

## Center for Writers

On Sunday, October 20, and Monday, October 21, 2013, NDSU will participate in the National Day on Writing, an annual event organized by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE): <http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting>. Designed to “draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing we engage in,” the day has traditionally been declared a national observance by the U.S. Senate. The celebration at NDSU is supported by the Center for Writers, the Department of English, NDSU Libraries, the Office of the Provost, and the Red River Valley Writing Project. A list of events can be found at <http://www.ndsu.edu/cfwriters/ndow>.

## English

**Dr. Andrew Mara**, associate professor of English, and Director of Upper-Division Writing was recently nominated and selected to be the Chair for the Digital WPA Committee of the Council for Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) <http://wpacouncil.org/committee-assignments>. An expert in the digital media and pedagogy innovation, Dr. Mara will steer the CWPA's digital initiatives and social media strategies. Dr. Mara also co-directs the the User Experience Lab, located in the Department of English.

**Kevin Brooks** led a book discussion of *Ahab's Wife: Or the Stargazer* by Sena Jeter Naslund at the Plains Art Museum on Thursday, October 10th at 7pm. This event was a community read sponsored by the Fargo Public Library, the Moorhead Public Library, West Fargo Public Library, and the Plains Art Museum. Participants viewed the paintings by T.L. Solien that were inspired by Naslund's novel as well as by Moby-Dick.

**Bruce Maylath**, professor of English, together with **Tatjana Schell** and **Massimo Verzella**, both Ph.D. students in English, joined faculty members from universities in Finland, Italy, and Spain in presenting “Enhancing Students’ Skills in Technical Writing and LSP Translation through Tele-Collaboration Projects: Teaching Students in Seven Nations to Manage Complexity in Multilateral International Collaboration” at the European Symposium on Languages for Specific Purposes, held in July in Vienna, Austria. Their paper highlighted the Trans-Atlantic Project, which brings together writing, usability testing, and translation classes in Europe and North America. Schell and Verzella both spoke of their experiences as members of NDSU’s International Technical Writing class when Maylath taught the course last fall. They were able to travel to the symposium after spending part of their summer with their families in their home countries. Schell is a citizen of both Germany and Russia; Verzella, of Italy.

NDSU English Department Professors **Gary Totten**, **Matt Duques**, and **Kelly Sassi**--along with Plains Art Museum Director Colleen Sheehy-- participated in a panel discussion at the Plains Art Museum on Thursday, Sept. 26th titled, *Art, Literature, and History in T. L. Solien: Toward the Setting Sun*. In this panel discussion, several specialists explored the ways in which Solien draws on other art forms as well as American history to create works of compelling visual impact and broad appeal. Panelists will present several viewpoints for further discussion with the audience. The presentations were as follows: "Print and Visual Culture during the American Renaissance" Matthew Duquès, PhD, "Remixing the Nineteenth Century." Gary Totten, PhD, "A Feminist Perspective on *Moby-Dick*, *Ahab's Wife*, and *Toward the Setting Sun*" Kelly Sassi, PhD, and "Excavating History: TL Solien and Contemporary Art" Colleen Sheehy, CEO and director of the Plains Art Museum. The event was supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Humanities Council.

## Visual Arts

Chadron State College in Chadron, NE has invited **Kimble Bromley** to exhibit his new paintings in the Chadron State Memorial Union Galleries.

The central theme of the work in the exhibition is a sub-series of Bromley's Moby-Dick series, which is currently showing at the Plains Art Museum. The ideas for this work are derived from the book, IN THE HEART OF THE SEA. This book illustrates the true story of a whale that sunk the whale ship Essex, the story that influenced Melville to write MOBY-DICK. There are a total of 14 paintings, 14 being significant and relating to the 14 Stations of the Cross. Each of the paintings was created from an event taking place in this true story. The paintings themselves become metaphors for life's struggles we all encounter every day. The exhibition opens October 23 and runs through November 15th, 2013. Bromley will also be presenting his "Creativity Enhancement Workshop" to the AHSS Learning Community Wednesday evening at 6:30 in Thompson Hall. Justin Atwell, Graduate Learning Community Coordinator for the College of AHSS states, "There are a number of ways faculty can get involved... engaging with students in this community... One program in particular that students have expressed interest in...is a community art program." Bromley will use hypnosis to assist students to get in touch with their creativity as they draw

**Michael Strand** has been invited to Washington University in St. Louis to present his recent work and lead a workshop for a new program called The Open Action Workshop. This new series creates an opportunity for scholars and artists from across Washington University to gather and exchange ideas around a central topic or body of work. These intimate and collegial Workshops are open to members of the campus community, as well as scholars and artists practicing within the region. The Open Action Workshop is a collaboration between Washington University's American Culture Studies and Art of the Rural. The first Open Action Workshop will be held October 9th at 11am and will feature Michael Strand, the Department Head of Visual Arts at North Dakota State University. Michael Strand is a ceramist whose work seeks to spark "benevolent disruptions" across the fields of art, craft, design, cultural studies, fieldwork, journalism, social science, activism, and a host of other disciplines. At the core of Michael's practice is the search to consider a piece of pottery not only as a made, aesthetic object, but as a bridge for engaging with historical and cultural context – and communicating this understanding, with inventiveness and humanity, to a diverse range of communities.