



First Year Writing students collaborate on an in-class assignment.

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Fall 2015 was a rewarding and productive semester in the NDSU English Department. Faculty, staff, and students continue to excel in scholarship, teaching, and service to the university and community, as you will read about in this issue. Recently, we celebrated the work of several colleagues who are retiring: Dr. Linda Helstern and full-time lecturers Gayle Johnson and Maureen Scott. We appreciate their invaluable contributions to the department and university and wish them well. A number of our undergraduate English majors graduated in December and will be embarking on exciting graduate school and employment opportunities; many of these students were members of the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta. And projects such as the Transatlantic and Pacific Project, the Red River Valley Writing Project, and the journal *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States* continue to bring national and international attention to the department. Our success would not be possible without your generosity, and we appreciate the interest and involvement of our alumni and advisory board members, who provide support and feedback for improving our programs.



I invite you to join us in our efforts to promote the humanities, particularly the study of language and literature, in our communities, and 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, particularly to our efforts to fund student scholarships and graduate student travel to conferences, I invite you to do so through the donation portal at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks and have a great year. —Gary Totten, English Department Chair



NDSU English Welcomes Dr. Lisa Arnold

This fall the NDSU English department welcomed Assistant Professor Dr. Lisa Arnold from American University of Beirut (AUB) where she spent four years as an assistant professor of English and directed the university's writing program. In her new role here as Director of First Year Writing (FYW), Dr. Arnold manages the FYW courses, designs professional development workshops, and leads curriculum review with faculty and graduate student teachers in the program.

Dr. Arnold earned her PhD in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Louisville in May 2011. Her research interests include histories of writing instruction worldwide; writing pedagogy and program administration; and multilingual and transnational literacy practices. When through

her dissertation research she found that little attention is paid to people or traditions of education outside the West, she was moved to conduct a yearlong seminar at AUB where she interviewed faculty to find out how scholarship in the field of rhetoric and composition, primarily North American in its origins, related to them in an international context. Her findings drove her interest in finding out about AUB students' experiences with writing, specifically how their educational and linguistic backgrounds prepared them or didn't prepare them to write. Improving experiences with writing rested on how to get faculty and students excited about it and how to get all faculty, both tenure-track and non-tenure-track, included in the program administration decisions. Dr. Arnold saw a gap between the people writing about teaching writing and the people that were teaching writing. After completing her PhD, Dr. Arnold applied for many jobs. When AUB brought her to campus, Dr. Arnold understood what she could do there. She saw an

opportunity for a life, and personal and professional development that wouldn't likely present itself again. The chance to live abroad was an opportunity that she didn't think she could have in her career. The inclusive and warm culture in Beirut lent itself to creating a rich experience where Dr. Arnold learned a new way of thinking about the world. She also learned a new language in the four years she lived in Beirut. Because of the support from her friends there, many of whom are trilingual, and who appreciated her efforts to learn their Arabic language, she felt motivated to stick with it. Dr. Arnold said she is always eager to practice, so if you're in the area and have a background in Arabic she would love to have a conversation. This semester she is teaching *English 120: First-Year Writing* and *English 764: Classroom Strategies for TAs*. In the spring she will teach a graduate course about the history of writing instruction. Beginning with ancient rhetorical scholars' differences in teaching, persuasion, and writing, the course will move to how the ancient tradition has been used to develop the current ways of writing. In addition to the usual suspects, Aristotle and Plato, women's rhetoric that has largely been ignored will have its turn in classroom discussions.

Dr. Arnold wants students to understand that it's never easy to write, no matter how much practice a person has. She tells her students that we naturally feel comfortable writing about things we are familiar with and weaker with unfamiliar subjects, and she hopes that students will engage in the unfamiliar to become more comfortable with the writing and

to develop different strategies and tools to become better writers. She cautions that "if [we] are not willing to be open to those moments, [we] will have a lot of challenges in different writing situations; there are lots of opportunities in the challenges if [we] see them as opportunities." She reminds us that the most expert writers do not find it to be an easy process.

Joining a new department and university is not an easy process either. But Dr. Arnold credits the English department's open and inviting culture and the institutional support from the university with making this transition a promising and enjoyable one. □

Honoring Our Retirees

In December we honored three of our colleagues who retired: Gayle Johnson, Maureen Scott, and Linda Helstern.

Gayle Johnson retired in spring 2015 after 11 years of service to the English department. She received the department's Vogel Teaching Award in May 2015, an award based on student nominations. Students who nominated Gayle emphasized how her approach to ESL composition not only helped them manage the language but also contributed to a welcoming environment that helped them navigate the difficult task of living in a new country and finding a new home here at NDSU and in Fargo.

Dr. Linda Helstern retired at the



L-R: Dr. Linda Helstern, Maureen Scott, Gayle Johnson

end of December after 11 ½ years of service to our department. Linda is a prolific scholar, publishing a book on Choctaw and Cherokee novelist Louis Owens, guest editing a special issue of the journal, *Southwestern American Literature*, and publishing over a dozen articles in peer-reviewed journals and over a dozen more book chapters. Linda is also an accomplished poet and has published many of her poems in scholarly and creative writing journals. Some of her honors include a 2006-07 Larry W. Remele Memorial Fellowship from the North Dakota Humanities Council for her project "Revisiting Hiroshima, Reclaiming History: Gerald Vizenor's Crossblood Vision and Japanese-American Cultural Exchange." She was also the recipient of an NDSU Office of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach Green and Golden Globe Diversity Award in 2013.

