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NOTES FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Greetings from the Department Chair

It has been a productive and successful spring in the English Department. A number of our faculty, staff, and students have been recognized this semester with honors and awards, some of which you can read about in this issue of the newsletter. To highlight just a few of these honors, Dr. Amy Rupiper Taggart won the College Outstanding Research Award and Dr. Kelly Sassi received the College Outstanding Service Award. PhD student Massimo Verzella received the College Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, and MK Laughlin, also a PhD student, has been awarded an NDSU Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 2014-15. Several of our MA students have been accepted to strong doctoral programs around the country, and we congratulate recent PhD graduate, Dr. Steven Hammer, on accepting a tenure-track faculty position at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Two undergraduate students received Fulbright Awards: Kate Thoreson to Belgium and Emily Grenz to Turkey. And Michele Sherman received an NDSU Staff Recognition Award for her excellent work in the department.

This spring, the department also became the home of the Red River Valley Writing Project, a National Writing Project site directed by Dr. Kelly Sassi. The project allows NDSU to collaborate with public school educators in promoting and enhancing writing instruction in the region (<http://rrvwp.blogspot.com/>). Beginning on July 1, the international literary journal *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States* will be housed in the

department. I will act as Editor-in-Chief, and the editorial team at NDSU will include graduate student assistant Kaylee Jangula Mootz and a copy editor (<http://melus.oxfordjournals.org>).

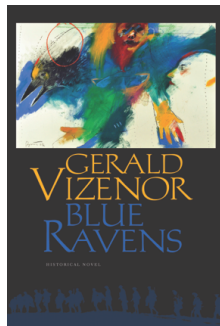
The department's Advisory Board continues to provide excellent feedback and suggestions for enhancing our programs. In early May, Board discussions focused on how to further professionalize the English major, as well as ways to increase the number of field experiences and internship experiences for undergraduate students by partnering with local businesses. Department faculty and instructors continue to engage in vibrant research and teaching. Two particularly exciting teaching initiatives include Dr. Bruce Maylath's Trans-Atlantic and Pacific Project, which partners students in NDSU writing courses with students and faculty in translation and usability courses around the world (http://www.ndsu.edu/english/transatlantic_and_pacific_translations/), and Dr. Verena Theile's "Shakespeare and Popular Culture" study abroad course to the UK for graduate and undergraduate students. In April, Dr. Linda Helstern organized an event featuring the important Native American writer and critic, Gerald Vizenor, who read from his new historical novel, *Blue Ravens*, and met with students and faculty.

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, I invite you to do so through the donation portal at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks and have a wonderful summer.

Visiting Author Event

On April 28th there was a book reading by Gerald Vizenor on his new novel *Blue Ravens*. A book signing and reception with the author followed. For more information, visit www.ndsu.edu/news/view/detail/12440/. Gerald Vizenor is a prolific novelist, poet, literary critic, and citizen of the White Earth Nation of the Anishinaabeg in Minnesota. He is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. His novel *Griever: An American Monkey King in China*, won the American Book Award and the New York Fiction Collective Award.



New Faculty Spotlight



ADAM GOLDWYN

1. Where are you from originally?
Portland, Oregon

2. Where did you receive your degrees and what are they in?

I received my BA from Pomona College in Ancient and Medieval Mediterranean History, my MA in Ancient History from University College London, and my Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from CUNY.

3. What are your research interests?

Broadly, my research interests are in comparative approaches to medieval literature, particularly Greek literature.

4. What courses are you teaching?

This upcoming fall I am teaching Medieval Literature (480/680) and World Literary Masterpieces (240).

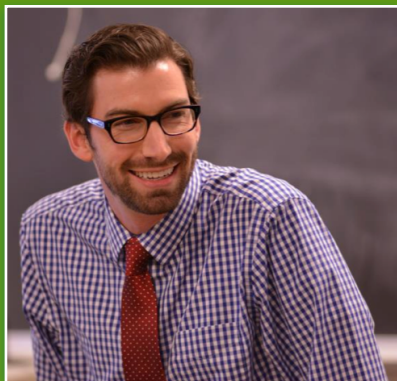
5. What advice would you offer students?

