



Women's and Gender Studies Program Fall 2011 Newsletter

Greetings from the Co-Directors

**Women's and Gender
Studies Program**

University of Montana

**Co-Directors Elizabeth
Hubble and Ione
Crummy**

This semester has seen a slight changing of the guard at the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Former Co-director Bryan Cochran (Psychology) is currently on sabbatical, working on several projects, including his collaborative book on the passage of the Missoula Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of 2010. Ione Crummy (MCLL, French) has returned as co-director, after a two-year hiatus. We are also delighted to welcome Jamie Boschee as our new Program Coordinator (thanks to Profs. Anya Jabour and Clary Loisel, who assisted us on the search committee this summer). We chose wisely, for Jamie, a 2011 graduate of our program, immediately sees what needs doing and does it with incredible efficiency and good humor.

We two co-directors are greatly enjoying team-teaching a graduate course this semester on French Women Authors from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century (cross-listed under Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures and English). It is a great experience to model collaborative teaching (a core value of feminist pedagogy) and we have both discovered new interests and research projects through team-teaching students specializing in creative writing, French, and English. Our students' varied backgrounds allow us to explore the texts in new and enlightening ways. For example, we have been struck by how inspirational many women writers find the ancient Greek poet Sappho – whom the 17th-century French author Madeleine de Scudéry adopted as an alter ego. The

students have been most shocked by how little known most of these women authors still are, despite the quality and breadth of their works. Students of English were amazed to learn that French women authors were writing novels before the supposed birth of the novel in England.

In addition, this team-taught, graduate course has given us the opportunity to recruit for the WGS Graduate Certificate program, bringing the current total to ten, including three each in the departments of Communications, History, and Sociology – thanks to the ongoing dedication of WGS affiliated faculty in those disciplines. To support these new Graduate Certificate students we have decided to award a separate graduate scholarship (please see the interview with this fall's winner). The current number of declared WGS graduate certificate-seekers (almost double the number our certificate application proposed to recruit) speaks to the WGS graduate certificate's importance at UM. We are happy to be fulfilling this need.

Two WGS affiliated faculty will be teaching the new first-year Global Leadership seminars during spring 2012; Clary Loisel will offer MCLG 191L Human Rights Issues in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Film and Teresa Sobieszczyk will teach SOCI 191S Food and Society in a Globalized World. The WGS program intends to offer a GLI first-year seminar next year, involving affiliated faculty from several disciplines.

-Ione Crummy & Beth Hubble, Co-Directors

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For upcoming events, our weekly E-letter and more information about the program, students and faculty

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National Women's Studies Association Conference 2011

My Co-Director, Ione Crummy, and I had the great pleasure to attend one of the best conferences in academia this fall, the National Women's Studies Association Conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia, from November 10-13, and entitled Feminist Transformations. The conference, as always, was an amazing event that highlighted the interdisciplinary and multi-cultural aspects of today's feminist scholarship. I travelled to Atlanta a little early to participate in the preconference workshops for Program Administrators and Directors. This year, I gave a paper at the preconference panel entitled Work and Life Balance. My paper "Redefining Success in the Academy and Life: the Adjunct Route" was a personal exploration of how feminist theory has helped me to redefine what academic success is. In particular, I talked about how the UM WGS Program has given me opportunities to work with amazing faculty, students, and staff in ways that would not have been possible if I had followed the traditional academic model. All of the

the academia in ways that include a more inclusive and broader definition of success. Some of my fellow panelists spoke of how they have had to "perform childlessness" in order to get hired because of institutionalized academic standards that often punish women and men who want to have families. Another spoke of how feminist professors should also be aware of how our tradition-

ed to be authors throughout history, and both Ione and Abby said



Ione Crummy and Beth Hubble at the NWSA Conference in Atlanta, November 2011.

"All of the participants in the panel echoed a similar theme: that feminists need to be at the forefront of redefining academia in ways that include a more inclusive and broader definition of success." -Beth Hubble, Co-director of the WGS Program at UM

that it was great to get a chance to see Mitchell's "room of her own."