Maureen Scott retired this summer after teaching for 25 years in the English department. In recent years, Maureen has taught several

of our upper-division writing courses and was willing to take on English 325 (Writing in the Health Professions), which became increasingly in demand because of NDSU's partnership with Sanford Health and the expansion of the university's online nursing program.

Maureen was also a leader in our department in service learning. With her 320 classes, she created newsletters for ARC, an organization providing advocacy, education, and social opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since the 1950s. And with her 325 students, she worked on projects for a health clinic in rural Kenya. As further evidence of Maureen's impact as a teacher and mentor, she received a Faculty Member of the Year award from the NDSU Department of Residence Life in 2006-07.

We thank Gayle, Linda, and Maureen for sharing their expertise with us and their students, and wish them all the best in retirement. □

NDSU English Professor Enriches FM Community



English professor, Kevin Brooks, was the NDSU Award of Excellence 2015 Chamber of Commerce Faculty Service Award Winner. “Dr. Brooks exemplifies the spirit of this award by helping the world to be a better place,” said Charlene Wolf-Hall, vice provost for academic affairs. “The nominators did an excellent job of highlighting the phenomenal success of his academic work and inspirational community service to the Fargo area and internationally,” some of which include starting an after-school program to introduce local elementary-aged school children to computer science, helping settle immigrants and refugees in the area, including sponsoring a family from the Democratic Republic of Congo, leading Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo’s National Welcoming Week in September, and, as a Bush Foundation Fellow from 2013-

2015, using his grant to breathe life back into the in-home English language tutoring program, Giving + Learning, that had served the ELL community from 2001-2011. Over the last two years, 100 tutors have been matched with more than 110 learners, with Dr. Brooks personally giving over 100 hours of tutoring.

With the Chamber of Commerce award Dr. Brooks received a stipend that he turned around and donated to the launching of the Refugee Consortium of North Dakota. Other donations were added to the match and together they raised \$14,000 to help cover the costs of operating the consortium through the year. Donations are still needed to defray their operating costs as the consortium expands its services in the community. The members of the consortium--African Initiative

for Progress, Somali Community Development of North Dakota, and the Bhutanese Community Association of Fargo--are taking a unique approach to supporting refugees in the area by having refugees provide services for other refugees. At one location, Somali speakers are teaching English to Somali and Swahili learners, and a Bhutanese teacher leads another class with Bhutanese learners. New Americans are serving as mentors in a high school tutoring program, and the consortium is about to launch Swahili and Somali language classes in January, giving the New Americans an opportunity to teach the host community about their language and cultures.

Dr. Brooks’s dedication to promoting respect and acceptance in the Fargo-Moorhead area continues to draw attention. Because of his promotion of respect for cultural diversity, and his advocacy for human rights, Dr. Brooks received the Human Relations Award, which is presented by the Human Relations Commission to individuals and organizations that have “made outstanding contributions to the City of Fargo in the area of human relations, [and who] promote respect and acceptance for diversity and help to eliminate discrimination.” Dr. Brooks was honored at an award ceremony as part of the city’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 18, at the Fargo Theater. □

Meet NDSU English Advisory Board Member Fred Hudson



I am the Director of Marketing and Communications at RDO Equipment Co. In this role, I lead a multi-disciplined team covering traditional marketing and advertising activities, corporate communications, social media, customer survey interactions, and other business analysis functions. Founded in 1968, RDO Equipment Co. sells and supports agriculture, construction, environmental, positioning, surveying, and irrigation equipment from manufacturers including John Deere, Vermeer, and Topcon. With more than 77 locations across the United States including partnerships in Russia, Ukraine, and Australia, RDO Equipment Co. is a total solutions provider. My team is part of a shared resource group serving the entire corporation.

I was an English major in college with a concentration on technical writing. The communications aspects of my major have had a big impact on my career success. The methods I learned in college have helped me to present my ideas using writing or oral methods. Also, the concepts of rhetoric have given me strategic tools I use in determining and conveying messages.

One of the true strengths of an English degree is the toolset of strategic and critical thinking that you gain that can be applied to any career. My career path took a meandering course through writing, communications, and marketing jobs. My strategy has been to always take on new challenges as they are presented, and I credit the critical skills I

learned in college for providing me that mindset. In addition, it’s surprising how many of the concepts of classic literature are found throughout modern life, and having knowledge about them can provide a competitive advantage in a job situation.

This is my first year of serving on the advisory board. I am enjoying connecting with the students and faculty and look forward to continuing to hear their insights while sharing mine. NDSU is a great asset to the region, and I really hope that one of our children chooses to attend when they are ready for college. □

Graduate Student

Ashleigh Petts


Favorite Book:

It's really hard to choose just one favorite book! Some of the best books I've read recently are *Bad Feminist*, *The Empathy Exams*, and Elena Ferrante's *Neapolitan* novels.

