

Pen & Pixels

Notes from the English Department



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



We have reached the end of another busy and productive spring semester in the English Department. As you will read about in this issue, our faculty, staff, and students continue to be recognized for their excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to the university and community. Of special note is Kevin Brooks, who received the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Faculty Service Award this spring for his important community literacy work. Other exciting news includes PhD student Heather Steinmann accepting a tenure-track faculty position at Western New Mexico University, beginning in fall 2015, and PhD student Tatjana Schell receiving a prestigious NDSU Dissertation Award for 2015-16. Several undergraduate English majors will be embarking on exciting graduate school opportunities in the fall, 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 NDSU English Department. We are grateful for 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 enjoy the summer. —Gary Totten

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NOT YOUR MOTHER'S ENGLISH CLASS

AUTHENTIC PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IN NDSU'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

NDSU Ph.D. candidate, Jessica Jorgenson, and her English 459 Researching and Writing Grants and Proposals students, worked with The Arts Partnership (TAP) to develop proposals that examined ways to better market and grow the Art Marathon, a 26-day challenge that encourages people to participate in the many art and cultural events in the F-M area, sponsored and put on by TAP. Dr. Andrew Mara, professor of English, board member of TAP, and co-founder of the Art Marathon, helped the students network with TAP members.

As part of this project, students in groups wrote planning proposals and pitched them to TAP staff and board members. Dr. Mara aided in inviting TAP Director Dayna Del Val and other Arts Partnership members to speak to the class and answer questions the students prepared. Board members attended the students' proposal pitches and offered feedback.

Many students reported the greatest benefits of this authentic project-based learning were seeing how a nonprofit works and having opportunities to network with community members and give back to their community.

In senior lecturer Julie Sandland's class, English 326 Writing in the Design Professions, students participated in a service learning project with 5 local nonprofits: Ronald McDonald House, Dorothy Day House, Great Plains Food Bank, Charism, and the Red River Zoo. For the project, the students re-designed a space within the nonprofits' locations using site analysis, interviews, and design work.

The Red River Zoo is in the process of applying for a grant to implement the interactive outdoor classroom that two students, Ellie Nyquist and Matt Ellingson, completed for this project.

Sandland said in an interview with the *Fargo Forum* that "getting [the students] out into industry, out of the classroom, working with clients ... is good for them in a lot of ways." She told her students, "'This can go on your resume; this can be in your portfolio.' It wasn't just a school project. It was a real client."

Undergraduate Spotlight



Jordan Engelke

Hometown: Fargo

Program: English with a minor in Women & Gender Studies

Graduation: May 2015

Favorite book: It's a toss-up between *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin and *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

Something people are surprised to learn about Jordan:

People would probably be surprised to know that I've been an active weightlifter for about five years and plan to compete in a physique show within the next year or two. I have a petite frame (just shy of five feet tall), so most people are surprised to hear that I'm actually pretty strong. Plus, there's a common stereotype that women don't (or even can't) lift weights, which is something I particularly like to challenge.

Involvement at NDSU:

First, I'm a McNair Scholar. My mentor is the amazing Dr.

Verena Theile. My research focuses on the need to integrate the study of transgender literature, authors, and theory into the college literature classroom. I'm a new member of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta, and I just joined the NDSU Diversity Alliance.

Plans after graduation:

To attend grad school (WSU-Pullman) to further my education in the study of literature. I also want to do "something" in the field of women, gender, and sexuality studies. My ultimate goal is to become a university professor either in English or in a women's studies program.

NORTH DAKOTA STUDENTS WIN HONORS AT NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS

THE RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT at NDSU, under the direction of associate professor KELLY SASSI, partnered with the Plains Art Museum to serve as the state affiliate for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The affiliate publicized the competition, increasing participation in North Dakota from 20 submissions of art and writing last year to 120 this year from students in grades 7-12 around the state. The affiliate also judged the entries and held an awards ceremony for state award winners on February 17th at the Plains Art Museum. On March 16, national winners were announced, and there were two national winners from the state of North Dakota. Zach Howatt, a 10th grader at Northern Cass High School, won a gold medal in art for his drawing “Daughter of Man,” and Sophie Glessner, an 11th grader at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo, won a silver medal in writing for her short story “That’s How Summer Passed.” More than 300,000 works of art and writing were submitted for adjudication at the regional level in the Awards’ 28 categories, which include poetry, painting, architecture, short story, fashion design, and more. All national award-winning high school seniors gain access to a special scholarship pool of more than \$10 million through Alliance partnerships with esteemed colleges and universities across the U.S.

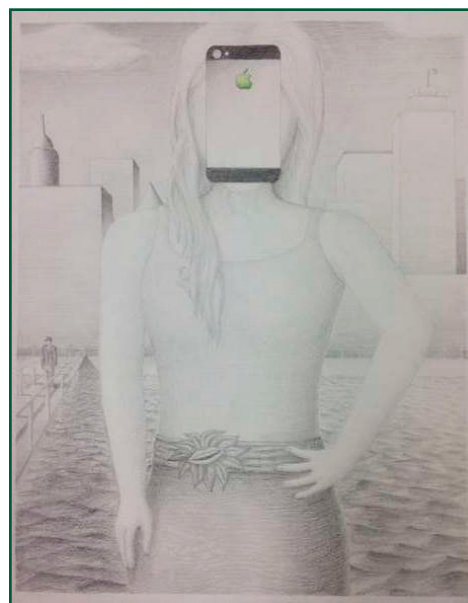


PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO RRVWP

The annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards will be held at the Plains Art Museum in February 2016. Red River Valley Writing Project (RRVWP) is seeking donors to help raise \$2,000 for this special event.

