

PEN & PIXELS

Notes from the English Department



Inside this issue of Pen & Pixels

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GREETINGS: FROM THE EDITOR



Dear friends of NDSU English,
Welcome to the winter issue of Pen & Pixels! We are pleased to bring you this issue on all things great happening at NDSU. We hope you enjoy what you read and welcome any suggestions!

In Memoriam

NDSU's Muriel Brown

With deepest sorrow, Pen & Pixels and NDSU English mark the death of emerita professor, Muriel Brown. Muriel was an exceptional member of the English department who is remembered by her outstanding departmental service. Her career spanned four decades and during that career she assumed every role from professor to chair and served on or led nearly every department committee. Upon winning the 2009 Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Outstanding Educator Award, Muriel had served the University Senate in some capacity for a total of 14



years, including time as parliamentarian and member of the Executive Committee. She also served on the Women's Week Committee from the time of its founding for 10 consecutive years, Student Affairs Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Career Services Faculty Advisory Board, Student Retention Commission and Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Muriel was also featured in volume 2, issue 4 of the 2012 Pen & Pixels, marking her retirement, where editors highlighted her calm and caring spirit, as many remembered that "her thoughtfulness and sense of fairness was at the forefront of every memory, along with her desire to remain in the background and shun the spotlight."

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



“

“In my 16 years of working with Muriel, I've always appreciated her quiet leadership and phenomenal teaching,” said Kevin Brooks upon Muriel's retirement in 2013.

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD WINNER

NDSU's Lisa Arnold

On Monday December 9th, NDSU's own Lisa Arnold was one of three recipients of the Moorhead Human Rights award for her volunteer work at the New American center. After a full week of teaching, Arnold chooses to spend her weekends volunteering at the Afro American Development Association to New Americans in Moorhead every Saturday and Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

In a recent interview with the Fargo *Forum*, Arnold was described as a dependable volunteer who, though not being trained professionally, finds unique and relatable ways to help New Americans learn English. When teaching about food, it's noted that Arnold likes to use examples of food students are used to eating in their previous countries to help them better understand the material.

An important part of her student's lives, Arnold proves to be a remarkable human both in and out of the classroom.

Thank you for all that you do!

“

"She's a totally amazing person," says Hukun Dubar, executive director of the Afro American Development Association.



ENGLISH 467:

English Studies Capstone Experience

Every fall semester, soon-to-be graduates of the NDSU English program take English 467: English Studies Capstone Experience. Emily Wicktor, last semester's capstone instructor, explains that the course "is meant to serve as a 'capper' to the NDSU BA or BS English degree." This last fall, the English department had the distinct pleasure of hearing a multitude of complex, unique, and thoughtful projects that served to both educate the individual who completed the project as well as the audience in attendance at the final capstone presentations in late November.

A few of the noteworthy presentations included Isaac Sullivan's project titled, "The White Lie: Tracing the Subversion of Intersectionality within the Discourse of Mainstream Conservatism and the Alt-Right." As Wicktor noted when interviewed by Pen & Pixels, her goal is for student's to see these final projects as opportunities for them to apply complex theories to issues they are already passionate about. Sullivan, who often chooses to

study issues of intersectionality, did just that, while blending a discourse analysis with creative writing-- a move that made for a well-rounded and thoughtful piece, employing advanced research methodology. Similarly, Alexandra Hansen in her presentation "Super Portrayal: Roles and Respresentations of Superheroines in Children's Shows" produced a media analysis of several television shows, arguing that often such media reverts to hyper-femininity in order to uphold gender stereotypes, a project



The Fall 2019 English 467 class pictured here in their famed "rollercoaster pose"

that continued a timely and relevant conversation. At the end of the course, students have successfully explored aspects of the spectrum that is English studies and emerge as more complex scholars who have the ability to show the world their unique perspective.

Are you proud of a piece of writing?

SUBMIT IT TO THE W-CHALLENGE WRITING COMPETITION!

Submission to the W-Challenge is now open!

