

Pen & Pixels

Notes from the English Department



GREETINGS: FROM THE EDITORS

Dear friends of NDSU English,

Welcome to the *special* summer issue of *Pen & Pixels*! We are pleased to bring you this short issue on all things *great* happening at NDSU over the summer. We hope you enjoy what you read and welcome any suggestions!

-Hannah Stevens and Krista Aldrich

WELCOME TO THE *SUMMER* ISSUE!

Inside this issue:

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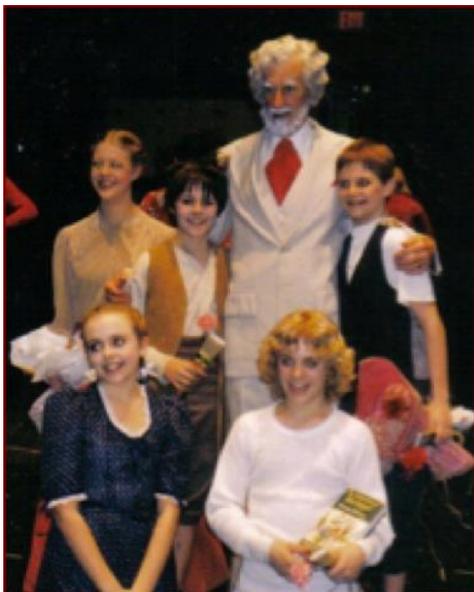
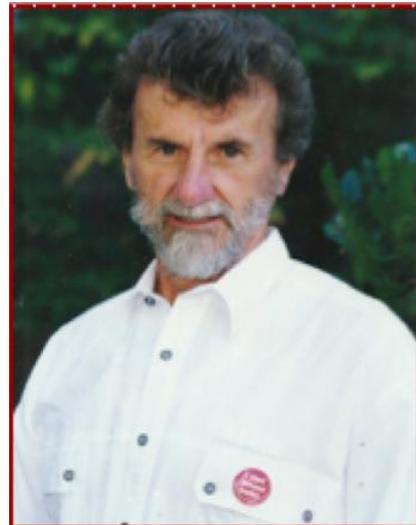
3 Ways to Get Ready for the New Semester!

In Memoriam—*NDSU's Bill Cosgrove*

With deepest sorrow, Pen & Pixels and NDSU English mark the death of emeritus professor, Bill Cosgrove.

Bill was an enthusiastic supporter of the English department and the sponsor of the Cosgrove student scholarship and the Cosgrove speaker series.

Bill started his tenure at NDSU as a professor of American literature in 1970, and continued teaching at NDSU for 35 years. Colleagues who worked with him remember him for his Mark Twain impersonations, his origami, and the fact that he would often bring cookies to class.



Often expertly juggling many roles at once, Bill was known for writing fiction and play reviews for the local media and served a 6-year stint as department chair in the 1990's. His unflagging support was invaluable, and many have noted they will miss his witty and friendly emails.

Bill was also featured in volume 1, issue 3 of the 2011 Pen & Pixels, where editors highlighted his generous and compassionate spirit as he described his retirement plans, which included “pay[ing] it back to those people who were there, and for what they gave to the students, and to me and my family.”

NDSU English has lost a great scholar, teacher, friend, and person. Bill will surely be missed.

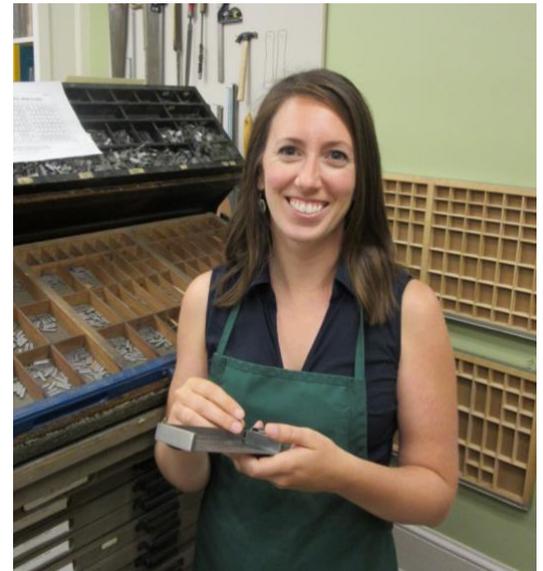
Meet Dr. Amy Gore, NDSU English's newest faculty member!

