

EDEN



A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Like many academics, I suspect, I'm glancing at my calendar and wondering how we could already be so close to the end of the fall semester. For me, this is a special semester, my first here at Northern and as Head of the English Department, so the days and weeks have passed particularly quickly. I'd like to use this opportunity to comment on a few things I've immediately noticed and appreciated about NMU and our department.

First, our students are excited about their work. I've had conversations with them about authors as varied as Toni Morrison, Edgar Allan Poe, William Shakespeare, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. They discuss their research projects with enthusiasm, and they're looking forward to lifetimes engaged with literature. When I casually ask, "So, how do you like Northern?" they light up and say, "I love it."

Second, our faculty are excited about their work. Just this semester, faculty members are publishing books, writing articles, winning awards, and participating in multiple conferences, often accompanied by students. It's been particularly gratifying for me to hear faculty describe their scholarship and creative activities, and then describe how they're incorporating that material in their classrooms. I've been slowly reading my way through the books published by members of our department, and I'm again and again astonished at the quality.

Third, there's an energy here at NMU and within the English department that makes coming to campus a pleasure. Just this semester, we've hosted three visiting writers—Leslie Jamison, Tiphonie Yanique, and Kazim Ali—and we've also participated in the One Book, One Community program with novelist Robin Sloan. We've hosted scholar Rajendra Chetty who spoke on the literature of South Africa. Our teaching assistants organized a day of professional development workshops. We've inducted undergraduate students into Sigma Tau Delta and supported graduate students attending Nonfiction Now. We have many similar events scheduled for next semester, and we're already beginning to plan for next year. The success of these events depends on much work by many people, and so the last thing I'll say is just—thank you.

Lynn Domina



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements 2

Some Courses Offered 3



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ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) represents and gives voice to the concerns of all English graduate students at NMU. The EGSA works to foster greater participation of graduate students in the Northern community, and serves as a channel of communication between the English graduate students and other segments of the University (i.e. the faculty and administration). The EGSA helps institute and encourage initiatives central to graduate student welfare at Northern broadly conceived. Membership is open to all English graduate students currently enrolled in coursework.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Frank has a new nonfiction book coming out on November 9th called *THE MAD FEAST* (published by W.W. Norton/Liveright). He will be reading from this new book in Marquette on Thu. December 3rd, at 7pm, in the Shiras Room of Peter White Public Library.

Marek Haltof recently participated in a post-screening panel moderated by Stuart Liebman at the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York. He also delivered an invited one-hour presentation on "Screening Auschwitz: The Politics of Commemoration in *The Last Stage (Ostatni etap, 1948)*" at the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of Alberta, Canada. He also presented on *The Last Stage (1948)*, the Returning Camp Survivors, and the Making of the Holocaust Classic" at the Film and History Conference in Madison, WI.

Dr. Kia Jane Richmond and Briana Ormson (Elementary Ed Language Arts student) presented a session entitled "**Challenging Stereotypes in Middle School Literature**" at the Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) Fall Conference on October 30, 2015. Also attending the conference were Secondary English Ed students Lashawna Wagner and Ellyn Oswald. (Here is a photo of all four of them who went to the conference from NMU)



At the MCTE conference, Dr. Kia Jane Richmond was presented with the Charles Carpenter Fries Award, which is given for distinguished leadership, inspirational qualities, originality, academic superiority and a membership with the MCTE. A feature story in the [North Wind](#) gives more information about Dr. Richmond's award.

Rachel Mills would like to announce a series of essays that she is writing for [marquettemagazine.com](#). It's a series of food essays titled, "The Vagabond Kitchen".

NMU Writing Center Assistant Director **Amy Hansen** is pictured here with Ben Rafoth, Director of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Writing Center, author of one of NMU's writing tutor training texts, *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*, and



keynote speaker at the Annual International Writing Centers Association conference, held this year in Pittsburgh, PA. Hansen, NMU Writing Center Director and Assistant Professor Heidi Stevenson, NMU Writing Center Developmental Resource Manager Molly Fox, and recent MA graduate and former NMU Writing Center Assistant Director Mike Jacoby presented at the conference, held October 7-10. Their presentation was titled "Rapid Revolutions, Stunted Evolutions: The Revolving Door of Writing Center Staffing and its Effect on Writing Center Studies." This is the group's 4th panel presentation in the field of writing center studies since last year.

