2015 Teach Out on Race

By Courtney Fletcher

The conversation on the significance of race and the way it impacts us on a daily basis continued during the Teach Out on Race event, held April 22 at the Jim Thorpe Multicultural Center. The event was sponsored by the WGS Center for Social Justice along with OU’s Writing Center and Division of Student Affairs. The event was a follow-up to the 2013 Race Card Project and the 2014 Teach In on Race. The Teach Out on Race was held to continue the conversation on the significance of race and the way it impacts us on a daily basis.

The event, held in the Jim Thorpe Multicultural Center, was attended by approximately 150 students, staff, faculty and community members. Kathleen Wong (Lau) started the morning as the featured keynote speaker. The day continued with two break-out sessions, each featuring five different workshops. The first break-out session featured the topics “Gender, Race and Greek Life,” “Race Is More Than Just Black and White,” “White People as People of Color,” “No One Is ‘ColorBlind’ and We Are Not Post Racial” and “Race and Queerness.”

The second break-out session featured sessions on “Model Minority: Clashes and Culture,” “Unpacking Racism, Bias and Prejudice,” “What Does It Mean to Be an Aspiring Race Ally,” “History of the Sooner Name” and “Race and Political Mobilization.” The morning-long event ended with a working lunch with Roksana Alavi, assistant professor, and Moira Ozias, OU Writing Center associate director. Students, faculty and staff came together to learn and partake in dialogue aimed at educating and promoting diversity on OU’s campus. It was a powerful and thought-provoking morning of sharing and learning.

Keynote speaker Kathleen Wong (Lau)
Center for Social Justice: Seven Invocations for Healing

By Emma Newberry-Davis

Members of the community were invited to gather to hear words of healing during the “7 Invocations for Healing” event hosted March 26 by the WGS Center for Social Justice. Although typically used in a religious sense where one might call upon a deity or spirit for assistance, we used the term “invocation” in a secular, communal and humanistic sense. The Center for Social Justice hoped to call and invite healing and safety to our campus, while acknowledging those who felt wounded and marginalized by recent campus events.

The program was held in the Unity Garden on the South Oval, and speakers included Mirelsie Velazquez, assistant professor of education; David Spain, Xenia Institute president; Kathleen Wong (Lau), Southwest Center for Human Relations director; Rockey Robbins, professor of education; Sharri Coleman, adjunct professor of african and african-american studies; Kelly Damphousse, dean; and George Henderson, professor emeritus of human relations. The event opened with drumming by Sidick Camara and closed with a performance by the Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma drummers while the crowd lit candles.

Alumna in the Spotlight: Sarah McGuffee DeWitt

By Breanna Bober

Meet Women’s and Gender Studies alumna Sarah McGuffee DeWitt. DeWitt graduated from OU in 2009 with a bachelor of arts degree. As a student, DeWitt studied history and women’s and gender studies. After graduation, she took a job at OU recruiting National Merit Scholars. She now teaches history at Norman High School, where she spends her day investing in students.

When asked how the study of history and women’s and gender studies impacted her education, DeWitt replied that these topics are “perfect complements.” They work hand-in-hand, she said, because the “story of women is not always incorporated into history.”

As a teacher, DeWitt recognizes that women’s studies helped her connect the world and question everything, from her organizations to her senators, to ensure they are inclusive. She said her studies also equipped her with unique reading, writing and critical-thinking skills. Through classes such as Women and World Politics, DeWitt’s eyes were opened, and she now gives that same eye-opening experience to her students.

DeWitt believes that her time in women’s and gender studies prepared her for any career. As a professional, she stated that the tools she took away from her studies, like discussion and interpersonal skills, are invaluable. She learned how imperative healthy debates and respectful argument can be to one’s learning experience. It helps “expand your understanding of the world and connect with it,” she said. Conversations such as these create opportunities for healthy dialogues about “social justice and human rights – which are also women’s rights – around the world,” says DeWitt.