The Writing Programs at NDSU invite all undergraduate students to submit their writing to the W-Challenge, a writing contest with awards. Students can submit writing that falls into any of five award categories: academic writing, creative writing, professional writing, everyday writing, and writing in foreign languages.

The W-Challenge is a great way to gain recognition for your work, receive additional writing practice outside of the classroom, and earn prizes.

The fifth annual W-Challenge invites all NDSU undergraduate student writers to submit their written work. Projects may incorporate visual, audio, digital and/or other media, but must include a substantial textual component. Judges will evaluate texts across five categories:

- Academic Writing (Freshman/Sophomore; Junior/Senior)
- Professional, Technical, and Scientific Writing
- Everyday Writing
- Creative Writing
- Writing in Foreign Languages

Please submit work to ndsu.writing@ndsu.edu or bring hard copies to the box labeled "W-Challenge Entries" located in the office of the English Department, 318 Minard Hall.

Please include the following information on your submission:

- Name
- Student ID
- NDSU email
- Current standing at NDSU (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)

Students who enter before March 8, 2020 will be eligible for the early submission award.

The final deadline to submit work is April 1, 2020.

#WRITINGBoss

Where are they now?

The Pen & Pixels editors followed up with some recent graduates of the MA program to check in!



Rio Bergh

After graduating, Rio continued his education at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, where he is currently working toward earning his PhD in literature.



Rebecca (Becky) Crisman

Becky is currently using the skills she learned in the program to teach full time at Dakota Prairie High School in Petersburg, North Dakota.



Shaibal Dev Roy

After graduating in 2019, Shaibal accepted his admission to the University of Southern California, where he currently studies literature on the way to earning his PhD.

New Faculty Spotlight!

Dr. Sharity Nelson

Dr. Sharity Nelson is the newest member of the English department visiting us from the University of Tokyo in Japan. Originally from rural Kansas, Nelson states that "my formative years were spent in small towns and on farms with my farming / ranching family." A book nerd from the beginning, Nelson attended a small, public liberal arts university in Missouri for her BA in English and moved to Indiana to finish her MLS degree. She cites IUB for her love of rare books and manuscripts stating, "[there] I interned at the Lilly library where I had the chance to handle and read original letters penned by Charlotte Bronte and William Butler Yeats."



Earning her PhD in English in Oregon, Nelson graduated during what she termed "the bad years" after the recession and states that she was "lucky to be hired to teach first-year writing at the University of Tokyo" where she spent the next six "interesting and fun-and-karaoke-filled years" before returning to her roots here in the midwest and joining the faculty at NDSU as a visiting assistant professor.

When she is not teaching, Nelson reads anything she can get her hands on and especially enjoys reading the books that she teaches like *Mansfield Park*, a required reading for her British Literature II survey course.

Welcome to NDSU Sharity-- we are thrilled to have you!

Northern Narratives

WINTER WRITING PROJECT

DEC. 1, 2018 - MARCH 4, 2019

READY. SET. WRITE. The Fargo Public Library is seeking submissions for our 3rd annual winter writing project for adults & teens, ages 13 years and older. For details, visit www.fargolibrary.org, or email NorthernNarratives@fargolibrary.org. **FREE**

Fargo Public Library

Batman:

Gotham City's Emergency Manager

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In early November, the departments of Emergency Management and English co-sponsored a talk by English graduate student Mike Bittner, titled "Batman: Gotham City's Emergency Manager." Bittner concentrated his talk on the "No Man's Land" storyline where an earthquake levels much of

Gotham City and the story thus follows the subsequent actions taken by Batman. The presentation analyzed how Batman and "No Man's Land" moves through each of the four phases of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The goal was to provide a comprehensive examination of how fictional narratives can be used to illustrate the phases and Bittner proved that you are able to present difficult principles in a relatable way, using the skills he learned in the English program! *Great work Mike!*

"Writing Across Communities: From Poetry to Praxis"

**17th Annual Red River Graduate Student
Conference | February 28-29, 2020**
North Dakota State University

About Andrea Wilson, our 2020 Keynote Speaker:

