



# Wordhord

Fall 2014

Northwestern College  
English Department Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 1



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by Savannah Sheets

The Franken Center, I mean Kepp Hall, which once held Campus Ministries and the Global Education department, now holds the English and Spanish Departments. When you walk in the door you meet Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Edgar Allan Poe, and Emily Dickinson. But in this century their names are Joel Westerholm, Ann Lundberg, Samuel Martin and Kim Van Es. They each have a passion that makes them great at teaching. When you put them all together you are thrust into a whirlpool of knowledge, each feeding off of one other's knowledge. Make sure you go when there is plenty coffee, otherwise the books start flying.

Ms. Van Es loves being able to see students more often. While she was at Doorenbos Cottage students didn't drop by to visit because it was so far away.

You exit your dorm, bundled in every layer of warm clothing known to a college student, and make the long trek to the Cottage. Sometimes you met a fellow student on the journey. You mention where you are going and they look at you with an "I'm so sorry" expression. They might even give you a hug to warm you up for the rest of the trek. Once you arrive you don't want to leave, knowing that you have to make the long journey back. Now students often just drop by for a chat before class. Ms. Van Es also mentions how great it is having the "whole English family together" and that it "feels like home." Ms. Van Es has had to move four times since she arrived at Northwestern and hopes that the English Department will stay in Kepp Hall for a while.

(Continued on page 3)

Photos left to right: Dr. Keith Fynaardt at home in his new office; Kepp Hall, west view; Dr. Ann Lundberg in her new office.



# Spring 2015 Registration Alert

Please take note of these course offering changes for the 2015-2016 academic year as you register for the Spring 2015 semester.

- ◆ *ENG 290 Art of the Essay* will only be offered once next year in the Spring of 2016.
- ◆ *ENG 288 Writing in Professions* will only be offered once next year in the Spring of 2016.
- ◆ *ENG 385 Lit of Place* will not be offered; junior and senior Teaching & Literature majors and minors needing to fulfill the either/or category should take *ENG 387 African American Literature* (which also counts as cross-cultural credit) in the Spring 2015.
- ◆ *ENG 401 History and Theory of Rhetoric* will not be offered; junior and senior Writing & Rhetoric majors and minors need to take it in the Spring 2015

## SPECIAL TOPICS FOR THE SPRING 2015 SEMESTER

### ENG 480 The Agricultural Imagination

Dr. Keith Fynaardt

Tuesday/Thursday 12:05 - 1:45 pm



Join Dr. Fynaardt for a course about the literature and culture of agriculture. We will read novels, non-fiction, poetry, and excerpts from a wide variety of writers, including books by Willa Cather, Verlyn Klinkenborg, and Don Kurtz, and short fiction by Will Weaver and Ron Hansen. We will discuss the films *Troublesome Creek* and *Cold Comfort Farm*. Other readings and conversations will consider a variety of questions and perspectives both cultural and agricultural: the principles of crop production, food politics, the new agrarianism, the omnivore's dilemma, environmental ethics, and the quest to feed the world.

*"The most insistent and formidable concern of agriculture, wherever it is taken seriously, is the distinct individuality of every farm, every field on every farm, every farm family, and every creature on every farm."* -Wendell Berry

\*This Daniel Webster quote appears as a caption under Grant Wood's original mural paintings on display at the Iowa State University Library.



# ENGLISH FOLK ROAD TRIP

Film Viewing in Sioux Center



Most of us had enjoyed reading the book in middle school and were eager to see the film version. We critiqued the showing over root beer floats on Ms. Van Es's patio. We agreed that though the film was more romanticized than the book, it did a good job showing both the pain and the color of a world with emotion and choices. Film Critics photographed are: front row - Sarah Morren, Savannah Sheets, Liz Meier; back row - Allison Mulder, prospective student Courtney Woelbur, Whitney Jorgensen, Abigail Stattery, Morgan Tessier, and Isaiah Taylor.