As significant as her academic experiences in women’s and gender studies and at OU were, she believes her extracurricular experiences also provided her with important lessons and avenues of learning. DeWitt, who is a Ewing Fellow and was a Community Scholar with Peggy Ellis, said getting involved “helped give my perspectives and opinions places where they were valued.” She gained a myriad of opportunities such as assisting in the annual performance of “The Vagina Monologues” and participating in peaceful protests. DeWitt and her women’s and gender studies peers were vocal, says DeWitt, and their messages were always positive.

DeWitt’s experiences in women’s and gender studies still inspire her to assist her friends who work in nonprofits and advocate for women’s rights.

When she is not gardening or grading, she volunteers for the Junior League and works for Kids in the Kitchen and The Boys and Girls Club.
2015 Take Root Conference

By Kelsey Kolbe

The fifth annual Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice conference, held Feb. 20 and 21, attracted the highest number of attendees ever, attracting well over 500 participants from 30 states. The conference addressed a broad array of topics and issues and included a greater variety of voices. We held our first-ever Take Root Poster Session, which showcased the scholarly and activist work of 12 participants and covered a wide range of topics, from birth control access to inclusive language to racial justice in university settings.

The 2015 conference was made possible by the generous support of 28 funding organizations and individuals, 40 volunteers from the OU student population and surrounding community, and nine WGS staff and faculty. This year, we expanded to include a strategic planning session, poster session on Friday evening, and a greater number of breakout sessions on Saturday. The topics of these breakout sessions also were incredibly varied, covering subjects like racial justice in Ferguson, Missouri, indigenous perspectives on reproductive rights, youth advocacy in the South, political activism, criminalization of pregnant people in Appalachia and trans health issues. This new workshop structure allowed a greater range of topics to be addressed, giving conference attendees more choice in what they wanted to learn.

The opening and closing plenaries also were successful, featuring leaders and seasoned activists in the reproductive justice movement. Andrea Smith, associate professor at UC Riverside, gave the keynote address, receiving a standing ovation from conference participants. The Take Root team also presented the Take Root awards during the closing plenary, awarding the Carol Mason Student Activism Award to Kelsey Kolbe, the Spreading Roots Award to Diana Rhodes and the Staying Rooted Award to Cecilia Fire Thunder. Take Root 2015 saw many positive and exciting changes, and the Take Root team looks forward to fostering this same kind of innovation and growth in the years to come.

Take Root Native Presence

By Ashley McCray

Perhaps the most impressive change at this year's conference was the increase in Native issue-centered panels. As many Native-identifying panelists explained, Native issues very often are at the periphery of social justice movements, if they are included at all. This year's conference highlighted — and went some way to remedy — this issue by creating space for Native activists to demonstrate the ways in which reproductive justice is seen through a Native lens intersects directly and explicitly to environmental justice, academic justice, the fight to stop human trafficking, the dark side of child adoption, father's rights, and family healing.

Sarah Adams-Cornell (Choctaw), an opening plenary speaker and member of IdleNoMore Central OK, OK Choctaw Alliance and OKCPS Native Parent Committee, demonstrated the connection between reproductive justice, mascotry and academic justice when she explained the violence behind and perpetuated by “Native-inspired” mascots, the need to educate each other about the history behind names and called on conference participants to assist in the fight to change harmful names that perpetuate violence targeted at Native-identifying children and adults. (cont on next page)
Native Presence Cont.

