Chair’s Message

Dear Colleagues, Alumni & Supporters,

Greetings from Blake Hall, the new home of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department. Two weeks before the fall semester began, WGSS moved across campus. Although the move was a bit hectic (imagine navigating student and faculty meetings around boxes), we are settled in to our fabulous new suite. Little did we realize, the last minute relocation was a precursor to other exciting changes for WGSS this past year.

At the beginning of the semester, WGSS was authorized to conduct a faculty search for an assistant professor in sexuality studies. Much like our move, the department rallied together and conducted a wonderful job search thanks to the leadership of Prof. Charlene Muehlenhard. Charlene’s tireless efforts, along with Prof. Marta Vicente and Prof. Akiko Takeyama paid off. We had an incredible pool of applicants and I am pleased to announce that Katie Batza (PhD University of Illinois, Chicago) will be joining our department in the fall 2014 semester (see her spotlight in this newsletter). Our excitement about Katie’s impending arrival is matched by our excitement that Akiko has been promoted to Associate Professor. Additionally, she was recently awarded a fellowship to conduct field work in Japan for one year beginning in January 2015.

Two of our faculty members have recently been recognized for their invaluable contributions to graduate education and research. Prof. Ann Schofield was awarded the 2013 Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award. This award honors the dedicated work of the most outstanding graduate faculty mentors at the University of Kansas. Prof. Charlene Muehlenhard received the 2012 Alfred C. Kinsey Award. This is a lifetime achievement award given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of sexuality. Both of these accomplishments are amazing and the WGSS Department is honored to have such accomplished faculty.

Several other staffing changes have occurred in WGSS. This year Rachel Vaughn (PhD University of Kansas), Visiting Assistant Professor, has joined our department. Rachel has made significant contributions to our undergraduate and graduate programs; we are thrilled she will continue to be a member of the department for the 2014-2015 academic year. Prof. Ann Schofield has been serving as the Interim Associate Dean of the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Ann will continue to serve in this role for an additional year. Even though Ann is bringing an always needed feminist lens to her position, WGSS has missed her and we are eagerly looking forward to her return!

In the meantime, Prof. Sherrie Tucker (American Studies Department) has stepped in as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Sherrie has been a vital member of our department this past year and has been a stellar DGS; we will miss her next year as well. However, I am pleased to announce that Prof. Kim Warren (History Department) will be the new DGS for our department beginning in August. Both Sherrie and Kim have been active members of the WGSS Advisory Board and have provided a tremendous amount of research, teaching and mentoring support to WGSS faculty and students. Their involvement with WGSS speaks to the strong interdisciplinary relationships WGSS has with the Advisory Board and our colleagues across KU.

Another change taking place in our department is Prof. Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka’s decision to begin phased retirement. Omofolabo has been an integral member of the WGSS Department and a treasured colleague for many years. While we are extremely happy for this new phase in Omofolabo’s career and life, we will miss her dearly (and we are very grateful that phased retirement occurs over the course of a few years so we don’t have to say our good-byes just yet!).
Finally on the staffing front, WGSS will be welcoming Prof. Ayesha Hardison as the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor in the fall 2014 semester. Prof. Hardison is currently an Associate Professor in the English Department at Ohio University. She has a rich research program that focuses on the racial, gender, class and sexual oppression of black women, particularly from the Civil Rights era to contemporary times. WGSS was honored to have Ayesha present a lecture, “From the Reel to the Real: Rereading Black Women's History” for our 42nd February Sisters Annual Commemoration. We are extremely excited to have Ayesha as a colleague during the fall semester.

The active research agendas of our faculty members continue to be matched by their enthusiasm, dedication and innovation in our undergraduate and graduate programs. WGSS has been growing. We have 50 WGSS majors; 17 WGSS minors; 21 Human Sexuality minors; 25 graduate certificate students; and nine PhD students. To complement our current programs, we have proposed a Human Sexuality major, which we hope to launch in the near future. WGSS students bring vitality to each of our programs and they push the boundaries of education in new directions that challenge existing and unaddressed inequalities. We are fortunate to have such talented and engaged students like Emma Halling and Madeline Dickerson (see their spotlight in this newsletter) in our programs; they continue to motivate our teaching standards for excellence.

Through all of our changes this academic year, Jan Emerson has remained a steady presence in WGSS and she has our deepest gratitude. Jan has been a champion Administrative Associate—assisting with navigating and organizing our move, the job search and always willing to assist our faculty and students with the mundane to the extraordinary. Thank you Jan!

