Chair’s Message

Spring is the season of endings and farewells, of celebration and marking milestones in the academic calendar. While the campus erupts into color, graduates prepare to “walk down the hill” in the most beloved of KU rituals. Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) shares in this celebratory mood. Much that our department celebrates this spring was accomplished by past chair Alesha Doan and our marvelous faculty, now nine persons strong. During the past three years, Katie Batza, Ayesha Hardison, and Stacey Vanderhurst have joined our faculty. We fund ten doctoral students with research interests ranging from human trafficking to female athletes to narratives of transgendering. And, in a few weeks, Megan Lease and Liam Lair will walk across the Lied Center stage at the doctoral hooding ceremony as the first graduates of the Ph.D. program we began five years ago.

No one could have imagined the present state of WGSS when I joined what was then the Women’s Studies faculty in 1980. A committed group of faculty and students from across campus worked to realize the February Sisters’ dream of an independent Women’s Studies by offering courses with feminist themes and “women” in the titles. Soon came a certificate, then a B.A. degree, and in 2008 Women’s Studies became Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) to more fully recognize the courses we taught and the research done by our faculty. In 2011 we welcomed our first cohort of doctoral students. Today WGSS offers two undergraduate degrees – Women’s Studies and Human Sexuality (both offered as minors), a graduate certificate in WGSS, and a doctoral degree.

During challenging political times we are fortunate in our supporters beyond the department. A critical part of our success is the WGSS Advisory Board. Feminist faculty and students formed the board after the February Sisters occupied the East Asian Studies building in 1972, developed a nascent curriculum, and supported junior female faculty struggling with sexism overt and less obvious in their departments. Today the Advisory Board is still a network of like-minded faculty on campus – a number far larger than 40 years ago. Twice yearly meetings may feature hot button topics like the Kansas concealed carry law and sexual assault on campus.

Our donors play a too often unsung role in WGSS. As a new-ish department whose alums go more frequently into work that’s rewarding in ways other than financial, we rely on the generosity of our friends for student prizes and scholarships and for the funds to support faculty and student research, travel to conferences, for invited speakers, and for the many ways large and small we can make our mission visible.

Finally, special thanks to Jan Emerson for being the face of WGSS to all that come to our Blake Hall office and for her careful work assembling this newsletter. I hope you enjoy learning more about the work we’re doing!

Ann Schofield

Plenary speakers for Archives Interrupted: Gender & the Future of Constructing the Past Regina Kunzel (Princeton University) and Kate Dossett (Leeds University).
What’s Up with WGSS Faculty?

Assist. Prof. Katie Batza: Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Having made the most of her research intensive semester this past fall, Katie submitted her book manuscript to the University of Pennsylvania Press. Her article on lesbian insemination activism appears this summer in The Journal of Women’s History. Also this summer, the National Park Service will release her chapter on historical sites of LGBTQ medical significance as part of its LGBTQ Theme Study to identify, interpret, and preserve sites of historical importance to LGBTQ communities. Katie has started research for her next project on the early AIDS epidemic in the Midwest. In the classroom, Katie is excited to be teaching WGSS 800 a course that introduces new grad students to the discipline again as well as her first online course, WGSS 563: Gender, Sexuality, and the Law. Finally, she is in the process of designing a course on the History of Sex that she will be co-teaching with Chris Forth (History) next Spring.

Assoc. Prof. Hannah Britton: Political Science and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Hannah directs the Center for the Study of Injustice at the Institute for Policy & Social Research at KU. Within the Center, she continues her work with the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative at KU. In the spring of 2016, Hannah created a “live lab” where students in the graduate WGSS 802 Feminist Methods class joined in the research on human trafficking in the Midwest. Hannah also coordinates a working group of students and faculty engaged in qualitative research methods. She is continuing to research and publish on her work examining community responses to gender-based violence in Southern Africa. In March she spoke to a packed room at The Commons on “Human Trafficking in the Heartland” as part of the Hall Center Humanities Lecture series.