Generous donors are the key to our success and make it possible for RRVWP and the Plains Art Museum to celebrate our local students' achievements and to encourage them to use writing and the arts to find and explore their strengths and passions.

Donors will be listed in our event program, as well as on our event website. Please mail your donations to RRVWP, Attn. Kelly Sassi, NDSU-Dept. 2320, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050. Thank you for considering how you can support North Dakota students and celebrate their achievements.



Gold medal winner, Zach Howatt's drawing, "Daughter of Man"

NDSU ENGLISH EDUCATION GRADUATE DESIGNS AUTISM OUTREACH PROGRAM

Caitlin Johnson (BS English Education '12; PhD candidate in the NDSU Education Doctoral Program) was selected to represent NDSU at the Clinton Global Initiative University Conference 2015 in Miami and share her parent education program for parents of children with autism. Her project, N.D. Autism Parent Outreach Program, targets Native American populations by partnering with tribal organizations to help parents of children with autism improve their children's language skills.

Her goal is "to provide parent-to-parent education that is free of charge to underprivileged populations."

Starting in July and in association with Turtle Mountain Community College, Caitlin will offer hands-on learning sessions that are free to the local community members. She aims to "help people use traditional ways of [bonding to] help their child learn." Parent information booklets and assessment surveys will be distributed at no cost to families involved and will serve as a point of reference for all caregivers

of children with autism. She explains her motivation for this project: I strongly believe the best thing a parent can do is educate themselves.

For more information or to become involved, send an email to caitlin.a.johnson@ndsu.edu.

[Dr. Andrew Mara, professor of English, with two other faculty, serves as an advisor on Caitlin's project. Dr. Mara traveled to the Clinton Global Initiative conference and maintains contact with Caitlin, providing support and feedback when needed.]

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



**Betsy
Birmingham**

Favorites:

• **Books:** The books I read most right now are with my kids. So I've been reading C.S. Lewis (Chronicles of Narnia), Roald Dahl, all things Harry Potter, and a little Captain Underpants. For my reading pleasure, I'm reading contemporary Japanese fiction: Banana Yoshimoto, Haruki Murakami, Hitomi Kanehara, Risa Wataya.

• **Movies:** *Summer Wars*, *Millennium Actress*, *Princess Mononoke*. Wes Anderson and John Hughes movies.

• **Music:** Edward Sharpe + the Magnetic Zeros, Steve Earle, Candypants, Neko Case, White Stripes, Green Day, Sia, old country (Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline), '80s and '90s rock, and nu-funk.

• **Food:** Yes. All the foods. Love to eat and love to cook.

Degrees:

BA: English Literature (Rosary College, River Forest, IL)

BA Honors College: Art History (Rosary College, River Forest, IL)

MA: Creative Writing (Iowa State University)

PhD: Rhetoric and Professional Communication (Iowa State)

• **Minor:** Linguistics

• **Specialization:** Architectural History, Theory, and Criticism

Job title and description:

I'm a professor of English and

Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. I run a lot of meetings and I write a lot: reports, nominations, evaluations, agendas, curricula. I also do some research and publishing, advise graduate students, and next fall, I'll teach again! (I love teaching.)

Her life outside of NDSU:

We have seven people in our household, so I do a lot of cooking and laundry and hanging out with my kids at their sports and music activities.

Advice for students:

Push yourself. Everyday. Push yourself and ask, is this the very best I can do? Answer honestly. Ask this about your education, your work, your interactions with other people, your engagement with the world. Push yourself so that you can leave this world a better place than you found it. If we all do that, we might survive as a species.

NDSU ENGLISH GRADUATE QUESTIONS

WHAT IT MEANS TO DRESS PROFESSIONALLY

NDSU graduate Katie Manthey (BA English '07; MA Rhetoric and Writing '10) recently completed her doctorate in rhetoric and writing with a concentration in cultural rhetorics from Michigan State University. Her interdisciplinary work combined dress studies, fat studies, and cultural rhetoric.

Manthey mined her own experiences as a “fat, female graduate student who consumes popular culture” as she followed fat fashion bloggers’ clothing choices and the impact of these choices individually

and in our culture. Her work also investigated gender as something we construct through consumerism and how we dress. She has presented her findings nationally and internationally and has received widespread recognition for her Tumblr page where she questions what it means to dress professionally and challenges viewers to love their bodies as they are today.

Her Tumblr page, Dress Profesh, which she created while on fellowship in the last semester of her PhD, began as a way for Manthey to “keep [herself] accountable with [her] writing... The idea was to post

one “what I wore today” picture every day that [she “worked”]—in whatever form that [took].” Soon the Tumblr became a gallery with images of people from all industries dressing “professionally.” Manthey hopes the gallery will show that there isn’t one way to dress professionally and that “professional dress” is racist, sexist, sizeist, etc. at its core. Manthey will start this fall as a tenure track assistant professor of English and director of the Writing Center at Salem College, a private women’s college in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Sean Burt

Favorites:

•Books:

-My favorite writers include Anne Carson, John Crowley, Philip K. Dick, Emily Dickinson, Fredric Jameson, Etgar Keret, Clarice Lispector, David Mitchell, Marilynne Robinson.

