

WOMANifesto

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

April/May 2017



2017 Student of Achievement Award Recipients

The Women's Center is proud to highlight fourteen students who have enriched our campus through their hard work, team spirit, community activism, and leadership. We are honored to have an opportunity to recognize each of these students who have contributed much to Montana State University. The following is a very incomplete list of their activities, accomplishments, and the many ways they wish to make our world a better place.

Thanks to each one of you and the best of luck to you upon graduation!

Frances Ambrose is from Nashville, Tennessee, and will complete her degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology with a minor in Entomology this May. Frances has worked at the MSU Women's Center since 2013 and revived and served as president of the F-Word, a feminist discussion group on campus. She has also served as the president of Students for Reproductive Choice, and during her freshman year, acted as a mentor for Bozeman High School's Project X², a student empowerment and gender equity discussion group. Fran has most recently been chosen for a President's

Commission on the Status of University Women Award. Her passion for equality is matched only by her passion for the environment, and after graduation, Fran wants to be an "activist for science, climate change, and the environment." She plans to stay in Bozeman to work for a non-profit conservation organization. Fran explains, "Bozeman and MSU have changed my life, and I am not finished thanking them yet."

Sara Ashback is from Ridgefield, Washington, and will graduate in December with degrees in Civil Engineering

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and Honors and a minor in Math. She works extensively with MSU's Victim Options in the Campus Environment (VOICE) Center as an advocate, and as a Help Center volunteer. During her college career, Sara has served as an Ambassador for the College of Engineering, and a Civil Engineering Peer Advisor. She participated in Spring Breaks Away through MSU's Office of Activities and Engagement, Expanding Your Horizons, and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Sara has received the Outstanding Freshman Leadership Scholarship, Outstanding Sophomore Service Award, and a Building Futures Foundation Scholarship. She explains that her "biggest goal is to be able to volunteer at a place like the VOICE Center or Help Center" and use her voice "to speak out for those who can't."

Anna Avidan is from Eugene, Oregon, and will graduate in May with a degree in Biochemistry, pre-med. She has worked for HAVEN with the Community Education Team, was a Scholarship Ambassador for Chi Omega, and a volunteer coordinator for the No one Dies Alone Program at Bozeman Health. Anna volunteers with Eagle Mount, is a member of the Special Olympics Club and the Health Professions Club and a member of Mortar Board. She received an MSU Award for Excellence and a USP grant for research on cryptochrome. She notes that her experiences with volunteer work and academics have helped her envision her work with future patients as an OBGYN practitioner. Anna notes that: "Whether it was backpacking in the Tetons, lunch breaks sitting with patients at the hospital, or nights in my research lab, throughout my three years in Bozeman, I have been given a good look at what I want my future to look like."

Taylor Brown is from Richey, Montana, and will complete her degree in Agricultural Education—Broadfield Teaching in December. She has served as a chair for the College of Agriculture Ambassador Campus Engagement, as well as a Student Engagement Panelist for Office of International Programs. Taylor has also served as an MSU Orientation Coordinator and Leader where she prepared freshman students to succeed in their first year of college. She is dedicated to helping women in Agriculture as a Future Farmers of America (FFA) Alumni Leadership Camp Counselor and as a volunteer for Gallatin Valley Farm Fair and the National FFA Day of Service. She "thanks MSU for giving me the

tools and experience to build up a more confident, diverse group of female agriculturalists."

Ryan Chauner is from Whitefish, Montana, and will graduate with degrees in Economics and Political Science this summer. Ryan served as a VOICE Center Victims' Advocate, a Global Ambassador for the Office of International Programs, as a member of the Queer Straight Alliance, and registered voters with Forward Montana. She also promoted diversity and equality as president of Students Against Sexual Assault, a Safe Zone Trainee, a Montana Equal Pay Summit participant, and a speech transcriber for Steve Bullock's campaign. Tomorrow night, Ryan will be directing the Bozeman Monologues at the Emerson Theater! Because of these activities and her studies in Istanbul and Turkey last winter, Ryan has applied to Peace Corps Botswana "to focus on my passion for women's empowerment, comprehensive sex education, and improved sexual health."