In closing, thank you for being active supporters of and contributors to the continued success of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. Amidst the changing faces in the WGSS Department, we have remained focused on our goals: the pursuit of excellence in feminist research, engaged scholarship and shaping the next generation of feminists trailblazers!

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 me at adoan@ku.edu, or any other faculty members. 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. Katie Batza

New Faculty Hire for WGSS Dept.

WGSS is pleased to announce that Catherine “Katie” Batza has accepted our position of assistant professor of WGSS, specializing in Sexualities Studies. Katie will be joining us in the fall. She will be teaching WGSS 396: Studies in Race, Gender and Health, and WGSS 563: Gender, Sexuality and the Law.

Katie earned her Ph.D. in American History and graduate certificate in Gender, Women, and Sexualities Studies from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 2011. Her dissertation, “Before AIDS: Gay and Lesbian Community Health in the 1970s,” was done under the supervision of historian John D’Emilio. Katie’s research examines the intersection of sexuality, health, and politics in the post-World War II United States. Her current book project, Before AIDS: Sexuality, Health, and Politics in the 1970s, examines the origins and evolution of gay community health activism in the period before AIDS. She also studies lesbian reproductive technologies, LGBTQ oral history, and the preservation and interpretation of LGBTQ historic sites. She has taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Macalester College, and Gettysburg College.
Prof. Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka: Theatre and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka is the author of *Yoruba Dance* (1998), and co-editor of *African Literature at the Millennium* (2006). Her research includes gender issues in African and African Diaspora literary theory criticism, performance arts and immigration. She is currently working on a book on *Efua Sutherland*.

2013 was a very busy year, as Omofolabo co-edited *Reflections: An Anthology of New Works by African Women Poets* for Lynne Rienner Publishers, with Anthonia Kalu and Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi. She also edited “My Christmas Wish List” and “The Code of Exile” in *Reflections: An Anthology of New Works by African Women Poets*, pgs. 126-128. Omofolabo directed a stage reading of *The Missing Face* by Tess Onwumere, at The Gem Theatre, Kansas City, KS. She also presented “Performance In – Laws and the Semiotics of Gendered Narration,” at the *African Literature Association*, Charleston, SC. For the Hall Center for Humanities and WGSS Symposium “Writing Gendered Bodies,” she presented “ Redeeming a Gender: Sutherland’s Foriwa and the Dissident Agenda.” And, in 2014, Omofolabo presented “Amaechina, May the Path never Close” for a panel on Chinua Achebe at the *Kansas African Studies Center Conference* and also presented “Stripping in War and Peace: Ancient Tactics for Modern Times,” at the Center for Global and International Studies, Univ. of KS.

Prof. Hannah Britton: Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Hannah Britton is currently serving as the Director of the Center for International Political Analysis at the Institute for Policy and Social Research at the University of Kansas. Hannah’s major research interests focus on gender and politics in Africa. Her previous work has focused on women in African legislatures, civil society, and government bureaucracies. She has been interested in how governments and citizens work collectively to end gender-based violence in southern Africa, and she has a forthcoming article in *Signs* with KU graduate student and WGSS certificate student Lindsey Shook. She also has a forthcoming piece that compares human trafficking policies in southern Africa, which she is publishing with KU graduate student and WGSS certificate student Laura Dean. Hannah is also leading the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Initiative (ASHTI) at KU. This consortium of faculty and students is developing a research model to examine the context of vulnerabilities that contributes to exploitation and trafficking: http://ipsr.ku.edu/ASHTI/. WGSS PhD student Corinne Schwarz is one of the team of graduate research assistants in the ASHTI project.

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

Alesha E. Doan is chairing the department, and is currently working on two large projects that reflect her ongoing research interests investigating the intersections between social policy, gender and politics. In the first project, she is examining the political factors that led to an influx of antiabortion policies adopted in the states between 2010 through 2013. In the second project, she is leading a collaborative research team that is examining how the integration of women into the special operation forces of the military may impact unit cohesion in these small, specialized combat units. Doan recently published an article on the politics of HPV vaccination with Kellee Kirkpatrick in *Policy Studies Journal*. She also recently received the Outstanding Young Professional Award from the Population, Reproductive and Sexual Health Section of the American Public Health Association in 2012, and the Woman of Distinction Award from The Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity, University of Kansas in 2013.