One of the most exciting panels was the plenary session featuring Linda Alcoff, Michael Kimmel, and Trinh Minh-ha who discussed "Feminist Transformations and the Discipline." It was especially empowering to hear Alcoff discuss her recent election as President-Elect of American Philosophical Association, but also upsetting to hear how her election has been disputed and opposed. Michael Kimmel is a scholar who I often teach because of his pro-feminist work. It was amazing to hear about his path to pro-feminism through driving women to a San Francisco shelter where his wife worked in the 1970s. Trinh Minh-ha spoke eloquently about her work as a filmmaker and scholar, and demonstrated how our research and activism can and must intersect. Other highlights of the conference included a screening of the film *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*. Professor Bunch was present at the screening. (continued on page 7)

al academic standards may impact non-traditional students in the classroom – students who are also often balancing life, work, and school.

Ione joined me a day later and we had a great time attending panels, visiting the book fair, and touring Atlanta. Ione and Abby Palko, from Notre Dame's Women's Studies Program and one of my co-panelists, took Friday afternoon to visit Margaret Mitchell's Atlanta home. Ione and I are currently team-teaching a course on French women authors where we frequently discuss what women have need-



Linda Alcoff and Michael Kimmel at the NWSA Conference in Atlanta, November 2011.

participants in the panel echoed a similar theme: that feminists need to be at the forefront of redefining

Meet our WGS 2011 Undergraduate Scholarship Winner: Rachel Pauli

Each fall, the Women's and Gender Studies Program offers an undergraduate scholarship to a student engaged in activism as well as course work. This fall the scholarship was awarded to Women's and Gender Studies minor Rachel Pauli.

Rachel was born and raised in the small town of Big Timber, Montana. She first learned of the Women's and Gender Studies program while searching for courses to fulfill general education requirements. She found the course (WGS 119H Philosophical Perspectives on Women) to be thoughtful and helpful in teaching valuable critical thinking skills. Rachel found that she needed that sort of intellectual stimulation in future courses as well.

While working towards a Psychology degree with a minor in Women's and Gender studies, Rachel is employed at Planned Parenthood of Montana where she is able to



"The relationships I am building are incredibly enriching to my undergraduate experience as they fuel my desire to be an achieving student and future professional." -Rachel Pauli, WGS minor and 2011 Undergraduate Scholarship winner

learn about reproductive and sexual health. In addition, Rachel volunteers for the Open Aid Alliance, formerly known as the Missoula AIDS Council, administering rapid HIV tests and conducting

risk assessments.

Rachel cites her involvement with Open Aid Alliance and Planned Parenthood as an opportunity to work with passionate, intelligent people. The people she has met in the process are helping shape her academic experience and are bettering her life and passion for activism.

Rachel hopes to be studying Clinical Psychology and Human Sexuality Education at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania next year. She plans to educate people about human sexuality and hopes to develop a comprehensive sex education program for public schools. She also intends to work as a clinical sexologist.

Outside of work, Rachel enjoys cooking meals for her roommates and hiking with her roommates' dogs. She also plays on three basketball teams; two for intramurals at UM and one for City League.

Congratulations Rachel and best of luck in all your future endeavors!

Featured Activist Organization: Montana Women Vote

Montana Women Vote is a coalition of non-profit organizations working statewide to educate and mobilize low-income women and their allies to participate in the democratic process as informed voters, policy advocates and community leaders. Montana Women Vote was founded in 2000 by women's organizations that came together in response to the profound lack of support and attention by elected officials for women's concerns, particularly issues important to low-income women. The coalition realized that

the low-income women they served had a very low voter turnout rates. Low turnout means low-income women have little say in electing their representatives and in turn, elected officials felt little accountability to support issues important to them. MWV found that apathy is not responsible for the low voter turnout rates. Many women do not participate because they have not yet connected how policy affects their daily lives, often lack the information needed to feel like informed voters or policy advocates, do not feel welcome to participate, and/or face logistical challenges to casting their ballot, sometimes as simple

as not having a ride to the polling place. By registering, educating and mobilizing women MWV supports real progressive policy change. To get involved, visit montanawomenvote.org.



Meet our WGS 2011 Graduate Scholarship Winner: Virginia Summey

The Women's and Gender Studies Program implemented a Graduate Certificate Program in 2010. Student interest has surpassed the Program's expectations. This year we were able to offer the first ever Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Scholarship. Our esteemed winner, Virginia Summey, has been an excellent example of what the WGS Program had hoped the Graduate Certificate would offer and the type of students it would attract.