Donald Hamm is from Power, Montana, and will graduate with a degree in Exercise Science this year. Donald served as a VOICE Center Victims' Advocate and is a member of the Not in Our House Taskforce and Students Against Sexual Assault. He studied at University of Montana, Montana State University Billings, and Montana State University with the Montana University Honors Scholarship, and has served as a tutor for a wide variety of science courses. Donald used his passion and knowledge of Exercise Science as a member of MSUB's Medical Club, MSU's Exercise Science Club, and in his position as an Emergency First Responder. After graduation, he hopes to attend medical school and pursue trauma surgery. Donald states: "after my experiences in college, I know that path I want to take...the desire to make change will embody how I carry myself into the future."

Erin Murdock is from Frederick, Maryland and St. Mary, Montana, and will complete her degree in English Writing with a minor in Women and Gender Studies this spring. Erin has been the Editor-in-Chief for the *Exponent* for the past two years. She explains, "I have actively worked to increase our coverage of a variety of pertinent issues for MSU students related to diversity, equality, and inclusion." She has also served as an

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orientation leader, a VOICE Center Advocate, a Spring Breaks Away leader, and a Service Saturdays volunteer during her time at MSU. Last year, Erin was awarded *Semptemviri*, an award that recognizes outstanding juniors based on leadership. Erin says that her time at MSU has “made my career path possible,” and recognizes a desire “to use my privilege as a platform to assist others.”

Bekah Neulinger is from Allentown, Pennsylvania, and will graduate in May with a degree in Applied Psychology. In her time at MSU, Bekah has taken a strong leadership role with the VOICE Center, serving as a senior VOICE Center peer educator and as Education Chair for the Not In Our House campus campaign. She has made the MSU Dean's List Honor roll for two years, and was inducted as a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success where she facilitated a small group think tank session and worked to identify her own style of leadership and collaboration. It is clear that she has a passion for educating her community and peers about interpersonal violence, bystander intervention, and healthy relationships. After graduation, Bekah plans to “seek out a graduate program in counseling that specializes in working with adolescents and families that have endured intense trauma.”

MacKenzie O'Bleness is from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and will complete her degree in Computer Science in May with minors in Math, Computer Engineering and Honors Baccalaureate. MacKenzie has been a member of the Association for Women in Computing since 2013, and during this time she has served as the fundraising coordinator, Vice President, and President. She co-authored a paper: “The Effectiveness of Software Development Instruction through the Software Factory Method for High School Students” published by the American Society for Engineering Education. Her passion for a more realistic gender and racial representation among coders led her to research that focused on coding as a means of breaking down negative stereotypes surrounding computer science. MacKenzie feels incredibly blessed to have received so much support from the MSU community, and, after graduation, intends to join Google as a Software Engineer in hopes “to continue supporting women and minorities as they break down barriers in the tech industry.”

Heather Olson is from Helena, Montana, and will graduate in May with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology with a Criminology Option, and a minor in History. Heather has been a Victims Advocate for the VOICE Center and a Board Member for the Survivor Fund. She had the opportunity to study abroad in Finland, where she learned to navigate and succeed in a new culture. Heather has been the Head Research Assistant on two research projects, *Responding to Secondary Trauma Among Victim Service Providers in Rural Montana* and *The Rural Montana Victim Needs Assessment*. She served as a Smarty Cats tutor and was a gifted student mentor through Honors. After graduation, Heather plans to attend graduate school where she will pursue a PhD in Anthropology with a focus on Islamic law and religion and their intersections with gender. She notes that she has grown interested in “how other cultures and societies define, understand, and deal with their own social issues.”

Maria Rodriguez is from Nueva Esparta-Margarita Island, Venezuela, and is completing her degree in Microbiology with a concentration in Medical Laboratory Science and a minor in Genetics in May. Maria has been a peer advocate at the VOICE Center, a campus tour guide with AdvoCats, and a volunteer server at the Community Café. She has researched in the Keil/ Pfau Lab studying epigenetic modifications of global methylation, and has also completed research in the Jones Lab studying soil and biofilm microbial ecology in Iceland using molecular approaches. Maria explains, “I grew up in a small town in the south of Venezuela, where endemic diseases, such as, malaria, yellow fever and Chagas weakened even the strongest people”. Her combined research and volunteer commitments have led Maria to the conclusion that she wants to be an active advocate for equality and hopes to continue her education so she can “travel around the world educating people, curing and preventing diseases.”