For students pursuing a BA, I would say there are few better ways to spend four years than doing what the great critic Matthew Arnold defined as literary criticism: "a disinterested endeavor to learn and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world"; I also think it will benefit them professionally and personally down the road. For students considering pursuing an MA or Ph.D., there are more practical real world considerations. I would advise them to be very clear-eyed about what their career goals are and what trade-offs they are willing to make to achieve them. If they still want to go, I would advise them to choose a program with a demonstrated record of students achieving that goal.

6. Is there any other information that you would like to add?

My office is Minard 318H, and I'm always interested in meeting people from around the department/college/university, so feel free to drop by.

Graduate Student Spotlight



Adam Copeland

1. Where are you from originally?

Tallahassee, Florida

2. Where did you receive your undergraduate (and Master's) degree and what are they in?

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Religion from St. Olaf College and my Master of Divinity degree from the Columbia Theological Seminary.

3. What are your research interests?

My interests are in religious rhetoric and new media—or, what some are calling a new field, “digital religion.”

4. Are you teaching any courses at NDSU?

I'm on the Religion faculty at Concordia College across the river in Moorhead, Minnesota. I teach courses on Faith and Leadership, Religion and Popular Culture, Vocation, and Social Change.

5. What advice would you offer other students?

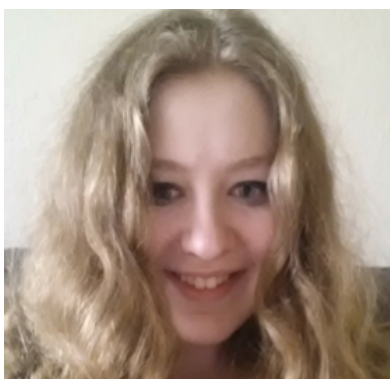
Argue in the margins. Write multiple drafts. And never tweet on an empty stomach.

6. What is a fun fact about you?

I have dual citizenship: USA and the UK.

Department Awards & Honors

2014 Fulbright Recipient



Kate Thoreson was recently awarded a Fulbright scholarship at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Brussels, Belgium working as a teaching assistant for conversational English courses.

What prompted you to apply for the Fulbright?

My experiences working with the Conversational English Circle (CEC) on campus really helped prepare me for this type of a program. My active involvement in the CEC spurred my interest in the Fulbright program and led to my desire to work with non-native English speakers.

How would you describe the Fulbright application process?

Very rigorous, but not that different from applying to graduate school. I had to submit a statement of purpose, personal statement, and three letters of recommendation. Overall, I did not have much difficulty completing the application, and everyone that I asked was really helpful and willing to mentor me throughout the process. The hardest part was the interview, but, thanks to faculty in the department, I still felt really well prepared and confident.

How long will you be at the Université Libre de Bruxelles?

My scholarship will last from September 2014 – June 2015.

What are you most excited for?

I am excited for everything! I am especially excited to move to a different country. This will be the longest that I have ever been outside the United States.

What would you tell someone who was interested in applying for a Fulbright?

I would encourage other potential candidates to look at countries that they might not have considered before. I wasn't set on one country, but I did conduct a thorough search in order to find one that best fit my interests and qualifications. If you have a foreign language, look for countries that require that language. For instance, I am in my 3rd year of French at NDSU, and my program requires that I have basic to beginning proficiency in French. Basically, just peruse the website and find where you have the best chance and then apply to that location. Also, use your resources and work with faculty members in the department who are willing to mentor you through the rigorous application process.

Department Awards & Honors Cont.



2014-15 Scholarship Recipients

Marley McDunn - William Cosgrove Scholarship
Celena Todora - Hal and Alice Dickey Memorial Scholarship
Tyler Ringstad - Professor Ralph Engel Scholarship
Andrew Wolf - English Faculty Scholarship
Hailey Colbrunn, Katelyn Stegman, Laryssa Mortenson, Jessica Jorgenson, and Mary Laughlin - Madeline S. Gittings Endowed Scholarship Fund
Jordan Engelke - Gerald Wilson Hunter and Phyllis Krantz Hunter Scholarship Fund
Alyssa Miller - Richard L. Johnson Scholarship
Maddie McClellan - Mart and Lois Vogel Award for Excellence
Megan Even - Pamela O'Connor Memorial Scholarship
Massimo Verzella - Rooney Scholarship