Assoc. Prof. Ayesha Hardison: English and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Ayesha is teaching a graduate course on Black feminist theory and an undergraduate course on African American literature and film. She recently delivered the 2016 Bridge Lecture at Saint Louis University; the talk was drawn from her book Writing through Jane Crow (University of Virginia Press 2014). She presented a paper on the Flint, Michigan water crisis for the opening plenary panel, “Ferguson, Charleston, Baltimore and Beyond: Black Women Scholars Reflect on the Post-Civil Rights Movement,” at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature conference in Boston. Ayesha looks forward to attending the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Atlanta to give a paper that is part of her second book project on contemporary representations of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements.

Prof. Charlene Muehlenhard: Psychology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Charlene Muehlenhard and her students are working on several projects related to sexuality:
- a study with undergraduate Val Kutchko (double major, Human Sexuality & Psychology) on bystanders’ reactions to sexually coercive situations.
- a study with Adijat Mustapha (WGSS Graduate Certificate student & Psychology doctoral student) on women’s and men’s experiences with being talked into sexual behavior that was, at least initially, unwanted.
- a study with Kate Esterline on how individuals conceptualize being “out” about their sexual orientation.
• a study with Renae Mitchell on how individuals actually communicate sexual consent in various situations.
• a review article – “The Complexities of Sexual Consent Among College Students: A Conceptual and Empirical Review” (Muehlenhard, Humphreys, Jozkowski, & Peterson, 2016) – scheduled for publication in the Journal of Sex Research. Coauthor Zoë Peterson was in the first WGSS Graduate Certificate class; she is now an Associate Professor.

Prof. Ann Schofield: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Following a two year stint as Associate Dean for the Humanities, Ann spent the fall semester as a Visiting Research Professor at Leeds University. While in England she did research on women workers and labor reformers in the Marks and Spencer Business Archive and made five presentations:
* “My Archival Life” (Keynote address) at The Future of Women’s Pasts Conference – Leeds University
* “The Piano in America: Emblem of Respectability” University of East Anglia
* “Gender Inequities in the U.S. Historical Profession” Leeds University
* “Respectability, Pianos, and American Literature” Leeds University
She returned to KU in January to become interim chair of WGSS for the spring semester.

Assoc. Prof. Akiko Takeyama: Anthropology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Akiko Takeyama’s book, Staged Seduction: Selling Dreams in a Tokyo Host Club, has just been published by Stanford University Press. With funding from a Japan Foundation Research Fellowship, Akiko conducted field research in 2015 for a new project on human trafficking in Japan. She returned to KU for the Spring semester, where she is teaching a WGSS capstone course with a thematic focus on critical approaches to human trafficking. Along with Ann Schofield, Akiko organized the Archives Interrupted: Gender and the Future of Constructing the Past symposium (April 22-23).

Assist. Prof. Stacey Vanderhurst: Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Stacey Vanderhurst was delighted to join the WGSS department this year. She won a research grant from the West Africa Research Association to support eight weeks of fieldwork in Nigeria last summer. That work culminated in a workshop at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos, which she organized with an engaged anthropology grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation. She also served as an invited expert panelist at a workshop for the European Union’s Asylum Support Office in Valletta, Malta, during the peak of the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean. She is currently working on a book proposal and manuscript addressing the intersections of morality and migration in Nigeria’s counter-trafficking programs.
Visiting Assist. Prof. Rachel Vaughn: Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Rachel signed an advance contract with the University of Nebraska Press for her manuscript *Talking Food, Talking Trash: Oral Histories of Food (In)Security from the Margins of a Dumpster.* In January 2016 her article “Choosing Wisely: Paralleling Food Sovereignty and Reproductive Justice,” was accepted for publication in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies.* In February, Rachel was invited to present her work on gender and soy nutritional data at the Hall Center Gender Seminar. February also marked year one of Rachel’s term as executive board member for the Lawrence based Sunrise Project. The Lawrence based non profit implements free/low-cost community programming in food, environmental literacy & youth engagement. This March, Rachel participated in a roundtable on Waste & The Commons for the Mid-America American Studies Association conference; and had the opportunity to guest lecture in WGSS 300: *Food, Feminism & Philosophy,* designed and taught by PhD student Liz Stigler. Rachel has accepted a post doctoral position in the Center for the Study of Women & Gender Studies at UCLA beginning in the fall. She will be missed!