-Plus, I like the Bible, too: I recommend checking out the Five “Megillot” (Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther); the

criminally underrated Letter of Jude; the Gospel of John gets weirder and more compelling the more I read it.

•**Movies:** *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (the greatest Jesus film ever—and one that just happens not to have Jesus in it), *Dazed and Confused*, *In the Mood for Love* (best movie of the 21st cent.), *The Seven Samurai*, *Sherlock Jr.*, *Powaqqatsi*, *Hedwig and the Angry Itch*.

•**Food:** Pizza, brussels sprouts, donuts every day, caper berries, buffalo sauce and/ or blue cheese on everything. Tacos.

Degrees:

BA, Yale University (1999)
Master of Theological Studies, Duke University (2002)
PhD (Religion), Duke University (2009)

Teaching philosophy or outlook on higher education:

I believe that education should change people—and prepare people for future, unanticipated

changes. Also, I think that higher ed is a special and important place, and that it’s a real joy and privilege to be a part of it.

His life outside of NDSU:

I hang with my family, and, predictably, read books. I’m on a curling team with other folks in English. Also, if you drive by my house this summer, odds are you’ll see me very slowly working on painting my house (or taking long breaks between short painting sessions).

Advice for students:

Trust that doing good work—work that you care about—will be a path to meeting your goals. Of course it doesn’t always work that way (I’ve read the Book of Job enough times to know that!), but if it doesn’t, then at least you will have done work that you can be proud of. Encounter new tasks and ideas with wonder always and humility and/or confidence when they’re needed.

THE TRANS-ATLANTIC & PACIFIC PROJECT

NDSU AN INTERNATIONAL HUB FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Unless you've been a student in one of the writing classes taking part in the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project, you're probably not aware that NDSU's English Department has become the one of the leaders in international learning-by-doing collaborations. Launched in the 1999-2000 academic year, the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project (TAPP) has developed into a complex educational network of bilateral writing-translation projects, bilateral translation-editing projects (since 2001), and multilateral projects (since 2010). NDSU joined the TAPP in 2007, when the English Department hired Dr. Bruce Maylath, the TAPP's co-founder and coordinator. Since then, NDSU has served as the international teaching and research network's hub.

Over the past 15 years, the TAPP network has connected classes in writing, usability testing, and/or translation at three universities in the U.S., three universities in Italy, two each in Belgium, Portugal, and Russia, and one each in Austria, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Kenya, and Spain, involving scores of instructors and thousands of students. TAPP's main aim is to share insights into collaborative writing across borders and cultures, and, in the course of this work, to gain knowledge of others' cultural bases.

The typical bi-lateral writing project involves a writing class in the U.S. and a translation class in Europe. A writing student composes instructions for a particular activity, does user testing, and answers the translator's questions. The translation student may test the instructions, asks questions of the technical writing student, and localize the text.

The typical bi-lateral editing project requires a European translation student to translate a published article and ask questions of her or his "native editor," a role which, to date, is performed by a U.S.-based writing student: the editor edits the translations for idiomatic American English and asks questions of the translator to make sure that the meaning in the target language is rendered accurately and precisely. A multilateral project can involve either or both of the above projects, but with more partners with more languages in more countries. In ENGL-455/655 International Technical Communication students do both types of projects simultaneously.

A writing-translation project could involve co-authoring in Spain and the U.S.; user-testing in English in the U.S., Spain, and Finland; and translation to Dutch (Belgium), French (France), and Italian (Italy). A translation-editing project with translations to English from Danish, Dutch, Greek, and/or Italian are all followed by editing for idiomatic American English in the U.S.

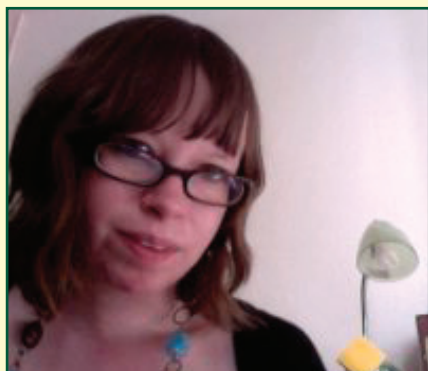
As TAPP collaborations have spread throughout NDSU's vertical writing program, students' experiences in international learning-by-doing projects are becoming a distinctive hallmark of the program. TAPP collaborations spread swiftly and easily for several reasons:

- The network operates at the grassroots level. No administrators are involved and no approvals are necessary. In his coordinator role, Dr. Maylath serves mainly as a matchmaker for interested instructors and as a mentor.
- Collaborations are flexible. Students' projects are whatever assignments the instructors agree upon.
- Projects do not depend on funding. When Dr. Maylath and co-founder Dr. Sonia Vandepitte, Ghent University, Belgium, planned the first project, they deliberately did not write grant proposals, deciding instead to rely only on available communication technologies. At the time, that meant e-mail. Today students use Skype, Facebook, and WhatsApp.

In an era when legislative bodies and the public ask universities to do more with less, the TAPP network presents a model of what's possible.

