African & African American Studies Minor) and Yliana Ruiz (B.A. Women’s Studies, and B.A. Spanish).

The Younger-Wendland LGBTQ Paper Prize, funded by John Younger and Milton Wendland, awarded $100 each to Chelsey Howell and Addison Keegan-Harris for their outstanding papers, in May 2014. The LGBTQ prize honors the best related papers/projects produced by an undergraduate KU student in any WGSS course. Traditional academic research papers and essays as well as projects such as films, performances, art pieces, zines, and blogs are all eligible. Papers from the fall, summer, and spring semesters are all welcome. For more information: please contact Prof. John Younger at jyounger@ku.edu or Prof. Milton Wendland at lgbtpaperprize@gmail.com

41st Annual WGSS and Friends Banquet, May 7, 2015 – faculty, students, staff and Friends of WGSS celebrated the recognition of the winners of the Virginia’s Purse Award: Jaden Gragg and Jessica Larson. For our undergraduate capstone course, the Senior Seminar Thesis Prize was awarded to Nichole Flynn and Katherine Gwynn. Our graduating seniors were: Celia Byrne (B.A. WGSS, HS Minor), Kia Cannon (B.G.S. WGSS), Nichole Flynn (B.G.S. WGSS, Film Studies Minor), Haley Gilchrist (B.A. WGSS, B.A. Film & Media Studies), Jaden Gragg (B.A. WGSS, BA Environmental Studies), Katherine Gwynn (B.A. WGSS, B.A. English-Creative Writing), Emma Halling (B.A. WGSS, B.A. American Studies, Public Policy Minor), Jyleesa Hampton (B.A. WGSS, B.A. Political Science, B.A. AAAS), Jennifer Marcinkowski (B.G.S. WGSS, History Minor), Sara Saunders (B.A. WGSS, Psychology Minor), Crystal
Wolf (B.A. WGSS).
The Younger-Wendland LGBTQ Paper Prize, given on May 7, 2015 and funded by John Younger and Milton Wendland, awarded $100 to Jaden Gragg for her outstanding paper, *Dreaming in Green: the American Lawn as Heteronormative Space*. For more information: please contact Prof. John Younger at jyounger@ku.edu or Prof. Milton Wendland at lgbtpaperprize@gmail.com

A SHOUT OUT TO THESE WGSS STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM KU WITH DISTINCTION!

WGSS MAJORS:
Haley Nicole Gilchrist – B.A. in Film & Media Studies and WGSS
Katherine Gwynn – B.A. in English and WGSS
Emma Claire Halling – B.A. in American Studies and WGSS

WGSS MINORS:
Melanie Carron Kulcik – B.A. in Psychology; Minor in WGSS
Kathryn Ann Sopcich – B.A. in Latin American Studies; Minor in WGSS

WGSS Graduate Certificate students, 2014-2015

Jennifer Abercrombie: “The classes I took for my WGSS Certificate have already served me in so many ways. For example, all of my WGSS courses have helped guide a lot of the theoretical work that I’ve used in my dissertation and in the field research I did in Cuba this past January. I plan on further incorporating a WGSS perspective in all of my work and — thanks to the interdisciplinary nature of that work — I am confident that I will be a more desirable candidate for a tenure track job.”

Lynn Deboeck: “As I embark on a career in academia, teaching theatre, I am thankful for the experiential and scholarly knowledge I have gained in WGSS. Women and LGBTQ playwrights are sadly underrepresented and the very feminist ideology of inclusiveness is more of an ideal than a practice in some cases. The graduate certificate I earned from WGSS provides me not only with the proper foundation of feminist theory, but empowers me to use the art of theatre to build bridges to those marginalized that do not yet see themselves represented on stage.”

Christina Hodel: “The WGSS Grad Certificate was incredibly helpful in assisting with the formulation and execution of my dissertation. My dissertation is invested in both film and media studies as well as gender. I feel confident that completing the graduate certificate will aid in my job search for a university faculty position. Gender and film is a current topic many departments are increasingly examining.”