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

Charlene Muehlenhard is a Professor of Psychology and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her research focuses on the intersections of gender, sexuality, and sexual coercion and consent. Approaches that Dr. Muehlenhard finds useful to study these topics are (a) exploring what experiences mean to the individuals involved, (b) identifying the assumptions implicit in widely accepted concepts and questioning these assumptions, and (c) taking both gender-similarities perspectives and gender-differences perspectives.

Dr. Muehlenhard most often teaches Psychology of Women, Women and Violence, Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality, and Research Methods in Clinical Psychology. The first three of these courses fulfill requirements for WGSS’s undergraduate major, two minors, and graduate certificate. The fourth is currently taken only by graduate students in the Clinical Psychology Program; it would also fulfill a requirement for our WGSS doctoral students in the Psychology track.
Prof. Ann Schofield: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Dr. Ann Schofield’s home department is Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, but, for Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Ann has taken on new duties as Interim Associate Dean of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Replacing Ann as Interim Graduate Director for WGSS during Fall 2013 and Spring 2014, Dr. Sherrie Tucker from American Studies has been a wonderful addition to the department and very much appreciated. Ann will also be Interim Associate Dean of Humanities again in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. While missed at WGSS, the department feels that this is a great opportunity for Ann to learn and utilize her skills in ways that will benefit the entire KU community.

Dr. Schofield’s areas of specialization are U.S. Social and Cultural History, U.S. Women’s History, Biography, and History of Death.

Prof. Akiko Takeyama: Anthropology and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Akiko Takeyama is an associate professor in WGSS and Anthropology (home department) and affiliated with Centers for East Asian Studies and Global and International Studies. Her book, Staged Seduction: Gender Politics and Class Struggle in a Tokyo Host Club, ethnographically depicts the ways that neoliberal politico-economic reforms generate affect economies--marketplaces in which emotions, relationships, and identities are bought and sold—even as they create new stratifications between those who buy into the neoliberal ideology of autonomy, entrepreneurship, and aspiration and those who do not. Akiko’s second project, tentatively entitled, “Affect Economy of Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Hope, and Risky Endeavor in Japan,” will explore the interrelation between politico-legal systems and the global economy with a specific focus on human trafficking issues in Japan. More specifically, she intends to bring human affect--hope, fear, and sense of vulnerability--to the center of an analysis of 21st century capitalism, complicating such legal categories as human rights and individual consent especially when sexual and economic exploitation are carried out in the name of individual choice. With funding from Japan Foundation, she will conduct a year-long field research on this topic in 2015.

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

Rachel Vaughn holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Kansas. From 2011-2012 she served as dissertation and then postdoctoral fellow in Gender Studies at Oklahoma State University; and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas in the Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, where she teaches courses on Feminist and Queer Ecologies, Health, Sanitation and the Body; feminist pedagogy, among other courses. Her research engages the intersections of food politics, food sovereignty, and feminist environmental theory. By way of her oral history research with scavengers, foragers, and dumpster divers of varying food security levels and socio-economic backgrounds, she explores how the space of the dumpster and the act of diving work as alternative forms of cultural knowledge about food. Her work asks how the labels ‘real,’ or by default ‘un-real’, ‘edible’ or ‘inedible’ effect people of varying food (in)securities within the current food systems we consume. Vaughn is the author of a book in progress Talking Trash: Oral Histories of Food In/Security from the Margins of a Dumpster (under review with University of Nebraska Press).

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

Marta V. Vicente is an associate Professor at the departments of History and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Kansas. Her research interests include gender and sexuality in the Iberian World, the history of the Enlightenment and sex and economy in the eighteenth century. She is the author of Clothing the Spanish Empire: Families and the Calico Trade in the Early Modern Atlantic World (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006), awarded the 2010 Best First Book Prize by the Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies. She is also co-editor of Women, Texts and Authority in the Early Modern Spanish World (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2003). She is currently working on a book manuscript titled The Invention of the Sexes: Debating Sex and Gender in Eighteenth-Century Spain.
Acting Graduate Director Notes with Prof. Sherrie Tucker