Paulette Blanchard (Absentee Shawnee) and Brenda Golden (Muscogee-Creek) addressed the connection between indigeneity, environmental justice, fracking and reproductive justice in their session. Sarah Adams-Cornell (Choctaw), Alecia Onzahwah (Absentee Shawnee/Prairie Band Potawatomi/Kickapoo), Ashley McCray (Oglala Lakota/Absentee Shawnee/Yankton Dakota/Northern Cheyenne) and Tosawi Saddler (Rocky Boy Chippewa) discussed topics ranging from historical trauma, generational violence, academic justice, boarding schools, Indian Health Services and ways of healing on their panel, “Indigenous Life Givers.” Darcie Parton-Scoon (Caddo), Angel Smith (Cherokee), Johnna Payne-Hurt (Chickasaw) and Nicky Michaels (Delaware) discussed the Indian Child Welfare Act, the human trafficking of Native children and teens, human trafficking disguised as child adoption, and the grassroots activism of Standing Our Ground, a group of concerned Natives and non-Natives founded by Michaels and Payne-Hurt, who rallied around the Baby Veronica Brown case. Smith, who was the private attorney for the Cherokee Nation during that landmark case, was able to shed additional light on the ins and outs of ICWA and child adoption during this highly informative and inspirational panel.

Amplifying Native voices was just one of the ways the 2015 Take Root conference succeeded in making its name known as an inclusive space that seeks to re-center marginalized and oppressed voices in the larger reproductive justice movement.

Activist-in-Residence Program Hosts Filmmakers

By Emma Newberry-Davis

The spring 2015 Activists-in-Residence were Pamela Yates and Paco de Onís, award-winning filmmakers and the director/producer partnership behind Skylight Pictures. Skylight Pictures is a human rights media organization dedicated to producing full-length documentary films, technology and digital tools to create awareness of social justice issues.

Pamela Yates, an American filmmaker and co-founder of Skylight Pictures, has been involved with a number of award-winning films, including When the Mountains Tremble, Witness to War and Granito: How to Nail a Dictator. She currently is working on 500 Years, the third addition in the Guatemalan trilogy that explores the battle for the national narrative in present-day Guatemala.

Paco de Onís is a Latin American producer and partner of Skylight Pictures. He recently produced Granito: How to Nail a Dictator, a documentary detective story on the role of filmic and archival documentation in the prosecution of a genocide case against Guatemalan generals. He also launched Granito: Every Memory Matters, a companion to the first film and a mixed-media project developed to restore the collective memory of the Guatemalan genocide.

During their visit, a screening was held of their documentary film Disruption, which discusses strategies to reduce poverty through women’s economic empowerment in Latin America. Yates and de Onís also held an interactive workshop on producing films to strengthen human rights and contribute to social justice. Later in the week, they presented a public lecture on documentary film and its role in human rights activism.

To end their week at OU, Yates and de Onís participated in a luncheon sponsored by the Center for the Americas that focused on film and human rights in Latin America. As with all Activists-in-Residence visits, Yates and de Onís also visited a number of classes, which gave students the opportunity to engage with them directly. Yates’ and de Onís’ use of film in their quest for social justice is inspirational, and we were honored to be able to have them as Activists-in-Residence.
Faculty Spotlight: Clemencia Rodriguez

By Vincent Kwok

Clemencia Rodriguez has been involved with OU's Women's and Gender Studies program for several years. She currently teaches a mixture of Communication and WGS courses. She believes that our community is too entrenched in the Western mindset, so she finds ways to implement non-Western perspectives in her courses. This spring, she taught an upper-division course titled Contemporary Feminist Thought, which focuses on feminist philosophers and their theories from the 1960s to modern times. Her favorite part of the course is at the end of the semester, when the students have the option of writing a term paper or creating a piece of art to present to the class. The artistic media can range from paintings to films.

Originating from Bogotá, Colombia, Rodriguez became interested in social justice issues at a young age when she witnessed socioeconomic inequality around her community. She recalled an impactful memory where a young girl came up to her family and asked for unwanted clothing. This young girl had her baby sibling strapped to her back and was not much older than Rodriguez was at the time. Another experience involved a classmate taking her whole class of 25 students to spend a weekend at his family's farm. During the weekend, the family fed and lodged the students; the family even prepared 25 horses for everyone to go horseback riding. Her work today stems from these experiences with different levels of economic resources.