Molly Tomlinson is from Dublin, Ohio, and will graduate this May with a degree in Computer Engineering. Molly is an Engineering Peer Academic Leader (ePALS), President of MSU's Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, and has volunteered with Expanding Your Horizons and the Celebration of the Arts through the Emerson Cultural Center. She has volunteered for Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, Shadow an Engineer Day, served as the

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treasurer and PR person for the College of Engineering Ambassadors, and IEEE Science Night. Molly also played in the MSU Symphony as the 3rd chair French horn! After graduation Molly hopes to have a job that allows her to grow, but also pushes her to “become a better leader and worker.” She also hopes to encourage women and minorities to pursue science, especially engineering. Molly explains, “I want the field that I love so dearly to grow and change in the best ways possible: by diversifying and making sure that everyone who wants to pursue engineering knows that they can.”

Lauren Waldenberg is from Kalispell, Montana and will complete her degree in Architecture and Interior Design in May. Lauren served as Chapter President for MSU's Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, and volunteered as a CAP mentor with THRIVE. She has also volunteered for America Reads, America Counts, the Salvation Army, Service Saturdays, and several of AOPi's events, including Run for the Roses 5k race. Lauren has also helped out with various events for new students such as Move in Day, Legend of the Bobcat and Catapalooza. When Lauren reflects back on her time at MSU, she is filled with gratitude and explains, “Every activity, person, and event I have encountered has helped me grow as an individual and has prepared me for the future.” After graduation,

Lauren will continue her education in Architecture in the hopes of designing an entire building—inside and out. She is excited about her future and thanks everyone at MSU for “providing me with tools and opportunities that have gotten me thus far on my path.”

Katherine Wright is from Bellingham, Washington, and will graduate this spring with a degree in Biochemistry and a minor in Computer Science. Katherine has volunteered as an advocate for the MSU VOICE Center, Befrienders, and Bozeman Health—where she offered non-medical assistance to patients in the Emergency department, and MSU's Disability, Re-entry and Veteran Services Office. She has served as both Treasurer and President for the Undergraduate Chemistry Society, and participated in the 2015 Grace Hopper Conference. Katherine also worked with The Smithsonian Institution, where she helped analyze research related to the restoration of the American chestnut. After graduation, Katherine intends to go to medical school and become a doctor. She believes her background in Computer Science will help her “adapt as the field evolves” and has given her the “tools to thrive in contemporary healthcare.”

A Fond Farewell

By Frances Ambrose

During my four years at MSU, I have had the supreme pleasure of working at the Women's Center, and serving as president of the Student's for Choice and the F-word student organizations. I will graduate in a couple of weeks, and though I feel ready to be done with classes and homework, my heart aches when I think of leaving the wonderful experience of working at the Women's Center and my relationships with fellow students who make up these organizations. During the past few years I have faced the challenges of organizing events, scheduling meetings, and debating with those not in agreement. Mostly, though, I have learned to be a strong leader and a woman loyal to my beliefs. The incredible students who have helped me facilitate these organizations have taught me how to conquer self-doubt and stand up for the rights of others against all odds. I will never forget the transformative years I spent as a club leader at MSU.

As I depart, I pass the torch on to three women warriors: Michelle Lopez, Helena Klein, and Dana Kramer. Michelle will be the new president of F-Word. She is an Animal Science major with a passion for climbing, Latinx culture, and, of course, her cat Perseus. She has done a stellar job assisting me with the coordination of F-Word this past semester. Helena and Dana will serve as co-presidents of Students for Choice and are anxious to bring it to its full potential. Both of these awesome women are volunteer advocates at the VOICE Center and are passionate about reproductive rights. Helena has worked for Planned Parenthood in the past and Dana is working towards a medical degree and hopes to be an abortion provider. I have no doubt that all three women have the ability to continue on the path to success and I feel very excited about leaving this work to them. Be sure to check the F-Word and Students for Choice Facebook pages for summer events and updates, and look for information on meeting times and membership in the fall! Knowing that I am leaving things in good hands, I say good-bye to the Women's Center, the Womanifesto, and these student organizations that are very close to my heart. I loved serving you and will continue my support as a graduate and MSU alum. --FRAN

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THE BEAUTY OF CHAOS AND THE UGLY TRUTH