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

This has been an exciting year for Marta. Marta signed a book contract with Cambridge University Press. The book, *Debating Sex and Sex in Eighteenth-Century Spain: the Invention of the Sexes* (forthcoming, 2017) argues that the modern notion of two separate sexes corresponding to two distinctive genders is in fact an “invention” of the eighteenth century. At the end of this academic year, Marta also saw the publication of her article “Pornography and the Spanish Inquisition: The Reading of *Le Portier des Chartreux* in Eighteenth-Century Madrid” with the journal *Comparative Literature.* The article narrates the story of José Mariano Beristain, Mexican theologian prosecuted by the Spanish Inquisition for reading a “pornographic” novel. Beristain’s story offers a rare glimpse into readership practices and the transmission of ideas in the eighteenth-century Spanish world. Marta continues to teach the popular “Mystics to Feminists” course for undergraduates and “Feminist Theory” as part of our graduate curriculum.

Assoc. Professor Kim Warren: History and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Kim Warren continues to serve as Director of Graduate Studies for WGSS. In that role, she has recruited new graduate students and mentored existing PhD and Certificate students. In addition, her co-edited volume celebrating KU’s Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) was published by the University Press of Kansas in August 2015: John L Rury and Kim Cary Warren, editors, *Transforming the University of Kansas: A History, 1865-2015.* Kim Warren has been taking part in a three-year interdisciplinary project that connects humanities faculty at KU with similar faculty at Elon University, Park University, and Rockhurst University. Through the Collaborative Humanities Redesign Project (CHRP), Kim has been redesigning HIST 319/WGSS 396 History, Women, and Diversity in the United States, a mid-level history class that counts toward the Diversity Core Requirement. The course is designed thematically and chronologically in order to expose students to a broad range of definitions of diversity, gender, and feminism. In addition, Kim has taken her HIST 353 Indigenous Peoples of North America online as part of a movement to make courses accessible to a broader range of students in Lawrence and throughout the international cybersphere.
Shout outs for WGSS Graduate Students!

Rachel Denny – Rachel was awarded the Tinker Field Research Grant and a Stansifer Fellowship from the KU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies to conduct field research in Central America for her dissertation.

Andrew Gilbert – Andrew’s dissertation research looks at online pornography, particularly straight white men who describe profound sexual desires for trans* and queer people. He is currently teaching WGSS 530: Sex, Gender & New Media where his students explore topics of identity through looking at selfie culture, Youtube videos, and fan fiction. He presented “Archiving Digital Ephemera: Transformations of Heterosexual Desire” at the Archives Interrupted: Gender and the Future of Constructing the Past symposium.

Trevor Grizzell – Trevor’s dissertation research examines depictions and deployments of “stuckness” in U.S. visual culture. Trevor is currently a student editor for the American Studies Journal.


Ashley Mog – Ashley recently won a highly competitive American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship for a full year of support to write her dissertation entitled “Discomforting Power: Bodies in Public.” In her research, Ashley draws from oral histories with queer and trans disability justice activists based in Seattle, WA in an analysis of the power relationship between embodiment and space. Through these oral histories and a critical discourse analysis, she examines the connections between activist coalitions around public bathrooms and the social constructions of comfort. Her research addresses how public space is constructed as “comfortable” for some on the basis of identities, bodies, and norms, and how coalitional activism undermines and undoes some of those constructions.

Ashley has been a visiting scholar in the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University this year. Her other accomplishments include the Mariam K. Chamberlain Dissertation Award from Re: Gender (formerly the National Council for Research on Women) and the Jim Martin travel Award for the Humanities from the Hall Center.

At the American Studies Association conference in Toronto, Ashley presented “Discomforting Biopolitics: Comfort Stations and Whiteness.” And Ashley participated in the first ever Queer Caucus sponsored panel at the Society for Disability Studies conference in Atlanta. Her paper was called “Bathrooms as Trans and Crip Spaces of Contestation.” She is the coordinator/facilitator for this caucus and is actively leading the caucus to make change at SDS. She organized a Critical Disability Studies Caucus panel for next year’s American Studies Association conference.