Gore has been hired to fill the Early American Literature position within the English department and comes to NDSU with a specialty in Native American and American Literature with an emphasis in history of the book, archives, body studies, the American Gothic, and the women's suffrage movement. Born in a rural area of Connecticut, Gore's education has taken her across the country. She pursued her BA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, matriculated at Montana State University for her MA in Native American Studies, received another MA from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College, finishing her education at the University of New Mexico, where she received her PhD.

Gore will be joining the English Department this fall semester, and is excited to start this new adventure, "after living in the arid Southwest for 6 years, I'm looking forward to the lushness of the Fargo/Moorhead area. The bright green grass, the trees, and all the water remind me of home," she said, remarking that she was also making the trip with her, "sassy basset hound named Molly Brown and a goofy yellow lab named Forest."

When asked about any advice she has for students, Gore urges them to "connect with other students, organizations, and ideas that you might not have had a chance to connect with otherwise." She further asserts that these connections can "change the trajectory of your life."

You can connect with new ideas in her classes this coming year. She is teaching English 335: Multicultural Writers in the fall and come spring will be teaching Topics in American Literature with plans to explore the NDSU archive for that course.



Welcome to NDSU Amy!

NDSU English is also fortunate to welcome a new visiting assistant professor for the 2019-2020 academic year, Sharity Nelson! Nelson joins us from University of Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan. Look for her spotlight introduction in the fall issue of Pen & Pixels.

Welcome to NDSU Sharity!

3 ways to start the semester off on the *right* foot!

It's important to take a break, relax, *and do something for you this summer*, and sometimes returning to NDSU after a fun summer break can be hard—The editors of Pen & Pixels understand, and are here to offer a few tips to starting the fall semester on the right foot!

1. Keep a list!

Pen & Pixels editor ***Krista Aldrich*** makes a list right away of everything that needs to happen during the first week of classes. Not only does this free up space in your brain for all the information you are sure to learn, but there is something satisfying about crossing off things on your “to-do list”!

Expert tip: If you want to start the whole semester off great, get yourself a calendar to keep track of everything that is happening this semester! (Many events are already posted well before the semester begins.)

2. Begin to give yourself some limits.

We have all been there. It's summer vacation and you are going to bed way too late and waking up well into the afternoon. Before getting back into the swing of things make sure you are getting yourself back on schedule. Going to bed at a normal time, or setting some limits on the usual distractions (i.e. social media), can be a great way to help you return to that normal school schedule.

3. Get some of the easy things out of the way early!

If you are teaching this semester, one of the easiest things to check off of a “to-do list” is setting up your attendance book. Pen & Pixels editor ***Hannah Stevens*** likes to begin the year by reflecting on some of her past students and folding down the pages of her attendance book to begin on a new page. She even decorates the top of the page a bit to get her excited for the new year!

Getting yourself ready for a new semester can seem like a daunting task, but taking it one step at a time is key!

NDSU English helps students professionalize!

“We’ve all heard the untrue stereotypes that English majors suffer on the job market—in the tight economic situation today’s students are in, they need to know they don’t have to choose between a 100% career-focused major or one that is completely removed from a career” says NDSU English professor Daniel Kenzie, who developed and established NDSU English’s first ever internship course. The internship course, which has the potential to help students professionalize, had been in discussion for some time, and fortunately for NDSU undergraduate students, when Kenzie was hired, he began to research and develop the program. NDSU English wanted the course to succeed and with the research Kenzie did, it will do just that!

Kenzie sees the internship course as an opportunity for students to connect the college classroom with other spaces. He says the internships are “a chance to take ownership of the skills and concepts students have been working on, so that those skills and concepts become something they can do, and others will turn to them for, outside of a classroom context.” After being hired in NDSU’s Pharmacy Practice department, Kenzie handed off the teaching of the course to NDSU English’s chair, Becky Weaver-Hightower. Weaver-Hightower explains that the internship is meant to serve students and to that end students are doing jobs they picked based on their future career interests. Weaver-Hightower reports that currently the internships include, “a student with interest in law [who] is interning in a law office. A student with strong political interests [who] is interning for an office on campus that deals with internal political issues and also in a campaign office. And a third is interning at a local nonprofit, River Keepers, and at the High Plains Reader.” The internship pairings are what the students decide, and this makes the course that much more unique and meaningful!