By Betsy Danforth

When we pick up our newspapers (or more likely, our phones) each morning, what do we see? Assuming you have several news feeds on your server account, you'll see headlines ranging from: "MOAB dropped on..." to "Trump to dismantles (fill in the blank) policy," to "More evidence found to support administration's ties with Russia," to "Trump Whitehouse to keep visitor log secret" to...well, you get the idea. With constant reports like these, we are often left confused, worried, and generally stressed out. Most of us worry about our country's current standing in the world, the seeming lack of effort to negotiate among the political parties, the dominant party's apparent willingness to change long-standing

and traditional rules to push their agenda, and the fate of healthcare, social services, schools and our environment. Numerous renowned psychologists and psychiatrists have made statements voicing concerns about the overall mental health of our nation's citizens since the beginning of the election cycle (never mind public statements made by psychiatric professionals about the mental health of the president). During the election cycle, Gail Sheehy wrote an article in *Politico Magazine* on October 10, 2016 stating that Trump's "candidacy is sowing fear, distress and anger across the country..." Individual mental health professionals have attested to their own practices going through the roof and clients suffering stress levels never seen previously. CNN highlighted an opinion piece just today (4/14/2017) titled, "Trump Bombings: The Mother of all Distractions" by William Hartung.

I had slowly let the horrors of the past election and the revelations made about our future president pass from my conscious into my subconscious. I had even (well, sort of) stopped my daily recalls of the extremely misogynist statements that constantly flowed from his lips. That is, until one of our staff updated our website and posted a terrific link to a display by an artist named Saint Hoax: www.sainthoax.com/make-america-misogynist-again/. His website reads: "Saint Hoax is a pseudonymous Syrian artist, satirist and sociopolitical activist. He combines politics with popular culture to create POlItically incorrect statements. By manipulating images and icons, Hoax creates beautiful visual lies that tell an ugly truth." The artist statement for this particular series reads: "I removed the headlines from these original misogynistic advertisements and replaced them with quotes by Donald Trump about women." I strongly encourage folks to check out this display, the wording and images are effectively aligned, and the historical significance of the advertisements themselves is indeed disturbing and valuable. It will, no doubt, bring back to mind the entire collection of abusive, sexist, and racist disclosures and comments that were, according to some, the actual triumph of the Trump campaign.

The role of chaos is indeed significant, as it is, indeed, a strategy. I felt it during the elections, but wasn't yet aware of the intentional employment of this tactic. I still had hope at each revelation of an offensive and antiquated disparaging remark about women and/or underrepresented populations that the election-- was over. The truth is that now we don't know what is being hidden by the current administration. But we need to keep an accounting of each transgression; we need to be vigilant and never forget a single offense; we need to not fall victim to the chaos and its intended distraction.

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— 2nd annual —
Lavender Celebration

Recognizing the achievements and contributions
of graduating LGBTQIA students and allies.

May 4th, 2017
4pm - 6pm
Procrastinator Theater
(Strand Union Building)

Graduating students who
would like to be honored can
apply by April 7th here:
www.montana.edu/diversity


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11 Books to Keep You Persisting Through the Summer

By Andrea Lawrence



Whether you know everything there is to know about Feminism or you're not quite sure about the F-Word, this summer reading list is sure to not only be educational, but also make you laugh, cry, and keep you inspired and persisting all summer long!

1. ***Vagina* by Naomi Wolfe:** Combining science with history, Wolfe explores how female desire affects our identity and gets to the core of what it means to be a woman.
2. ***The Wife Drought* by Annabel Crabb:** Crabb fills this book with funny stories from her work in politics and the media. She dives into the world where women can be more than caretakers for their husbands and children.
3. ***Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit:** Solnit explores our patriarchal society that refuses to acknowledge its issues such as “mansplaining.” She inspires us to join the feminist movement!
4. ***There Are More Beautiful Things than Beyoncé* by Morgan Parker:** Parker’s poetry uses pop culture as a framework to describe current black American womanhood. She uses her own stories as well as modern media to inspire women to move towards “a new self, an actualized self”.
5. ***Yes Please* by Amy Poehler:** Poehler explains “[writing this book was] like hacking away at a freezer with a screwdriver” and the reader is left with “the frosty and jagged pieces in [their] lap”. Her personal narratives, as well as stories from her family and friends gives us a behind the scenes look into the life of a hard working woman in show business.
6. ***I Shall Not Be Moved* by Maya Angelou:** Angelou’s collection of poems “captures the pain and triumph” of being a black woman. While this collection was first published in the early 90s, the struggle for equality and freedom is far from being in the past. Her words will touch your “heart and mind” and encourage us to continue resisting.
7. ***Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* by Angela Davis:** If any of you went to Davis’s lecture last semester, then you know her words are inspirational and relevant. This collection of speeches, essays, and interviews compares the oppression of yesterday to the oppression of today. She “reflects on black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today’s struggles”. We are not done fighting yet.
8. ***Why So Slow?* by Virginia Valian:** Valian explains through concepts used in the social sciences, biology, and economics, we (both men and women) create “gender schemas”. With these schemas we are limiting women’s potential to grow in the work force.
9. ***The Good Girls Revolt* by Lynn Povich:** When Povich began working for *Newsweek* in the 1960s, she, and many other women were eager to be part of the workforce. Soon after, however, she learned she would never move up to a writer and especially not an editor. This narrative explores the events after they revolted against their bosses and how, unfortunately, very little has changed in the workplace.
10. ***The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood:** Atwood explores women in subjugation and the means with which they gain agency. Her dystopian society begins with the end of United States government. The “Republic of Gilead” immediately takes away women’s rights and the main character, Offred, becomes a “handmaid” where she is kept only for reproductive purposes. Also, be sure to watch the new television series, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, on Hulu.
11. ***In the Country* by Mia Alvar:** This collection of short stories and one novella is an amazing study of the women and men of the Filipino diaspora. Some are exiles, some are immigrants, and some remain or return home to the Philippines for various reasons. An outstanding new literary talent has been born!

