

Women's and
Gender
Studies Program

Fall 2010 Newsletter



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Greetings from the Co-Directors

We are thrilled to be working together again this year to direct the Women's and Gender Studies Program. This past year has marked some important milestones in the WGS Program, in particular, the establishment of the WGS Graduate Certificate. Overall, we feel very fortunate to be able to work with the WGS faculty, staff, and students who make this program a success.

One of the aspects of this job that has most inspired us this year has been the activism of our students on campus and in the community. It is amazing to see our students putting their WGS education to use outside the classroom. Our students are not new to activism, but with the current political and economic climate, many of our students are becoming increasingly politically active with groups such as Montana Equality Now. This fall has witnessed an increase in hate speech on our campus that our student groups have banded together to protest against. Montana Equality Now, the Women's Resource Center, and the UM Lambda Alliance are using non-violent, direct action to advance positive messages against homophobia on campus. These student groups have come together to learn more about effective protesting and effective community organizing to make a real difference on this campus. Two of our students, Robyn Hegland and Shelby Duncan, were featured on the front page of the *Kaimin* as part of Montana Equality Now's die-in to bring more awareness to the issue of hate crimes.

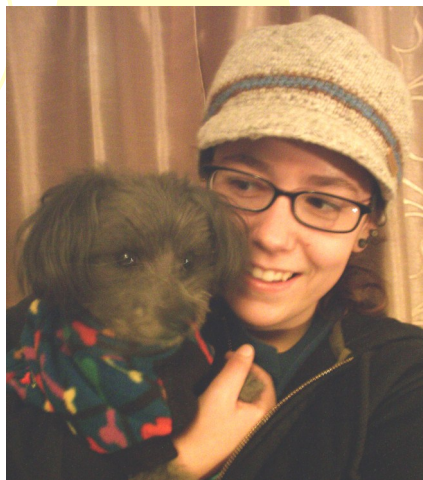
As we head into 2011, there are many exciting events ahead of us. Look for a number of Women's History Month events in March; we are committed to having a significant WGS presence for the month on the UM campus and in the Missoula community. This coming June, UM is hosting the Charlotte Perkins Gilman conference (<http://www.cas.umt.edu/gilman/>) under the leadership of Prof. Jill Bergman. And of course, we will have a number of speakers and other events throughout the spring semester. Stay tuned!

-Beth Hubble & Bryan Cochran, Co-Directors



Featured Students—Fall Scholarship Winner Courtney Damron

The Women's and Gender Studies program is pleased to announce the Louise Smith and Elizabeth Greene fall activist scholarship winner, Courtney Damron. Missoula is Courtney's hometown, and she is majoring in Sociology with a Inequality and Social Justice emphasis, as well as her minor in the WGS program. Courtney has an outstanding record of activism, including working with the YWCA's GUTS! program (Girls Using Their Strengths) at Paxson Elementary and the Flagship program at Washington Middle school. It's notable that Courtney was a student in the first GUTS! program in 6th grade—and that made an incredible positive impact, enough that she returned as a mentor. Courtney says mentoring girls is doing something that affects the most change.



Courtney Damron, scholarship winner for Fall 2010

Courtney came to the WGS program like many of our students do: taking one of Beth Hubble's introductory WGS courses, in Courtney's case, WGS 119, Philosophical Perspectives on Women.

Courtney cites the applied aspects of the WGS program as one of the most rewarding parts of her education. She says "WGS gives me a reason to come to college and work towards an end goal, which would be equality." She has also found the ability to apply WGS content in her art classes for her Studio

Art minor as evidenced by the picture of her art used in the Day of the Dead parade this past fall.

Courtney plans to attend graduate school after graduation in 2012. *Continued on page 3*

Featured Faculty: Julie Edwards



Julie Biando Edwards was born and raised in Central Massachusetts. She graduated from UM in 2000 with a BA in English and went on to receive an MA in English from UConn and an MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2005.

After seven years away from Missoula, she returned in 2007 as the Ethnic Studies Librarian and Multicultural Coordinator at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. She is the liaison librarian for nine academic departments and programs, including WGS, and is responsible for collection development, instruction, and reference for each department.

She serves on numerous committees and focuses her research on the role of libraries in community life and in the preservation and promotion of cultural rights.