Scharla Paryzek: “In December, I received an M.A. in History and the WGSS Graduate Certificate. I completed the WGSS Graduate Certificate program because it aligned with my historical research and helped me approach my academic and professional life from a more critical, gender-conscious angle. Gender permeates all aspects of my world and society in general, and goes far beyond ‘women’s studies.’”

Caroline Porter: “I’m a M.A. student in the English department. The WGSS Certificate has helped me to focus on the ways gender and sexuality work in literature, taught me to write about these issues cogently, and enabled me to make connections between the actual texts I study and larger issues of prejudice, inequality, and power. And, also important, this certificate has made me a much more competitive PhD applicant.”

Alexis Catanzarite
Natalie Hoskins
Stephanie Krehbiel
Scharla Paryzek
Kaitlin Walker
Heather Wehr
Spotlight on WGSS Majors and Minors!

WGSS & AMS Major Emma Halling recognized at PPKM event!
Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri presented Emma Halling with the Next Generation Award at the Voices for Choice event on March 11, 2015.

Congratulations to two WGSS graduating seniors on receiving Undergraduate Research Awards in Spring 2015! https://news.ku.edu/51-ku-students-receive-undergraduate-research-awards-spring
Katherine Gwynn, a senior from Olathe who majored in English and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, research project: ‘Merely Players’: A Continuation of Shakespeare’s ‘As You Like It,’ mentored by Darren Canady, English.
Emma Halling, a senior from Elkhart, Indiana, who majored in American Studies and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, research project: Shutting the Door But Opening a Window: How University Admissions Practices Expose Students to Risk of Sexual Assault, mentored by Clarence Lang, American Studies.

Congratulations to WGSS & POLS Major Jyleesa Hampton on her recognition!
While Jyleesa Hampton and Quaram Robinson are the 36th KU team to be recognized as first-round automatic qualifiers to the NDT, they are the first such team to be composed of two women and the first to be composed of two African Americans. The KU Debate team of senior Jyleesa Hampton, Overland Park, and first-year student Quaram Robinson, Round Rock, Texas, has been recognized as a first-round, at-large qualifier for the National Debate Tournament, which will take place at the University of Iowa on April 3-6, 2015. See more at: http://news.ku.edu/2015/02/20/ku-debate-qualifies-national-tournament#sthash.LjgoRFBg.VVepuF0W.dpuf

Two WGSS Minors are among those chosen as 2015 McNair Scholars!
The McNair Scholars program, established at KU in 1992, is part of the Achievement & Assessment Institute’s (AAI) Center for Educational Opportunity Programs (CEOP) and provides low-income, first-generation and underrepresented minority students with the necessary skills, resources and support to prepare and earn placement in graduate programs to pursue doctoral degrees.
Kristina Padilla, junior, Denver, Colorado
Padilla is a Journalism Major with a Minor in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. She is interested in employing qualitative methods to explore women’s narratives of their involvement in motorcycling.
Michael Cox, sophomore, Augusta, Kansas
Cox is a Political Science Major with Minors in Spanish, and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Cox’s research interests are in political inequalities, LGBT political representation, voting methods and voting demographics in relation to American identity.

WGSS Community Outreach
In October 2013, WGSS was contacted by Lawrence High School student Olivia Randolph, one of the co-presidents and founders of the Young Feminists Club at Lawrence High School. Their group was comprised of around 30 members and in an email they sent to WGSS Chair Alesha Doan, they stated they were “hoping to educate the high school and community on the detrimental effects of problems such as slut-shaming, unequal learning opportunities, sexism, and domestic
violence, along with an array of other gender related inequalities.” WGSS was glad to hear from the group and the following fall semester, in November 2014, WGSS hosted a field trip for the Young Feminists Club. The visit from the Young Feminists Club was very rewarding for WGSS faculty and students. WGSS had not had the opportunity to meet with high school students from the Lawrence community before. WGSS major Katherine Gwynn, President of Students United for Reproductive and Gender Equity, along with other WGSS majors, met with the group. Katherine escorted them to a First Fridays meeting, a casual open discussion space around feminist/social/justice issues, in the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center. The group was also invited by WGSS GTA Andrew Gilbert to join his WGSS 327 Perspectives in Lesbian: Gay, Bisexual and Transgender class. After the class visit, they headed back to SMRC to listen to presentations by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center.

