

Talking Points: March

March 27, 2014

AHSS News: Great stuff for the college!

Katherine Noone, assistant professor of musical theater, and **Gina Kelly**, assistant professor of sociology were elected to the Council of College Faculties for the North Dakota University System. They join **Tom Ambrosio**, professor of political science, as NDSU's three representatives.

Assistant professor of practice, **Melissa Vosen Callens's** presentation, "Asynchronous Faculty Learning Communities for Online Instructors," was accepted to the 2015 EdMedia International Conference, to be held in June in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Assistant Professor and Bush Fellow '14, **Malini Srivastava**, has received grants totaling \$78,000 in support of her research and community outreach efforts for improving efficiency in the production, distribution and consumption of renewable and non-renewable energy resources in the City of Fargo. The grants will partially support City of Fargo's entry, efargo (www.efargo.org) for the Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition. efargo is currently in the two year semi-final implementation phase. As part of this effort, Srivastava as Project Lead for efargo team will partner with project Champion Commissioner Mike Williams, and Municipal Lead, Planner Dan Mahli, Utilities (Cass County Electric Cooperation and Xcel Energy), engineers Dr Huojun Yang and Dr. Rajesh Kavasseri (College of Engineering) and other local organizations to design and implement a comprehensive strategy of policy incentives, diverse partnerships, K-12 efargo energy competition, city-wide pervasive urban game (the efargo challenge), and various educational components. Comprehensive design of strategies to impact large scale energy use are a part of Srivastava's doctoral research at Carnegie Mellon University with a focus on Pervasive Urban Games via digital and traditional media.

Center for Social Research

North Dakota KIDS COUNT released its March edition of the [Insights on Children](#) report featuring a county-specific look at the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and its impact on children and working families living in North Dakota. In collaboration with North Dakota Compass, North Dakota KIDS COUNT released the 2015 North Dakota [State Legislative District Profiles](#) featuring 16 measures focusing on population, household, social, and economic characteristics for each of the 47 districts in North Dakota. Each profile compares the individual district with North Dakota and the United States.

North Dakota Compass gave a presentation to over 100 city officials in Bismarck at a North Dakota League of Cities conference regarding the project, available data and resources for communities and their decision-making. **Kendra Erickson-Dockter**, North Dakota Compass project director, appeared as a panelist on North Central Extension Directors webinar on delivering better information to guide local decisions by using science-based information and big data. ND Compass released its first, annual *Compass Points*, a four-page document that includes notable trends, key demographics, and a dashboard look at measures of progress statewide for 10 topic areas.

Challey School of Music

The Statesmen of NDSU, an all-male choir directed by professor **Michael Weber**, were invited to perform at the North Dakota Music Educator's Association State Conference, March 26 at the Bismarck Civic Center. They presented a program of American music. The Statesmen were selected through an audition process; this is the second time they performed at the state

conference.

Matthew Patnode, associate professor of saxophone, was a featured artist at the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) regional conference, March 13-15 at Drake University, Des Moines, IA. He performed “Song is You” by Jerome Kern with the Des Moines Big Band during the Friday night opening concert. NASA is an organization for saxophone professionals, pedagogues and professors.

Matthew Patnode, associate professor of saxophone, will perform with Jazz on Tap, March 27 at 8 PM at Studio 222 in Downtown Fargo. Jazz on Tap is a Grand Forks area band consisting of faculty members from the University of North Dakota. The event is open to the public; admission is \$10 per person.

Communication

Carrie Anne Platt, associate professor, received an NEH Enduring Questions grant, and was awarded the full amount requested (\$21,987). This grant will support summer research on how discourses of the “educated person” have shifted over time, how these discourses juxtapose the liberal arts tradition with vocational training, and how this juxtaposition has shaped debates over college curricula. This research will culminate in an undergraduate course directed toward helping students articulate the purpose of their own college educations, while situating that self-understanding in a broader historical context. Fewer than 8% of applicants typically receive these highly competitive grants.

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Tom Ambrosio, professor of political science, has officially become a regular feature on the Mike McFeely Show (KFGO – the Mighty 790). He will have a regular guest spot every Thursday at 3:30 to discuss events happening around the world. He even has his own bumper music, which plays at the start of the segment (REM’s “It’s the End of the World as We Know It”). Ambrosio also wrote a short opinion piece for the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM). It can be found here: https://blog.pism.pl/blog/?p=1&id_blog=36&lang_id=12&id_post=512.

A study concerning college student voting behavior and impact of North Dakota’s voter ID law, conducted by **Nick Bauroth** and **Kjersten Nelson**, both political science, through the Upper Midwest Center on Public Policy, has begun to receive some media attention. See the links below. http://bismarcktribune.com/.../article_93a18506-0608-5827-81f...
<http://sayanythingblog.com/.../poll-voter-id-laws-had-minima.../>
 If anyone would like to read the full report on the study, you can download it at the Center webpage, which is at <https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/publicpolicy/>

Assistant professor **AJ Myer** was just awarded a grant to validate the Static99R, a sex offender risk assessment tool, for the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The funding totals \$15,425. Of this, \$8,000 will be used to fund a graduate student over the summer and the fall semester. \$1,128 will be used to purchase a laptop and SPSS for the graduate student’s use.