Marilyn Ortega – Marilyn Ortega is a Xican@/Woman of Color/mother, community educator/organizer. Marilyn received her Bachelor of Arts in American Ethnic Studies and Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies from Kansas State University where she focused on expanding conversations about the School-to-Prison Pipeline to understand the Prison Industrial Complex as a reproductive justice issue terrorizing communities of color in the United States. Her work is grounded in her lived experiences and community involvement. Marilyn’s primary objectives in her work are to decolonize the mind/body and build coalition across lines of difference/borders created and maintained by colonialism. Her current research examines the ways that historical trauma complicates recovery for Xicanas that self-medicate after childhood sexual trauma. Marilyn will also be one of the leaders of a roundtable at the Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) Summer Institute at the University of Wyoming.

Along with WGSS graduate students Marcy Quiason and Mary Louisa Williams, Marilyn has been working on founding the department’s honor society Triota Honors Chapter.

Marcy Quiason – Marcy is researching human trafficking and strategies implemented to prevent it within the Philippines. Currently, Marcy is learning how to speak Filipino (Tagalog) in preparation for her fieldwork.

Summer 2015 Marcy presented at a Student conference in Madison for her language program.

Corinne Schwarz – Corinne passed her comprehensive exam and dissertation prospectus with honors in November. Her dissertation explores the narratives and stereotypes that shape human trafficking across the Midwest. She focuses on the role that service providers play in identifying and assisting trafficked persons, as well as defining human trafficking in pol-
icy and practice. Human trafficking is frequently deployed in binary terms: victims or criminals, survivors or perpetrators, moral or immoral. Her work seeks to understand how these terms play out in service provision for vulnerable, exploited, and trafficked Midwesterners.

Her dissertation research has been supported by:
- An IPSR Doctoral Research Fellowship
- Howard J. Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award
- NSF Law and Society Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
- Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Grant
- Graduate Summer Research Fellowship from the KU Office of Graduate Studies

**Elizabeth Stigler** – Liz passed her comprehensive exam with honors in March.

Liz’s dissertation is tentatively titled, “Community Through the Kitchen: Tradition, Memory, and Citizenship in Chicago’s Czech American Community.” In the dissertation Liz analyzes how Chicago based Czech Americans have used food and culinary tradition to navigate their community and understand their own ethnic identity. She posits a theory of ethnic identity that acknowledges white America’s culinary influence on Czech food ways in order to create a hybrid identity that is specific to the experience of Chicago based Czech-Americans. Using co-culinary oral histories – a hybrid method that combines feminist oral histories with cooking together – she will examine the relationship between women’s labor, culinary tradition, and community.

Liz won a 2016 Graduate Summer Research Fellowship from the Office of Graduate Affairs.

Liz has presented her research at KU “Red Hot Research” program, at the Mid American American Studies conference, and, most recently at the *Archives Interrupted* symposium.

Since August of 2015, Liz has been the Production Assistant for the *American Studies Journal* published out of KU.

Liz presently teaches WGSS 396 Studies In: Food, Feminism, and Philosophy.

**Mary Louisa Williams** – Mary Louisa’s research examines the cases of incest between 1880 and 1920 that were brought before Kansas’s judicial system in order to understand how incest was prosecuted and punished with regard to race, class, gender, religion, age, ability, and transiency. She presented a paper entitled “Her Story Believed: Finding the Women in Cases of Father-Daughter Incest” at the *Archives Interrupted: Gender and the Future of Constructing the Past* symposium on April 23.

**Karinda Woodward** – Karinda Woodward is originally from Oregon and graduated summa cum laude from Oregon State University in 2014, earning her B.A. in women’s studies. Her current research centers on reproductive and epistemic justice in childbearing and parenting with a focus on respectable parenthood, poverty/socio-economic status, class, and “worthy” knowledge. Theoretical approaches employed in Karinda’s research include affect theory, social abjection, queer theory, and biopolitics. Before joining KU, Karinda worked as an early childhood educator, a lactation consultant, and an assistant midwife.