Much research has grown out of TAPP's experiments. For a complete list of publications, go to http://www.ndsu.edu/english/trans_atlantic_and_pacific_project/

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jessica Jorgenson

Favorites:

• **Books:** *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath, and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

• **Movies:** Supernatural horror.

• **Music:** Red Hot Chili Peppers, and anything 90s alternative.

• **Food:** Mexican

On why she chose English:

I always enjoyed reading and

writing, even as a child. I wanted to find a job where I could do a lot of writing. Since then, I have had opportunities to teach writing and write grants for a local nonprofit. I feel lucky that much of my work has been writing-focused.

Degrees:

BA in English with a writing emphasis from MSU-Moorhead. MA in English with a literature emphasis from MSU-Mankato.

Teaching:

English 459 Researching and Writing Grants and Proposals and English 322 Creative Writing I.

Teaching philosophy or outlook on higher education:

My teaching philosophy is toward what I term empathetic teaching and learning. I want to make my course material as

accessible as possible and yet keep students responsible for teaching and learning.

Her life outside of NDSU:

I enjoy reading, gaming, and watching TV shows. Right now I am watching *House of Cards* season 3, playing a game on Steam called "Don't Starve," and reading *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, edited by Pamela Smith Hill.

Advice for students:

If you ever need a reasonable accommodation to aid in your learning and participation in the classroom, your instructor is there to help you, so please communicate any needs you may have to your instructor. Don't ever be shy or hesitant about communicating reasonable accommodations.

ALUMNI IN ACTION: KENDRA FAIMAN O'BRIEN



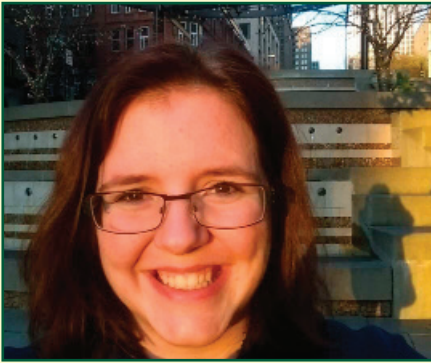
Kendra Faiman O'Brien graduated from NDSU in 2001 with a BA in English and in 2005 with an MA in English Composition. After a short move to Iowa, Kendra returned to Fargo and has lived happily in Fargo since then.

Since 2006, Kendra has worked at FBS, an employee-owned software company that provides MLS software to Boards of Realtors. There, she leads the Customer Projects and Relations team, an astonishingly awesome group of trainers and writers.

Staying connected to NDSU, Kendra served a three-year term on the English Department Advisory Board and is currently serving on the advisory board for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Kendra's experience in the NDSU Scholars Program and English Department helped make her into the thinker and writer she is today. The opportunity to make close connections with Faculty is a great advantage of the department.

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Emilee Ruhland

Favorites:

- **Book:** *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- **Movie:** *Into the Woods*
- **Music:** Kongos, Imagine Dragons, or The Black Keys

Food: Sushi

On why she chose English:

I began on the science track but after taking a few English classes for a minor, I realized that I was both better at and enjoyed English more.

Degree:

BA in English from NDSU

Teaching:

English 120 College Composition II

Teaching philosophy or outlook on higher education:

I treat my classroom as a community that cultivates trust, respect, commitment, and

honesty, as I believe that a transparent classroom with students (and teachers) who feel comfortable will provide the best learning experience.

Her life outside of NDSU:

I love to travel! I just went to Spain in January for a Medieval Association conference, and I took a road trip last summer to see multiple national parks.

Advice for students:

Don't be afraid to explore your options! Take those "weird" classes, those extracurriculars you're curious about. They might lead to something you love to do!

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN ENGLISH DEGREE?

EXPLORING CAREER POSSIBILITIES WITH ENGLISH GRADUATE PROFESSIONALS

In an effort to assist students in their post-graduation plans, the English department's Undergraduate & Assessment Committee organizes a series of career talks each semester. These are open to all NDSU students at the undergraduate and graduate level and are meant to help students think about their future, and to recruit students into the major. Guest speakers talk about the nature and scope of the work they do and the path they took to get where they are today. Students get a sense of the professional opportunities that are available to them, as well as some networking and personal and professional advice that will help them in their careers. This semester's guest speakers included:

Dr. Stacy Duffield - Associate Professor of Education, NDSU alumnus

Dr. David Bertolini - Professor and Chair of Architecture

Dr. Emily Wicktor - Assistant Professor of English

Dr. Angela Smith - Assistant Professor of Public History

Amber Rudolph - School Principal, NDSU alumnus

Erica Spangelo - School Librarian, NDSU alumnus

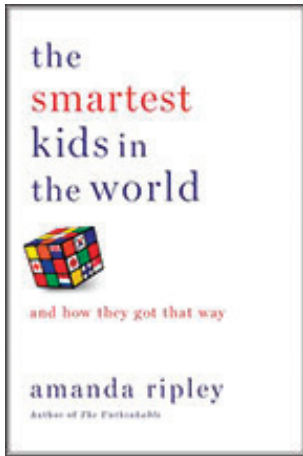
Colleen Sheehy, Ph.D. - Plains Art Museum CEO



NDSU professors: Stacy Duffield, Emily Wicktor, David Bertolini, Angela Smith

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

FROM BRUCE MAYLATH



The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way, by Amanda Ripley, a reporter for *Time* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. What piqued her interest in this topic was the quick and dramatic rise of scores on the PISA tests over a 25-year span by such countries as Finland, Poland, and South Korea, while the scores in the US stayed stagnant—and low. (PISA stands for “Programme in International Student Assessment” and is administered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.)