Virginia hails from North Carolina and received a B.A. in Political Science and History from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Seven years ago Virginia moved to Montana to work as an AmeriCorps Vista and fell in love with the "last best place". She does visit home when time allows and enjoys partaking in the delights of southern food.

Virginia's graduate studies began at the University of Montana in the History Department. She was encouraged by her advisor, Anya Jabour, to apply for the WGS Graduate Certificate. Virginia cites Professor Jabour as instrumental in the success she has had in her graduate studies here at UM. Her research focuses heavily on African Ameri-



"I know that the WGS graduate certificate will be tremendously helpful in any future educational or career pursuits." -Virginia Summey, WGS Graduate Certificate seeker and 2011 Graduate Scholarship winner

cans and women in the twentieth-century South. The classes Virginia has taken as a part of the WGS requirements so far, including the seminar in U.S. Women's History, Writing Women's Lives, and Problems in African-American History, have been extremely beneficial to her current and future research and have contrib-

uted overall to her knowledge in the women's and gender studies area.

Virginia's goal is to achieve a Ph.D. after graduating from UM with an M.A. in May. She will continue her current work on Elreta Melton Alexander, who was a pioneering African-American lawyer from North Carolina. Virginia's future research will build directly on the work and knowledge she has gained from being a part of the WGS program.

Virginia's main hobby outside of academia is spending time with her beloved Boxer, Grits, and her fiancé, Steve. They love living in Montana and all the outdoor activities within reach. They travel as often as possible and enjoy cooking and home repair projects. If academia doesn't work out, Virginia would love to go into historical preservation and start a lifestyle website where she would share recipes and teach people how to make fun things out of wine corks.

Congratulations Virginia and best of luck in all endeavors – wine cork projects and all!

The Graduate Scholarship is offered every Fall. For more information about the WGS Graduate Certificate Program, please contact us at 406-243-6245 or visit us on the web.

Spring 2012 Course Highlight

Teresa Sobieszczyk, a Sociology faculty member, will be offering an upper-division writing course in Spring 2012 called "Prostitution and Human Trafficking." The course is designed to explore the social meanings and the structural relations of power regarding prostitution and human trafficking and their impacts on individuals, families, economies, and societies. Students will consider the customers who purchase sex and the various types of sex workers, including the legal sex workers at Mustang Ranch in Nevada and the "Kuta Cowboys" romancing Australian and Japanese women on the beaches of Bali. The course will highlight various feminist, human rights, and non-feminist approaches to sex work and trafficking, as well as current governmental and non-governmental responses to social problems regarding human trafficking and the sex industry.

Featured Faculty : Teresa Sobieszczyk

During her sabbatical last year, Teresa Sobieszczyk (Sociology) spent 3 ½ months in Chiba, Japan researching Thai women's marriage migration. Marriage forms of Thai migrants are quite diverse. Some women married for mainly practical reasons, such as obtaining a permanent work visa; such marriages included sexless arrangements between a heterosexual Thai woman and a gay Japanese man looking for a housekeeper and a "paper" marriage between a Thai lesbian, who was living with her female partner, and a heterosexual Japanese man. Other marriages appeared to be motivated more by love or



Teresa Sobieszczyk with Thai marriage migrants and Japanese cherry blossom trees in Tokyo.

romance, including one relatively wealthy Thai woman who married a Japanese man ten years her junior; she backed him financially, enabling him to move up from pest control worker to business owner. Dr. Sobieszczyk will be exploring the characteristics of these marriages and the impact of marriage migration on social status in coming months and may expand her research to include marriage migration from Vietnam. As a side note, she is glad to have survived the great Tokyo earthquake, tsunami, aftershocks, and Fukushima nuclear disaster relatively unscathed.

Faculty Achievements

Hiltrud Arens presented a paper on Yoko Tawada's experimental plays in German: " 'Wandel, Wunde, Wunder': Von Klängen, Sprachspielen, und Windeiern. Auf den Spuren von Yoko Tawadas Theaterwelt." International Conference: Postdramatic Theatre as/or Political Theatre - Representation, Mediatization and Advanced Capitalism, Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of London, UK, September, 21-23, 2011.