English Department Spring Luncheon

Dr. Dale Sullivan received the Vogel Teaching Award
Tatjana Schell (PhD) and **Gina Kruschek** (MA) received the Graduate Student Teaching Awards
MK Laughlin and **Matt Warner** received the Graduate Student Paper Award

AHSS College Awards Luncheon

Amy Rupiper Taggart received the Outstanding Research Award
Kelly Sassi received the Outstanding Service Award
Massimo Verzella received the Outstanding Graduate Research Award
Michele Sherman and **Margaret Skolness** received certificates of appreciation for their service to the department and college

In addition to the awards the department received for research and service, there were also several honorable mentions in research, **Andy Mara, Bruce Maylath, and Verena Theile**; honorable mention in service, **Emily Wicktor**; and honorable mention in teaching, **Kelly Sassi**. Overall, there were at 11-14 nominations in each category except one (creative activity), with really good competition across the college.

Graduate Student Spotlight



Neelam Jabeen

1. Where are you from originally?
 Pakistan

2. Where did you receive your undergraduate (and Master's) degree and what are they in?
 I received my Masters in Philosophy in English Language and Literature from the International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

3. What are your research interests?
 I use an eco-feminist theoretical lens to study South-Asian fiction.

4. What do you like best about NDSU?
 I like the atmosphere, in general. It is very conducive to learning, especially for the foreign students.

5. What advice would you offer other students?
 Students should not think that English is for those who cannot study any other "smarter" subjects. English, like any other language studies, is a vast field that has multiple horizons to look at. If you take it as your field, take it seriously and respect it.

6. What is a fun fact about you?
 The busier I am, the more creative I get! Besides reading, I do a hell of a lot of other stuff like painting, jewelry making, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, cooking, baking, etc.

Graduate Student Spotlight



Theresa Gaumond

1. Where are you from originally?

I was born in Chicago, but I grew up around West Palm Beach, Florida. I consider myself a Floridian.

2. Where did you receive your undergraduate (and Master's) degree and what are they in?

I received my BA in English from the University of Florida, a teaching certificate in English Education from Palm Beach State College, and my Master of Arts degree in English with a Certificate in Writing from California State University Bakersfield.

3. What are your research interests?

Writing, Rhetoric, ESL and Developmental writers, and the use of expertise in the classroom.

5. What advice would you offer other students?

For students interested in a BA: Don't forget to look outside of traditional field for English majors. I've even worked in the fashion industry. For students interested in a MA and PhD: Go into these degrees with a purpose. Figure out how achieving these degrees will benefit your personal and career growth. Don't do these because you aren't sure what to do after you graduate with your BA. Make a conscious decision.

6. What is a fun fact about you?

I crochet and usually have yarn nearby.

Department Awards & Honors Cont.

Blue Key Distinguished Educator Award



Mary Pull received the Blue Key Distinguished Educator Award at a banquet in her honor on December 10, 2013. The Award "was created in 1969 by Blue Key to honor an outstanding educator at NDSU for his or her extra interest in students and their problems, education, field of expertise, and NDSU. This educator must have shown outstanding qualities especially in helping students above and beyond what is required." English education student and Center for Writers consultant Emily Grenz gave a heartfelt speech that

elaborated on Mary's selflessness, positive outlook, support of students, and genuinely caring attitude--qualities that make her such a beloved adviser and Center Director. Two of Mary's daughters, her sons-in-law, and her husband, Tim, attended the banquet. There were also many Center for Writers consultants present to celebrate Mary Pull's accomplishments.

NDSU Library Exhibit

This spring, the NDSU Library exhibited a display that contained several books from Betsy Birmingham's grant on anime, as well as a display with books related to the digital humanities from Verena Theile's grant. The library was excited to work with faculty from the English Department to add these valuable resources to their collection.



Up & Coming Undergraduates

Undergraduates Inc.