Rodriguez holds degrees from Pontifical Xavierian University and Ohio University. She originally planned to become an international reporter and thus earned her bachelor of arts degree in communication with an emphasis on journalism. However, she quickly became disappointed with the state of the mainstream mass media. Rodriguez said she learned that the media functioned as a corporation only to seek profits, and any kind of investigative reporting for ethical and social change was nonexistent. She decided to take a different path via community media. For years, she dedicated herself to setting up community and citizens' media for disadvantaged communities and social movement groups. This path eventually led her into conducting research on a number of topics, including citizens' media and the types of media used by social movements for their cause.

She recently researched social movements and their media. Regarding this project, she says, "Activists always find a way to figure out how to solve communication and information problems with whatever resources they have at hand." Her latest book, Citizens' Media Against Armed Conflict: Disrupting Violence in Colombia, explores how communities use different forms of media to resist armed groups and their negative influences.

In her spare time, Rodriguez likes to fish for trout in Roman Nose State Park and Medicine Park. She has two dogs and two cats. She loves to hike and watch films with her 16-year-old daughter. An ideal night for her would be watching a Bollywood film with her daughter.
Women’s and Gender Studies Board of Advisors Host Gala Evening Highlighting Women’s Lives in Oklahoma

By Susy Jorgenson

The Women’s and Gender Studies Board of Advisors, under the leadership of outgoing president Becky Patten, held a fundraising event May 2 for more than 100 program supports. The event, held in the Fred Jones Jr Museum of Art’s Sandy Bell Gallery, honored the dynamic heritage of women in our state. “Voices From the Heart: Celebrating Women’s Lives in Oklahoma” was an evening of storytelling, celebrating the achievements of Oklahoma women, the event also gave the audience a chance to consider challenges facing women in Oklahoma today. The event was hosted by State Rep. Emily Virgin and included a presentation from Carolyn Taylor and a one-act play by Rilla Askew.

Taylor is a professor of political science at Rogers State University; a former state representative from Norman; managing editor of Voices From the Heartland, a collection of writings by Oklahoma women; and a new member of the WGS Board of Advisors. Taylor presented a compelling look at the lives of women in Oklahoma and their struggles. Taylor’s narrative highlighted the accomplishments of women, despite struggles related to female poverty, domestic violence, incarceration, divorce and teen pregnancy.

Taylor’s talk was followed by a performance by Oklahoma author Rilla Askew, winner of the 2009 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and new member of the WGS Board of Advisors. Askew began her career as an actor before turning to writing fiction. Her first novel, The Mercy Seat, was a nominee for the PEN/Faulkner Award. She is a three-time Oklahoma Center for the Book award-winner. Askew presented a dramatic reading of her short story Breakfast as a one-act play. Breakfast, a first-person narrative, tells the story of an emotionally battered woman who one morning decides she has had enough.

The successful event raised money to fund the Center for Social Justice’s Activist-in-Residence program and student travel scholarship to the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference and the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference for the 2015-2016 school year. The proceeds also will be used to expand classroom teaching opportunities and increase the internship and workshop trainings available for students.
Chilean Women Visit OU to Receive Social Justice Award and Honor Clyde Snow

By Misha Klein

In September, five representatives of the Agrupación de Familiares de Ejecutados y Detenidos Desaparecidos de Calama (AFEDDEP, the Association of Relatives of Executed and Missing Political Prisoners of Calama, Chile) came to Oklahoma to receive the 2014 Clyde Snow Social Justice Award. The president and one of the founding members of AFEDDEP, Violeta Berrios, was accompanied by Lorena Hoyos, Ana Yueng, Teresa Berrios Contreras and Maria Irmina Araya Tapia, a group composed of wives, sisters and daughters of the working men who were disappeared in the early days following the 1973 military coup in Chile.

They were joined by photojournalist Paula Allen, who nominated the group for the award and who has documented their decades-long efforts to recover the remains of their loved ones and learn the truth about what happened to them. The title of the book, Flowers in the Desert, refers to one of the ways the women mourned their losses and honored their dead: without knowledge of the location of the clandestine burials or graves to visit, they scattered flowers in the desolate Atacama Desert.