Ione Crummy was awarded a UM Academic Enrichment Grant and funds from UM's Small Grant Program and International Programs to present at the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes conference at University of Birmingham in England and to conduct research on Lady Morgan and George Sand at libraries in Dublin, Oxford, Cambridge, and Paris, March 24 - May 13, 2011. Ione Crummy's essay, "Lucrezia Floriani: re-présentation de Corinne à travers Marie Dorval," will appear in *Écriture, Performance et Théâtralité dans l'œuvre de George Sand*, edited by Catherine Nesci and Olivier Bara. Paris: Champion, 2012.

Lee Heuermmann was awarded the 2011 Judith Lang Zaimont prize in composition awarded by the International Alliance for Women in Music.

Elizabeth Hubble presented her paper "Redefining Success in the Academy and Life: the Adjunct Route" at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Atlanta on November 10, 2011.

Sara Hayden won the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender's 2011 Outstanding Book Award for an edited volume for "Contemplating Maternity in an Era of Choice: Explorations into Discourses of Reproduction."

Day of Dialogue 2011

I have been on the Day of Dialogue planning committee for two years now. My experience has been such an interesting and rewarding one. The planning for Day of Dialogue goes year round and is a big project. We have one very large committee that is broken up into different sub committees with important roles. I have been involved with assessment procedures, programming and approving participants, marketing, and many more. The most exciting event that I helped with this year was the Pre-Day of Dialogue event, The Post Racial Comedy Tour. Elon James White and Christian Lander were the perfect blend of intelligent education and hilarity. It really resonated with the campus community and especially the student demographic. The individuals involved with Day of Dialogue are amazing people who truly care about equality and

"The individuals involved with Day of Dialogue are amazing people who truly care about equality and respect for all." -Sean Jeffrey, DOD Planning Committee Member and WGS student

respect for all whether it be the committee, the presenters, or the attendees. -Sean Jeffrey, WGS student

The Day of Dialogue is a campus wide symposium at The University of Montana. This year I was lucky enough to not only watch a panel, but I was a panelist in (according to DOD organizers) one of the largest talks. My topic was *Gay and Christian: Stories and Perspectives*. I was the student member among two professors, two pastors and a local filmmaker. Fortunately a fair few of my friends and fellow Catholics came in support of my representation of this sensitive topic. Unfortunately I was saved to speak last. No matter how many times I speak to crowds or give presentations it amazes me at how my knees will shake upon a stage. Taking a shaky breath I began giving my perspective on how it is to be gay and Catholic. As usual I started at the beginning, speaking at how at first in my coming out scripture felt like it was attacking me, "Everyday, I was confronted, it was like a little paper cut every time. You say it's not so bad, but after years of that, it

hurts." However, I also spoke to the power in scripture and that after I returned to the church I found a way to be loved in a welcoming congregation that let me be apart of my religion openly. I was proud of my speech, however I was humbled at my predecessors' words that allowed me to be so open. Then before I could even leave the theatre I was hugged and thanked for my stories. That to me was what was most fulfilling, because I was giving their sons, daughters, friends and every person religious or not hope in life. Finally my friends and colleagues came and mentioned I made them cry and how proud they were to listen. My intention was not to make them cry, however this reminded me of a quote I share with my supervisor from church: Washington Irving wrote "There is a sacredness in tears. They are not symbols of weakness but of strength. They are the messengers of unbearable grief and unspeakable love." -Jan Bents, WGS student



Faculty Achievements continued

Anya Jabour presented research for her new book entitled "The Child in the City: Sophonisba Breckinridge and Child Welfare in Twentieth-Century Chicago," at the Fifth Biennial Conference of the Society for the History of Children and Youth held at Columbia University, New York, June 24, 2011 and presented "Sophonisba Breckinridge, Social Work, and Social Justice," at the Unsettling Feminisms conference at the University of Illinois, Chicago, May 23, 2011.

Clary Loisel published "Entrevista a José Luis Ramos Escobar, Dramaturgo Puertorriqueño," *Alba de América: Revista Literaria* 30.57-58, (Julio 2011): 290-294.