What a great year—it has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to sit in for Ann Schofield as Acting Graduate Director for WGSS for 2013-2014! In the last seven months, I have been dazzled to watch as our 9 grad students, none more than three years into their doctoral studies, presented a total of 17 national conference papers and 15 papers and presentations at regional, local, campus, and invited talks. In addition, WGSS Ph.D. students submitted their work to peer reviewed journals and anthologies, already garnering acceptances. Liam Lair’s chapter, “Interrogating Trans* Identity in the Archive,” was accepted for a forthcoming volume entitled, Out of the Closet, Into the Archive: Researching Sexual Histories, edited by Jamie Cantrell and Amy Stone. Andrew Gilbert’s essay, “Repetition as Pejorative” was published in the online Screen Machine journal, issue 6 (http://www.screenmachine.tv/2014/issue/repetition-as-pejorative/). Grant and fellowship activity, too, is high: Rachel Denny is gearing up for a summer and second academic year of FLAS funding to study Haitian Creole; Liam Lair was awarded a John Money Fellowship for Scholars of Sexology, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction; Megan Lease was a IPSR Doctoral Research Fellow in 2013-2014; and Ashley Mog was selected as the only graduate student member of the Fall Faculty Colloquium for 2014, “Decolonizing Knowledge,” at the Hall Center for the Humanities. Milestones: ABDS!!! Megan Lease and Liam Lair defended their comps and prospecti in Spring 2014, becoming the very first Ph.D. Candidates in WGSS at KU; and Stephanie Metzger, Ashley Mog and Corinne Schwartz all passed their qualifying exams. And, finally, a warm welcome to the impressive new cohort: Marilyn Ortega, Marcy Quiason, and Mary Louisa Williams. This spring semester WGSS also welcomed American Studies graduate student Alex Stuckey. Alex provided the instruction for two discussion sections of WGSS 101, our Intro course.

WGSS Activities

The WGSS Dept’s Annual New Women Faculty to KU Reception on September 26, 2013 was hosted by Chair Alesha Doan. WGSS faculty, graduate students and advisory board members welcomed new women faculty to KU. This is always a fun event and provides the opportunity for new faculty to meet other faculty around campus whose research or teaching interest may intersect with their own.

LGBTQ Awesomeness Student Projects

These student projects were a culmination of a semester-long project by WGSS 327 “Perspectives in Lesbian: Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies” students. WGSS instructor Liam Lair assisted the students in exploring issues and topics related to LGBTQ life in innovative and provocative ways. After completing a research paper, they translated their findings into a visual format via display boards. Their topics ranged from trans* reproductive rights, issues of marriage equality and military service, to explorations of LGBTQA subcultures such as the BDSM community.
National Women’s Studies Association
WGSS GTAs were able to attend the National Women’s Studies Association to present papers and attend a roundtable discussion: These papers were presented at the NWSA in 2013: Trevor Grizzell “(Re)Animating the Social Order: The Zombie and Queer Failure,” Megan Lease “White Jesus Does Triathlon: The Production of Race at the Intersection of Sport and Religion,” Liam Lair “Compulsory Cisgendering and the Denial of Trans* Existence,” Stephanie Metzger “(A)sexy Cyborgs: Affinity and Embodiment in the Asexual Community” and Corinne Schwarz “In a Maternal Time and Place: Geographies of Motherhood Revised.” GTA Ashley Mog attended a Roundtable discussion at the NWSA as well. And, GTA Andrew Gilbert presented “The Disappearance of Order: Tumblr, Censorship, and Systems of Meaning,” at the DISAPPEARANCE: Spatial and Temporal Horizons Conference, CUNY, N.Y., with WGSS GTA Elizabeth Stigler’s presentation “The Big Reveal: Dis/Re Appearance in the Makeover Show.”

39th Annual WGSS and Friends Banquet – recognition of Graduating Seniors and Graduate Certificate Students:

On the evening of May 9, 2013, WGSS faculty, Friends of WGSS, and staff presented undergraduates Candice Crafton and Haley Miller with $250 each for our annual Virginia’s Purse Award. The Virginia’s Purse Award is presented to one or two 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 Jennifer Crowder, Danielle Onions, and Taylor Hersh; each received $50.00 for their outstanding final papers. Our graduating seniors were: Kia Cannon (BGS in WGSS and Anthropology Minor), Erin Cottrell (BGS in WGSS and BGS in English), Jennifer Crowder ( BA in WGSS and BA in Anthropology w/ Honors), Taylor Hersh (BA in WGSS w/Honors, BA History and Business Minor), Carissa McCall (BGS in WGSS and BGS Sociology), Haley Miller (BA in WGSS, BA in English and Jewish Studies Minor, also Women of Distinction Calendar, and Outstanding Woman Student in Leadership), Danielle Onions (BA in Political Science, and Women of Distinction Calendar and Outstanding Woman Student in Community Service), Marisa Ross (BGS in WGSS and Film Studies Minor), Yliana Ruiz (BA in WGSS, and BA in Spanish), Holly Smith (BGS in WGSS and BGS in Sociology), Maggie Swanston (BA in WGSS and History of Art Minor), and Angelique (AJ) Taylor (BA in WGSS).