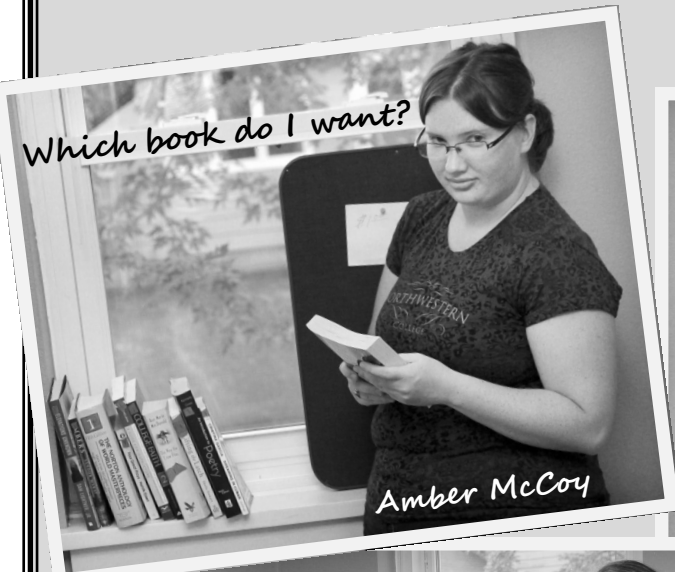
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Unlike Ms. Van Es, Dr. Martin has only had to move once. He said that it seems more “lively Kepp.” Being closer to each other has allowed the professors to be able to ask one other questions and be able to chat about their classes. Mr. Martin enjoys hearing the Spanish classes too. Having English and Spanish in the same building is rather interesting; two different languages, histories and cultures being taught together, each knowing that they are preparing their students to answer God’s call.

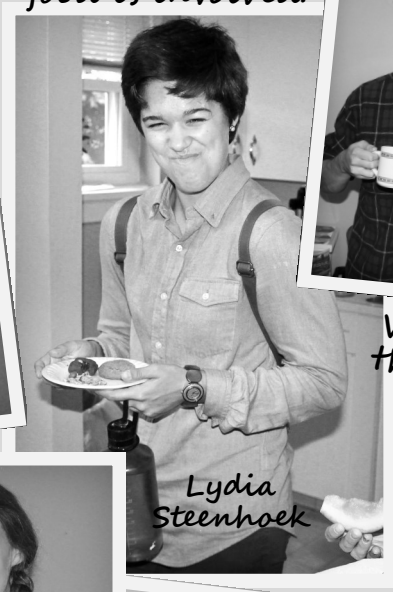
I love having the English Department on campus. Last year I got lost trying to find Doorenbos Cottage. (Let’s not even mention Muilenburg Cottage, which was literally off the map.) It was also discouraging, as a student, to have to walk that far to get help on an assignment, especially when it was forty below. As an English major I can truly say that I love having the English Department closer to campus. Being able to have our English classes in a place where you are surrounded by those who appreciate the written language like you do makes you feel like you belong.

Which book do I want?



Amber McCoy

As always food is involved!



Lydia Steenhoek

Lucas Fratzke & Whitney Jorgensen



What can be better than a cup of coffee and good books!



Left to right: Shelby Maznio, Julianna Kempema, & Camille Visser

Savannah Sheets minds the store



Allison Mulder & her prize



Sally Edman makes a haul!