The women’s four-day visit to OU was preceded by a screening of the film Nostalgia for the Light, by Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán, which includes the story of the women of Calama. During their visit, the women from Calama had numerous opportunities to speak to and meet with students, including a classroom visit and a moving presentation to an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students from across campus.

Additionally, Allen gave a public lecture about the women illustrated with her photographs, and followed by a panel discussion with the representatives from the Agrupación. Allen also gave an interview for the World Views radio program, which aired in December on KGOU. Members of the OU community who attended these events were profoundly affected by the women’s story of strength and persistence in the face of profound loss and great personal danger. The Chilean women in turn were inspired by the positive responses they received from the students; upon returning to Chile, the women planned to reach out to students in their own country to work with them to continue their search for justice.

While the goal of the award is to recognize those who work to rehumanize victims of human rights abuses, an unintended consequence and positive outcome of the award and the response from students on our campus was to further energize these women to continue to pursue their efforts. (cont. on next page)
The highlight of the women’s visit was the award banquet and ceremony. More than 100 invited guests, including members of the Whistler-Snow family and donors to the Clyde Snow Social Justice Award, attended the banquet. Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal presented Dr. Snow’s widow, Jerry Whistler Snow, with an official document proclaiming Sept. 27, 2014, as Dr. Clyde Snow Social Justice Day in the city of Norman.

This was the second Clyde Snow Social Justice Award to be presented; the first was given to Snow himself. Snow, who died in May 2014, had been an active participant in the evaluation of the nominees for the award in his name, and his presence was strongly felt at the award ceremony.

The following day, Snow’s family, friends, former students and the recipients of the award gathered for a Celebration of Life, one of several gatherings that have been held in his honor from New York to Buenos Aires in the year following his death.

The biannual Clyde Snow Social Justice Award will continue for years to come as a tribute to Snow’s human rights work by recognizing the efforts of those who strive to restore the humanity and dignity of communities that have suffered human rights violations.

The call for nominations went out for the 2016 Clyde Snow Social Justice Award in May. Submit at tinyurl.com/ClydeSnow2016. More information about the award may be found on the Center for Social Justice website at csj.ou.edu. The website also has information about making donations to help sustain the award.

students Attend NYFL Conference

By Ashley Knapp

The National Young Feminist Leadership Conference was an incredibly inspiring opportunity. As an advocate for women’s rights, the event provided me with many welcoming, well-informed networks and creative ideas for how I can enhance my leadership on campus. Being surrounded by hundreds of inspired individuals and dozens of passionate leaders provided me with a sense of pride and confidence. Because we, as attendees and leaders, are part of something much larger, we felt like a community away from home and connected in that way.

We were taught many different skills to ignite change on our own campus as well as in our state Legislature. Some of these skills included advocating for and against bills at the state capitol, getting alumni involved, peaceful protests, making phone calls and sending emails, inviting the community to get involved and kindly demanding the attention of people who need to hear the voice of the community. Since the conference, I have utilized many of these tools locally. I intend to continue setting an exceptional example for my peers and classmates by staying involved and helping others become advocates of change.
Message From the Director

By Jill Irvine

As I prepare to step down as director, I’d like to pause and reflect upon all our accomplishments together over the past eight years. So many students, faculty and staff came together eight years ago to rebuild the WGS Program. And look how far we’ve come!

We’ve launched a nationally recognized Center for Social Justice, which has greatly enriched campus life with its educational events, programs and awards. We’ve added a social justice minor and a graduate certificate, and grown from roughly 15 majors and minors to well over 100. We have the largest interdisciplinary faculty on campus, with 88 faculty members from almost every college and from all three campuses, faculty who not only produce first-rate research but who do amazing work in the classroom and in the community.

I feel incredibly privileged to have been part of the revitalization of this wonderful program and to have worked with all of you during my time as director. And, I couldn’t be more delighted that Lupe Davidson will be starting as director on July 1. I look forward very much to working with Lupe and all of you as I move into my new appointment as a WGS faculty member.