All of these summaries and reviews come from The New York Times, good reads, and Google Books. To learn more about these fine pieces of feminist literature, check out their websites.

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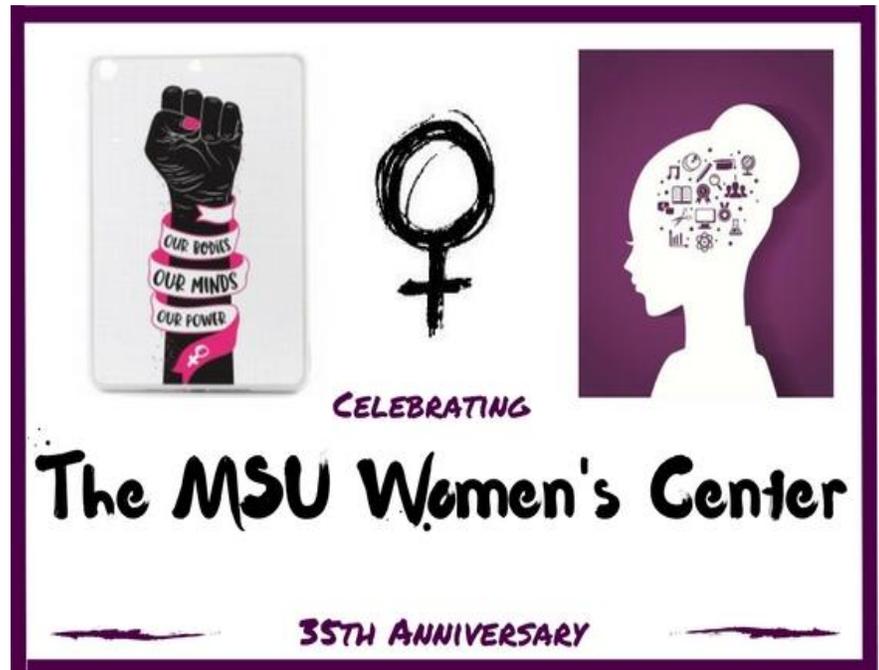
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Thirty-five Dollars for Thirty-five Years!

The MSU Women's Center is celebrating our 35th Anniversary this year! We continue to provide quality **programming** and offer **resources** to MSU students, faculty, staff, and Bozeman community members. We keep an ear open to contemporary issues and concerns and provided **Sack Lunch Seminars** that addressed topics: *Women in the Spanish Civil War*, *Improving Body Acceptance of Yourself and Others*, *Critical Hip Hop Pedagogy for American Indian Reservation Students*, and *How to be an LGBTQIA Allied Feminist*. **This year's co-sponsorships included:** a lecture by and Master Class with **Dr. Angela Davis**; a panel discussion, "**Lost Human**," about human trafficking; a screening of **the film Vessel** featuring co-producer, Elissa Brown; and a **Gender Equality and You** conference

With your help we can continue to expand our resources and sponsor more exciting and relevant speakers, workshops, and events on campus! Celebrate 35 great years of the MSU Women's Center

Mail Donations to: P.O. Box 172100 SUB 372 Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717



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