She met her husband and occasional co-author Steve Edwards at UM, and they were married on campus in 2001. She is, to quote Steinbeck, "in love with Montana" and in her free time she enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.



Ethnic Studies Librarian and Multicultural Coordinator, Julie Edwards

Resources from Julie Edwards at the Mansfield Library:

Two important things that Edwards can do for WGS faculty are collection development and research/instruction assistance. She can work with professors to design tailor-made library guides for their classes. The guides are great because they list all the best resources for a specific research project, links to quality online resources, citation and plagiarism guides, links to the class syllabus and assignment, and her contact information all in one online place that is easily linked to Blackboard. They are a one-stop research tool for students, and Julie can develop them for any WGS class. She can also help students who are referred to her by WGS faculty – She loves to meet with students and help them with their research.

As for collection development, she's the go-to person if someone in WGS needs materials added to their collection, and she works as much as she possibly can to make sure students and faculty have the resources that support teaching, learning, and research at UM.

Scholarship Winner Courtney Damron, continued from page 2

"Having had Courtney in a number of classes, I can attest to the fact that she is passionate about changing the world for young girls growing up in today's society. She is an amazing artist whose work critiques the media and presents an empowering vision for women and girls. I am proud to have her in the WGS Program." - Beth Hubble

DAY OF THE DEAD
Dangers of the modeling industry
By Courtney Damron



Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Elizabeth A. Hubble, "Laughter, Sex, and Excrement: Charles Sorel Rewrites the Fables," *Seventeenth-Century French Studies* 32.1, 2010.

Kathy Kuipers (Sociology) was just elected to the PSA Council as the Northern Region representative (2011-2013). The council is the governing body for the Pacific Sociological Association.

Jill Bergman's (English) book, *Motherless Child: The Novels of Pauline Hopkins*, will be published by Louisiana State University Press.

Edwards, J.B (Library) and **Edwards, S.P.** eds. (2010) *Beyond Article 19: Libraries and Cultural Rights*. Duluth, MN: Library Juice Press.

Anya Jabour (History) presented "The Professor and the Prostitute: Sophonisba Breckinridge and the Morals Court in Prohibition-Era Chicago" at the Newberry Library Seminar on Women and Gender in Chicago on November 12. She also attended an Urban History Seminar on the centennial of the publication of Jane Adams's *Twenty Years At Hull House* at the Chicago History Museum on November 13.

Anya Jabour participated in the Provost's Faculty Development Seminar on "Getting Published" on November 5, 2010.

Anya Jabour, History, launched her latest book, *Topsy-Turvy: How the Civil War Turned the World Upside Down for Southern Children* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2010), with a reading and book signing at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. August 4, 2010. The event, which was featured in the WASHINGTON POST's "Literary Calendar" on Sunday, August 1, and in an article by Cameron Glover on the Scripps-Howard website, shfwire.com, on August 10, 2010, was organized as part of the National Archives' "Discovering the Civil War"

exhibit, which commemorates the sesquicentennial of the war. It was nationally televised on C-SPAN on September 25, 2010.

Sara Hayden (Communication Studies) and **Anya Jabour** (History) were interviewed for "This Is What a Feminist Sounds Like" on KGBA, the UM college radio station, October 26, 2010.

Ruth Vanita (Liberal Studies) published "The Homeroitics of Travel: People, Ideas, Genres," in *The Cambridge Companion to Gay and Lesbian Writing* (Cambridge Companions to Literature) ed. Hugh Stevens (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

"Full of God: Ashtavakra and Ideas of Justice in Hindu Texts" in *Research on South Asia* 3: 2 (2009), 167-81.

"Plato, Wilde and Woolf: The Poetics of Homoerotic 'Intercourse' in A Room of One's Own," in *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 14: 4 (2010), 415-31.

Ruth Vanita also helped design and launch a new interdisciplinary South and South East Asian Studies minor

Ione Crummy (French MCLL) was awarded a Residential Fellowship for October 4-29, 2010, at Chawton House Library, near Alton, Hampshire, affiliated with the University of Southampton, UK. Chawton House Library specializes in women authors of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Her research focuses on the influence of Sydney Owenson Lady Morgan's Irish national tales on George Sand's ground breaking regional novels set in rural France.