DEAR ENGLISH MAJORS AND ENGLISH MINORS,

Many of you have already registered for the winter semester, a fact that all of the faculty appreciate. If you have not yet registered, however, could you do so at your earliest convenience? Many of the classes are full, but a few of the upper division literature and writing courses don't yet have the minimum enrollment required for them to be offered. Most of them need only one or two more students. I don't want to cancel courses that have genuine student interest, but courses without sufficient enrollment will have to be canceled. So--if you're planning to take English courses and you haven't yet registered for them, don't delay! Just a refresher on some courses we are offering.

EN305: Tutoring Writing

Instructor: Heidi Stevenson hstevens@nmu.edu or 906-227-2762

Course Description: This class explores the theory, pedagogy, and practice of one-on-one writing instruction. This two credit course, previously available only for newly hired writing tutors at the NMU Writing Center, is now open to all undergraduates.

The individualized and decentralized writing instruction studied in EN 305 has been proven to be a successful component of writing instruction in a variety of environments, with a variety of populations.

If you think you are interested in working in any one-on-one writing-intensive instructional environment including the NMU Writing Center, other writing centers including community and high school writing centers, or any elementary, secondary, or higher education writing classrooms, consider adding EN 305 to your Winter 2016 schedule. If you have any questions or concerns contact Heidi Stevenson. She is the current Director of the NMU Writing Center and holds a Ph.D. in composition and rhetoric and has worked in multiple university writing centers.

EN311Z: Topics in World Lit: Postcolonial Caribbean

Instructor: Will Arighi warighi@nmu.edu

Course Description: This course will focus on how literature written after 1945 in Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Dominica has used melodramatic forms to narrate national histories. Melodrama is particularly concerned with the unintended effects of the past on the present, and seeks to narrate the logical necessity of these effects. Looking at Caribbean literature from the past seventy years, we'll question whether the past is always inevitably related to the present, or if it just looks that way from where we are now. We'll start with classic readings in melodramatic theory, and then move to novels and short stories by the likes of Jacques Roumain, Jean Rhys, Julia Alvarez, Rosario Ferré, Edwidge Danticat, Mayra Santos-Febres, and Marlon James, as well as the movie *West Side Story*. Secondary readings will include writings by Edouard Glissant, Sylvia Winter, Mimi Sheller, Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Shalini Puri, and Stuart Hall. This course will pay particular attention to questions of colonialism and imperialism, migration, and gender.

EN495/595 Literature and Photography

Instructor: Russ Prather rprather@nmu.edu

Course Description: Photographic historian Helmut Gernsheim described the timing of the invention of photography in the early nineteenth century as "the greatest mystery in its history." The mystery is why there was such a surge of interest in the medium at that particular historical moment, even though photography's optical and chemical principles had been known already for some time.

This interdisciplinary course begins by grappling with this mystery, considering specifically how Romantic literary and visual sensibilities at the turn of the eighteenth century may have spurred on the nascent medium of photography. The course will then go on to consider not only how photography was influenced but how in turn it informed and altered precepts and practices of literature (as well as painting) over the course of the nineteenth century. The seminar will end with an examination of the role of photography in early twentieth century Modernism.

EN511/ED595: The Teaching of Reading for the English Professional

Instructor: Wendy Farkas wfarkas@nmu.edu or 906-227-3220

Course Description: "An examination of techniques used to teach developmental reading, comprehension, and vocabulary, stressing practical applications to the classroom. Although intended for secondary and college-level English teachers, the techniques are adaptable to teaching in the content areas." This class counts toward English MA (Pedagogy Track or open elective in any track), TESOL elective, or Reading Specialist K-12 elective (with advisor approval).



Wishing you all
safe and happy
travels. May
your break be
wonderful and
refreshing.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!!

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you have any ideas to improve the newsletter or want to submit news, events, or an accomplishment to EDEN email us at: eden@nmu.edu

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Jamrich Hall room 3200.
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JOURNALS

[The Lightkeeper](#) - NMU's Official Undergraduate Literary Journal

[The North Wind](#) – Northern's independent student newspaper, which publishes every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The paper is funded by advertising and the student activity fee. Although independent from the university, the English Department provides a faculty adviser for the newspaper.

[Passages North](#) – The annual literary journal sponsored by Northern Michigan University. This publication has published short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction since 1979.