Thank you for making these past eight years the most meaningful experience of my professional life.

Board of Advisors Spotlight: Becky Patten

By Jill Irvine

Becky Patten is a founding member of the WGS Advisory Board and was elected as the board’s first president in December 2013. A graduate of OU and University of Chicago Law School, she had practiced law in Norman for over 30 years. She has been involved in local political activities for longer than that, including work in campaigns for candidates supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and reproductive choice. She has served on the boards of the Oklahoma Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, Juvenile Services, Inc. (now Center for Children and Families) and coached youth softball for many years.

Patten has been a tireless advocate for the WGS Program, spearheading a number of fundraising activities, including an event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX that raised $29,000 for WGS programs. Under her leadership, the board pledged to support three essential educational activities: the Activist-in-Residence program, student conference travel awards and instructional support.

Of her work on the board, Patten said, “It helps me to feel connected to the community. I really like attending WGS events and interacting with the students.” The WGS Advisory Board’s most recent event, on May 2, Voices from the Heartland: Celebrating Women’s Lives in Oklahoma, drew over 100 participants to launch the new Friends of WGS. Patten stepped down as WGS Advisory Board president in May and was succeeded by Steve Davis.

Thank you, Becky Patten, for everything you have done for WGS!
Students Attend CLPP Conference

By Kelsey Kolbe and Alex Ruggiers

We had the honor of being selected to attend the renowned Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference (CLPP) in Amherst, Massachusetts, this past April. The conference kicked off with workshops on Friday. We both attended a workshop called “Sizeism, Fatphobia, and Disability Justice” because we are both interested in this particular intersection of identities and realize that it is one that often falls by the wayside in conversations about reproductive justice. The workshop was led primarily by members of the Disability Collective, who facilitated a two-hour-long conversation on the intersection of sizeism, fatphobia and disability. We were surprised and excited about how frank and honest the conversation was, and felt that we were able to learn about the complexities of this topic in a safe and inclusive space. The events on Friday also included an Abortion Speak-Out in the evening, which again, was incredibly powerful and inspiring (a theme of the conference, really).

For the Saturday sessions, we attended three eye-opening, exciting, inspiring, innovative panels and workshops. First, we participated in a workshop led by Loretta Ross titled “Appropriate Whiteness for Feminist Activists.” For both of us, this workshop was possibly the most powerful and educational part of the entire conference. Ross is one of the founders of the reproductive justice movement, and as aspiring RJ activists and advocates, we were inspired by her simultaneously brilliant and grounded session. She talked about how white people can engage in the RJ movement without taking up too much space or being triggering or marginalizing to people of color, but she also brought humor into the conversation and brought up the idea of “calling in” rather than calling out problematic people and ideas. This idea of calling in — attempting to educate and include people who may know less about RJ — is one that both of us find incredibly useful and effective in interacting with our networks and communities. Ross specifically condemned the way in which many activists “weaponize their consciousness” as they look down on people who know less than they do, and advised our group against such action. We also attended sessions including “RE-MIX! talkin’ that transformative masculinity talk,” which covered the topic of masculinity and asked us to consider whether healthy masculinity can exist and “Body and Land: Intersections Between Reproductive and Climate/Environmental Justice,” which looked at a variety of places and examined how RJ must necessarily include a discussion of environmental destruction.

It is difficult to articulate how powerful CLPP was for both of us. We left this conference feeling more competent, empathetic, knowledgeable and committed as activists within the reproductive justice movement. We are immensely grateful for the opportunity given to us to attend CLPP on the WGS Travel Scholarship (for the second year in a row!). This is one of the most important initiatives offered through WGS, and we are thankful to have benefited from it so directly.
Congratulations, WGS Majors, Minors, SJ Minors and Graduate Certificate Recipients!

