Notes From The Chair

Spring 2013 is here, which means the ACRL conference in Indianapolis, and time to look forward to the ALA annual conference in Chicago.

The Women & Gender Studies Section (WGSS) was very well represented at the 2013 ACRL conference in Indy in the form of both presenters and attendees. Congratulations to all of the presenters from our section. I enjoyed chatting with new and prospective members after the excellent “Imagining the Future of Library Instruction: How Feminist Pedagogy Can Transform the Way You Teach and How Students Learn” panel. The WGSS Membership Committee coordinated the WGSS Social in Indy at a fun venue. We had a great mix of attendees including established, new, and potential section members.

The WGSS ALA annual program for 2013 in Chicago is “Out of the Library and into the Community: Academic Librarians and Community Engagement.” Our program features three excellent presenters, Lizz Zitron (Carthage College), Maureen Barry (Wright State University) and Martin Wolske (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and our moderator will be WGSS’s Pamela Salela. I hope you can join us at the program, which is co-sponsored in name by ACRL’s Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) and ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). “Out of the Library” should provide an important and academic librarian perspective to ALA President Sullivan’s initiative, “The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities.” Nice work by the 2013 WGSS Program Planning Committee for their successful program proposal, with only 19 out of 32 ACRL program proposals accepted for Annual 2013.

Congratulations to the 2013 WGSS award winners, Hope Olson, the ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award recipient, and Randy Gue, the ACRL WGSS Significant Achievement Award recipient. These awards will be presented at the beginning of our Annual program session.

Other ALA Annual 2013 events of note: I hope to see everyone at our section membership meeting on Saturday. The meeting will open with the presentation of a framed resolution approved by the WGSS Executive Committee to Brian Quinn, in memory of his partner Sandy River. Sandy was a highly regarded WGSS member, and she is missed. The membership meeting will be followed by the WGSS (continued on next page....)
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The WGSS Newsletter welcomes contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

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WGSS OFFICERS, 2012-2013
• Jennifer Mayer, Chair
• Heather Lee Tompkins, Vice-chair/Chair-elect
• Shana M. Higgins, Secretary
• Beth Strickland, Member-at-Large
• Piper Martin, Member-at-Large
• Pamela Mann, Past Chair

Listserv archives (1999 - present):
http://lists.ala.org/wws/arc/wgss-l

WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):
http://libr.org/wss/newsletter/index.html

sponsored poster session. The Research Committee reports that a record number of individuals applied to our poster session! Our WGSS social will follow the posters.

Please remember that ALA revamped the conference schedule this past year, so some meetings are at different times, or time frames, than before. The WGSS conference schedule is available here: http://www.libr.org/wgss/conferences/index.html and will be updated with room assignments once finalized by ALA.

Please participate in our online section survey of WGSS members this spring, the link will be available on the WGSS listserv. Your input will provide valuable feedback to our WGSS Executive Committee for future planning.

A sincere thank you to all of our WGSS members, editors, committee chairs and executive committee members for making our section a success. Visit our section website for the latest WGSS information and resources: http://www.libr.org/wgss/

I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago! There are many opportunities to get involved in WGSS, so please get in touch at any time.

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MEMBERSHIP
The Membership Committee met virtually prior to ALA Midwinter. One of our goals for the year is to increase our social media presence and we discussed how to coordinate efforts with the new blog editors. Be sure to check out our facebook page and twitter feed and give us your feedback about the type of content you’d like to see on these pages. We are also exploring ways to do member profiles to highlight the diversity of the section membership and encourage participation. The committee organized a social at ARCL in Indianapolis where 14 members, including some new faces, came together to enjoy some good conversation, food, and drink. We are currently planning the WGSS Social for ALA Annual. Mark Saturday, June 29th from 6-8pm on your calendars and we’ll send out location information soon. Hope to see everyone in Chicago!

Submitted by Juliann Couture
Committee Chair
Arizona State University

COLLECTIONS
The newly formed WGSS Collections Committee held a virtual meeting on January 9, 2013. Over the spring, Cindy Ingold worked with Erin Stalberg to make sure the new committee name was accurately reflected on web pages. The Committee identified several projects we plan to work on including:
- Updating the Electronic Resources Information and Assessment page http://www.libr.org/wgss/projects/electronic.html
- Updating the Checklist to Evaluate Women and Gender Studies Collections http://www.libr.org/wgss/committees/colldev/checklist.html
- Revising the WGSS Core serials page http://www.libr.org/wgss/projects/serial.html

Several small groups will be working on these projects and we will have status reports at the annual meeting in Chicago.