Favorite Movie:

Pedro Almodóvar's *Todo Sobre Mi Madre* (*All About My Mother*)

Favorite Music:

Right now, CHVRCHES, Lykke Li, and Ellie Goulding are on repeat.

Favorite Food:

Lasagna. Hands down.

Why did you choose to attend NDSU?

I had the opportunity to visit NDSU and Fargo before I enrolled in the Ph.D. program. I was impressed with the warmth and enthusiasm of professors and graduate students. After my visit, I knew I had found a community of scholars and students that I wanted to join.

What is your plan after graduation?

After graduation, I will look for tenure-track positions in technical communication and rhetoric and composition.

How do you like to spend your time outside NDSU?

I like to explore Fargo and all that the city has to offer. I am new to the Upper Midwest, so it feels like I'm on a bit of an adventure! Recently, I completed a 33-mile bicycle ride for charity. Riding against the prairie wind was hard work, but I was able to see parts of rural Minnesota and North Dakota I probably wouldn't have seen otherwise.

Ashleigh is a PhD candidate in Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture from Charleston, West Virginia.

Graduate Student

Fawzia Riji

Favorite Book:

I like Toni Morrison's writing style and I love to read John Grisham novels for fun.

Favorite Show:

Secrets and Lies

Favorite Food:

All foods but I don't eat any pork products including anything with gelatin; I only eat halal food.

What made you choose English?

My family moved to Fargo when I was in 2nd grade. I was the only one that didn't read English in my class, and so my interest in English developed at an early age. By the end of that year I started connecting the dots. I remember reading A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, connecting pictures with words. In 6th grade I read 60 books during the school year; reading was my favorite thing to do. Growing up, my siblings and I translated for our mother. I wanted to learn English to help others like my mom. Also, my teachers have inspired me to study English; they enjoyed what they were teaching and it was contagious.

What is your advice to students?

Go to class and make school a priority. Find time to talk to your instructors and use all the resources you have to make the most of your time here. My mother was not educated but she saw the importance of education. School work came first at our house. Some of my siblings have graduated from NDSU and work in the community as a clinical lab scientist and in construction management.

How do you like to spend your time outside NDSU?

I like to spend time with my family. I am married and have one son, and my mother and siblings all live in Fargo with their families. I like to read from the Koran. My religion has made me the person I am today. Staying closer to God helps me to take people for who they are and to see the good in the world.

Fawzia is a master's student on the composition track. Originally from Sudan, she moved to Fargo in 1999 with her family.

Senior Majors Work on Distinctive Projects in the Capstone Course

The English Studies Capstone Experience (ENGL 467) is described as a cumulative and integrative study for English majors of English language, literature, and composition. The Capstone course is typically offered in the fall semester; students explore career, graduate school, and professional school options. They also produce a "capstone project" that either extends their work on a subject of interest to them, or fills a gap, allowing students to explore an idea or skill not developed in earlier coursework. Every undergraduate is assigned a faculty member to act as a mentor for his/her final research project. These projects incorporate aspects from the student's educational interests along with professional goals, which propel the student into his/her next life step. Highlights from three student projects from the fall 2015 capstone course are below.

Bryce Murchie: Journaling as Therapy

Mentor: Dr. Rupiper Taggart

The purpose of Bryce's project was to uncover the therapeutic value and qualities of introspective personal journaling. Writing and journaling can be used to express episodes of severe psychological trauma but they can also help someone emotionally heal from trauma. Bryce's experience documenting his personal psychological experiences ultimately led to a traumatic event. Now he uses writing in a more positive manner to effectively document episodes of post-traumatic growth and induce healing. He hopes this project will be a bridge between the field of psychology and writing studies, and will help others rebuild their psyche with a newfound sense of identity, pride, and positive emotions.



Emily Erickson: "Why dem cyaan behave demselves?": Activist Rhetoric in Michelle Cliff's *No Telephone to Heaven*

Mentor: Dr. Alison Graham-Bertolini

Emily's project looked at the power which rests in language, and how, when it's used effectively by a colonized group, it can become a tool against the colonial forces. Emily addressed the questions of what determines a work's designation as being from one country or another, or even "postcolonial," and investigated the implications of Michelle Cliff using the language of the colonizer as well as a native creole in her 1987 novel, *No Telephone to Heaven*, and asked: What does the disruption of a traditionally "postcolonial" narrative mean for Jamaican (and Caribbean) literature in a global context? Michelle Cliff complicates postcolonial classification by using a glossary of terms in the Jamaican patois (an English-based creole) - in a novel written primarily in Standard English - as a form of radical activism against the colonial power of the English language in formerly-colonized Jamaica. Emily argued that by literally and metaphorically disrupting the flow of postcolonial literature in *No Telephone to Heaven*, Cliff strongly takes a stance of activism against the imperial force of the English language and uses her homeland's patois to unify and de-colonize.