A peer-reviewed article co-authored by Laura Thomas (NDSU Dept of Psychology) and **Dan Pemstein**, assistant professor of political science, titled “What You See Is What You Get: Webcam Placement Influences Perception and Social Coordination”, was just published by *Frontiers in Psychology*. The article, which reports on two experiments involving webcam-based interpersonal communication, adds to the literature which links perceived elevation and social power.

Emergency Management

Jessica Jensen, assistant professor of emergency management, has been invited to serve on the editorial board of the journal, *Natural Hazards Review*. Jensen was nominated and vetted by the journal's current editorial board. *Natural Hazards Review* is a quarterly interdisciplinary journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

English

Anastassiya Andrianova, lecturer in English, just published an article entitled "A Postcolonial Reading of Lesia Ukraïnká's *Orhiiá*" was published in the journal *Modern Drama* (Toronto UP).

Five members of the English Department—**Kevin Brooks**, professor; **Andrew Mara**, associate professor; **Bruce Maylath**, professor; and Ph.D. student **Theresa Gaumont** and M.A. student **Ibtissem Belmihoub**—participated in the 2015 Conference on College Composition & Communication, held March 18-21, in Tampa, Fla. **Brooks** chaired a panel that included **Gaumont** 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.

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, has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Faculty Service Award. He will receive the award at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 6th.

Brooks and **Birmingham** facilitated an Open Space Technology session at the annual Building Bridges Conference sponsored by Lutheran Social Services in Fargo, March 25th. 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.

Miriam O'Kane Mara, associate professor, is presenting "How Networks Define Us: #Counterparts," at Irish Speculations: Space, Time, History, the American Conference for Irish Studies 2015 national meeting in Miami.

At the 2015 annual conference of the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, also meeting in Tampa on March 18, **Bruce Maylath**, professor, served as an invited speaker for the roundtable discussion "What We Value as a Field."

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 to 120 submissions of art and writing 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, who 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.

History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies:

Over spring break, **Deborah Maertens** (assistant director of faculty immigration and instructor in political science) and **Bradley Benton** (assistant professor of history) led a study-abroad trip to Mexico. Fourteen students traveled to Puebla and Mexico City for cultural immersion, historical/archeological tours, and service learning.

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.”

Sociology and Anthropology

Kristen Fellows, assistant UNITE professor, published a collaborative article with James A. Delle titled, “Marronage and the Dialectics of Spatial Sovereignty in Colonial Jamaica.” This article is in the edited volume, *Current Perspectives on the Archaeology of African Slavery in Latin America* (Springer Briefs in Archaeology. Pedro Paulo A. Funari and Charles E. Orser Jr., eds. pp. 117-132. New York: Springer).

Professor of sociology, **Gary Goreham** has been named winner of the university’s Service Learning Award. He will receive the award at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 6th.

Alicia Kauffman, graduate student in sociology, was inducted into the Tapestry of Diverse Talents last month.

Gina Kelly, assistant professor of sociology, and Jennie Lazarus (MS, Sociology, 2014) had a paper, “Perceptions of Successful Aging: Intergenerational Voices Value Wellbeing” accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*.

Edward Avery-Natale, visiting professor of sociology, has had his first book accepted for publication by Lexington Press. Based on his dissertation research on the anarcho-punk subculture in Philadelphia, the book, titled *Ethics, Politics, and Anarcho-Punk Identifications : Punk and Anarchy in Philadelphia* explores the complications of negotiating a radical political identification (anarchism) with a subcultural identification (punk).

Theatre Arts

Assistant professors **Mark Engler** and **Tiffany Fier** presented “Design for Audrey 2” at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology Exposition, March 18-21 in Cincinnati, OH. Their designs for Audrey 2, the infamous plant that feeds off people from the Theatre NDSU production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, were also published in the *Technology Exposition Journal*, which featured their Audrey 2 designs on the cover.

Assistant professor **Jess Jung** coordinated a visit with Sandy Spieler of Heart of the Beast Mask and Puppet Theatre (Minneapolis, MN), March 24-25 in the Walsh Studio Theatre. Spieler, a McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist, presented two workshops where students and the

community learned how the theatre uses items such as puppets, masks, costumes and props to create “public art of majesty,” or spectacle, in parades and other public events.

Women and Gender Studies Program

Women and Gender Studies is bringing feminist blogger/writer, Jessica Valenti, to campus on Thursday, April 9, 5:30 pm in the Great Room of the student union on the topic, Why Feminism (Still) Matters: Sexism, Culture and Activism. She has written books such as *Full Frontal Feminism* and *Yes Means Yes*. The event is free and open to the public. Ms. Valenti will sign books after her speech.