Bachelor of Arts in Women’s and Gender Studies:
Michelle Borror, Sondra Cantu, Sara Cason, Madison Dicks, Kelsey Kolbe, Lauren Lenahan, Colby Lower, Parker Manek, Jordyn Snow, Tayler Taliaferro and Camille Warren with Jill Irvine and Megan Sibbett

Minor in Social Justice:
Vincent Kwok, Lauren Lenahan, Kelsey Kolbe, Monica Piros and Parker Manek
not pictured: Sherman Brennan, Courtney Fletcher, Mary Hale, Lacey Sorrels and Alexis Taitel

Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies:
Emily Bibens and Katherine Brannen with Sterlin Mosley
not pictured: Sarah Brown, Katelyn Burks, Natali Castellanos, Kristin Cox, Bryanna Evans, Sarah Faglie, Rebecca Fesler, Elizabeth Flores, Dirce Gillin, Madeline Grunewald, Charles Mays, Elizabeth Roberts, Abigail Seremek, Haley Seigel, Tyler Tennant, Hannah Watson, Angela Wilkerson and Kathryn Wingfield

Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies:
Kayley Gillespie with Alison Fields
not pictured: Dejon Knapp and Diane Karns
2014-2015 WGS Award Winners

Rita A. McClaskey Outstanding Senior Awards: Kelsey Kolbe, Emily Bibens and Monica Piros

Faculty Research Award: Sherri Irvin with Julia Erhardt

National Young Feminist Leadership Conference Travel Scholarships: Bliss Brown with Katie Barwick-Snell not pictured: Ashley Knapp

Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference Travel Scholarships: Kelsey Kolbe and Alexander Ruggiers with Clemencia Rodriguez
2014-2015 WGS Award Winners

Alice Mary Robertson Awards:
Chelsea Ball, Kayley Gillespie and Shaylee Hale
with Kirsten Edwards

Jill Irvine Leadership Awards:
Jill Irvine and Charity Kennedy

Betty Baum and Norman Hirschfield Awards:
Crystal Baird, Alesha Hall, Quincella Ivy,
Kirsten Jung and Jennifer Le
with their children
not pictured: Winter Martinez

Phi Beta Kappa Initiates
Kelsey Kolbe and Jordyn Snow
with Lupe Davidson
2014-2015 WGS Award Winners

Robert D. Lemon Social Justice Award:

**Student recipient:**
Representatives from the student group Unheard with Kelly Damphousse

**Staff recipient:**
Rodney Bate with Sherri Irvin, Roksana Alavi, Erin Simpson and Moira Ozias

**Faculty recipient:**
Rockey Robbins with Mirelsie Velazquez
Faculty News and Publications


Jennifer Davis-Cline received the Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching.


Elyssa Faison published “Tokyo Twilight: Alienation, Belonging and the Fractured Family” in *Ozo International*.


Amy Kroska published “Illness Labels and Social Distance” with Sarah Harkness, Lauren Thomas and Ryan Brown in *Society and Mental Health*. Kroska also published “The Social Psychology of Gender Inequality” in *Handbook of the Social Psychology of Inequality*.


Clemencia Rodriguez is principle investigator in a research project of the Colombian Center for Historical Memory. The project, funded by the U.S. Institute of Peace, analyses the political assassination of an environmental leader who fought to defend the wetlands against the negative impact of cattle ranching, oil exploration, and organized crime.

Deborah Trytten received the Presidents Associates Presidential Professorship.

Meredith Worthen published four articles: “Male Ballet Dancers and Heteromasculinity” with Trenton Haltom in *Journal of College Student Development*; “General Strain Theory for LGBQ and SSB Youth: The importance of intersectionality in the future of feminist criminology” with Deanna Button in *Feminist Criminology*; “Expanding the Spectrum of Attitudes Toward the Death Penalty: How non-dichotomous response options affect our understanding of death penalty attitudes” with Forest Rodgers and Susan Sharp in *Criminal Justice Review*; and “Blaming the Jocks and Geeks? Identifying the underlying constructs of collegiate athletes and fraternity/sorority members” in *The Journal of College Student Development*. 
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