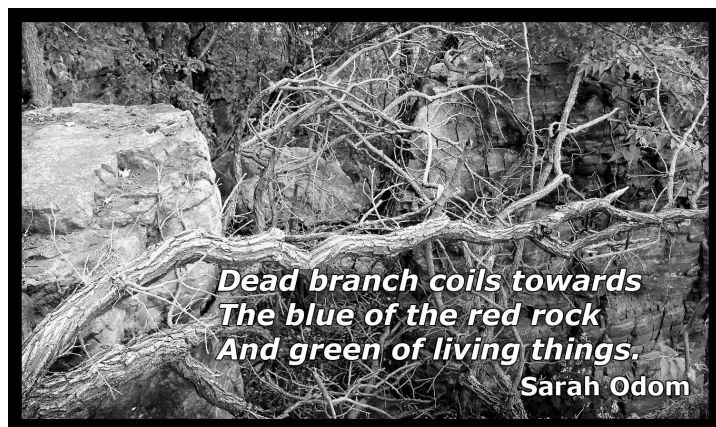
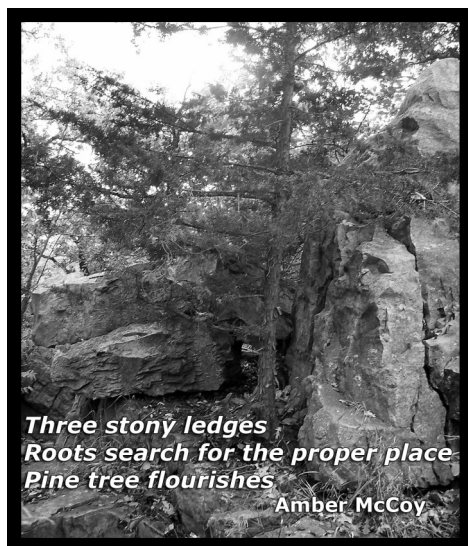
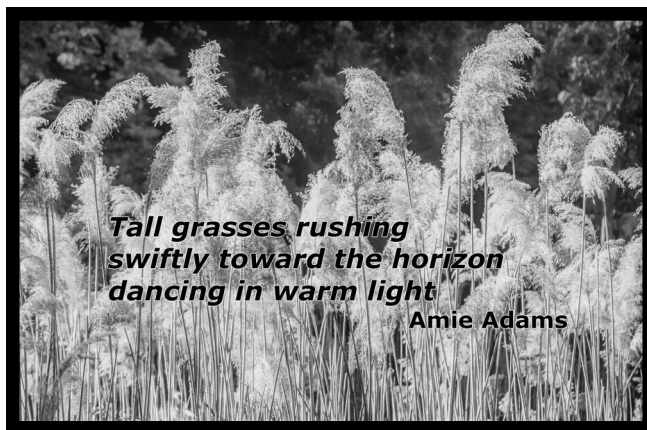
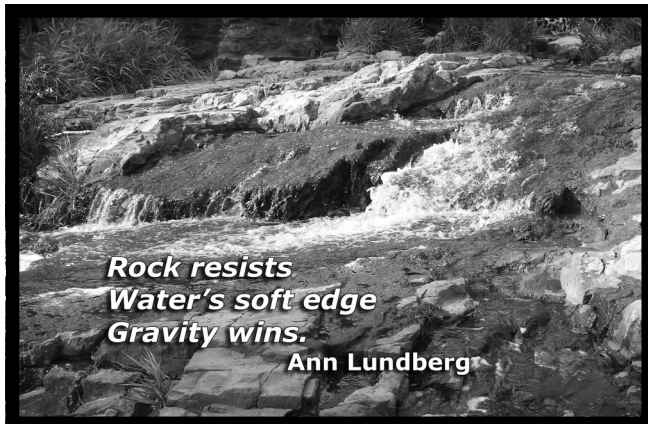
English Department  
Fall Coffee House  
& Book Sale



# REFLECTIVE EXCURSION

## Exploring the natural world from a writer's perspective

In late September, the Writing Nature class took a field trip to Blue Mounds State Park in Minnesota, where they generally ran wild, took lots of pictures, contemplated the changing season (the mushrooms, the red grasses, the occasional deer in the early evening light...), and gathered material for their writing. In class the next week they wrote haiku based on some of the images collected during their ramblings.