Ultimately, this course will help students succeed. Kenzie hopes that students are able “to see that the skills, concepts, and values they’ve developed as English majors aren’t things they have to give up when they graduate and that they don’t have to make those connections all at once or on their own when they do.”

**Apply your
skills**

**Explore your
interests**

**Receive credit
for English
major/minor**

**Build your
portfolio**

**Register for
ENGL 496
(#16525)**

Introduced in the summer of 2009, the Summer Scholar course brought a unique opportunity for graduate students in the NDSU English program to take a single course over the span of a week. This opportunity currently continues each summer for NDSU graduate students.

Each summer, NDSU English invites a nationally recognized scholar to teach a course in their area of expertise. During that week, students are immersed in the content and learn from the expert in a high-intensity, yet relatively low-stakes environment. Past summer scholar classes have focused on new approaches to genre, classroom assessment, and digital methods in the humanities.

This year, NDSU English was fortunate enough to welcome Dr. Kristin Arola, an Associate Professor in the Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures Department at Michigan State University who works at the intersections of cultural and digital rhetorics. Dr. Arola specifically is interested in how to best teach composing so as to include a range of bodies. To that end, she designed her course to demonstrate how multimodal studies and cultural rhetorics work together. Dr. Arola explains, “By placing these side by side, I wanted students to think about what it we are asking ourselves and our students to do when we take on the project of first-year writing.” To help students get in the head space to think about these questions, Dr. Arola utilized a variety of mediums. She assigned her students to create podcasts, video essays, zines, porcupine quill earrings, and other creativity-based genres. Speaking from experience, Pen & Pixels editor Krista Aldrich, being an alumnus of the 2017 summer scholar course, can attest to the intensity and the transformative nature of the course. When asked to describe her experience she stated, “it [the course] is an invaluable opportunity to be able to learn from an expert in a specific field that comes from outside of NDSU.” Within the course, students learn new perspectives they often would not consider otherwise and are subsequently changed from what they learn. Arola reflected on the course and her hopes for the students who took it stating that she hopes “they can see how paying attention to other student literacies and ways of making outside of classroom writing can allow for an expansive sense of who belongs in our classrooms and what literacies matter to whom.”

Interrogating our own pedagogies and asking ourselves who our activities prioritize is imperative as graduate students continue on their journey at NDSU.



NDSU's own Holly Hassel played headmistress to a new class of young witches and wizards this summer on NDSU's campus. Beginning in 2008 at the University of Wisconsin Marathon County, the WIZARDING ACADEMY has grown to include NDSU as a hosting location for witches and wizards grades 4-9.

This summer's WIZARDING ACADEMY, which ran from August 12th-16th 2019, revisited J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series in a fun, interactive, hands-on, adventure camp over five days. Sorted into one of the four Hogwarts houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin), campers worked collaboratively in their houses, solving challenges, competing for house points, playing Quidditch, and ultimately reenacting a scene from *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Students attending the WIZARDING ACADEMY this summer also had the unique opportunity to learn from two professors at NDSU, one teaching the campers about Magizoology, and the other helping campers with their theatrical performances.

At the end of camp, each house performed their rendition of a different scene of the rescue of Sirius Black and Buckbeak, to a captivated audience at NDSU's Beckwith Hall. After, the house cup was awarded to the Ravenclaw house, proving that intelligence and drive truly prevailed.

Interested in becoming a head of house or enrolling a student in the camp? Visit the WIZARDING ACADEMY Facebook page (WIZARDING ACADEMY) for further information!



Thank you for your support of the NDSU English Department. Your contributions make a difference in our department and university every day. We are currently seeking financial support for student scholarships and for funding graduate student travel to conferences, where students will present their research. If you would like to contribute financially to the department, please do so through this link:

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

Please contact the department chair, Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, with any questions:

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What's Your Story?

We want to know where your research, writing, storytelling, etc., has taken you—In addition, we want to know where your initiative and ingenuity have taken your English degree. Send your stories to the *Pen & Pixels* editors, Krista Aldrich (Krista.aldrich.1@ndsu.edu) and Hannah Stevens (Hannah.stevens@ndsu.edu).

For your story, please consider sending:

- A description of the event (*if applicable*)
- A picture
- A short biography