

Pen & Pixels



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



Fall semester 2014 in the NDSU English Department has been rewarding and productive, as we have welcomed two Visiting Assistant Professors to our ranks. Dr. Kelly Cameron (PhD, Texas Christian University) is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition and is directing the First-Year Writing Program for 2014-15. Dr. Daniel Hutchins (PhD, University of Rochester) is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Early American Literature and Culture. We have also welcomed Dr. Anastassiya Andrianova (PhD, CUNY Graduate Center) and Elizabeth Ecker (MA, NDSU) to the department as new full-time lecturers, as well as several new adjunct instructors.

The department continues to benefit from two recently acquired initiatives housed in the English Department: The Red River Valley Writing Project (a regional site of the National Writing Project) and MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, an Oxford University Press scholarly literature journal. In this issue, you can read more about both of these developments and how they are providing opportunities for our students and individuals in the broader community. This issue also contains exciting news about

Inside this issue...

SIGMA TAU
DELTA

SCHOLASTIC
ART &
WRITING
AWARDS

ADVANCE
FORWARD

FOUND
POETRY

BISON
PROFILE

WHAT
ARE YOU
READING?

the achievements of our undergraduate and graduate students and information about recent faculty presentations and publications.

Thank you for your support of and interest in the English Department. I invite you to join us in our efforts to promote the humanities, and particularly the study of language and literature, in our communities. I welcome your feedback and ideas by email or phone: gary.totten@ndsu.edu; (701) 231-7158. If you would like to contribute financially to the department's work of teaching and research, please do so through the donation portal at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks and happy holidays.

SIGMA TAU DELTA JOINS STUDIO CRAWL

Sigma Tau Delta co-presidents Katelyn Ostby and Mohamed Abdirahman decided to be a part of the Fargo/Moorhead Studio Crawl this Fall. The Studio Crawl is an annual event, during which local visual artists open their doors to the public and let people into their studios free of charge. This gives Fargo/Moorhead residents the opportunity to see how local artists produce their work.

During the Studio Crawl, NDSU's Renaissance Hall hosts several tables and booths for student artists to showcase their work. Sigma Tau Delta participated in this event by hosting a poetry table. This allowed the community to interact with both the visual and literary arts. Sigma Tau Delta provided pages for found/off-the-cuff poetry, category cards for Haiku-ku, and sheets for communal storyboarding.

The community was able to express their thoughts through types of poetry they may have otherwise been unfamiliar with. Sigma Tau Delta's involvement with the Studio Crawl was a huge success and they plan on being a regular presence at any future Studio Crawls!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Kelly Cameron

Where are you originally from?
Audubon, MN

What degrees do you have and where did you receive them?
B.A. English/mass communications from MSUM, M.A. in English from NDSU, Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Texas Christian University

What courses are you teaching?
ENGL 764: Classroom Strategies for TAs and ENGL 120.

Do you have any advice for current students?

Try to achieve the proper balance of calmness and industry. If you get too frazzled, you're no good for anyone, especially yourself.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I think black cats actually bring good luck.

FARGO WELCOMES SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS

The Red River Valley Writing Project (RRVWP) collaborated with the Plains Art Museum to become the North Dakota Affiliate of the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Kelly Sassi, director of the RRVWP, and Becky Dunham, curator at the Plains Art Museum, bid to become the two organizations to sponsor, promote, and judge at a statewide level for North Dakota's Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The first ever state ceremony will be held on February 17, 2015, at the Plains Art Museum.

Olivia Edwardson became the statewide coordinator for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which is "the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S., and the nation's largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers." Starting in 1923, the Awards have notable past winners such as Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, and Sylvia Plath.

Teenagers in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to win scholarships and awards that are available at the national level. Last year there were only about 20 entries from the entire state of North Dakota, so encourage your students to participate to let their writing and artistic skills be recognized nationally!



JORDYNN JACK VISITS NDSU



The Psychology Department teamed up with the English Department to bring Dr. Jordynn Jack from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. Jack is an expert on scientific communication, and students, faculty, and

staff saw her present her work on rhetorical approaches to Neuroscience. Jack's research traced the histories of discourse patterns such as metaphors, rhetorical figures, and claims, across scientific articles, popular books, and news reports.



