

Talking Points – April 11, 2014

Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Mike Christenson presented his paper titled "Making Architecture 'Thinkable': A Drawing Course in Beginning Design" at the 30th National Conference on the Beginning Design Student, held at the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture in Chicago, IL. The paper describes Christenson's incorporation of his ongoing research in architectural epistemology into a beginning design pedagogy.

Center for Writers

Karen P. Peirce presented at the 45th annual conference of the College English Association held March 27-29 in Baltimore. Peirce was part of a panel titled "Expanding Professional Horizons through the Fulbright Program," in which panelists discussed the ways their experiences with the program have enriched their professional development as scholars, educators and members of the global community. The College English Association represents a broad range of disciplines within the field of English studies. More information about the association is available at www.cea-web.org/.

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Nick Bauroth had a study accepted for publication by *Public Administration Quarterly*. The study, titled 'Hide in Plain Sight: The Uneven Proliferation of Special Districts Across the United States by Size and Function,' used boundary change theory to examine the proliferation of special districts between 1997 and 2007 by size and function. It found that population growth, state restrictions on local governments, public entrepreneurship, and existing governmental fragmentation had the greatest impact upon district proliferation by county

Steven Briggs, had a manuscript titled "Unanticipated Consequences: The Impact of a Smoke-Free Law on Assaults around Bars" accepted for publication in the *Criminal Justice Review*. The paper, co-authored with Andre Petrov at the University of Northern Iowa and Sam Peterson the University of Cincinnati, reported findings from an analysis demonstrating a reduction in the number of offenses surrounding bars and taverns following the implementation of a smoking ban.

English

Kelly Sassi published a chapter in *Feminist Challenges or Feminist Rhetorics? Locations, Scholarship, Discourse*, edited by Kirsti Cole, and my chapter is titled, "Feminist-Indigenous Rhetorics of Survivance and Discursive Spaces in S. Alice Callahan's *Wynema: A Child of the Forest*." published by Cambridge University Press, March 2014.

On July 1, 2014, **Gary Totten** will become the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, published by Oxford University Press. Published quarterly, *MELUS* is the premier journal in the field and plays a pivotal role in illuminating the national, international, and transnational contexts of US ethnic literature and culture. Articles in *MELUS* also engage newly emerging art forms such as graphic narrative and internet blogs, as well as multi-ethnic film, history, and culture. The journal includes interviews with well-established authors such as Maxine Hong Kingston and Richard Rodriguez, as well as more recent writers such as Cynthia Kadohata and Diana Abu-Jaber. *MELUS* is available online through Project MUSE, which sees over 1,400 downloads of full-text articles from the journal per month. The journal's presence at NDSU will provide training for a new generation of scholars by engaging English graduate students in the editorial processes of peer review, copyediting, and proofing. For more information about the journal and to view the current issue, visit the website: <http://melus.oxfordjournals.org/>

Kevin Brooks presented "A Kind of Homecoming, 2013" at The Annual Africa Conference in Austin, Texas, April 4-6. His presentation examined the role of language traps, sexual violence, career success, and attempted

homecomings in three contemporary Afropolitan novels: *We Need New Names* by NoViolet Bulawayo, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and *Ghana Must Go!* by Taiye Selasi.

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

Alison Graham Bertolini was elected vice-president of the Carson McCullers Society at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature on March 27, 2014. She will serve a two-year term. Her duties include assisting the president of the society and coordinating sessions for national conferences, including the annual conference of the American Literature Association.

Miriam Mara published "Mundane Doubles: Anorexia in Stories by Anne Enright and Colum McCann" in *New Hibernia Review* iris éireannach nua, 18:1 (earrach / spring, 2014), 120–135.

History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies

Angela Smith (History) presented the North Dakota History Project, a public history initiative, at the National Council of Public History Conference poster session in Monterey, Calif., on March 20. Smith, who is president of MiND — Museums in North Dakota — was also a participant in a national workshop of state museum association leadership sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums and Institute of Museum and Library Services. The meeting March 27-30 at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark., gave representatives from 45 associations an opportunity to examine strategies to better serve local museums. At the Western Social Sciences Association annual conference in Albuquerque April 4, Smith received the Junior Scholar Award, and she also presented a talk and film on "Public History and Fargo's Most Famous Madam."

Modern Languages

Jeanne Hageman has been accepted into one of the highly selective NEH Summer Institutes. This institute's theme is: "Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: Literature, the Arts, and Cinema since Independence" and it is to be held at Oregon State University (Corvallis) from June 23 to July 11, 2014. The focus and rationale of the Institute is as follows: "Because to date no comprehensive assessment has been attempted of post-colonial Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia from the perspective of the region's cultural artistic vitality, the intent of this institute is to shed light on the significance of North African artistic expressions today. Expressions in the literary, visual and musical arts with origins in Berber, Arabic and European idioms; expressions that have adapted to modernity, post colonialism, the reality of globalism and advances of social media"

School of Music

The North Dakota State University School of Music recently hosted the 32nd Regional Conference of the College Music Society's Great Lakes Chapter, March 28-29. The two-day event included a number of lectures and

recitals, including the Composer's Concerts on Saturday afternoon. **Robert Jones**, Professor of Voice with the NDSU School of Music, organized this year's conference. He spent several months planning the event with Performing Arts staff and the College Music Society.

Jenny Poehls, lecturer of flute at North Dakota State University School of Music, presented a lecture at the Concordia College Flute Day, March 29. The lecture, titled "Vibrato: How do we create and use it properly?" focused on both the beginning and advanced development of vibrato. Topics included the science behind vibrato production, the usage throughout history, creating the pulse, how to practice, and applying vibrato with different dynamics, registers, and colors.

NDSU Opera is proud to present an evening of comic operas featuring [Gianni Schicchi](#) and [Trial by Jury](#), Friday, May 9 at NDSU's Festival Concert Hall. Directed by **Virginia Sublett**, Professor of Voice, and graduate student **Elliott Schwab**, the operas promise to be fun for the whole family.

Virginia Sublett will discuss comic opera at the NDSU Library Lecture Series on April 30 at 4 PM. She will be joined by cast members of *Gianni Schicchi*, who will present scenes from the opera.

Michael Weber, Associate Director of Choral Activities, and the NDSU men's choir, The Statesmen, recently performed during the Tri-College Men's Choir Festival, March 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Other participating choirs included those from Minnesota State University Moorhead and Concordia College. Each choir presented a short program in addition to a group performance of all 150+ singers.

Theatre Arts

Rooth Varland, Associate Professor and Department Head for NDSU Theatre, has been invited to design costumes for *Carmen* by Georges Bizet at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts outside of Washington, DC. The production will run one night only, July 25, 2014.

Tiffany Fier, Assistant Professor of Set Design for NDSU Theatre, has been selected to design the set for the Bloomington (MN) Theatre and Art Center's Performance of *Gypsy*. The production runs April 25-May 25.

Visual Arts

Megan Kirkwood's article "Social documentary and personal investigations in contemporary South African photography: Tracey Derrick's 'One in Nine' series" was recently published in the current issue of the journal *Social Dynamics*. This article explores and analyses a documentary project on Breast cancer from South African photographer Tracey Derrick. Eghan also received the 2014 Sudhir Mehta Memorial Faculty International Travel Award to facilitate travel to South African in the Summer of 2014 for the purposes of developing a Visual Arts related study abroad program for NDSU students.

Michael Strand was awarded a 2014 Bush Fellowship. This two year fellowship will enable a series of learning opportunities along with project development that will consider heritage and Rural North Dakota, Folklore, craft and social change and Extension as a mechanism for culture among many other topics.