In the decades following the destruction of the Second World War, Finland, Poland, and South Korea had abysmal school systems. Yet, by the 1990s, their societies decided to undergo drastic educational reforms, with a view to improving their children’s knowledge and their nations’ economies.

To find out what they did and how the new systems have yielded the best results in the world, Ripley decided to follow and interview an educational constituency rarely consulted in academic research: students themselves. To start, she followed three American students who spent a year of high school abroad: a student from Minnetonka, Minnesota, who went to South Korea; one from Oklahoma who lived in Finland, and one from Pennsylvania who studied in Poland. She also sought out students from these same three countries abroad who were spending a year in U.S. high schools.

What she found is far more insightful than the arguments that one usually hears or reads in the debates about reforming America’s educational system. For those who really want to know what has been proven to work, this book is eye-opening. It’s a volume that would be well worth every American’s time to read. I recommend it especially for our English education majors and alumni.

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Justin Atwell

Favorites:

- Book:** Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*
- Movies:** *The Royal Tenenbaums*
- Music:** If it’s independent hip-

hop or a woman with a raspy voice and an acoustic guitar, I’m probably obsessed with it.
•**Food:** Indian and Thai food

Degrees:

BA in English from NDSU
MA in English from Iowa State University

Teaching:

ENGL 275: Introduction to Writing Studies
ENGL 324: Writing in the Sciences

Teaching philosophy or outlook on higher education:

To put it in its simplest terms, I’m all about access and

transparency in the classroom. I want everyone to have an equal opportunity for success, and I want everyone to know why we’re doing what we’re doing.

His life outside of NDSU:

I’ve been playing hip-hop shows under a pseudonym for several years in the area. Come see if you can find me. I also hang out with my cat, Daphne.

Advice for students:

Figure out where your interests lie within the field as soon as possible and try to make your coursework fit those interests as much as possible.

AND THE WINNER IS...

HONORING OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

At the English department awards luncheon on Monday, May 11th we honored graduating seniors, undergraduate and graduate students' work, outstanding teaching from our faculty and grad students, and lecturer, Gayle Johnson, who is retiring this spring.

Madeline S. Gittings Scholarship Endowment Fund – Sarah Silvernail and Justin Atwell
Pamela O'Connor Memorial Scholarship – Celena Todora
Hal & Alice Dickey Memorial Scholarship – Shiyel Rittenbach
Professor Ralph Engel Memorial Scholarship – Laryssa Mortenson
Marjory Archer Haggart Memorial Scholarship – Cordel Finton and Rio Bergh
Gerald Wilson and Phyllis Krantz Hunter Scholarship Fund – Natalia Martinez
Rooney English Graduate Scholarship – Neelam Jabeen and Tatjana Schell
Mart & Lois Vogel Award for Excellence – Andrew Wolf
William Cosgrove Scholarship – Nathan Kurtti
Richard L. Johnson Endowed Scholarship – Emilee Ruhland
English Faculty Scholarship – Jenna Murphy and Alex Lien
Graduate Teaching Award – Jessica Piek
2014 Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award – Justin Atwell
2014 Outstanding MA Paper Award – Kaylee Jangula Mootz
Vogel Teaching Awards – Emily Wicktor and Gayle Johnson
RRGSC* Best Graduate Paper Award – Kellam Barta (North Carolina Stat U; NDSU alum)
RRGSC Runner-up Graduate Paper Award – Justin Atwell
RRGSC Best Undergraduate Paper Award – Christine Volk (St. Mary's U)
RRGSC Runner-up Undergraduate Paper Award – Jordan Engelke
*RRGSC: Red River Graduate Student Conference



Scholarship winners: Andrew Wolf, Natalia Martinez, Laryssa Mortenson, Nathan Kurtti, Tatjana Schell, Celena Todora, Sarah Silvernail, Jenna Murphy, Emilee Ruhland



Jessica Piek, 2014 Graduate Teaching Award winner;
Jordan Engelke, RRGSC Undergraduate Paper Award runner-up;
Kaylee Jangula Mootz, 2014 Outstanding MA Paper Award winner

CLASS OF 2015

Nick Strom*
Mohammed Abdirahman*
Krista Aldrich
Tyler Ringstad
Jordan Engelke*
Grace Peterson*
Brittany Schneider
Ryan Gustafson
Abbey Leier
Kasey Klinkhammer
Kelsey Vogt
Kelli Flieth
Kylan Hilber
Madelyn La Pierre Baasch
Nathan Szurek
*Sigma Tau Delta member



Clockwise from top right: Gayle Johnson, retiring this spring, and a winner of a Vogel Teaching Award with Dr. Emily Wicktor (not pictured); scholarship winners: Neelam Jabeen, Cordel Finton, Shiyel Ritzenbach; Justin Atwell, scholarship winner, RRGSC Graduate Paper Award runner-up, and 2014 Outstanding Ph.D. Paper Award winner.