Hailey Colbrunn: Sailor Jerry Tattoos and the Female Identity: Representations of Power Dynamics and Sexuality in Visual Culture

Mentor: Dr. Miriam Mara

Hailey analyzed how elements of visual culture have developed and shaped women's identity, specifically tattoo images and creations of early 20th-century artist, Sailor Jerry. Sailor Jerry's images present woman's identity in relation to male power dynamics and the objectification of woman as it is discussed by Catherine A. MacKinnon and Laura Mulvey. Hailey applied theories from their work along with Bracha Ettinger's commentary on psychoanalysis in order to investigate the depictions of women and the social implications of those depictions on women's role in society. Unearthing the implications of these messages using the given theories demonstrates women's sexual identity as objectified and marginalized.



NDSU English Student and McNair Scholar Celena Todora Attended Naylor Workshop



Celena Todora, who is majoring in English, English Education, and international studies, attended the Naylor Workshop for Undergraduate Research in Writing Studies held September 25-27, 2015 on the campus of York College of Pennsylvania. The workshop is an opportunity for students to grow as skilled researchers. Students submit an application for consideration, outlining a proposed research project. Two dozen students were accepted and received funding to attend the event.

During the workshop, students develop their own research projects by engaging in seminars on composition research, collaborating with teams of experienced scholars and peer researchers, and crafting research artifacts during independent time. After sharing their ideas, their experience, and their spirit of inquiry, Naylor scholars return to their home institutions ready to conduct research.

Todora's research focuses on "grit," the ability for a person to be tenacious. Prior to the workshop, she had done extensive reading in Angela Lee Duckworth's work on this trait. She was interested to see how composition instructors can potentially help students foster grit. Her faculty mentor at NDSU is Professor Amy Rupiper Taggart of the English Department. Todora said, "The Naylor Workshop was a significant experience for me because I was able to learn more about qualitative and quantitative methods. I was also incredibly lucky that one of the faculty experts at the conference shared my interest in grit. We hope to investigate together whether or not service-learning-based courses can enhance basic writing students' grit."

Professor Joyce Kinhead of Utah State University, who served as the Plenary speaker for the workshop said, "Celena's initial proposal was one of the best received, and she continued that high quality of work throughout the weekend. NDSU has every reason to be proud of her."

Attending the Naylor Workshop helps students become part of a network of undergraduates from varying institutions, who are guided by mentor faculty members. One of the real benefits of the Naylor Workshop is discussing one-on-one with writing researchers in the fields of composition, rhetoric, or writing center studies to discuss research ideas, goals, and methodologies. Participants also engage in intensive workshops to assess the quality of research, design a research question, and learn and practice qualitative and quantitative research methods.

For more information about the Naylor Workshop and to consider application for the 2016 event, see this website: <http://www.ycp.edu/offices-and-services/center-for-teaching-and-learning/writing-center/naylor-workshops/>. This workshop is suitable for undergraduate students of any major who are interested in developing and conducting research projects to expand knowledge and improve practices in fields of composition, rhetoric, and writing center studies.

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PhD Candidate Jessica Jorgenson's Successful Grant Proposal

PhD candidate Jessica Jorgenson wrote a successful grant proposal for the Quixote Cafe series run by NDSU's Modern Languages department. The \$5,184 grant was awarded by the North Dakota Humanities Council.

The Quixote Cafe events for the fall have concluded, but the money will go to support two art exhibits, one at the Fargo Public Library and one at the Spirit Room. The money will also pay for the costs associated with bringing in a scholar from Stanford University, Dr. Roland Greene, who will give a public talk on Cervantes at the Fargo Public Library on April 23, 2016. The narrative Jessica wrote for the grant is below, and will give further background on the events. The public is invited, and Jessica encourages all to attend:

The years 2015 and 2016 have special significance in the history of literature: 400 years prior, in 1615, Miguel de Cervantes published the second part of his masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, giving us the modern novel. Also, April 23, 2016 marks 400 years since the passing of both Cervantes, father of the novel, and his English contemporary, and only peer, William Shakespeare. In order to celebrate these important occasions in the history of civilization, we have assembled seven events, called Quixote Cafés.

Each Quixote Café engages the community in myriad ways, whether it is through an art exhibit, a public performance, sharing in a public reading, or critically listening to a scholarly lecture. During the month of September, we are hosting jazz radio shows with Bill Law to promote Cervantes' work and life. On September 26th, the NDSU Modern Languages department is bringing Dr. Bruce Burningham to North Dakota State University's campus to have him share a public lecture on Cervantes. On this same date, the Modern Languages department at NDSU will also host a round table on Cervantes and invite the public to a small banquet following the presentations. To wrap up our Quixote Café series, the NDSU Modern Languages department is working with the Spirit Room and the Fargo Public Library to host a public art exhibit sharing visual artistic works inspired by selected scenes in Cervantes' novel, *Don Quixote*. Our series concludes on April 23, 2016 with a public lecture titled "400 Years Ago Today: What Ended? What Began?" from Stanford professor Dr. Roland Greene at the Fargo Public Library.

The Quixote Café Series adds significant value to the Fargo-Moorhead community. Our arts and culture scene is filled with visual arts events, but literary events are often underrepresented. Quixote Cafés will focus on giving a voice to Cervantes' novel and its influence over writing, cinema, music, visual arts, theater, and scholarship. Two renowned scholars are invited and regional participation is employed through community readers, actors, singers, and studies. We at the Spirit Room, Fargo Public Library and NDSU envision these offerings as free public access to a wide range of expressions of the humanities involving grassroots collaborations between a variety of organizations and individuals and engaging the public in the multiple and compelling themes found in Cervantes' work.