The second annual Undergraduates Inc. conference met on April 25-26th at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (Winona, MN) with English students Kate Thoreson and Mercedes Lee presenting. UG Inc. is a collaborative conference, committed to student research and created/supported by the English and History departments at North Dakota State University, Iowa State University, and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. This year's conference theme, "Culture, Science, and Knowledge Production: Bridging Ways of Knowing," aimed to engender interdisciplinary dialogues among emerging scholars and researchers.

National Scholar Exchange

Andrew Wolf, an English undergraduate student, applied for and was accepted into the National Scholar Exchange. He will be going to the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

Published

Linnea Nelson, an English undergraduate student, recently had her poetry pieces "Working Titles" and "Elegy" published in the Sigma Tau Delta journal. She also recently found out that a poem she submitted to *Little Patuxent Review* in Maryland made their short-list, and they're looking at publishing it with slight revisions.

NDSU Student Miles Program

Mariah Torgerson (English Education Undergraduate Student), Victoria Fossum (English Graduate Student), and Jordan Engelke (English Undergraduate Student) were awarded NDSU Student Miles Program Scholarships for their upcoming study abroad experiences.

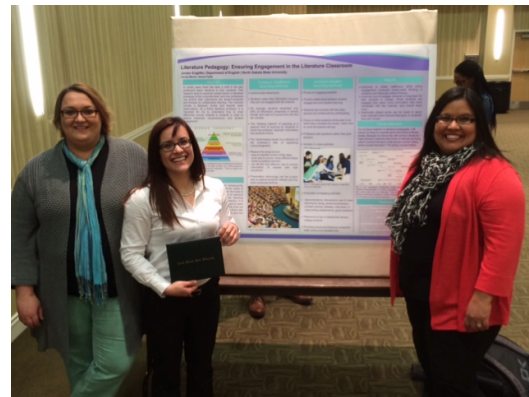
The Vagina Monologues

Mercedes Lee, Kim Haugen, and Kristen Waldoock performed in this year's production of the *Vagina Monologues*. The *Vagina Monologues* is a play written by Eve Ensler. It is directed, performed and produced by NDSU students, faculty and staff. The performance is part of the larger V-Day movement which strives to end violence against women across the globe. 90% of the proceeds from the event are donated to a local beneficiary selected

by members of the NDSU organizing committee and 10% of the proceeds are donated to a global beneficiary selected by Eve Ensler. This year's local beneficiaries were the Women in Need (WIN) Fund and the First Nations Women's Alliance. The global beneficiary was the One Billion Rising Campaign.

TRIO Spring Banquet

Jordan Engelke, an English undergraduate student with a Women and Gender Studies minor, gave a presentation on Literature Pedagogies on April 25th. She also presented her poster presentation at the annual TRIO Spring Banquet where she was awarded a scholarship in support of the fellowship she already holds.



Paper Presentation

Tyler Ringstad, an English undergraduate student, presented his paper "Toward the Japanese Posthuman in Osamu Tezuka's Metropolis," at the Red River Graduate Studies Conference on April 4-5. He also presented his paper "A New Future: The Collapse of Modernity in Osamu Tezuka's Metropolis," at the Visualizing the Past/Imagining the Future Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference held at the University of St. Thomas on April 25. The two papers came from an originally longer paper that he wrote for an anime course he took with Dr. Betsy Birmingham.



The Buzz

If you missed any of the updates regarding recent happenings, publications, and events that the English faculty and staff participated in this fall, you can catch up here!

Miriam Mara received the NDSU Gunlogson Award to fund her project "Anti- Abortion Rhetoric: Jane Bovard, and North Dakota Not-Nice." She will be looking for medical terms and arguments in the anti-choice letters in the Jane Bovard papers.

Verena Theile's article "Demonising Macbeth" is forthcoming in *Magic and the Occult on the Early Modern Stage (Studies in Performance and Early Modern Drama)*, edited by Lisa Hopkins and Helen Ostovich (Ashgate Publishing, 2014). Theile's article examines the role of the witches in the creation of evil, arguing that while evil resides chiefly in the character of Macbeth, fear thrives on both the image of the witches and the uncertainties that surround them culturally.