HONORS, PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

AMY RUIPER TAGGART, professor of English and director of general education, has collaborated on an interdisciplinary team to produce a grant as senior personnel. The NSF IUSE (Improving Undergraduate STEM Education) design and development grant proposal, supports ongoing professional development for STEM educators teaching in NDSU gateway courses (often general education courses), including pre-semester workshops and ongoing faculty learning communities (FLCs). The proposal was submitted January 2015, in collaboration with Paul Kelter, Mark Hanson, Lisa Montplaisir, James Nyachwaya, Jared Ladbury, Greg Oswald, and Emily Berg.

PhD student, **HEATHER STEINMANN**, presented “A Rhetoric of Anxiety,” at the Survive and Thrive conference in St. Cloud, MN. Her poem, “System Failure,” was accepted to the journal **82 Review*. A second poem was accepted by the journal *Up the Staircase Quarterly*. Her paper “Teaching indigenous literature: Experience as self-instruction” was accepted for presentation at the 57th annual WSSA Conference held in April in Portland, OR.

GARY TOTTEN, professor and chair of English, attended the Modern Language Association conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada Jan. 8-11, where he was a respondent for a session titled “Multi-Ethnic Film: From Page to Screen.” As the editor of the journal *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the US*, he also participated in the “Meet the Editor” event sponsored at the conference by Oxford University Press and the “Chat with an Editor” event sponsored by the Council for Editors of Learned Journals.

KEVIN BROOKS, professor of English, **CHRIS LINDGREN**, MA NDSU English and current PhD student in Writing Studies at the University of Minnesota, and **MATTHEW WARNER**, PhD English, published a white paper in the collection, *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities*. Their chapter, “Tackling a Fundamental Problem: Using Digital Labs to Build Smarter Computing Cultures” considers what kinds of initiatives and collaborations it would take among higher education, k-12, and a community to build smarter local computing cultures.

NDSU English graduate, **LINNEA NELSON**, will be starting work on her MFA at Oregon State next fall.

KEVIN BROOKS, professor of English, **HEATHER FLUTE** (MA English), **KATELYN OSTBY** (English 2014), and a number of librarians, literacy experts, and community organizers from Fargo have been selected to participate in an Otto Bremer Foundation funded program called L3: The Rural Libraries and Literacy Leadership Institute. The Institute will assign the Fargo team a mentor, the group will convene with other groups from the state three times in 12 months, and the teams will develop a plan for library and literacy program capacity building.

KEVIN BROOKS, professor of English, received funding from the City of Fargo to support his efforts to re-establish Giving + Learning, an in-home English Language Learning program that supports language acquisition, driver’s literacy, and citizenship test preparation for New Americans in the FM area.

At the 2015 annual conference of the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, in Tampa on March 18, **BRUCE MAYLATH**, professor of English, served as an invited speaker for the roundtable discussion “What We Value as a Field.” Also participating were NDSU alumni **ABIGAIL GAUGERT BAKKE** (BA, MA) and **GINA KRUSCHEK** (MA). Bakke delivered the paper “Coding Interview Data to Uncover What Patients Value in Doctors’ Notes.” She is now a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, while Kruschek is a PhD student at East Carolina University.

RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT (RRVWP), under the direction of **KELLY SASSI**, associate professor of English, received an Assignments Matter grant from the National Writing Project to provide training for RRVWP Teacher Consultant Karen Taylor to lead the Assignments Matter Task Jam for local teachers on Saturday, January 24 at the Probstfield Center in Moorhead. Assignments Matter invites teachers to collaborate using tools from the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) as well as protocols and processes common in the National Writing Project (NWP) teacher community to create writing assignments for use in their own classrooms and to share with one another. The NWP grant was made possible by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

ANASTASSIYA ANDRIANOVA, lecturer in English, just published an article entitled “A Postcolonial Reading of Lesia Ukraïнка’s Orhiia” in the journal *Modern Drama* (Toronto UP).

PhD student, **ADAM COPELAND**, edited *Kissing in the Chapel, Praying in the Frat House: Wrestling with Faith and College* published by Rowman & Littlefield.

KAREN SCHROEDER SORENSEN, NDSU graduate/Montana Tech Writing Director; **STEVEN HAMMER**, NDSU graduate/St. Joseph’s U Assistant Professor; and **BRUCE MAYLATH**, NDSU professor of English, published the article “Synchronous and asynchronous online international collaboration: The Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project” in the 2015 (No. 1) issue of *Connexions*.

On February 19, **KELLY SASSI**, associate professor of English, was inducted into the Tapestry of Diverse Talents. Sassi’s three nominators cited her work with returning veterans, teacher training and support for those teaching at tribal high schools and colleges, and her commitment to social justice work as key components of her outstanding commitment to diversity at NDSU and in our state.

BRUCE MAYLATH, professor of English, has published the chapter “Translation Competence: Research Data in Multilateral and Interprofessional Collaborative Learning” in the *Handbook of Research on Teaching Methods in Language Translation and Interpretation* (IGI Global Press, 2015), with co-authors from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, and Italy. The chapter draws on data collected through the Trans-Atlantic & Pacific Project, a network of writing, translation, and usability testing instructors linking their classes across four continents and founded by Maylath and co-author Sonia Vandepitte, at Ghent University, Belgium, in the 1999-2000 academic year. Maylath serves as TAPP’s coordinator.