Erik Kornkven (BA '04, MA '11) was an instructor at the University of Minnesota Morris in 2013, and director of the Office of Academic Assistance



where he oversaw the tutor program at the university. The program included a science study lab, over 30 individual tutors, and a Peer Assisted Learning program with twelve PAL student facilitators.

He accepted a full-time instructor position at Turtle Mountain Community

College in Belcourt, ND in 2014. The college is located on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, which is home to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. He now serves as the chair of the Arts and Humanities department. As chair and instructor, Erik is restructuring and focusing the writing program, developing a new assessment program at the department level, and serving on the Student Learning Committee where he focuses on institutional assessment. He is currently teaching a creative writing course with an emphasis on creative non-fiction using the work of Louise Erdrich. He is exploring the idea of creating a digital/print storytelling studio on campus for students and the community.

Erik credits the unique set of opportunities he found in the NDSU English department, as well as the willingness of faculty to allow students to shape their own instruction, with preparing him for all of the twists and turns he has experienced on his professional journey.

Rachel Erstad (BA '08) chose to major in English and Sociology and loved the combination of her two majors. She took social and literary theory



in the same semester, and felt as though she would be content to sit in a room talking about the intersections of Marxism and Feminism for the rest of her life. While taking English courses at NDSU, she further developed her love of literary analysis, and creative and technical writing.

Two of her favorite courses were Creative Writing Studio

and Literary Theory. Both pushed her out of her comfort zone, causing her to more closely examine and question the world around her. Rachel's background in writing and analysis served her well after leaving NDSU both in and out of the classroom, specifically at Oregon State University (OSU), where she received a Master's in Public Policy. She focused on social and education policy and served as a writing tutor for the Academic Success Center. She credits her strong background in English with giving her the confidence to facilitate writing processes with English Language Learners and recent high school graduates.

In her current position with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in Seattle, she works directly with healthcare workers who wish to form a union in their workplace, creating training documents for organizers and union members, as well as developing speaking points to help facilitate the process of forming a union. Since leaving NDSU, Rachel has worked on political campaigns, as a campus and community organizer, in the Oregon Department of Education, and at an organization working to increase educational attainment in underrepresented student populations. Each of these positions, along with her current role at SEIU, require strong communication skills and a desire to make change on the individual and societal level. Rachel is grateful her time at NDSU helped prepare her to work within communities to strive for social change.

Kim Crowley (MA '03) has been an assistant professor of English at Bismarck State College since 2011. She teaches first year composition,



grammar, and usage courses, and she is the adviser for the school's literary publication, *Figments of Imagination*.

Even though English was always her favorite subject in school, it wasn't her first choice for a college major. After a dismal performance in a college

accounting class, and college algebra twice, Kim realized this wasn't her career path. Having grown up with a newspaper editor mother, she chose journalism and realized quickly that writing was her favorite part. And finding herself drawn to literature classes, Kim changed her major to English. From her undergraduate days until she started her MA program, Kim worked in marketing and promotions, retail management, and radio. Her employers always told her that it was her ability to write and communicate clearly and accurately that made her a valuable employee.

Kim was living in Fargo when she decided to pursue a graduate degree. NDSU was a natural choice not only because of proximity but also because of the composition and rhetoric track. As much as she loved literature, her professional experience to that point introduced her to the power of rhetorical choices and strategies. Even more, after a few weeks as an English TA, she fell in love with teaching, especially first-year writing. Kim also found a mentor who helped her navigate the teaching and the scholarship of grad school. Dr. Betsy Birmingham's influence on her academic development cannot be overstated. Her mentorship prepared Kim for the doctoral studies that followed, and the teaching and scholarship, and even committee work, that would become part of her academic career.

Her advice to students: think carefully about what you love. A big paycheck doesn't always turn out to be the greatest reward for the work you do. Pay attention to what makes you curious and what reading assignments make you lose track of time. Pursue a good career, but always remember to pursue a great passion, as well.

Martin Fredricks (BA '90) graduated from NDSU with a degree in English and a minor in Mass Communication. His broad, liberal arts



education prepared him for almost any career and opened many doors for him during his career; he has been the editor of a weekly newspaper, a staffer for a U.S. senator, a copywriter and strategic planner in advertising agencies, a senior writer and editor at NDSU, and the owner of a small business, Fredricks

Communications. "I figured

it was the only way I was ever going to get the title 'President,'" he said of leaving an agency and starting a freelance business in 2004. "My son was only six weeks old at the time, so it probably wasn't the smartest or safest move, but things have worked out well."

A few years ago he returned to what he calls the "workaday world," when he became the vice president of strategic marketing at a small advertising and public relations agency. In August 2015 he restarted Fredricks Communications. The company works with regional, national, and international business-to-business and business-to-consumer companies and organizations. Martin says he helps them "tell their stories well" so they can boost sales, build support, or increase membership.

For students pursuing a degree in English today, Martin recommends they couple it with a second degree or at least a minor in information technology. The English degree provides an exceptional foundation, he said, but communication is evolving quickly with advances in technology, and the people who understand tech-based approaches are going to have a leg up.