Clary Loisel (Spanish) published "Entrevista a Antonio Garcia del Toro, dramaturgo puertorriqueno" en *Alba de America*; Vol 29, Julio 2010; Num. 55-56; pages 631-635.

Kate Ryan (English) received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Transgender Day of Recognition

This fall marked the third annual Transgender Day of Recognition in the State of Montana. After a hugely successful and empowering event at UM in 2009, Bree Sutherland and the other organizers planned and organized another amazing event in Missoula on November 17 (along with an event in Billings on November 20). Bree Sutherland is a WGS minor who has helped to transform the Montana trans community through her activism and outreach as a leader of Missoula TDOR and as founder of the Missoula Gender Alliance.

The mission statement of the TDOR organizing committee reads: "In the past, November 20th has marked the date of transgender day of remembrance, a time to memorialize the many that have lost their lives to suicide and anti-transgender hatred. Though we as a committee realize the importance to remember those who have lost their lives in a battle for their own equality, we believe that to focus only on death provides little, if any, room for growth in the equality of the trans community, and this is where our event differs quite radically from previous events.

"With a Transgender Day of Recognition, we are providing a time of recognition that recognizes everyone in the trans community, and is more of a celebration of life than a memorial of death. We feel that this change will provide a much more positive understanding of the trans community as a whole, as it will provide a positive image of everyday life of those living within the trans community, instead of focusing on such negative aspects like death.

"After the 1998 murder of Rita Hester, a transgender woman living in Boston, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, along with other organizers worked to form the "remembering our dead" project, and an accompanying vigil which took place in San Francisco, CA, in 1999. In the past decade, the annual November observance has grown into a national Transgender Day of Remembrance. This day provided an opportunity for communities to come together and mark the passing of trans individuals or those perceived to be transgender who have been murdered because of hate, as well as to remember all those who have lost their lives to suicide. Eleven years later, the TDOR committee here in Montana feels that though we have come a long way, perhaps it is time to change our focus from the negative aspects of death, and make this a time to recognize the many who are living and fighting for their equality, as well as a time to celebrate the lives lived of those lost."

November 17 was a day of recognition at UM with a

Trans-Lives Art Exhibit from 8am to 10pm in the UC South Atrium. Kimberly Reed's Montana-based documentary, *Prodigal Sons*, was screened at noon. The Missoula Gender Alliance tabled and had a meet and greet at the Women's Resource Center in the afternoon. The late afternoon featured a panel moderated by Beth Hubble with trans activist Erin Armstrong, our own Bryan Cochran, trans Montana attorney Bobbie Zenker, two-spirited activist David Herrera, queer activist Acton Seibel, and Bree Sutherland.

One of the most moving parts of the panel was when Bree told of how she finally found herself and her identity through watching New York and San Francisco-based Erin's YouTube videos about her transition, illustrating the importance of the internet in helping build the LGBTQQI community. Bryan spoke of how the opposition to the Missoula Non-Discrimination Ordinance tried to split the LGBT community through their focus on transphobia rather than homophobia, but that the result was a renewed sense of community across the LGBTQQI groups. It was also moving to hear from David Herrera about the importance of the two-spirit community for Native American LGBTQQI individuals. After the panel a dedicated group of individuals attended a candlelight vigil at 8pm on the oval followed by a hike to light up the M at 10pm. Bryan and I were very proud to participate in this event for the second year, and we are also very proud and honored to have Bree as part of the WGS Program.

- Elizabeth Hubble



Pictured above: TDOR Candlelight Vigil. Photo courtesy of Greg Lindstorm, *Montana Kaimin*

Featured Alumna—Professor Sheila Skemp

A new feature this semester is a profile of a noted alumna of UM. Dr. Sheila Skemp is a longtime giver to the WGS program through the UM foundation. She graduated from UM with a degree in History in 1967 and now teaches History at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS.

Dr. Skemp attended the University of Montana from 1963-1967. She vividly remembers what it was like to attend college as a woman before the height of Second-Wave Feminism and the women's movement. She recalls that "we had so many rules we had to obey," rules like having a dress code which prohibited the wearing of pants and other rules such not allowing women to live off campus in a private apartment if they were under 25.