WGSS Affiliated Events

New Human Sexuality Major
The Kansas Board of Regents approved a B.A. and B.G.S. in Human Sexuality for WGSS during their June 18, 2014 meeting. The new major can officially be declared by students beginning fall 2015.

The Jana Mackey Distinguished Lecture Series
The Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity invited Melissa Harris-Perry, host of MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry, Presidential Chair and Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University, and founding Director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center on Gender, Race, and Politics in the South, to speak at the Lied Center last October. WGSS was a co-sponsor for this event.

Women of Color Retreat
The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity, with faculty sponsorship from the Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, sponsored an Undergraduate and Graduate Women of Color Retreat last October. The Women of Color Retreat is a daylong program aimed at connecting self-identified Women of Color from across disciplines with their peers, faculty, staff and alumnae. The retreat provides time for critical self-reflection and discussion as the group explores issues affecting women of color personally, academically and professionally.
February Sisters Historical Marker
KU Endowment invited the community to remember and celebrate the February Sisters at the dedication of the February Sisters Historical Marker in September 2014. Photos from the February Sisters event can be found by clicking on the link on the upper right corner of the first page: http://albums.phanfare.com/isolated/mgQc2hki/1/6717913

Visit from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria
A delegation from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria visited various units across the KU campus in February. The delegation visited campus to sign an MOU (a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Kansas). Faculty members Dr. Omofolabo Ajayi and Dr. Hannah Britton hosted their visit to the WGSS Department.

The Gender Seminar at the Hall Center for Humanities
The Gender Seminar is co-directed by Ann Schofield (Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies) and Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology). The Gender Seminar studies gender as a basic concept in humanistic scholarship and/or as a fundamental organizing principle in social life. The seminar will promote the study and application of gender as a viable analytical tool that not only provokes new scholarship in its primary base of women, feminist, and sexualities studies, but also explores possible research dimensions in fields such as, race, ethnicity, nationality, class and disability. The Gender Seminar is open to faculty, graduate students and staff.

Fall 2014 Gender Seminar Speakers
Stephanie Krehbiel, American Studies/Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, presentation “Of Walls and Weeping: Pacifism, Sexual Ethics, and a Mennonite Grammar of Will,” September 4
Karen Tice, Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Kentucky, presentation “Race, Beauty Politics, and College Pageantry,” October 2
Stephanie Fitzgerald, English, presentation “Recovering Gender in Native America,” November 6
Marta Vicente, History/Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, presentation “Debating Sex and Gender: Lessons from the Enlightenment,” December 4

Spring 2015 Gender Seminar Speakers
Katie Batza, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, presentation “Sickness and Wellness: Intersections of Sexuality and Medicine in American History,” February 5
Maggie Childs, East Asian Languages & Cultures, presentation “Evaluating a Marriage: Contrasting Interpretations of Emotional Registers in the Kagero Diary,” March 5
Tami Albin, KU Libraries, presentation “Weirdness, Queerness, and Communities,” April 2
Brian Donovan, Sociology, presentation “The Gold Digger Trope, Cultural U.S. Alimony Reform in the 1920s,” May 7

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Endowment Funds
Our WGSS Endowment funds make projects possible, give us opportunities to invite speakers, and provide scholarships and social occasions for faculty and students that help us build a community beyond the classroom. Thanks to our Endowment contributions, WGSS supports several important events and awards, including the New Women Faculty Reception and annual Awards Banquet, where we honor and recognize important contributions from WGSS students.

Your ongoing support of the Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Department is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please visit http://wgss.ku.edu/giving.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department:
318 Blake Hall, 1541 Lilac Lane, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-3177, Phone: 785-864-2310, Fax: 785-864-1473, Facebook: wgssku, Web: wgss.ku.edu, Webmail: wgss@ku.edu
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Shauna Leslie
Carolyn Glazier Litwin
Elizabeth B.A. Miller & Lindy Eakin
Omofolabo Ajayi Soyinka
The Honorable Karen M. Uplinger
Milton Wendland & Michael Rezayazdi
John Younger