Martin and his wife, Cassondra, have three children and live in Fargo.



Lecturer **ANASTASSIYA ANDRIANOVA**, PhD, has been elected to the Modern Language Association's Delegate Assembly for a three-year term as a special interest representative for lecturers, adjuncts, and instructors. See more info about the MLA's Delegate Assembly here: <https://www.mla.org/About-Us/Governance/Delegate-Assembly>



Assistant professor Dr. **LISA ARNOLD**, has been invited to serve as Chair of the CCCC Committee on Globalization of Postsecondary Writing Instruction and Research.



Dr. **BETSY BIRMINGHAM**, professor of English, was appointed by Governor Dalrymple to a three-year term on the North Dakota Humanities Council.

Dr. **BETSY BIRMINGHAM** is a consultant contracted to undertake external evaluation of a South Dakota State University system NSF ADVANCE PLAN proposal. The proposal, "South Dakota Working in STEM for Equity (SD-WISE): A System, Institutional, and Individual Level Approach to Policy Change" was fully funded at \$750,000; \$60,000 will come to the Center and the evaluators, for evaluation activities.



For the English Department's Cosgrove Seminar Series, October 30th, 2015, **DR. SEAN BURT**, assistant professor of Religious Studies and English, presented "Biblical Horror: The Unimaginable Cosmos in the Book of Job."



PhD candidate **ADAM COPELAND**'s article "Crowdfunding a New Church: A Multimodal Analysis of Faith-Related Giving Rhetoric on Indiegogo" was published in *online: Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet*.

Dr. **GORDON FRASER**, joining NDSU's Department of English in January, was awarded The Modern Language Association of America's fifty-second annual William Riley Parker Prize for the outstanding article published in *PMLA*, the association's journal of literary



scholarship. Fraser's article "Troubling the Cold War Logic of Annihilation: Apocalyptic Temporalities in Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*" appeared in the May 2015 issue of *PMLA*, among the field's most widely circulated and prestigious journals.

HONORS, PUBLICATIONS, & PRESENTATIONS



Assistant professor Dr. **ADAM GOLDWYN** presented a paper entitled "Greek Jews on the American Stage: Rae Dalven's *A Matter of Survival* and *Our Kind of People*" at the Modern Greek Studies Association conference October 15-18 in Atlanta, GA. At the Byzantine Studies Association of North America Annual Conference in New York, NY, October 23-25, 2015, he presented "The Hunter and the Farmer: Ecocritical Approaches to Love in *Digenis Akritis*." He published an article, "Joseph Eliyia and the Jewish Question in Greece: Zionism, Hellenism and the Struggle for Modernity" in the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (33.2, 361-384); and a volume he edited is also out: *The Trojan Wars and the Making of the Modern World* (Studia Graeca Upsalensia: Uppsala, 2015).



Dr. **ALISON GRAHAM-BERTOLINI**, assistant professor of English and women and gender studies, presented a paper titled "The Rhetoric of Oppression and Misogyny on the College Campus" at the Red River Women and Gender Studies Conference on October 23, 2015, at MSUM.

Dr. Graham-Bertolini, is a collaborator on the grant project "Telling Stories, Creating Community: Understanding the Legacies of War at Home," a year-long project to initiate dialogues on the legacies of war in the Fargo-Moorhead community through two public forums and a series of public programs. Christina Weber, associate dean and

associate professor of sociology, received the \$201,104 grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. The grant is part of the Humanities in the Public Square initiative, which brings together humanities scholars and the public for dialogue on contemporary issues of concern to communities. With collaborative support from Dr. Graham-Bertolini, Angela Smith, assistant professor of public history, and Michael Strand, professor and head of visual arts, the project supports the establishment of an oral history archive, the creation of a community book discussion program, and a series of literary and ceramics workshops. The research group will work with the North Dakota Humanities Council, Prairie Public Radio, and the Gladys Ray Shelter to facilitate the collection of the oral histories and develop the public programming. More information will be coming in the spring semester as planning and events develop.



TOM MATCHIE, who retired from the English Department in 2004, has published an article on Louise Erdrich's novel *The Round House*. His article, "Love versus Law in *The Round House*," in the Summer 2015 (56.4) issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*, uses W.H. Auden's poem "Law Like Love" as a background, against which Matchie focuses on a rape in a sacred Ojibwe place which challenges the love within a Native family while exposing the injustice of various kinds of law that apply to the reservation. Matchie has published various articles on Erdrich and other Midwestern authors which can be found on his website, tommatchie.com.



This past summer was a busy one internationally for members of the English Department and the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project, for which NDSU serves as the hub. In May, Dr. **BRUCE MAYLATH** (pictured), professor of English, joined colleagues from Belgium, Denmark, France, and Portugal in presenting a panel titled "Negotiating Meaning at a Distance: Peer Feedback in Electronic Learning Translation Environments" at the 6th International Maastricht-Łódź Duo Colloquium on Translation and Meaning, held in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

In June, Dr. **BRUCE MAYLATH** and Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture PhD candidate, **MASSIMO VERZELLA** (pictured), joined Elisabet



Arnó-Macià, from Spain's Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, in presenting "Engineers Taking a Stance on Technical Communication: Peer Review of Oral Presentations via the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project" at the 14th AELFE Conference (Asociación Europea de Lenguas para Fines Específicos), held in Bucharest, Romania.