Nonetheless, she talks about her college experience in the UM History Department as "very nurturing," and the faculty encouraged her to attend graduate school. During her undergraduate and graduate education, there were few women professors, either in UM's history department or at the University of Iowa where she attended graduate school. (One notable exception was Maxine Van DeWetering who began teaching at UM as a Lecturer in 1967.) In fact, she never took a class from a professor who was a woman. When asked about breaking that glass ceiling and entering a traditionally male academic career track, she says that she made those decisions at exactly the right time – the women's movement was exploding and the timing was "pure dumb luck."



Featured alumna, Sheila Skemp.

Dr. Skemp's research focuses on Judith Sargent Murray, an early American advocate for women's rights. Her most recent book on Sargent Murray, *First Lady of Letters: Judith Sargent Murray and the Struggle for Women's Rights*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2009. Sargent Murray, 1751-1820, was a writer, poet, playwright, and all around feminist intellectual. As a playwright, she was the first woman to have her play performed in the Boston theatre. As Dr. Skemp notes wryly, "She wrote a very similar 'The Vindication of Woman' before Wollstonecraft did, but was never recognized for it." Sargent Murray's 1790 essay "On the Equality of Women" predates Mary Wollstonecraft's landmark *Vindication of the Rights of Women* by over a year. Dr. Skemp is recognized nationally as a leading scholar on Sargent Murray and early American feminism. She is now researching and writing about Judith Sargent Murray's brother, Winthrop Sargent, the first governor of Mississippi, and the changing ideals of masculinity in the early 1800's.

When asked about regional differences between Missoula and Oxford, she notes that both cities actually have a lot in common – both are college towns in the middle of relatively rural and conservative states. She says, "I did come back to Missoula a few years ago and taught a summer school class and was thoroughly delighted by the students. They were (and perhaps this was just luck) very open minded, very concerned for social justice, very lib-

Day of Dialogue

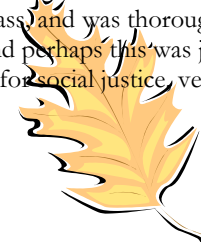
For the past three years, one of our students, Tina Brown, has been the student coordinator for the UC Day of Dialogue, now in its fifth year here at UM. This very successful event attracted 656 attendees and participants this fall.

The Day of Dialogue was originally conceived by Teresa Branch, VP of Student Affairs, whose office funds the event. The Day of Dialogue's mission is to host a campus-wide symposium focused on the topics of race, gender, ethnicity, ability/disability, religion, sexual orientation, employment hierarchy and academic discipline. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members deliver presentations, performances, workshops and more throughout the day. On

October 27, Regents Professor Paul Lauren gave a lecture on Human Rights in Words, Images and Sounds as part of the Day of Dialogue pre-events. The DoD took place on October 28.

I participated in an awesome panel organized by the Women's Resource Center and Women's Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD). It was called "This is What a Feminist Looks Like." My co-panelists were Sadie Zoe (a local high school student), Svein Newman (a recent WGS graduate), Judy Smith, Fern Hart, and Vivian Brooke (three long-time feminist activists in Montana). We had a large crowd who were excited to hear about all of our paths to feminist activism.

I also worked with Montana Equality Now (as one of their board members) to present "A History of LGBTQQI Rights in Montana," alongside students and activists John Blake and Daniel Viehland. Bryan participated in a panel on the passage of Missoula's Non-Discrimination Ordinance, so WGS was well-represented during the Day of Dialogue. Other WGS-affiliated faculty participating were Clary Loisel from Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures and Tobin Miller Shearer from African-American Studies.



WGS Students at the NWSA conference—Denver

The most difficult thing about attending the National Women's Studies Conference in Denver was simply choosing which presentations to attend. There were so many fascinating ones everyday that dozens were scheduled at the same time. How cruel. It's not easy having to pick between attending "Heteronormative Patrolling in Body Hair Discourse" and "Disidentifying Terrorism in Queer Stand-Up Performance" when they start at the same time. We ended up choosing to listen to a professor from Arizona State discuss the results of her female students ceasing all shaving rituals for an entire semester, giving Dr. Hubble some good ideas for extra credit

in the future.