Andrea Wilson is the Founder & Executive Director of the Iowa Writers' House. A visual artist, writer, and storyteller, Andrea believes that creativity and expression define the beauty of the human experience. In early 2014, she moved back to the UNESCO City of Literature to passionately pursue writing, only to feel disconnected from the very literary community that brought her home. The Iowa Writers' House started as an altruistic dream to create a springboard for all of those involved in using art and literature to connect themselves with the world. Today the organization reaches over 3000 writers, offers workshops and programs in both Iowa City and Des Moines, and has created strategic relationships connecting Iowa with festivals in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and other Cities of Literature across the globe.



RRGCSSC



From the *Pen & Pixels* Editors:

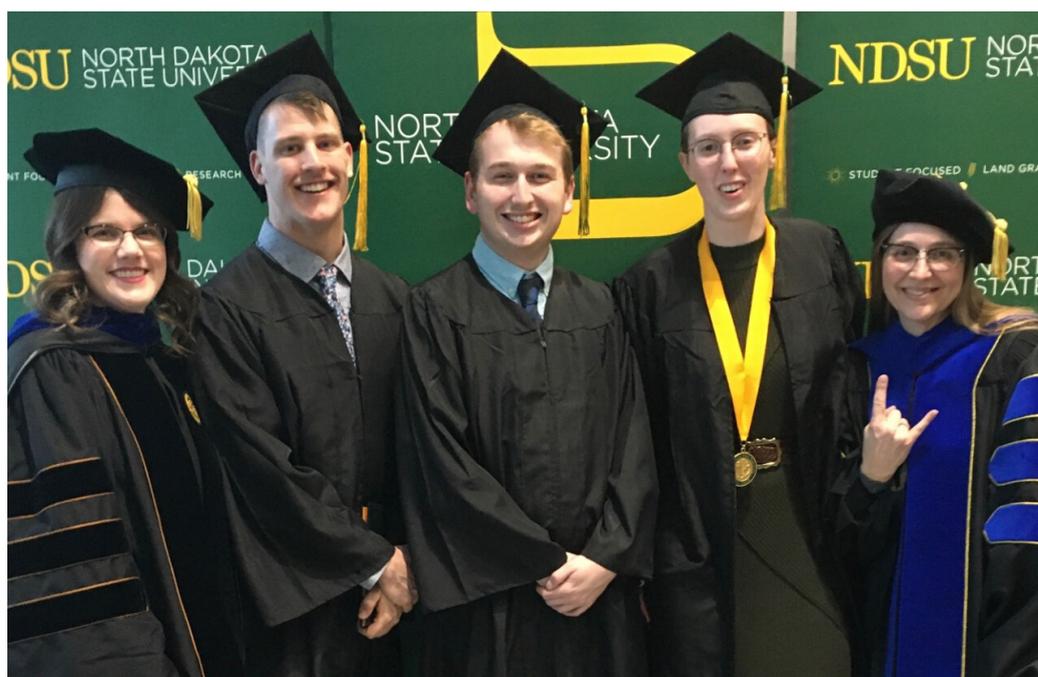
Congrats! To our recent graduates

English majors:

Rhianne Bowman, BA
Christopher Cavett, BA
Sara Clark, BA
Jackson Elmquist, BA
Randi Haarsager-Neary, BA
Alexandra Hansen, BA
Carly Hansen, BA
Gabrielle Hersch, BA
Carrie Hiedeman, BA
Adam Idso, BA
Naomi Kaas, BA
Caleb Laude, BA
McKenzie LeTexier, BA
Ryan Longnecker, BA
Ashley McCoy, BA
Ben Pitkin, BA
Lindsey Pouliot, BA
Grace Rivard, BA
Caleb Shaffer, BA
Amy Speiser, BA
Isaac Sullivan, BA
Erin Thostenon, BA

Jasmine Banasik, MA
Rio Bergh, MA
Rowshan Chowdhury, MA
Rebecca Crisman, MA
Shaibal Dev Roy, MA
Rachel Grider, MA
Hannah Stevens, MA