Outside of KU, Karinda keeps busy raising her three children. Her family loves visiting the public library, the nature center, and the pool. Karinda and her family also enjoy taking a variety of fitness and creative arts classes within the community.
New Doctoral Students

Josephine Kipgen – Josephine holds a BA in English (Honors) from University of Delhi, MA in Women’s and Gender Studies from University of Northern Iowa. Her interests include postcolonial studies, transnational feminism, women in religious discourse, and feminist literary production. Her PhD research seeks to examine gender-based violence in north-west India, and argue that gender crimes find their root not only in deeply held gendered identities and androcentric practices grounded in caste and communal consciousness but also have their origins in British colonial paradigms. Her research seeks to further identify the paradoxes prevailing in contemporary Indian culture and society by way of critically analyzing the intersection of the historical (colonial), the sociological (customary norms) and the political (state administrative policies).

Aminata Seck - Aminata is originally from Senegal. She has a B.A. in Political Science from Bard College and is finishing her Masters in Global and International Studies at KU. Aminata’s research interest is looking at ways that African and Islamic feminism negotiate with religious and cultural practices that Western feminism views as a tools to oppress women. Polygamy is an example of these tools that have been used to address gender inequality in Muslim and African societies. Senegal is Aminata’s place of interest for this research. Aminata has been awarded a FLAS to study Wolof during Summer 2016.

First Ph.D. Graduates

Liam Lair- Spring 2016 Liam was awarded the PhD with honors in WGSS. Liam’s dissertation – the second completed in WGSS!! – is entitled “Disciplining Diagnoses: Sexology, Eugenics, and Trans* Subjectivities.” Abstract: This project uncovers the connections between sexology, eugenics, and the creation of the diagnoses of transvestism and transsexualism in the 20th century. Reading texts about and by transpeople, I highlight the ways in which understandings of gender and eugenics were mutually productive and how notions of race, sexuality, and disability were central to constructions of gender deviance. Contemporary understandings of transgender embodiment are rooted in this history. Recognizing and acknowledging the ongoing influence of this history is crucial for understanding how people access these diagnoses today and for how trans communities will negotiate them moving forward.

We asked Liam and Megan to reflect on their KU experience and list their awards and achievements while in grad school. Below are their comments:

Liam’s reflections
During my time at KU, I have grown intellectually and personally. I know better how to better navigate the academy, difficult (and easy) professional situations, and have also learned a lot about being a friend and colleague thanks to grad school friends both at KU and at other colleges and universities. The best thing about KU is the people. I am leaving KU with a network of brilliant intellectuals – folks I can rely on and engage with as I move forward in the academy. Courses that I took both in WGSS and in other departments helped to expand how I thought about my own work, and working with faculty and graduate students helped give my work nuance and specificity.

Awards, Fellowships, Publications:

- Doctoral Research Fund Award, University of Kansas, 2015
- Teaching Enhancement Fund Award, Louisiana State University, 2015
- Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant, American Studies Association, 2015
• Semifinalist, Phillips Exeter Academy Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2015
• John Money Fellowship for Scholars of Sexology, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, 2014
• Doctoral Summer Research Fellowship, University of Kansas, 2014
• Summer Research Award, WGSS University of Kansas, 2013
• LGBT Community Leadership Scholarship, University of Kansas, 2012, 13, 14

PUBLICATIONS
• “Sexology, Eugenics, and Hirschfeld’s Transvestites,” in Introductory Reader in Women’s Studies, eds. L. Ayu Saraswati, Barbara Shaw, and Heather Rellihan (forthcoming)

Next Year:
Liam will be a visiting assistant professor in WGS at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University.

Megan Lease - Fall 2015
Megan was awarded the first PhD in the WGSS Department at the University of Kansas. Megan’s dissertation title is “A Strong Woman of the Lord”: Performing Gender at the Intersection of Sport and Evangelical Christianity.”