The Red River Valley Writing Project provided local veterans the opportunity to share their stories of service during the Warrior Words workshops. Throughout the fall, veterans could go to six workshops to get help to write their unique stories and monologues. The goal of Warrior Words is to support our veterans and allow them to talk about their experiences.

Lead by Warrior Words Project teacher Lori Koenig, Fargo Public Schools teacher and North Dakota State University adjunct instructor, the veterans had the chance to read their monologues to the public. On Veteran's Day, two shared their stories at the Touchmark at Harwood Groves Retirement Community. The veterans served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam.

DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ADVANCE FORWARD AWARD

The Commission on the Status of Women Faculty presented the NDSU Department of English with the 2014 Advance FORWARD Department Award. Advance FORWARD recognizes and rewards significant department efforts to improve campus climate and gender equity within the faculty ranks. The review panel considered climate, recruitment, retention, promotion, and leadership to determine the winner.

The evidence of positive improvements include the English Department's new balance from ten male and three female faculty in 1997 to eight female and seven male faculty members today. Also, women from the English Department hold leadership roles at the university, college, and department levels. The spousal and partner accommodation guidelines that were formally put in place in the department's bylaws especially impressed the review panel. Collaboration with other departments to support dual career hiring was another factor in the panel's decision.

The English Department is the fifth department to receive this award at NDSU. The department has had more transparent promotion and tenure guidelines and an increase in recognition of good work, such as research, that is historically gendered. Outcomes include a clearer path for advancement of lecturers to senior lecturers and promotion of women to associate and full professor ranks.

DECEMBER GRADS

Matthew Bigelow
Kayla Birkholz
Michele Cleveland Moquist
Corrie Dunshee
Paige Hayer Olson
Amanda Henkels
Lane Johnson
Maddie McClellan Van Beek
Andrew Nerison
Katelyn Ostby
David St. Peter
Jenae Valvoda
Maguerite Walters

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Daniel Hutchins

Where are you originally from?
I'm originally from Brazil. I was born in the city of Juiz de Fora, which is in the state of Minas Gerais, in southern Brazil. I have dual U.S. / Brazil citizenship.

What degrees do you have and where did you receive them?

I have a Bachelor's degree in English from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. And I have a Ph.D. in English literature and language from the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY.

What courses are you teaching?

I'm currently teaching two sections of ENG 358: Writing in the Humanities and one section of ENG 317: Early American Literature. In the Spring 2015 semester, I'll be teaching three different upper-level literature courses, one focused on 19th century American literature,

one focused on the literature of American borderlands, and a 400/600 level course about performance and performativity in the colonial Americas and early U.S. republic.

Do you have any advice for current students?

Try to enjoy college as much as possible. It can be one of the best times of your life, if you let it. Also, do all of your reading.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

English is my third language.

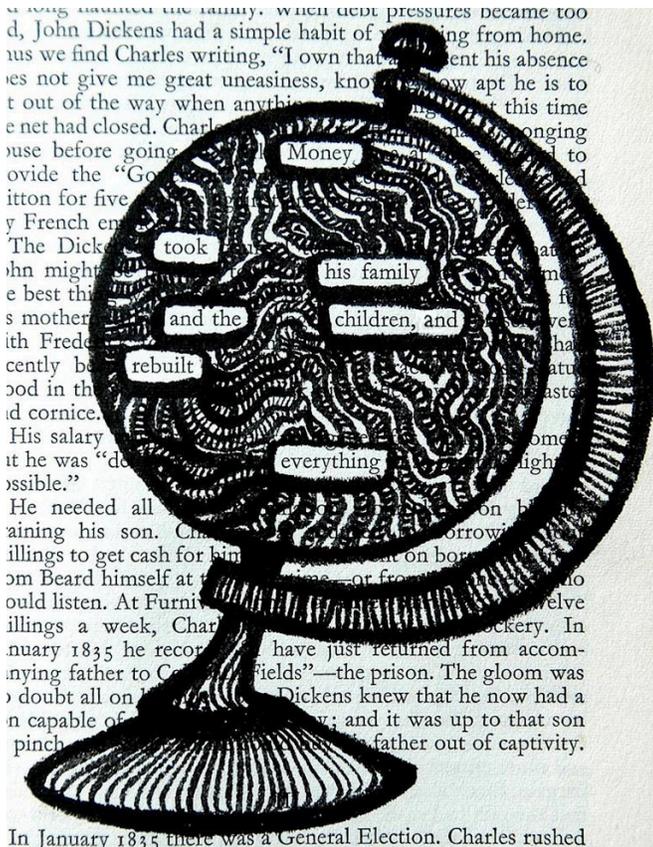
NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