WGSS Graduate Certificate students, from 2012-2014, recently received certificates: Maria de Rosario Castro Bernardini, Cammie Brennan, Marsha Carrasco Cooper, Laura Dean, Ginger Feather, Kristel Hladky, Heidi Hulse, Anita Lenoir, Jacob Longaker, Mary Mba, Jennifer Nish, Laurie Petty, Chloé Scott, Rebecca Elise Stuewe, Megan Sheldon, Rafael Valadez, and Jane Webb. Our first group of Graduate Certificates were awarded in Fall 2002, and WGSS is pleased to announce that we currently have 18 graduate certificate students enrolled in the program.

New Award for the Spring 2014 Annual Banquet! – The Younger-Wendland LGBTQ Paper Prize was recently created by Prof. John Younger and Prof. Milton Wendland (University of South Florida). The paper prize will honor the two best LGBTQ 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. Each award will be accompanied by a $100 prize. Papers from the fall, summer, and spring semesters will be eligible. For more information: please contact Prof. John Younger at jyounger@ku.edu or Prof. Milton Wendland at lgbtpaperprize@gmail.com.

Former WGSS instructor Dr. Milton Wendland presented Candice Crafton with the Virginia’s Purse Award at the annual spring banquet. Katherine Gwynn, Amanda Schulze, Candice Crafton and Emma Halling in Washington D.C. when Commission on the Status of Women won an award from Choice USA.
This year: Student Senate has two Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Majors on its 11-person executive staff: Vice President Emma Halling, and Executive Secretary Madeline Dickerson. They both feel that their background in WGSS has given them unique tools to be successful in their positions and effectively serve the student body.

**Emma Halling:** I integrate my WGSS background into my position every day. During the campaign, I drew upon knowledge about women’s political representation and intersectional identities that I had gained from classes like Women & Politics. As Vice President, I have had the opportunity to inject student feminist perspectives into conversations at the University governance level that may otherwise have been overlooked. I am particularly excited about the work I am doing regarding Title IX and sexual harassment and consent training on campus—and I welcome anyone interested to join me at the Title IX roundtables I co-chair on the first Tuesday of each month!

University of Kansas Student Body Vice President Emma Halling spoke on the morning of Tuesday (2-4-14) on KCUR 89.3 at 10am about sexual assault on college campuses. She discussed the current national attention being paid to the problem of college sexual assault, and what steps are being made by activists and administrations, particularly at the University of Kansas, to address students’ safety.


**Madeline Dickerson:** Before entering into my position, I knew that I wanted to be an advocate for KU’s diverse student population. As a leader on campus, it is important to serve in the most inclusive way possible, while taking into consideration individual backgrounds and experiences that students might have. Through my WGSS classes, I have gained the skills to promote awareness and understanding of issues that our student body faces every day. I have the knowledge and skillsets to be a catalyst for positive change because of WGSS classes. The possibilities are endless. This year, I helped create a group called KU Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking. KU CAST is a student group which works to bring awareness about the issues of modern day slavery and trafficking to the KU community. It also provides a venue and support for students interested in pursuing research and advocacy on the local, state and regional level. For more information about getting involved in KU CAST, follow us on twitter at [http://twitter.com/KU_CAST](http://twitter.com/KU_CAST) or like us on Facebook.”

**AND Major Candice Crafton:** Being a WGSS major has been such a fantastic experience for me. The support that I have received from the department has been instrumental in my success as a KU student and as a young activist. While at KU, I have been heavily involved with the student organization, Commission on the Status of Women, as well as larger organizations like Planned Parenthood and Choice USA. My WGSS instructors have always been beyond encouraging of these pursuits, and being able to draw upon my education to further my activism has been such a gift to me. During my time as a Women’s Studies major, my two main points of focus have been maternity care/childbirth in the United States and the cultural context of menstruation. Many of my WGSS courses have been heavily research based, and so the ability to hone my research skills in undergrad while focusing on what interests me has provided me with a great deal of experience and knowledge to draw upon both in current and post-graduate work.

**WGSS Community Outreach**

**WGSS hosts field trip for Gender & Sexuality Alliance Group, Shawnee Heights High School**

WGSS was contacted by a student group from Shawnee Heights High School, Topeka, KS, called “The Gender & Sexuality Alliance”. And, on Monday, April 8th, 2013, WGSS was pleased to host the group. The students arrived 9:00 am and met with faculty, students and staff for light refreshments.