Megan’s reflections
When I reflect on my time as a student in the WGSS Department, I am still struck by the support and encouragement that I received from all of the faculty in the program. Even professors that I had never worked closely with or taken a class from took an active interest in me, my work, and the larger issues I was concerned with. Everyone was invested in helping me succeed and offered their time and resources to make sure that I did. I also had exceptional mentorship in the form of my dissertation advisor, Dr. Alesha Doan. Through her guidance and mentorship, I was able to finish my PhD in four years, and become the first WGSS graduate at KU; something I take a great deal of pride in. Dr. Doan helped me grow as a scholar, researcher, and professional and was always present, patient, and generous with her time and energy. When I told her I did not want to pursue the traditional academic career path, she offered me exceptional professional development and mentorship that helped me be successful. I am currently the Lead Trainer and Instructional Designer for a Federal Consulting company in the nation’s capital. I also co-founded and run a blog, academic-expat.com, that explores reasons for choosing a non-academic job and offers resources to help others follow a similar path.

My dissertation entitled, “A Strong Woman of the Lord: Performing Gender at the Intersection of Sport and Evangelical Christianity,” examined how female athletes negotiate various and sometimes competing gendered expectations as women, athletes, and Christians. I specifically focused on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which is one of the oldest and largest national evangelical sports organizations that actively seeks to include women. One of my major findings was that as female athletes, “on the field,” they are allowed to break with traditional femininity and even exhibit hegemonic masculine qualities such as strength, leadership, and competitiveness. Particularly within the FCA Magazine, women are represented in a similar manner as their male counterparts with the focus on their athletic ability or role as Christian athletes. However, when it comes to women’s roles “off the field,” such being a wife or mother, Christian female athletes are expected to conform to traditional femininity. In particular, women are expected to exhibit those qualities that align with their conservative Christian values, such as submissiveness, sacrifice, and nurturance.
WGSS Activities

The Annual New Women Faculty to KU Reception on October 29, 2015 was hosted by Fall 2015 Chair Alesha Doan. The event was a great success with fifteen new women faculty in attendance and twenty-two WGSS faculty and Advisory Board members. This is always a fun event and provides the opportunity for new faculty 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 “Precarity,” in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November, 2015: Rachel Denney and Corinne Schwarz did a joint presentation titled “Precarity and Citizenship in Human Trafficking Interventions,” Ashley Mog “Discomforting Access: Bathrooms, Bodies, and Space,” Corinne Schwarz “Strings Attached: Contingent Care Work in Crisis Pregnancy Centers” with Dr. Alesha Doan, and Karinda Woodward “No Excuses: Family Precarity and Truancy Policy in Kansan Schools.” Karinda also offered a workshop with co-presenter Laura Tanner of UCSB: “Money Breeds Money”: The Precarity of Poverty-Class Parents in the Academy.”

41st Annual WGSS and Friends Banquet – Recognition of Graduating Seniors and Graduate Certificate Students: May 7, 2015 faculty, students, and friends of WGSS attended.

Presentation of Awards
Virginia’s Purse Award – Award for outstanding WGSS or Human Sexuality Major that excels through their activism, scholarship, and/or leadership in WGSS. Jaden Gragg and Jessica Larson were each awarded $150.

Senior Seminar Thesis Prize – Award presented for outstanding student work in the WGSS 601 Senior Seminar. Nichole Flynn and Katherine Gwynn each received $75.00 for their outstanding papers. Nichole Flynn’s project, “Strong Female Characters: A Study of Representation in Moffat Era ‘Dr. Who’” had her article selected for publication in the KU Journal of Undergraduate Research.

A Mile in These Shoes – a new award established by Emerita Prof. Omofolabo Ajayi. Jyleesa Hampton was presented with a check for $100.00.

The Younger-Wendland LGBTQ Paper Prize, funded by John Younger and Milton Wendland, awarded $100.00 to Jaden Gragg for her outstanding paper “Dreaming in Green: the American Lawn as Heteronormative Space.”

WGSS Graduating Seniors
Cecilia Byrne (BA Women’s Studies, and Human Sexuality Minor), Kia Cannon (BGS Women’s Studies), Nichole Flynn (BGS Women’s Studies and Film Studies Minor), Haley Gilchrist (BA Women’s Studies, and BA Film and Media Studies), Jaden Gragg (BA Women’s Studies, and BA Environmental Studies), Katherine Gwynn (BA Women’s Studies, and BA English-Creative Writing), Emma Halling (BA Women’s Studies, BA American Studies, and Public Policy Minor), Jyleesa Hampton (BA Women’s Studies, BA Political Science, and BA African, African-American Studies), Jennifer Marcinkowski (BGS Women’s Studies, and History Minor), Sara Saunders (BA Women’s Studies, and Psychology Minor), and Crystal Wolf (BA Women’s Studies).