Submitted by Cindy Ingold
Committee Chair
University of Illinois

RESEARCH
The Bibliography of Scholarship on Women and Gender Studies Librarianship has been updated and expanded to include gender studies (as reflected in the name change). Brand new to this edition is a subject listing, so that you can see the bibliography listed by date, author, or subject. The subject listing mirrors the subject breakdown of the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, so that as time goes by, researchers can see what has been written recently on each topic. If you have any suggestions or additions for either the Bibliography or the Research Agenda, please let me know. Also, we are excited to announce that the Research Agenda was featured in the “News from the Field” section of the February (continued on p. 4)
Committee Reports
ALA Midwinter - Seattle, WA
January 25-29, 2013 (continued)

2013 issue of C&RL News. Read the story at:
http://crln.acrl.org/content/74/2/62.full.pdf+html.

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley
Committee Chair
Pennsylvania State University

PUBLICATIONS
The Publications Committee met via Google hang-out at midwinter. The committee continued to
discuss the creation of a new co-blog editor position, which Exec approved and announced. We hope
to have a co-editor in place sometime during the spring.

We strategized about getting more section mem-
bers involved with the blog; we will discuss this
more at Annual. We are also recruiting a new assis-
tant newsletter editor.

We continued to review the Research Committee’s
research agenda and to link possible journal titles
with research agenda items. We’ll discuss our prog-
ress in more depth at Annual.

Submitted by Nina Clements
Committee Chair

Welcome Kristen Hogan!
Kristen holds an MSIS and PhD in English Literature with Graduate Portfolio in WGS from
the University of Texas at Austin. She is an English Literature and Women’s and Gender
Studies Librarian at the University of Texas Libraries, and writes: “As a staff member
in the Reference and Information Services unit, I combine desk and chat service with
my subject-specific reference, outreach, and teaching practice. I am thrilled to now
coordinate and conduct outreach around the virtual collection I helped to create as
an iSchool student, the Black Queer Studies Collection: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/
subject/gender/bqsc.html. In my spare time, I hike with my dog and I write. My current
research and writing maps out a history of the U.S. book industry and how the transnational femi-
nist bookstore movement has changed how we publish, share, and read feminist and queer literatures.
Starting my first professional librarianship job in November after working in feminist bookstores and
teaching in English Literature and WGS programs, I joined WGSS to connect with librarians thinking about
how to make historically marginalized literatures accessible and visible to faculty, students, and commu-
nity members who need these materials for our research and for our lives.”

She has recently enjoyed reading:
A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki (Viking, 2013)
Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class, and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics, by Urvashi Vaid
(Magnus Books, 2012)

If you would like to be featured in a new member profile in the future, contact Newsletter Editor Laura
Bonella, laurab@k-state.edu.
**Member Updates**

**Susan Hoang**
Congratulations to WGSS member Susan Hoang for being a 2013 ALA Emerging Leader!

**Susan Wood**
Has two upcoming presentations:

**WGSS members, submitted by Jennifer Gilley**
A roundtable proposal by WGSS members entitled “Integrating Information Literacy into Women’s Studies Programs: Faculty-Librarian Partnerships” has been accepted to the Program Administration pre-conference for NWSA this year. This is very exciting because we will not have to compete in the overcrowded schedule of the main conference, and we will be speaking directly to program administrators. Roundtable members will be Tami Albin, Sherri Barnes, Jennifer Gilley, Kathy Labadorf, Sharon Ladenson, Pamela Salela, and Susan Wood. Sharon and Kathy will be representing the Instruction Committee to talk about the new Information Literacy Standards for Women and Gender Studies, and Jennifer will be representing the Research Committee to talk about how programs could use the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Other panelists will discuss librarian-taught courses in women’s studies, and faculty-librarian partnerships to integrate information literacy into women’s studies programs at their universities.

**Jennifer Mayer**

**Carol Smallwood**
She announces calls for the following publications: *Making Libraries Integral in the Lives of Baby Boomers*, Scarecrow Press; *Creative Management of Small Public Libraries in the 21st Century*, Scarecrow Press; *Writing After Retirement: Tips by Successful Retired Writers*, Scarecrow Press. For more information, contact smallwood@tm.net
Many feminist values were in evidence at ACRL 2013. Program descriptions included themes such as critical thinking, community engagement, questioning authority, inclusivity, examining bias, thinking locally, open access, universal design, health equity, mentoring, democratization, class privilege, feminist pedagogy, diversity recruitment, DIY/hacking/making, empowering support staff, anti-racism, collaboration, underrepresentation, street art, iconoclasm, queer theory, combatting stereotypes, and last but not least, Henry Rollins.