SHAKESPEARE @ The Guthrie: The Scholars Program, the English Department, and the College of AHSS collaborated to take students to the Guthrie again this spring. This year's trip was held on April 26th and included 2 shows, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

Amy Rupiper Taggart spoke at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) 2014 National Convention, on March 20. Rupiper Taggart chaired and presented during the session, "It's Not Our Mentors' World: Transformations in Composition Pedagogies, 2000 to Today." Rupiper Taggart's presentation is titled "Defining Composition Pedagog(y)(ies)." The roundtable session featured contributing authors from her co-edited collection, *The Guide to Composition Pedagogies* (2013).

Andrew Mara spoke at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) 2014 National Convention, on March 21. Mara presented during the session, "Global Healthscapes: Beyond Articulated Identity Action Research." Mara's presentation is titled "Global Healthscapes and Body Documents: Articulated Identities as a Method" and presents some of the research he conducted on the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya.

Kelli Sassi gave a presentation titled, "Writing On Demand With Common Core State Standards" at the Northwest Inland Writing Project Spring Conference in Spokane, Washington March 4-5.

Amy Rupiper Taggart and **MK Laughlin** presented their study, "Affect Matters: When Writing Feedback Feels Like Coercion" at the Writing Research Across Borders III conference in Paris, France on February 22. Rupiper Taggart and Laughlin surveyed students around the nation about their use of and response to teacher feedback, seeking to determine the types of situations in which students weren't able to productively use teacher feedback. They were particularly interested in students' affective responses, where their emotions, beliefs, values, and other affective dimensions stopped them from listening and/or revising.

Ryan Christiansen presented at the 2014 Minnesota Writing and English Conference on April 3-4 at Century College. Christiansen's presentation was titled "Fun and Games and Reasons to Write: Spurring Technical Writing Literacy through Role-Play and Game Development," and he shared how he used board games, card games, and role-playing games, as well as a fictional game development company, as the reason for students to write technical

documentation, including mission and vision statements, job advertisements, resumes, letters of application, instructions, proposals, feasibility reports, and web sites.

Alison Graham-Bertolini presented a paper at the annual conference of The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) on March 6 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Graham-Bertolini's paper was titled, "The Twinning of Cultural Identities in Marilyn Chin's *Revenge of the Mooncake Vixen*" and was presented as part of the session, "Ethnic Women Writers and Gender Binaries."

Alison Graham-Bertolini is the faculty advisor to Lindsey Latozke, a finalist in NDSU's Innovation Challenge'14. Latozke reimagined services for breast cancer testing during English 325: Writing in the Health Professions with Professor Bertolini, Fall 2013. Latozke gave her final presentation, "The Breast Step Forward," on March 5.

Adam Goldwyn has been awarded a \$1,000 Lorraine Murphy Award for his project, "NDSU and AUTH: A Three-Tiered Proposal for Increased Student and Faculty Collaboration," to increase contact and student/faculty interaction (Skype lectures, short and long term exchanges, joint research projects, etc.) between NDSU and the Aristotle University of Thessalonike (Greece). The Lorraine Murphy Award is given five times a year by the NDSU Office of International Programs within the Division of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach for faculty members who are participating in collaborative endeavors with current or prospective NDSU international partners, developing and leading faculty-led study abroad programs, or engaging in international recruitment activities.

The Buzz Continued

Gary Totten's book, *Mobility, Identity, Authority: The African American Travel Narrative in the Age of Jim Crow*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Massachusetts Press. In his book, Totten argues that African American writers during the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century produced travel narratives that challenged dominant ideologies about African American experience, expression, and identity in this period of rapid change. Totten demonstrates how the mobility of the authors represented in these narratives cut against the systematic political, economic, and social immobilization of Africans and African Americans as a result of the Atlantic Slave Trade, centuries of chattel slavery in the U.S., and decades of Jim Crow segregation. The book will appear in print in early 2015.

Alison Graham-Bertolini presented a paper at the biennial conference of The Society for the Study of Southern Literature, on March 29. Graham-Bertolini's paper is titled, "Another Memory: Welty's Reconceptualization of Joyce's 'Araby,'" and was presented as part of the session "Other Welty's" in Arlington, Virginia.