The event filled day was a success! The students expressed that they benefited greatly from the campus tour and from visiting the department. The WGSS faculty, GTAs and staff also enjoyed meeting and talking with them.
Lawrence High School Group contacts WGSS - On Oct. 16, 2013, WGSS was contacted by one of the co-presidents and founders of the Young Feminists Club at Lawrence High School. 2013 was their first year as a club and have around thirty members. WGSS invited them to join us on Facebook and hope to meet with them in the near future to host a field trip to our department and the KU campus.

The Gender Seminar at the Hall Center for Humanities
The Gender Seminar studies gender as a basic concept in humanistic scholarship and/or as a fundamental organizing principle in social life. WGSS has been awarded renewal for the next three years and it has become one of the longer lasting seminars at the Hall Center. We really appreciate the wide range of presenters and audience across multiple disciplines, including advanced graduate students, and anticipate for the future many fruitful interdisciplinary dialogues.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Advisory Board Members
The WGSS Department is inter-disciplinary and values the affiliation with other departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. WGSS is fortunate to have the support of the WGSS Advisory Board members, which is composed from faculty across campus. The Advisory Board provides an opportunity for faculty to meet and discuss research or teaching interests that intersect with women, gender or sexuality. The Board members played an important role in the formation of our Graduate Certificate and the PhD Program and continue to generate ideas and feedback to assist the WGSS department.

February Sisters 42nd Anniversary Commemoration
Our WGSAB members also provide support in assisting WGSS in inviting speakers from off campus. This semester WGSS and the Advisory Board welcomed the 42nd February Sisters speaker Dr. Ayesha Hardison, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of English, Ohio University. Dr. Hardison presented “From the Reel to the Real: Rereading Black Women's History” in Blake Hall, on Friday, February 21st.

Fall 2014 WGSS Langston Hughes Professorship
Prof. Ayesha Hardison (Assoc. Prof., Dept. of English, Ohio University) has been selected for The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship at KU during Fall 2014. Dr. Doan nominated dr. Hardison and WGSS had the opportunity to meet Ayesha when she recently visited the department as the February Sisters speaker.
Ayesha Hardison is Associate Professor of English at Ohio University, where she teaches courses in African American literature. Her first book, Writing through Jane Crow: Race and Gender Politics in African American Literature (American Literature Initiative, University of Virginia Press, 2014), examines representations of African American women during the World War II/pre-modern Civil Rights Movement era and the politics of black literary production during that period. As part of this research, her essay on Zora Neale Hurston is forthcoming in African American Review. Her second book project, Specters of...
Segregation: The Post-Civil Rights Literary Imagination, will explore depictions of the Civil Rights Movement in contemporary literary texts. Earning her PhD in English from the University of Michigan, Professor Hardison has received fellowships and awards from The National Academies Ford Foundation, the Black Metropolis Research Consortium in Chicago, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in African American literature at Pennsylvania State University. She is currently a junior fellow in the Charles J. Ping Institute for the Teaching of the Humanities at Ohio University.

WGSS students have great resources on the KU campus

The WGSS Department’s Reference Librarian TAMI ALBIN is an Associate Librarian for the Center for Faculty/Staff Initiatives and Engagement at KU Libraries. She is also the Director of Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer People in Kansas; she is currently working on a book manuscript based on these oral histories. In her spare time she enjoys building crooked raised beds for her partner, growing heaps of catnip for her cats -- Casey, Idgie, Bowie and Birdie, watching paranormal and cryptozoology shows, and creating cryptozoology themed rooms on her house.

WGSS instructors and/or WGSS students can get one-on-one assistance through Ask-A-Librarian: http://www.lib.ku.edu/askalibrarian/. Options include chat, phone, in-person at the reference desk and appointments.

WGSS Advising Specialist KATIE ROCKEY received her BA in Psychology from KU in 2009 and her MA in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville in 2012. Katie has worked for the University of Kansas since 2005 starting out as a student assistant for the Office of Admissions & Scholarships. After graduating, she transitioned to the College Office of Graduate Affairs servicing graduate students in their progress toward their degree. Currently, Katie is the Academic Advisor for English, History, and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies assisting Undergraduate students through graduation.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Endowment Funds

Our WGSS Endowment funds make possible projects, scholarships, and social occasions 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 and Sexuality Studies Department is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please visit http://wgss.ku.edu/giving.

2012-2014 Donors to our WGSS Endowment:

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