In July, Dr. **BRUCE MAYLATH** and Arnó-Macià joined colleagues from Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, and Portugal for the 20th European Symposium on Language for Specific Purposes, in Vienna, Austria, where they presented "Learning LSP by Collaborating: How to Link Student Writers and Journalists, Usability Testers, and Translators Internationally, Interlingually, and Interculturally through Learning-by-Doing Projects."



The following week, Dr. **BRUCE MAYLATH** was joined in Limerick, Ireland, by Dr. **ANDREW MARA** (pictured), professor of English, Ph.D. student **MATTHEW WARNER**, and colleagues from Denmark, Finland, France, and Portugal to present "Instituting Learning-by-Doing Practices in Training Programs for Technical Writers, Usability Testers, and Translators" at the IEEE International Professional Communication Conference.

Dr. **ANDREW MARA**, and PhD candidate **MASSIMO VERZELLA**, have published an article titled "Translocal Pragmatics: Operationalizing Postnational Heuristics to Locate Salient Cultural Overlap" in the journal *Rhetoric, Professional Communication, and Globalization*.

Drs. **MIRIAM MARA** and **ANDREW MARA**, professors of English, also presented their paper "Capturing the Social Value in UX Projects" at the 33rd Annual International Conference on the Design of Communication in Limerick, Ireland. Their paper was published in the peer-reviewed proceedings, and can be found at <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2775479>.

Dr. **ANDREW MARA**, published the chapter "Utopian Laptop Initiatives: From Technological Deism to Object-Oriented Rhetoric," with Professor Byron Hawk (University of South Carolina) and NDSU

MA graduate, Chris Lindgren (PhD candidate, University of Minnesota). This chapter appears in Professor Sid Dobrin's (University of Florida) collection, *Writing Posthumanism, Posthuman Writing* (Parlor Press).

Two poems by English senior lecturer **CINDY NICHOLS**, "Owl" and "Garden Story," recently appeared in *The Kenyon Review's* "Weekend Reads," which guest-features poems from previous issues.

This past July, **CINDY NICHOLS** was in Rhode Island to participate in Brown University's Summer Program in Contemplative Pedagogy, an intensive week of study, events, and presentations in contemplative strategies for higher education. She was one of twelve applicants selected from a national pool. Brown's Contemplative Studies program is a cross-disciplinary concentration, one of the first of its kind, featuring faculty from psychology to religious studies and from neurobiology to English.



Dr. **AMY RUPIPER TAGGART**, professor of English, presented and ran a workshop at the Writing Program Administrators' conference, held July 16-19, in Boise, Idaho. Her presentation was titled "GenAdmins' Transitioning from WPA to University Pedagogical Leadership" and was part of a panel on "WPAs in Transition: Sustainability and/of the Administrator." She also collaboratively facilitated a workshop on "Linking Pedagogical Theories to Outcomes and Assessment" with H. Brooke Hessler of Oklahoma City University.

On the recently awarded 2.6 million dollar, five year, NSF-IUSE grant for a project titled Gateways-ND, Dr. **AMY RUPIPER TAGGART** is senior personnel. The project seeks to develop and implement an innovative and comprehensive model for the professional development of STEM faculty and instructional staff at the college level.

In January 2016, Dr. **AMY RUPIPER TAGGART** will be joining the Office of Teaching and Learning. As former Director of General Education, Dr. Rupiper Taggart will have the title Associate Director and will work on pedagogy for general education courses. Dr. Rupiper Taggart will continue her general education (GE) leadership, which includes promoting innovative GE pedagogy and sharing best practices on campus, in addition to managing the NSF Gateways-ND active learning grant.



Senior lecturer, **JULIE SANDLAND's** Writing in the Technical Professions class traveled to the NDSU Research Park on October 14, 2015, where they met with an engineer and technical writers from Bobcat. Christopher Young, Embedded SoftwareManager, discussed best practices in design communication with students who are working on a group design project. The students presented their designs in poster sessions on November 6.



NDSU'S RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT (RRVWP), under the direction of NDSU English professor Dr. **KELLY SASSI** (pictured), received a \$10,000 Teacher Leadership Development grant from the National Writing Project, which funded the 2015 Summer Invitational Institute from July 7-24, 2015 at NDSU. Eleven teachers in the region completed the 2015 Summer Institute. The teachers were back on campus on September 26th for a reunion to share the impact of the Summer Institute on their teaching and to participate in a reading of their own writing. The mission of the Red River Valley Writing Project is focused on improving writing instruction for all students, from K-college.

Forty-two campus and community members participated in the 2nd annual writing crawl on August 11, 2015. The event started at Zandbrosz Variety on Broadway where participants were given a free T-shirt and journal with writing prompts. Writers checked in with a teacher from the **RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT** at each stop and wrote to one of the prompts. The event ended at Red Raven Espresso with an open mic reading.