Robert Neuteboom, PhD



Recent English graduates, Caleb Shaffer, Ryan Longnecker, and Erin Thorsten, pictured here with NDSU professors Mary McCall and Emily Wicktor

English Ed majors:

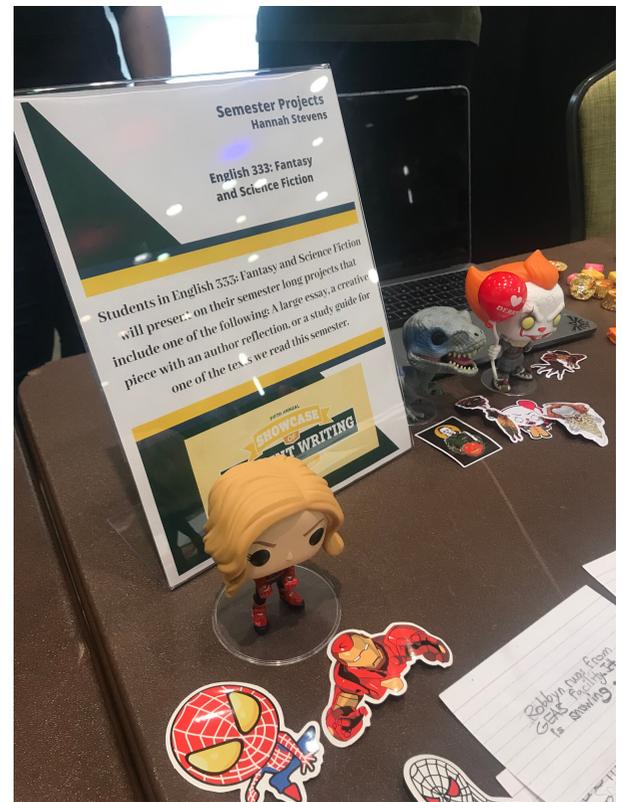
Sara Bolme
Hannah Holzaeuser
Samantha Jochim
Emily Lange
Morgan Miller
Vanessa Rickertsen
Ciera Watkin

The 5th Annual Showcase of Student Writing

For the last five years, the NDSU English department has sponsored the Showcase of Student Writing, which spotlights the writing talents of NDSU students. The showcase celebrates the achievements of student writers as they share projects from a wide range of writing courses and disciplines at all levels, including first-year writing, professional, technical, and scientific writing, creative writing, writing in foreign languages, history writing, media writing, writing in the health sciences and music composition.

Judges from NDSU and the public gathered together to award prizes for impressive writing throughout the event. "We [were] truly excited this year to highlight the many kinds of writing that our students do across the university. Their projects, as a whole, demonstrate[d] how integral writing is to critical thinking and learning at NDSU," said Lisa Arnold, associate professor of English and director of first-year writing. "This lively event proved successful with over 500 visitors and participants from across NDSU and the FM area mingling and discussing writing in the Great Plains Ballroom of the NDSU Memorial Union.

As noted by professor of English and director of upper-division writing Bruce Maylath, "for a professional to succeed, writing needs to be done well. The showcase makes visible just how widespread writing is across the disciplines and how vital it is to students after they graduate and enter professional workspaces."



Continued below...

SHOWCASE OF STUDENT WRITING

And the Showcase shows how vital writing truly is, as this year, the event was generously supported by the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Engineering; College of Health Professions; College of Human Sciences and Education; College of Science and Mathematics; Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture; Department of Communication; Department of Emergency Management; Department of History, Philosophy and Religion; Department of Modern Languages; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Department of Visual Arts; Division of Performing Arts; NDSU Bookstore; NDSU Libraries; Office of Registration and Records; Office of Teaching and Learning; and the Women and Gender Studies Program.



Community and corporate sponsors also included BDS Books, Bully Brew Coffee, Caribou Coffee, Fountainhead Press, Incognito Burrito, Jimmy John's, Microsoft, Plains Art Museum and W.W. Norton and Company.