On October 20, 2014, NDSU collaborated with the English Department and NDSU Libraries to celebrate the National Day on Writing, organized by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This day was designed to draw attention to the wide varieties of writing we engage in every day.

The Undergraduate Center for Writers staffed a table in the Memorial Union to teach about the services they offer and to provide students with fun word games and writing activities. The Center for Writers also hosted Gwen Hoberg, co-author of the travel memoir *The Walk Across North Dakota*. Hoberg discussed the process of self-publishing and traditional publishing and read selections from her book.

The NDSU Libraries provided a walk-up help desk in the Main Library for EndNote Online and Cite While You Write. These two programs help writers to organize references while writing a paper.

The NDSU English Department featured found poetry by students and faculty on its Facebook page. The writers took “found” text from sources like books, newspapers, and ads and remixed it into a poem using erasure, centos, nets, and other techniques. See some of the examples of found poetry on this page.

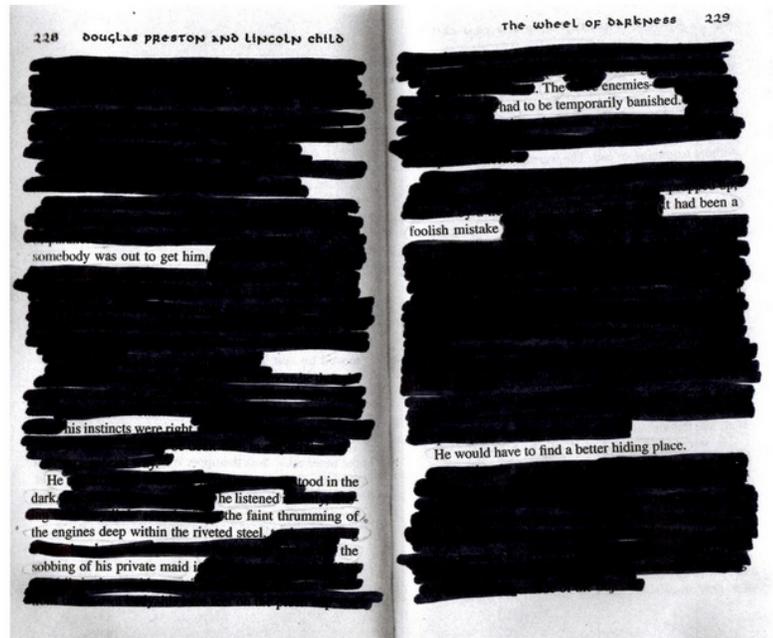


In January 1835 there was a General Election. Charles rushed

Writer: Sarah Bridge



Writer: Trae Turcotte-Creager



Writer: Andrew Winterfeldt

BISON PROFILE

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Maddie McClellan Van Beek

It has been a busy semester for senior Maddie McClellan Van Beek, but her hard work isn't over yet. After graduating from NDSU this December with her English Education degree, Van Beek will continue in the Spring to finish her second major, English, while simultaneously working at Beyond Running and Outermost Layer, taking a few extra classes, and training for the 2015 NCAA Women's Track and Field National Championship.

Originally from Perham, MN (but born in Fargo), Van Beek has participated in track since the 6th grade. During the indoor season she runs the mile, 3K, and 5K. When the outdoor season comes around, she runs the 1500 and the 5K, but her main focus is the steeplechase. Van Beek needs to be in the top 48 steeplechase runners in her region to make it to the Preliminary Rounds, where she then needs to place in the top 12 in order to qualify for Nationals. After making it to the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds twice but not advancing to the National Championship, Van Beek hopes to finish out her final track season as a Bison with a trip to Nationals in Eugene, Oregon.