Punk icon Henry Rollins was the second of three keynote speakers at the conference. Mic tightly gripped, sweat dripping off him, his nearly hour and a half, full-speed-ahead rant covered more topics than I can possibly relate here. Suffice it to say, we were regaled. Unfortunately, by the end of it, I had to categorize the performance as obliviously anti-feminist, not because of what he said, but because of what he left out of what had to be a stupendously prodigious final word-count.

I pricked up my ears when he said he would tell us what were, in his opinion, the biggest mistakes made in the United States: Native American genocide and African American slavery. I very much agree, but I was surprised that centuries of systematic disenfranchisement of women didn’t make his list. He explained that his favorite Constitutional amendment is the 14th, guaranteeing all citizens equal protection under the law, yet he didn’t find it worth mentioning that it wasn’t until the 19th amendment 52 years later that citizens of the female persuasion had the vote.

(continued on p. 8)
Conferences Past and Future

Program at ALA Annual

The WGSS schedule for ALA Annual in Chicago is available at: http://www.libr.org/wgss/conferences/index.html Our program will be Out of the Library and Into the Community: Academic Librarians and Community Engagement on Monday, July 1, 8:30-10am

Research Poster Session at ALA Annual

The Research Committee is thrilled to announce that we got many more poster proposal submissions than usual this year, making for a very competitive process. This says good things about our marketing efforts and our reputation. Please be sure to attend the Membership Forum on Saturday, June 29th, from 4:30-5:30, so you can meet the poster presenters and engage in interesting discussions.

Copies of the posters will be linked to our web page after the conference for those who cannot make it.

Here is a list of the 2013 posters:
- Academic Library Leadership, Second-wave Feminism and Twenty-first Century Humanism: Reflections on a Changing Profession. Marta Deyrup, Seton Hall University
- A Legacy of Feminist Bookwomen: Proposal for a Librarian Working Group to Support Feminist Publishing. Kristen Hogan, University of Texas at Austin
- Chick Lit: A Working Bibliography Jessica Young, San Jose State University (Student)
- Information and Violence Against Women. Reference Center for Women Ednalva Bezerra. Gisele Rocha Côrtes, Federal University of Paraíba (Brazil)
- Romancing Readers: Promoting Romance Fiction and Programming at a Campus Library. Hilary Wagner, Rasmussen College
- Women’s Health Resources and Gender Research Differences: Outreach at California State University Northridge Project with the National Library of Medicine. Annaliese Fidgeon, Lynn Lampert, Marcia Henry, Cal State Northridge

Submitted by: Jennifer Gilley (jrg15@psu.edu)

Social event at ACRL

A great time was had by all in Indiana at the WGSS social event held at the Slippery Noodle Inn.

Photos by Juliann Couture

Midwinter Discussion Group

Vice-Chair Heather Tompkins led a lively discussion on Digital Humanities, Libraries, and Interdisciplinary Work: Practices, Possibilities, and Sustainability at ALA Midwinter in Seattle. Attendees from a range of institutions, including archives, public libraries, and vendors, shared experiences and ideas about how libraries engage with digital humanities within their institutions.

Photos by Laura Bonella

Like many librarians, I wear a number of subject hats at my job, working with departments that span both gender studies and the arts. This year, I had the opportunity to compile a library exhibit drawing from those fields and based primarily on my own collection. After collecting female action figures for many years, which I continue to claim is partly for scholarly purposes, I was encouraged to put together an exhibit that included dozens of the figures and books on the history of media franchise tie-ins, “tough” women on the screen, and the representation of female characters in superhero narratives.

Because of growing interest in convergence culture and transmedia storytelling, the exhibit was focused on tie-in action figures from mostly U.S.-based media companies and franchises, including Marvel, D.C. Comics, Disney film and television, Star Wars, Star Trek, Terminator, Battlestar Galactica, Tomb Raider, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Lord of the Rings. The exhibit pointed to the inherently gendered history of action figures as toys, from their beginnings with Hasbro’s 1964 G.I. Joe (the first toy to be marketed as an action figure to avoid being labeled a “doll”), to the current complexly defined and widely dispersed market with multiple audiences and narrative origin points. A number of visitors came to the exhibit over its run at the UCLA Arts Library, and I had several interesting and productive conversations with students and staff about their own collections, childhood history with action figures, mixed feelings about the depiction of bodies in comic books and movies, and the equally huge market for action figures in Japan.

As “phase 2” after the exhibit, I’m currently conducting a literature review on the history of action figures in the U.S., and specifically the ways in which gender informs the design and marketing decisions related to them. I hope to share some of my findings at a WGSS poster session of the future!