NDSU was well represented at the North Dakota Council for Teachers of English Conference July 21-23, 2015, in Mandan, ND with over 17 current and former students attending. NDSU alumni Edwardson, Jones and Ching, who are also members of the Red River Valley Writing Project, gave roundtable presentations, along with RRVWP teachers Andrea Simon, Bridget Ryberg, Angela Hase, Kim Rensch, and NDSU graduate student Erika Dyk. NDSU associate professor, Dr. **KELLY SASSI**, who serves as Director of the Red River Valley Writing Project, led the roundtable session in collaboration with Northern Plains Writing Project Director Ron Fisher, of Minot State University. There are now three NDSU graduates on the NDCTE board: Kelsey Johnson, Northeast representative; Stephanie Cwikla,

Southeast representative; and Kaylie Young, member at large. Dr. **SASSI** was elected as the college representative of NDCTE board. The English education students' travel was funded by NDSU's School of Education.



Dr. **KELLY SASSI**, associate professor, and senior lecturer **ENRICO SASSI** (pictured) attended the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference at Bemidji State University from June 20-26, 2015. They attended readings and craft talks by Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Matt de la Peña, Joni Tevis, Mat Johnson, and David Gessner, as well as Distinguished Visiting Writer Mark Doty.

HONORS, PUBLICATIONS, & PRESENTATIONS

The Turtle Mountain Teen Art and Writing Workshop took place July 27-31 in Belcourt, ND. Fifteen Native American students participated in this program, which was a partnership between NDSU's **RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT**, Turtle Mountain Community Schools, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the National Student Poets Program, and the Plains Art Museum. Students had a choice of eleven workshops to attend. National Student Poet West Clark led a praise poetry workshop. The week ended with an Open Mic performance attended by the community and publication of a chapbook of student work. NDSU Associate Professor Dr. **KELLY SASSI** facilitated this collaborative project, which was funded by grants from Scholastic and the State of North Dakota.



Lecturer **HEATHER SLOMSKI** read her short fiction at Concordia College on October 7, 2015. Slomski is the author of *The Lovers Set Down Their Spoons*, winner of the 2014 Iowa Short Fiction Award and a Finalist for the 2015 Minnesota Book Award in Novel & Short Story.



Associate professor, Dr. **VERENA THEILE**, gave an invited talk, "Early Modern Superstitions on Stage," at MSUM on October 28, 2015.



Dr. **GARY TOTTEN**, chair and professor of English, had a collaboratively edited book come out in June. *Politics, Identity, and Mobility in Travel Writing* is being published by Routledge. Dr. Totten has two book chapters forthcoming: an afterword, "Edith Wharton and the Promise of Cosmopolitanism," in the edited collection *Edith Wharton and Cosmopolitanism* (UP of Florida) and "Naturalistic Despair, Human Struggle, and the Gothic in Wharton's Short Fiction" in the edited collection *Haunting Realities: Naturalist Gothic and American Realism* (U of Alabama P). He also presented "Hybrid and Social Media Approaches to Online Journal Content" as part of a roundtable panel of journal editors at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference in Philadelphia, November 5-7, 2015, and he served as respondent to the panel "Social Class in American Multi-Ethnic Literature" at the MLA Conference January 7-10, 2016.

WHY I DONATE

BY DICK JOHNSON

“When I began my estate planning, there was one thing I knew immediately that I wanted to do: establish a scholarship for the English department. I grew up on Tenth Street, just three blocks from the university, or AC as it was known at the time. Across the street from our house lived Richard and Marjorie Lyons, and on the corner lived Leonard Sackett. Later Ralph Engel would move in just one house down from us, so one might say I was surrounded by English teachers from the start. Later on when I enrolled at NDSU,

I was to take classes from all of them. Then add the names of Catherine Cater, John Hove, and

“ I count my years at NDSU as some of the most blessed in my life ”

Francis Schoff, and I was taught and influenced by people who loved literature and teaching and

imbued that same love in me.

“I count myself fortunate to have had such meaningful mentors in my life. I count my years at NDSU as some of the most blessed in my life. Endowing a scholarship so others might have the same opportunities that I had is just a small way of my repaying the department for all that it did for me.”

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Receiving the Richard L. Johnson scholarship has made an immediate impact on my academic goals and achievements. The summer after I received the scholarship I had the opportunity to visit the Cambridge archives to research original documents relating to my thesis. When I came back from the archives, the scholarship lifted the burden of worrying about buying my books or paying my school fees. I appreciate the opportunity donors like Richard L. Johnson give our program!”
—Emilee Ruhland (BA ‘12, MA ‘16)

During my first year at NDSU, I was told that the best way to read a book is to write in the margins while reading. Although librarians would tear their proverbial garments upon hearing this, I decided to give it a try. My reading comprehension improved almost immediately, and I became better equipped to participate meaningfully in class discussions. This habit has followed me to the present day. As you can imagine, this type of reading takes time--time that I would not have if I had to balance school and work. I am therefore incredibly thankful to have received scholarship awards from donors and faculty members of the NDSU English Department. Their financial support has afforded me adequate time to engage with coursework at a high level and so prepare myself for graduate school.”

—Andrew Wolf (BA ‘17)

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<https://www.ndsualumni.com/contribute>.

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