# FROM OLD-FASHIONED NOTEBOOKS TO NEW-FANGLED APS

ROAD TRIP  
TO ICTE

by Kim Van Es

It has become a tradition for Professor Kim Van Es and English Teaching majors to take an October road trip to Johnston, IA for the Iowa Council of Teachers of English (ICTE) annual fall conference. The journey is never disappointing. ET majors get to be with “their people”: women and men who treasure words and desire to pass on their love and skill to others.

Highlights of the conference varied by attendee. Nicole Montgomery was inspired by keynote speaker Aimee Buckner, who shared effective ways to use writers’ notebooks

in the classroom. Savannah Sheets’s favorite session was “Book Love,” in which an Iowa City High School teacher explained ways to apply for book grants, organize your classroom, and use an app to check out books to students.

A number of attending teachers worked in one-to-one schools, so Sarah Morren listened closely to how these teachers were using the high computer access to both teach language arts skills and streamline the paper load. Whitney Jorgensen got her film fix hearing about how Iowa films can be used in the English classroom.

The conference was as much about the people as about the sessions. Both Montgomery and Sheets ran into their high school English teachers. We witnessed national teacher of the year 2010 Sarah Brown Wessling receive ICTE’s Distinguished Service Award. Our group ate a couple meals with ’13 NW alum Ashlee (Eiesland) Koedam, English teacher at West Lyon, and also met Tracy (Anderson) Tensen, ’87 NW English major now teaching in Gilbert, IA.

In an interesting joint session with Iowa Department of Education Director Brad Buck, attendees witnessed some of the politics of the field: misunderstanding about the Iowa Core, stress over increased class sizes, and frustration over the elimination of school librarians and electives. Despite this reality check, all four NW students felt affirmed in their choice to pursue the field of English teaching and were thankful for the opportunity to attend ICTE.

Ashlee Koedam, 2013 NW English Teaching graduate holding the table sign, shared first-year teaching advice with NW students Sarah Morren, Whitney Jorgensen, Savannah Sheets, and Nicole Montgomery. Koedam teaches middle school and high school English in the West Lyon district.





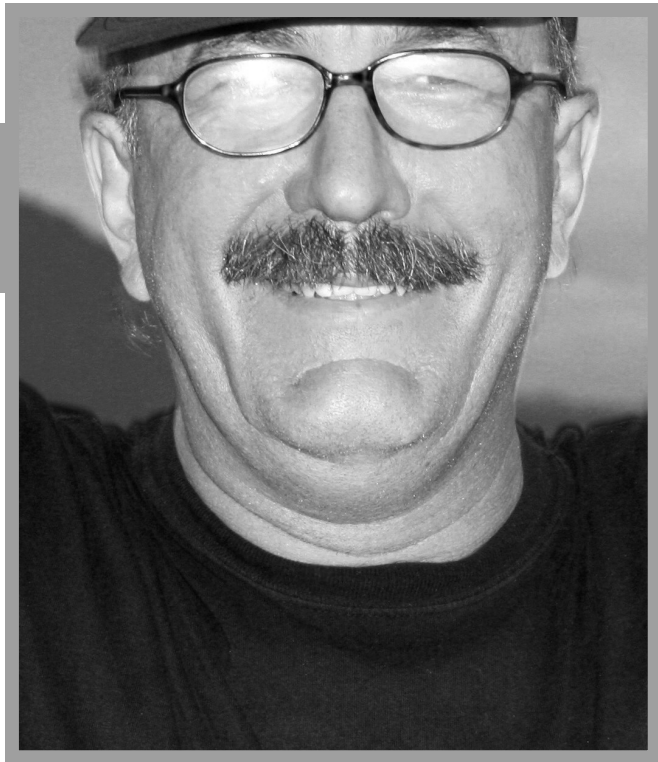
Northwestern College  
to host

**JAMES TUGHAN**  
ARTIST & POET

**As a Nelson-Artist, James will  
speak in Chapel on Monday &  
Tuesday, Nov. 10 & 11.**

**James will also present his current  
project, TRIAGE, at a joint Art &  
DeepSong event**

**Monday, Nov. 10, 7 pm  
TePaske Gallery**



\_\_\_\_\_ TRIAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
New Drawings and Poetry from the Forest Psalter

Triage is a celebration of the beauty of small worlds beneath our feet, as we encounter them in gardens all around us; down our street, in the north, at the lake. The show is a cartographic realist mapping of these exquisite abstract surfaces, which, for the artist, have been a great source of comfort since his childhood.