Comments from WGSS Graduate Certificate Recipients
Sarah Bell (History), “I learned so much from the WGSS classes I took at KU. Each class provided relevant and significant discussions, where I felt I grew not only as a person, but also as a scholar. The framework I gained from the WGSS classes helped inform my research methods, particularly the Women and Gender in the Archives class. I also appreciated the interdisciplinary nature of the WGSS classes, where I got to work with and learn from students in other disciplines. Overall it was a very positive experience!” Natalie Hoskins (Communication Studies) “The graduate certificate in the De-
partment of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies enriched my doctoral work in the department of communication studies in many ways. I most appreciated the new perspectives I gained, both theoretically and methodologically. The WGSS faculty, staff, and students were immensely helpful in guiding my journey, and my research and pedagogy will forever be improved because of them,” Josh Morgan (Communication Studies), Leah Mortenson (Curriculum and Teaching), “The classes I have taken in WGSS have broadened my perspective in a way that allows me to read books and news stories, watch movies and TV shows, and even listen to music in a fundamentally more conscious way. I am able to see the way power operates in society in a way to which I was previously blind. As a PhD student in education, the knowledge and insight I’ve gained through my WGSS courses have allowed me to more comprehensively study the standards movement in education- who it benefits and serves to “lift up,” and who it oppresses. In my career I hope to utilize this perspective to bring about the changes that are necessary for education to equally serve all of its members rather than a select few,” Kathryn Vaggalis (American Studies), and Phillip Wagner (Communication Studies).

WGSS Affiliated Events
The Kansas Board of Regents approved a BA and BGS in Human Sexuality for WGSS during their June 18th, 2014 meeting. The new major can officially be declared by students beginning Fall 2015.

The Jana Mackey Distinguished Lecture Series
In February, the Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity sponsored Leslie Morgan Steiner’s presentation “What’s Love Got to Do With It? A Conversation About Intimate Partner Violence,” at the Dole Institute of Politics. Leslie Morgan Steiner is a nationally known spokesperson and advocate on domestic/intimate partner violence prevention as a survivor, and author of the best-selling book Crazy Love. WGSS co-sponsored this event.

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 & WGSS). 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 (dis)ability. The Gender Seminar is open to faculty, graduate students, and staff.

2015-16 Gender Seminar
Corinne Schwarz (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention in the Heartland, (Co-sponsored by the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative.

Giselle Anatol,(English) Gender-Blending the Trickster: Anansi Folklore in Literature of the African Diaspora.

Joane Nagel, Sociology, presentation Gender and Climate Change.

William Kuby, Univ. of Tennessee at Chattanooga, presentation Modern Romance or Progressive Polygamy?: Hasty Remarriage in the United States at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.

Rachel Vaughn, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, presentation Gay Beans, Terminator Seeds and Alex Jones: Gendered Food Fear Mongering.


Rebecca Barrett-Fox, Arkansas State University, presentation Women Soldiers in the Culture Wars: Kim Davis, the Women of Westboro Baptist Church, and Anti-Gay Activism.
Plenary speakers for *Archives Interrupted: Gender & the Future of Constructing the Past.*

**Kate Dossett** (Director of Feminist Archives Feminist Futures Project, Leeds University)  
*Feminist Archives and Gender Trouble.*

**Regina Kunzel** (Director, Gender and Sexualities Studies, Princeton University)  
*In Treatment: Psychiatry and the Archives of Modern Sexuality.*

In addition to the plenary speakers, presenters included Prof. Katie Batza, three WGSS doctoral students and five WGSS graduate certificate students.

**Friends of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies**

Our WGSS Endowment funds make possible projects, opportunities to invite speakers, provide scholarships, and social occasions for faculty and students that help us build a community beyond the classroom. Thanks to contributions to our KUEA account, 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](http://wgss.ku.edu/giving).

**2015-2016 Donors to our WGSS Endowment**

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