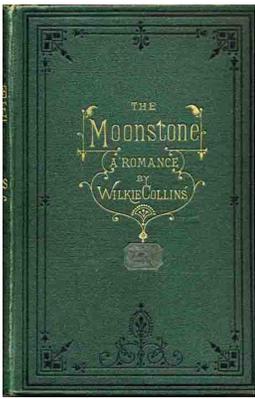
Although she will be graduating soon, Van Beek plans to stick around Fargo where she lives with her husband, two dogs (Hazel and Happy), a fluffy black cat (Kilala), and their orange kitten (Harley). Van Beek loves Fargo and the relationships she has made while here. "My experience at NDSU has been more than I could have asked for... My classmates, professors, teammates, and coaches have been the best people to be around for five years," she said.

The upcoming semester will give Van Beek a lot to look forward to as she trains for Nationals and works on her second major, but she is also excited for life after her final year as a Bison. While she is on the fence about attending graduate school, her student teaching experience allowed her to work with 8th, 9th, and 10th graders, and she can't wait to have her own classroom someday.



MELUS AT NDSU

On July 1, 2014, Gary Totten, Professor and Chair of the NDSU English Department, assumed the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford University Press scholarly literature journal MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, and the editorial offices moved to the English Department at NDSU. MELUS celebrates its fortieth anniversary in 2015 and is regarded as the preeminent scholarly journal focusing on the multi-ethnic literatures of the US. Since its inception, the journal has been groundbreaking in its approach to ethnic writers and their work and in shaping the direction of the field. It has also been highly influential in opening up the canon of American literature and convincing scholarly organizations such as the Modern Language Association to make room in the organization and in annual conferences for the study of multi-ethnic US writers. Of his appointment as Editor-in-Chief, Totten says, "It is a great honor to have been selected to edit a journal that I have admired since I was an undergraduate student and which has been so important to my own scholarly work. Having MELUS housed at NDSU also brings positive attention to our program and university." Speaking about the benefits to students, Totten notes that the journal offers the opportunity for a graduate student to work as Managing Editor and, thus, gain experience in scholarly publishing. Current MA student Kaylee Jangula Mootz is the Managing Editor, and other staff members include Sarah Beck (MFA, Minnesota State University, Moorhead) as Copy Editor and Meghan Perry (MA, NDSU) as Proofreader.



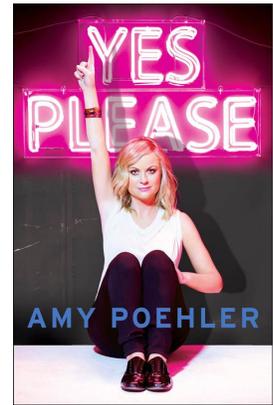
WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Miriam Mara

The Moonstone, a novel by Wilkie Collins.

Kelly Cameron

I am reading *Yes, Please* by Amy Poehler.



CAN YOU GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION?

It is a Victorian sensation novel about an inherited -but originally from India- jewel, a theft, and the effects on family. The novel is one of the first mystery or detective novels.

Amy talks about her childhood in Boston, beginning her career in improv comedy, her time at SNL, her children, and her divorce from Will Arnett.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE BOOK?

This text is such a great example of Victorian orientalism; it's a fun whodunit, and one of the narrators is quite amusing.

I think Amy is smart and funny. I like that she openly labels herself a feminist yet has a very mainstream career. That shows that feminism has an important place in popular culture.

WHO WOULD LIKE THIS BOOK?

People who like long novels and mystery stories.

Anyone who likes a good belly laugh. Anyone who is interested in women and comedy.

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Kaylee Jangula Mootz

Where are you originally from?

I was born in Fargo and lived here until I was 14. My family and I then moved to Grand Forks. I moved back to Fargo for college.

What degrees do you have and where did you receive them?

I have a B.S. in English with a minor in Human Development and Family Science from NDSU

What are your research interests?

My primary research interests are Young Adult literature and Women's literature. I focus mostly on the ways that gender, sexuality, and race manifest in literature.

Do you have any advice for current students?