The show is also a celebration of the fragile bonds that connect us in relationship, and sustain us in adversity. These works are about leaving benchmark evidence of our presence in places we inhabit and call home. They are about a sense of attachment and respect both with the physical, aesthetic world, and also the interpersonal world that really drives our sense of identity. The "realism" in these works is a reflection of more worlds than can be seen and touched, and is therefore also about being of inestimable value as creative beings made by the Original Artist, Jesus.

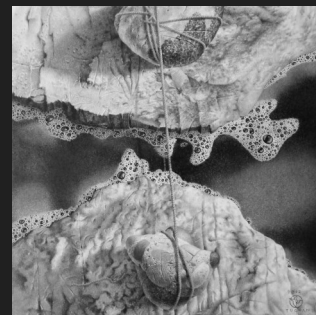
MARKED



GRACE



SPAN



# FINDING VALUE FINDING MYSELF

**I learned at Northwestern  
how to tell a story and that  
every person's story is valuable.**

I came to Northwestern with the intention of earning a degree in English Education; by the time I left, I had realized that despite being enamored with reading and writing, I didn't love teaching. Instead I hold a degree in English and Writing and Rhetoric - boy that's a mouthful!

My first semester I took Intro to Literature with Professor Fynaardt, a class that I was ardently opposed to since I considered it to be a waste of my time. See, I had taken the Advanced Placement exam in high school and my score was high enough to exempt me from introductory classes at several of the colleges on my list, but it was not high enough for Northwestern. I also thought it was silly to force me into an introductory class since I planned to spend the majority of my coursework focusing on Literature. So I had a bad attitude. But Professor Fynaardt didn't. Eventually, after I had received some positive feedback on my skills in literary analysis, and had read some mid-century American fiction that I hadn't been previously exposed to, I quit acting like a child having a tantrum and opened up to the process.

The final novel of that semester changed my life and reshaped my worldview, (another thing I had heard would happen at Northwestern that I thought was totally ridiculous before it actually happened). We read Willa Cather's *My Antonia* and I learned an appreciation for place unlike any I had ever before experienced. I have been an Iowa girl all my life, but I was always looking for a way to escape, to move on to bigger and better things. Reading Cather's descriptions of the beauty of Nebraska and realizing that it was something other than a barren wasteland that you drive through to get somewhere more exciting made me take an honest look at my homeplace. In doing so, I discovered so much beauty, diversity and character. I fell in love with my state and found a sense of peace in knowing that it will forever be my earthly home.

Now, I am the wife of a United Methodist pastor. One of the things that means is that until retirement, I will have very little say about where we live. I know that we will never be appointed outside of state lines unless we request to move to another conference; but each time we await appointment I must be open to finding the beauty in the place that the Bishop tells us is our new home.

I also learned at Northwestern how to tell a story and that every person's story is valuable. It was this lesson that gave me the courage to ask for my own column only a week after beginning my job as proofreader for the local newspaper. Now I write a monthly column about any subject related to parenting that I wish. I also use story as a way to teach my daughters about who they are, where they come from and the values we hold dear as a family.

I didn't expect my time at Northwestern to change how I look at the world and the people in it. But it did, and for that and so much more, I am forever grateful.



*Jacki is married to Andrew Bardole (History '06) and they have two daughters Brady (8) and Ava (6). The Bardoles live in Corning, IA where she works as a proofreader/ columnist/ reporter/ billing & circulation specialist at the Adams County Free Press.*