What we learned, ultimately, from the conference is that the application of Feminism to other theories and disciplines is truly limitless. There were a great many presentations revolving around queer theory and its relevance to Feminism. There was also an emphasis on indigenous Feminisms and queerness and Feminisms in the Middle East. Listening to such a diverse array of brilliant Feminists from Harvard and Smith College to Emory and San Francisco State re-opened my eyes to the ubiquity and dynamism of 21st century Feminism. Andrea

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Third Annual Writing Retreat of WGS Faculty

For the third year in a row, WGS faculty from many different disciplines converged at Deep Bay Center on Flathead Lake for our annual writing retreat. This gorgeous setting on the west shore of the lake provided the perfect backdrop for faculty to work on various scholarly projects. The timing--the week after spring finals--was also ideal for immersion into the writing that faculty so seldom get to accomplish during the academic year. For four days, each participant hunkered down with a laptop computer and became devoted full-time to working on WGS-related projects. Here's what they worked on while they were there:

Bryan Cochran wrote the first two chapters of a book, "Rights and Restrooms: Winning LGBT Civil Rights in Big Sky Country." This book, co-authored with WGS scholars Sara Hayden and Casey Charles, chronicles the passage of Missoula's non-discrimination ordinance this past spring. This ordinance, which extended non-discrimination protection to sexual and gender minorities, was met with significant opposition but was ultimately successful. In the book, the authors analyze the rhetoric of the opposition, discuss the gender-based arguments used in an attempt to de-

feat the ordinance, and discuss how the ordinance ultimately served to strengthen the LGBT community.

Beth Hubble researched same-sex unions in medieval French literature as part of a book project on the medieval French Romances of Antiquity. Her research and writing has resulted in an article titled "*Par fiancé bien tenir: Medieval Same-Sex Kinships, Le Roman de Thèbes, and the Current Debate on Marriage Equality.*"

Ione Crummy (French) revised an article for publication: "Lucrezia Floriani—re-présentation de Corinne à travers Marie Dorval." It will appear in the book *Écriture, Performance et Théâtralité dans l'œuvre de George Sand*, edited by Catherine Nesci and published with Paris: Champion, 2010. Ione also prepared an application for a Visiting Fellowship, at Chawton House Library (which specializes in women authors 1600-1830), in Hampshire, England. She was awarded a Fellowship to conduct research on Irish author Sydney Owenson Lady Morgan at Chawton House for October 4-29, 2010.

Kathy Kuipers (Sociology) worked on the beginning stages of grant proposal. With the retreat providing the solid start for her work, she completed the grant proposal during the sum-

mer, in time for an August 15 deadline. She requested funding of \$130,827 from the National Science Foundation for an experimental research project that tests a new way to challenge status beliefs by "correcting" the association upon which they are based between a category (such as gender or race) and economic resources. The study will examine race (American Indian) and gender beliefs and how they interact to influence observable power and prestige.

Anya Jabour (History) wrote "The Professor and the Prostitute: Sophonisba Breckinridge and the Morals Court in Prohibition-Era Chicago."

Kate Ryan (English) wrote during the retreat: "Ecological Location and Bioregionalism: Contributing to Understandings of Agency for Ecocomposition" Rhetoric Society of America (Minneapolis, MN) May 2010.

Teresa Sobieszcyk (Sociology) wrote " 'Good Sons' and 'Dutiful' Daughters: A Structural Symbolic Interactionist Analysis of the Migration and Remittance Behavior of Northern Thai International Migrants." She presented the paper at the International Workshop on Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances, and Changing Family Structures and Relations in Singapore, July 2010.

WGS Students at the NWSA Conference—Denver

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Gibson's stunning slam poetry just may have been the highlight of the entire conference.

Though the sprawling scope of women's studies can't quite be effectively contained in a four-day conference, and certainly not in one floor of the Sheraton in downtown Denver, my fellow students and I came back to Missoula with an unforgettable experience and new realization of the power of Feminism. Robyn, Sarah, Alison, Brittany, and I would like to thank the Women's and Gender Studies Department for supporting our trip! - Shelby Duncan, Outreach Coordinator at the Women's Resource Center

Pictured at right: WGS Students at the NWSA conference in Denver from left to right: Brittany Salley-Rains, Sarah Williams, Shelby Duncan, Alison Dillon, Robyn Hegland.