Teresa Sobieszczyk recently returned from a year's sabbatical, which she spent volunteering in rural Cambodia and conducting research in metropolitan Tokyo, Japan on Thai women's marriages to Japanese men. Please see the Featured Faculty section for more information. Her course, Food and Society in a Globalized World, was recently selected as one of the inaugural freshman seminars for the President's new Global Leadership Initiative.

Fourth Annual WGS Faculty Writing Retreat

For the last several years, the UM Women's and Gender Studies Program has rewarded its dedicated faculty with the opportunity to travel to the Deep Bay Conference Center and Resort on Flathead Lake for the Spring WGS Writing Retreat. May 2011 once again found many of the WGS faculty on the cliffs above Flathead Lake working on their multi-faceted and interdisciplinary research. 2011 attendees included Anya Jabour, Bryan Cochran, Kate Ryan, Jill Bergman, Teresa Sobieszczyk, Kathy Kuipers, and Beth Hubble. The three-day writing retreat provides WGS faculty with the opportunity to work on individual research projects and the opportunity to discuss their work with an interested and interdisciplinary cohort. Those discussions are often done over homemade meals and during hikes around the lake (Bryan, Anya, Teresa and others are all great cooks). Here are some brief highlights of what attendees worked on:

Professor Jill Bergman, Chair of UM's English Department, took the

time to finish her book already under contract with Louisiana State University Press tentatively entitled *Like a Motherless Child: The Novels of Pauline Hopkins*.

Professor Kathy Kuipers of the UM Sociology Department wrote a draft of a paper that she co-authored with student Tara Top Sky entitled "Harmful Shame and Beneficial Guilt in Solving



Anya Jabour, Beth Hubble and Kathy Kuipers at Deep Bay on Flathead Lake in May 2011.

Problems Related to Race," which was presented at the Meeting of the Inter-

national Society for Research on Emotions in Kyoto, Japan, July 26-29, 2011.

Professor Anya Jabour from the UM History Department, worked on a paper for a panel she had organized on "Child Welfare and State Power in Modern America" for the Fifth Biennial International Conference of the Society for the History of Children and Youth at Columbia University in June 2011. Professor Jabour's paper was entitled "The Child in the City: Sophonisba Breckinridge and Child Welfare in Twentieth-Century Chicago."

Professor Kate Ryan of the UM English Department worked on a presentation for the Council for Writing Program Administrators. Her paper was entitled "The Prospect of Ecological Thinking for WPAs: Redirecting Success to Flourishing. It is currently under review to the WPA Journal: Writing Program Administration under the new title "Theorizing a Rhetorical Ecological Feminist Agency for WPAs: Taking Ecological Location into Account."

Stay tuned for further updates on the amazing research of the WGS faculty.

NWSA Conference Continued

(continued from page 2) The film is an amazing exploration of Bunch's life and work, and also illustrates how the Civil Rights movement and other social justice movements were crucial in the formation of the modern feminist movement. Bunch has always been an inspiration for me and I require all of the students in WGS 363 to read her article "Not by Degrees: Feminist Theory and Education" wherein she cogently outlines the link between theory and activism—1) describing what exists; 2) analyzing why that reality exists; 3) determining what should exist; and 4) working to change what is into what should

be. This reading helps our students make important connections between the sometimes difficult theoretical readings for class and the activism they are passionately involved with. Other panels that we attended included discussions of how too often women are the "maids of academe" and how we can combat and/or empower those roles; discussions of women, men and food issues; sizeism and sexism in recent blockbuster cartoons such as WALL-E and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs; and many others.

Next year's conference will be in Oakland, California, and we hope that we will be able to take a larger contingent of UM faculty and students to the conference. If you want more information, contact us or visit nwsa.org.



Ione Crummy with Scarlett O'Hara in Atlanta, November 2011.

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Women's and Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary program founded in 1971, encourages the production, discussion, and dissemination of knowledge about women's experiences, oppressions, and achievements, in Montana, the U.S., and the world. In the last decade, this focus has broadened to include study of the social and cultural construction of gender, sex, and sexualities. By fostering awareness of cultural and international diversity, as well as of the circulations of power mediated by race, class, age, and sexual orientation, Women's and Gender Studies encourages students to think critically and to envision justice for all peoples.

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