On July 1, 2014, **Gary Totten** will become the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, published by Oxford University Press. Published quarterly, *MELUS* is the premier journal in the field and plays a pivotal role in illuminating the national, international, and transnational contexts of US ethnic literature and culture. Articles in *MELUS* also engage newly emerging art forms such as graphic narrative and internet blogs, as well as multi-ethnic film, history, and culture. *MELUS* is available online through Project MUSE. The journal's presence at NDSU will provide training for a new generation of scholars by engaging English graduate students in the editorial processes of peer review, copyediting, and proofing.

Miriam Mara was quoted in a Forum story and ARTSpulse blog as moderator of a book discussion on the memoir *House of Stone* by Anthony Shadid. The Forum story is available at https://secure.forumcomm.com/?publisher_ID=1&article_id=429356&CFID=187816512&CFTOKEN=61220523 or read the blog at <http://theartspartnership.net/artspulse/points-view-book-series-encourages-readers-discuss-voices-muslim-world/>.

Verena Theile has been awarded a Sudhir Mehta Memorial Faculty International Travel Award in support of her study abroad program. Here's more info about the award: http://www.ndsu.edu/diversity/global_outreach/sudhir_mehta_award/.

Alison Graham-Bertolini has been elected as vice-president of the Carson McCullers Society: www.carsonmccullerssociety.org.

Kelly Sassi recently became director of the Red River Valley Writing Project (RRVWP), after leading a successful bid for NDSU to become the new site of the RRVWP. The National Writing Project, a professional development and support network for teachers, announced NDSU's new site status on March 1. The National Writing Project focuses on improving the teaching and use of writing across all grade levels and subject areas.

Kelly Sassi received a subcontracted grant award from UND for \$36,575.20 to support local programming of the Red River Valley Writing Project. This award will fund the summer writing institute and continuity activities like a writing group and a book group for local teachers.

Anne Ruggles Gere, a nationally known expert on composition and English education, gave a presentation on writing instruction and state standard assessments, based on a book she recently co-wrote with **Kelly Sassi**. Gere

presented "Writing in the era of common core state standards and assessments" on April 7 at the Plains Art Museum. The talk followed a reunion dinner celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Red River Valley Writing Project, one of over 190 National Writing Project sites in the U.S. Twenty-six teachers in the Red River Valley attended the talk, and a book signing followed.

Kelly Sassi's new book, *Writing on Demand for the Common Core State Assessments*, has been published by Heinemann with co-author Anne Gere, Director of the Sweetland Writing Center at the University of Michigan. The book provides teachers with the principles of effective writing and then shows how to apply those principles to the Common Core assessments. Samples of performance tasks with student responses illustrate the importance of helping writers analyze prompts, build reading skills that support text-dependent writing, transfer writing strategies to science and social studies, and manage time in a digital space. Several local teachers of the Red River Valley Writing Project and NDSU's English education program contributed to the book.

Steven Hammer, doctoral student in English, and **Bruce Maylath** have co-authored "Global Collaborations, Face-to-Face Conversation: Social Media in Trans-Atlantic Translation Projects" in the 2014 anthology *Emerging Pedagogies in the Networked Knowledge Society: Practices Integrating Social Media and Globalization*, published by IGI Global. Maylath also led a team of the seven most recent past presidents of the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication in co-authoring "Tracing the Intellectual Trajectories of Professional/Technical/Scientific Communication: A Roundtable Perspective from Seven CPTSC Past Presidents," the lead chapter in the anthology *Sharing Our Intellectual Traces: Narrative Reflections from Administrators of Professional, Technical, and Scientific Communication Programs*, just published by Baywood.

The Buzz Continued

Bruce Maylath was elevated to the rank of Fellow by the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW) at an award ceremony held in conjunction with the association's annual conference, March 19, 2014, in Indianapolis, Indiana. For their "significant long-term contributions to technical communication," ATTW each year elevates one or two members as Fellows "who have established national reputations based on their teaching, scholarship, or academic administration." In its nomination letter, the awards committee held up Maylath's "innovative approach" in creating the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project, now in its 14th year, linking technical writing classes in the U.S. and Spain with usability testing classes in Finland and translation classes in Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Italy, Kenya, Portugal, and Russia. As one colleague from McGill University noted, "While mainstream institutional globalization strategies at the time largely reproduced local four-walled classroom courses online for delivery in so-called global markets and poured millions of dollars into their marketing, Bruce was working quietly from the grassroots to build global networks connecting students and teachers from around the world, showing us that we all have a lot to learn from and with each other." Also cited was Maylath's success at expanding the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication internationally while he served as its president.