Five members of the English Department—**KEVIN BROOKS**, professor; **ANDREW MARA**, professor; **BRUCE MAYLATH**, professor; PhD student **THERESA GAUMOND**; and MA student **IBTISSEM BELMIHOUB**—participated in the 2015 Conference on College Composition & Communication, held March 18-21, in Tampa, FL. Brooks chaired a panel that included Gaumond and Belmihoub titled “From Fire to Fire: Examining the Complexity of Learning from Refugee Adult English Learners.” Jill Motschenbacher, Lecturer in Soil Sciences, also contributed to this panel. Maylath took part in the discussion of the Language, Linguistics, and Writing Special Interest Group. Mara attended a Council of Writing Program Administrators Digital Committee meeting and recorded ethnographies for a digital archive being compiled for the organization.

MAUREEN SCOTT will be retiring this summer from her position as a senior lecturer in the department. Maureen has taught in the department for twenty-five years, and her service to her students and colleagues will be sorely missed. In recent years, Maureen has taught several of our upper-division writing courses and was willing to take on a new course such as English 325 (Writing in the Health Professions), which has become increasingly in demand after NDSU’s partnership with Sanford Health and the expansion of the university’s online nursing program. Her professionalism and dedication, as well as her optimistic and friendly demeanor, have all contributed significantly to our positive department climate.

BETSY BIRMINGHAM, professor of English, was invited by the founding editors of *Rising Dragon: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Pacific Rim Studies* to serve on the journal's editorial board. The journal explores the intersections of Pacific Rim Studies with the scholarly conversations about digital media and popular and cultural studies. If you are interested in reviewing manuscripts for this journal, please send contact information and expertise to Elizabeth.Birmingham@ndsu.edu.

KEVIN BROOKS, professor of English, and **CHRIS LINDGREN** (MA at NDSU, currently ABD at Minnesota) published "Responding to the Coding Crisis: From Code Year to Code Decade" in the digital book, *Strategic Discourses: The Politics of (New) Literacy Crises*.

KEVIN BROOKS, professor of English, was the 2015 recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Faculty Service Award. He received the award at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 6th.

KEVIN BROOKS and **BETSY BIRMINGHAM**, professors of English, facilitated an Open Space Technology session at the annual Building Bridges Conference sponsored by Lutheran Social Services in Fargo, March 25. One hundred participants identified eight conversations our North Dakota communities need to have to better resource, support, and welcome New Americans and create opportunities for success. The groups had the identified conversations and developed action plans.

At the 2015 annual conference for the American Conference on Irish Studies in Ft. Lauderdale, **MIRIAM O'KANE MARA**, professor of English, presented on a panel on a rewrite of James Joyce's *Dubliners*. Her presentation, "How Networks Define Us: #Counterparts," explored how Joyce's original story "Counterparts," and Belinda McKeon's rewrite of that story emphasize the power of a medium and network on the individual identity of a writer.

A paper by **SEAN BURT**, assistant professor of religious studies and English, was the subject of a meeting of the Twin Cities Hebrew Bible Colloquium in St. Paul on Mar. 7. Burt's paper was entitled, "'Your Torah Is My Delight': The Poetics of Immanence in Psalm 119."

PhD student **ADAM COPELAND** was named director of Stewardship Leadership for the Luther seminary.

RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT has been awarded a \$10,000 SEED Teacher Leadership Development Grant. The purpose of this grant is to expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning in the nation's schools. The goal of this funding is to provide new learning opportunities for teachers in our region. The grant will fund stipends for teachers in the 2015 Summer Institute at NDSU, co-facilitated by **KELLY SASSI**, associate professor of English, and secondary teachers Karen Taylor and Pam Fisher. The focus of this summer's institute is Writing to Learn.

Phd student, **HEATHER STEINMANN'S**, will present "Keeping Good Company: Literature as Rhetorical Practice," at the Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference 2015, hosted by Boise State University in Boise, July 12-19.

NATALIE SMITH CARLSON, lecturer in English and Women and Gender Studies, has an article in the recently published book *It Takes a Village: The Role of the Greater Community in Inspiring and Empowering Women to Breastfeed*. The article, "Advancing the Breast-feeding Friendly Campus," explores the necessity of a supporting community for breast-feeding mothers when returning to work.

ADAM GOLDWYN, assistant professor of English, was invited to Uppsala University (Sweden) May 12-15 to give a seminar series on Byzantine Ecocriticism.

JULIE SANDLAND and **MAUREEN SCOTT**, senior lecturers in the English department, are joining the Quarter Century Club this year, in honor of their twenty-five years of service to NDSU.

Recent NDSU English graduates, **JORDAN ENGELKE** and **TYLER RINGSTAD** will be attending grad school at WSU-Pullman this fall. Additionally, Jordan and Tyler both were awarded \$1,000 recruitment awards.

JADE SANDBULTE, NDSU MA and BA English graduate, was accepted into Penn State's Applied Linguistics PhD program and will start in Fall 2015.

NDSU English students **KAYLEE JANGULA MOOTZ** (MA) and **JUSTIN ATWELL** (PhD) presented papers at the 29th annual MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) Conference in Athens, GA, April 9-12. Kaylee presented "'That isn't why you did this to me': Sex and Sovereignty in LeAnne Howe's *Shell Shaker*" and Justin presented "Here's My Hypothesis: Intertextual Connections of Science and Hip-Hop."