National Women's Studies Association Conference

I had the great pleasure to represent UM's Women's and Gender Studies Program at NWSA this year. For the first time since I started attending the conference, it was only one plane ride away from Missoula—in Denver. When we learned that the conference was in Denver, we had the great idea to encourage the Women's Resource Center to attend (by providing them some funding to do so). So I had the great pleasure of not only attending the conference, but of doing so with a number of our students who had never attended such a conference before. It was an amazing experience to see them discovering the national feminist movement that is NWSA.

My conference began with the Thursday pre-conference for Program Administrators and Directors (aka PAD). This is always a great way to meet with other directors and discuss what other programs are doing, especially in these economic and political times. I attended a great session on "What To Do When Your Colleagues Are Conservative" put on by faculty from St. Ambrose University, Concordia University, and Oklahoma State University. Carol Mason from OSU spoke about how she works to retain her feminist principles when making hard calls and how she uses the mission of OSU as a land-grant university which encourages community outreach to apply to feminist and queer activism.

Because of my own research interests (I am currently working on an article about same-sex unions in medieval French literature), I attended a number of panels about queer theory and the same-sex marriage debate. I saw firsthand how troubled queer theorists are about the current same-sex marriage and Don't Ask/Don't Tell (DADT) debates because of the fear that these debates are not asking enough questions about the patriarchal and oppressive institutions of marriage and the military. Some scholars fear

"Some scholars fear that marriage equality and the repeal of DADT will only serve to construct new marginalized groups unless we continue to critically assess these debates in forums such as NWSA."

that marriage equality and the repeal of DADT will only serve to construct new marginalized groups unless we continue to critically assess these debates in forums such as NWSA. Judith Butler was often cited, and I agree because while I was at NWSA I was reading her book *Undoing Gender* (Routledge 2004) where she states that it is "crucial that, politically, we lay claim to intelligibility and recognizability; and it is crucial, politically, that we maintain a critical and transformative relation to the norms that

govern what will and will not count as an intelligible and recognizable alliance and kinship (117)." This

was a theme in both plenary sessions at NWSA: the first with Chandra Mohanty and M. Jacqui Alexander who spoke about their collaborative work on global feminisms, and the second with Gayatri Gopinath and Juana Maria Rodriguez whose topic was *Complicating the Queer*.

Another great panel was about body practices where one speaker, Breanne Fahs from Arizona State University, gave me a great extra credit idea for my Intro to Women's and Gender Studies course—have female students stop shaving and have male students start and then journal about their experiences. I was also heartened to see that the study of gender, sexuality and the rural experience is expanding with a number of graduate students presenting their ongoing research about what it means to be a woman and/or what it means to be LGBTQI in a rural setting. I encouraged these students to not forget about the rural Western experience of places like Montana.

Next year the conference is heading back to Atlanta where the theme will be *Feminist Transformations* with subthemes of *Transforming the "Master's" Tools*, *Deploying Feminisms*, *Women's Studies Without Walls*, *Creative Interventions*, and *the Politics of Crisis*. - Elizabeth Hubble

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For more information on gift-giving, contact the UM Foundation at (800) 442-2593, (406) 243-2593 or UMFoundation@mso.umt.edu.

Montana ACLU Jeannette Rankin Award Winner: WGS's Stacy Rye

On December 4, 2010, in Missoula, a huge crowd turned out for the Montana ACLU Jeannette Rankin Awards Reception to honor City Council Members Dave Strohmaier and Stacy Rye and the National Coalition Building Institute of Missoula for their work promoting civil liberties in Montana.

Dave and WGS's own Stacy were presented with the ACLU of Montana's Jeannette Rankin Award for their inspiring dedication to upholding civil liberties in Missoula by co-sponsoring the city's nondiscrimination ordinance and building a more just community for all.

The NCBI Missoula won its Jeannette Rankin Award for its commitment to promoting respect and equality for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender students, and for building a culture of nonviolence across Montana.

In addition, middle school students in Missoula's RESPECT Club were given the Vern Klingman Volunteerism Award for their initiative in creating the city's first Diversity Day celebration.



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