Kevin Brooks presented "A Kind of Homecoming, 2013" at The Annual Africa Conference in Austin, Texas, April 4-6. His presentation examined the role of language traps, sexual violence, career success, and attempted homecomings in three contemporary Afropolitan novels: *We Need New Names* by NoViolet Bulawayo, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and *Ghana Must Go!* by Taiye Selasi.

Miriam Mara published "Mundane Doubles: Anorexia in Stories by Anne Enright and Colum McCann" in the *New Hibernia Review*.

Dr. Andrew Mara co-created the 2014 Fargo-Moorhead Art Marathon. Check out the ArtsPulse article at: <http://theartspartnership.net/tap-blog/almost-time-fargo-art-marathon/>. Participants were able to download the free "Art Marathon" app from the iTunes or Android stores to get course updates and details.

Kelly Sassi presented at the conference, "Forward ACTION! Building the Education Pipeline" on April 16 in Mandan, North Dakota. The title of her presentation was "Writing on Demand for the New Common Core Assessments."

Gary Totten, along with colleagues at Michigan State, Georgetown, and Appalachian State, has had an edited book accepted for publication with Routledge press. The collection of essays, titled *Politics, Identity, and Mobility in Travel Writing*, examines the ways in which politics' material effects inform and intersect with personal experience in travel texts and engage with travel's dialectic of mobility and stasis. The book will be published in the Routledge series, "Research in Travel Writing" and will appear in 2015. Totten also was invited to speak as part of the University of North Dakota Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Speaker Series on April 22. In his talk, titled "Bodies of Knowledge: Black Female Mobility and Authority in Zora Neale Hurston's *Tell My Horse*," Totten discussed how in her 1938 travel text, *Tell My Horse*, Zora Neale Hurston connects her status as a black female traveler to the transmission of stories, history, and cultural practices in Haiti and Jamaica. The movement of her physical body functions as a trope for the ways in which bodies of cultural knowledge about voodoo, zombies, and other religious and folk traditions might be transmitted and preserved. Hurston's text challenges historical notions of black travel by re-imagining slavery's Middle Passages as routes that mobilize black female bodies to participate in cultural preservation.

Matthew Salafia presented a paper titled "On Borderlands and Resistance" as part of a larger panel titled "Conceptualizing Black Life, Community, and Protest in the Borderland," at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians on April 10th. In the paper, Salafia used Herman Melville's short story, "Bartleby, the Scrivener" to conceptualize African American resistance as a matter of not only action, but also a matter of preference. The conference chairperson, prominent African American scholar Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., is organizing a book project around the themes of the conference panel.

Lindsey Miller, a student in English lecturer Matthew Salafia's honors course on national tragedies and heroic responses, spoke with Prairie Public Radio and Y94 about Project HomeBase, a homelessness awareness event organized by students in the class. Listen to the Y94 interview at <http://y94.com/podcasts/fm-interview/1038/lindsey-miller-of-ndsus-project-homebase-chats-with-y94>.

On April 29 the Red River Valley Writing Project was awarded \$20,000 of federal funds for the site's 2014-2016 SEED Teacher Leadership Development Grant Proposal. The National Writing Project is the granting agency. The grant proposal was collaboratively written by **Kelly Sassi** and Kim Donehower, with support from writing project leaders Pam Fisher and Nancy Devine. Half of this grant will fund this summer's Intensive Writing Institute, which focuses on Common Core, and half will fund the 2015 Summer Intensive Writing Institute. Both are to be held at NDSU.

Amy Uthus, a 2007 NDSU graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and English, received the Horizon Award. The Horizon Award honors a graduate of the past 15 yrs. who has distinguished themselves in their profession/service to their community. To learn more about Amy, read about it here: <http://www.ndsualumni.com/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=318>

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