ALISON GRAHAM-BERTOLINI, assistant professor of English, will have her article "Finding the Extraordinary in Welty's 'Music from Spain,'" published in the *Eudora Welty Review*. (Vol 7, Spring, 2015).

PhD student, **JUSTIN ATWELL**, has been selected as one of ten graduate teaching assistants to serve on the Bedford/St. Martins TA Advisory board for 2015. Justin was chosen based on his research on writing in science and his teaching experience. He will receive a \$1,000 stipend and travel to Boston for a board meeting. The meeting will allow Justin to network and learn about the publishing field.

BETSY BIRMINGHAM and **KEVIN BROOKS**, professors of English, co-facilitated a workshop on work-life satisfaction as part of SDSU's annual Women's Leadership Summit on April 7 in Brookings, SD.

ALISON GRAHAM-BERTOLINI, assistant professor of English and women and gender studies, and **SEAN BURT**, assistant professor of history and religious studies and English, performed in NDSU Theatre's production of *Lysistrata* (directed by Chelsea Pace, assistant professor of movement) from April 23 through May 2.

The Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange has awarded two Gaeltacht Summer Awards for professors of English **MIRIAM** and **ANDREW MARA**. These grants, administered by the Fulbright Commission of Ireland, will provide tuition, room, board, and transportation for two weeks of immersion Gaelic Irish at the Oideas Gael immersion language/culture school this June/July.

BRUCE MAYLATH, professor of English, was awarded the Lorraine Elvrum Murphy Endowed International Fund Award, which is given annually to encourage and enhance internationalization at NDSU. Bruce was recognized at the NDSU Green and Golden Globe Diversity Award ceremony on April 30.

NDSU 2015 PhD graduate, **HEATHER STEINMANN**, accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the English Department at Western New Mexico University. Heather has been hired to create a Professional Writing program at this public university starting Fall 2015.

GARY TOTTEN, chair and professor of English, has a new monograph from University of Massachusetts Press. *African American Travel Narratives from Abroad: Mobility and Cultural Work in the Age of Jim Crow* will be available in June of 2015.

Undergraduate English and English education major **CELENA TODORA** received a Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society scholarship for fall 2015.

RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT received a \$3,000 grant from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers to provide a writing workshop for 7-12th grade students at Turtle Mountain reservation this summer. **KELLY SASSI**, associate professor in the English department and Dr. Denise Lajimodiere in the NDSU Education Leadership program are collaborating on the workshop.

ALISON GRAHAM-BERTOLINI, assistant professor of English, had her article “‘Broad and slow and yellow’: Navigating the Lower Mississippi with Shirley Ann Grau” published in the spring 2015 issue of *Southern Quarterly*.

NDSU PhD student, **HEATHER STEINMANN**, and **MIRIAM MARA** and **ANDREW MARA**, professors of English, published the article “North Dakota State’s Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture PhD” in the 2015 (Vol 7, No. 1) issue of *Programmatic Perspectives*.

ADAM GOLDWYN, assistant professor of English, had his article, “Towards a Byzantine Ecocriticism: Witches and Nature Control in the Medieval Greek Romance,” published in the journal *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, a leading publication in the field.

Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture PhD student, **MASSIMO VERZELLA**, had his co-written article on a Trans-Atlantic collaboration published by the journal *Changing English*.

Harvard University Press published assistant professor of English **ADAM GOLDWYN**’s translation (with Dimitra Kokkinni) of John Tzetzes’s *Allegories of the Illiad*.

PhD student, **ADAM COPELAND**, published the cover article, “A broader appeal: How crowdfunding inspires creative ministry,” for the 27 May 2015 edition of the *Christian Century*.

PhD student, **TATJANA SCHELL**, has earned a prestigious Dissertation Fellowship from the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies. The award will include a generous stipend for the 2015-16 academic year, as well as extra funds for travel.

Recent NDSU English graduate, **HAIAN ABDIRAHMAN**, will be attending grad school this fall at UT-Austin. He received a McNair fellowship from Austin and accepted a Junior Fellowship at the Library of Congress for this summer. Haian was also awarded a fellowship through the Mosaic Program, which includes a year-long internship at the Human Rights Documentation Initiative.

VERENA THEILE, associate professor of English, and **ANDREW MARA**, professor of English, have received Dean’s Fellowships for summer 2015.

PhD student, **MASSIMO VERZELLA**, and **ANDREW MARA**, professor of English, have just published the article “Translocal Pragmatics: Operationalizing Postnational Heuristics to Locate Salient Cultural Overlap” in the 2015 (Vol 7, No. 1) issue of *Rhetoric, Professional Communication, and Globalization*.

NDSU 2010 MA graduate, **KATIE MANTHEY**, has graduated with a PhD from Michigan State University, and will start this fall as a tenure track assistant professor of English and director of the Writing Center at Salem College, a private women’s college in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

NDSU 2011 MA graduate, **CRAIG ROOD**, has graduated with a PhD from Penn State, and will start this fall as an assistant professor at Iowa State University.

MA student, **KAYLEE JANGULA MOOTZ**, has just had a book review published in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*.

CINDY NICHOLS, senior lecturer in English, has received a departmental Instructional Development Grant for lecturers.

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