NDSU English faculty band, **AcaSheMia**, performed as part of their conference panel presentation, "Band Praxis: AcaSheMia as Feminist Rhetorical Activism," at the 2019 Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

PhD candidate **Ibtissem Belmihoub** was featured in a documentary airing at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo titled *Watching Leo*.

MA student **Mike Bittner** gave his talk "Batman: Gotham City's Emergency Manager" to a mixed audience of English, Communications, and Emergency Management majors on November 6th at NDSU.

MA student **Kaitlyn Grube** presented her paper "American Imperialism and Puerto Rican Migration: The Unintentional Damage Modern Feminism Instigates Against America's Colonized Subjects" at the Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples Conference at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington in September.

Assistant Professor **Amy Gore** had a co-authored article accepted titled "Embodied Learning in a Digital Age: Collaborative Undergraduate Instruction in Material Archives" in *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*, forthcoming 2021.

Grube also published her article "The Appropriation of Female Pain in the Use of the Witch Hunt Metaphor in Modern Political Discourse" special issue of the *Lincoln Humanities Journal* titled: Perspectives on Violence, Human Cruelty, and Messy Morality, which came out in January.

MA student **Deborah Haley** had her paper "The Power of Language and Reality: A Glimpse into Language Use in the worlds of Condie's Matched and Lowery's the Giver" accepted into the 2020 PCA National Conference.

Senior Lecturer **Jamee Larson** presented "How to Share Your Story Through Writing" in October at the 44th annual Family History Workshop.

Associate Professor **Bruce Maylath's** co-edited volume Multilingual Writing and Pedagogical Cooperation in Virtual Learning Environments was awarded the Enrique Alcaraz Research Award.

Assistant Professor **Mary McCall's** article, "Getting the Story Straight: How Conflicting Narratives about Communication Impact Women in Engineering," has been accepted in *Technical Communication Quarterly*.



Additionally, **McCall** presented at three different conferences in the fall of 2019: The first was with **Dr. Daniel Kenzie** and **Dr. Bruce Maylath** at the IEEE Professional Communication Conference in Aachen, Germany. The second was with PhD candidate **Ashleigh Petts** and **Dr. Bruce Maylath** at Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication in West Chester, PA, and the third was her paper, "Be Strong... 'Cause it Gets Better': Modeling Gender Inclusiveness within Engineering" at Feminisms & Rhetorics in Harrisonburg, VA.

Lecturer **Kelvin Monroe** delivered the keynote address at the 2019 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Associate Professor **Holly Hassel** was elected Assistant Chair (and subsequent Chair) of the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Hassel's blog post "Service, Activism, and Writing Teachers" is the first in a new blog series collaboration between Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal and Teacher-Scholar-Activist, a blog space for writing teachers.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Red River Valley Writing Project, and to celebrate, **Hassel**, a Nebraska Writing Project alum, gave a talk titled "Shared Work: K-16 Writing Instruction and the Role of Professional Organizations."

Associate Professor **Kelly Sassi** chaired a session on Decolonizing the Classroom at the annual NCTE conference, which featured Michigan State doctoral student Kenlea Pebbles and two teachers from Turtle Mountain: Maggie Laducer and Torrie Decoteau.

In November, PhD student **Amanda Watts'** chapter "Archaeological Interpretation: The Rhetorical Shaping of Public Memory" was published in the book *Developing Effective Communication Strategies in Archaeology*.

Assistant Professor **Emily Wicktor** presented her paper, "'An edition de luxe of a Wicked French Novel': Victorian Pornography and Oscar Wilde's Good Woman" at the 66th annual Midwest Conference on British Studies in Chicago, Illinois in October.

Wicktor also presented her paper, "'Plainly, she was a reprobate of experience': The Stakes of Sexual Know-How," at the 2019 Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States Conference.



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 current Pen & Pixels editor Hannah Stevens (Hannah.stevens.honeyman@gmail.com).