For undergrads: do what you love. Focus not on "getting a job" but on doing something with your life that you enjoy, no matter what others may say. For grads: Prioritize your time wisely and remind yourself to keep a healthy and manageable balance between school and social life.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have competed in two half marathons and three 10ks. I will be doing another 10k this spring.



THE BUZZ



BRADY BERGESON, lecturer in English, had a short story, “The Boy, the Girl, the Goat, and Heidegger,” published in five parts on individual stickers as part of Albino Buffalo’s art sticker vending machine. Albino Buffalo is a collective of artists who create art stickers and sell them in a refurbished vending machine. This is the second series of stickers produced and will feature five visual artists and one writer. The vending machine was launched at the Artstravaganza event in Moorhead on September 25 and then located at Unglued in downtown Fargo.

Four members of the English Department—**BRUCE MAYLATH**, professor; **ANDREW MARA**, associate professor; and Ph.D. students **MASSIMO VERZELLA** and **MATTHEW WARNER**—formed a panel to deliver papers on the topic “Creating Programmatic Structures to Stabilize Cross-Cultural Translation Teams” at the 2014 meeting of the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication (CPTSC). The conference was hosted by the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, September 25-27.

Congratulations to the **RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT**, a site of the National Writing Project, who received a grant of \$2,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation! The goal of this grant is to reach 1,000 new teachers with Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) work nationwide with each participating site reaching a minimum of 50 teachers. The period of performance for this funding is October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015.

BETSY BIRMINGHAM, professor of English, contributed an article and expertise to an NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) funded project titled “Making a Place for Women.” This digital archive chronicles the contributions of women to architectural practice, and includes film, historical photographs, sound files, and links to archival resources in addition to biographical material on hundreds of women architects. The project will go live in early 2015.

KEVIN BROOKS and **BETSY BIRMINGHAM**, professors of English, have a collaborative article in press. “Marshall McLuhan in an Age of Labels: The Descriptive Value of Antimodernism” in *Finding McLuhan: The Mind, The Man, The Message* will be out in early spring 2015.

GARY TOTTEN, professor of English, was invited to speak on a panel on journal publishing at the Western Literature Association Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, November 5-8, 2014.



ANDREW MARA, associate professor of English, had a chapter entitled, “Steampunk’s Identity Horizon and Contested Memory” published in University Press of Mississippi’s recent book, *Clockwork Rhetoric: The Language and Style of Steampunk*.

Professor **AMY RUPPER TAGGART** presented “When Feedback Goes Right: Understanding Positive Student Experiences of Instructional Comments” at the International Writing Studies Colloquium in Malmo, Sweden in November 2014.

ALISON GRAHAM BERTOLINI, assistant professor of English and Women and Gender Studies, spoke with Meredith Holt of the Forum about Aimee Cohen’s new book, *Woman UP! Overcome the 7 Deadly Sins That Sabotage Your Success*, in which Cohen notes women’s tendency to over-apologize.

ALISON GRAHAM-BERTOLINI (English/Women & Gender Studies) will present at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association’s Annual Conference 86: Sustainability and the Humanities, November 8-10, 2013, Atlanta, GA. Graham-Bertolini’s paper is titled, “Paradigms of Impairment: Illness, Mental Disability, and Repressed Sexuality in Carson McCullers’ *Reflections in a Golden Eye*” and will be presented as part of the session “Retelling and Sustaining the Stories of Carson McCullers.”

KELLY SASSI, associate professor, received an award from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers in honor of 1948 Scholastic winner Kay Walking-Stick to hold a writing workshop for Native American youth on September 12, 2014. Native American artists and writers Denise Lajimodiere, Lise Erdrich, Caitlin Johnson (BA English) and Laura Youngbird, in partnership with NDSU English education students and Circle of Nations teachers will lead a day-long workshop to support Native American Youth participation in the competition.

KELLY SASSI presented with Anne Gere (University of Michigan) and Leila Christenbury (Virginia Commonwealth University) on a panel titled, “Creating Stories on Demand: Time and the Common Core Assessments” at the National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, November 21, 2014.

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Please contact the department chair, Gary Totten, with any questions:

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NDSU ENGLISH

