

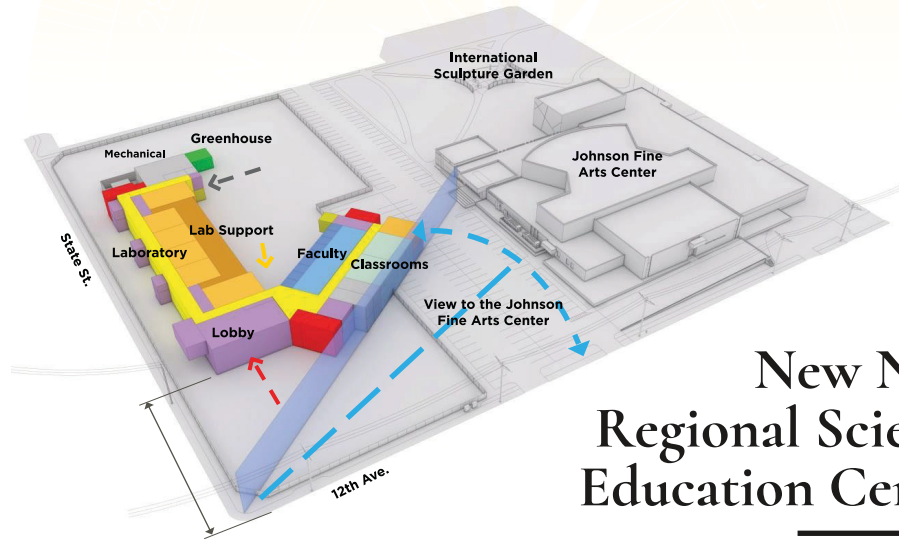
# TRUE NORTH



## Greetings from Dean Hagen

Dear Friends of NSU's College of Arts and Sciences,

We can be proud of what our students, faculty, and staff have achieved over the last year. It is remarkable. This short newsletter offers only a small sample of those achievements, but it nonetheless highlights how the College contributes to NSU's continued commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service in collaboration with our colleagues across campus. Unfortunately, newsletters invariably fail to capture the College's greatest contribution, and that is the amazing experiences that occur daily between faculty and students in classrooms, offices, hallways, and countless other places. That is the true heart and soul of Northern. That is our True North.



## New NSU Regional Science Education Center

The state legislature has approved construction of NSU's new Regional Science Education Center. A final design will be completed by the end of the summer, and construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2018. The building should be operational for the 2019 fall semester. NSU's Science faculty are thrilled by this important addition to our campus. This new, state-of-the-art facility will provide much needed space for Science faculty and students

as they have outgrown their current space in Mewalt-Jensen. Specialized lab space will include a microscopy suite and a cadaver lab. Common lab prep areas will improve efficiency, and a second greenhouse will enhance their teaching collection, as well as provide space for commercial ventures. In addition, the building will facilitate recruitment and interaction with area K-12 students.

## New Gross Anatomy Course

For the first time, Northern is offering a cadaver-based anatomy course. This course, BIOL 411 Gross Anatomy, is open to students who have successfully completed BIOL 221/L Human Anatomy, but enrollment is limited by the instructor,

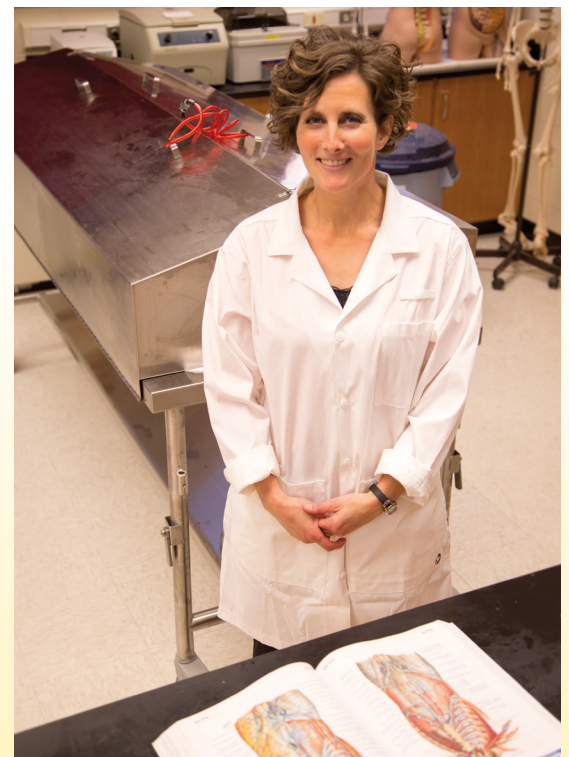
Dr. Alyssa Kiesow, to ten students per semester.

The cadavers, one female and one male, were provided by The University of South Dakota Body Donor Program and are stored in a lab with specialized ventilation and regulated access. During the semester, students and Dr. Kiesow investigate the human body via four-hour weekly dissections and gain perspective of the human body through these activities. In addition, students and Dr. Kiesow discuss diseases and anomalies found during the dissections and invoke critical thinking as it pertains to body systems and structures through one-hour weekly discussions. The course is a valuable addition to the Science program at NSU and is a great success, as evidenced in students' responses:

I like this experience because it is unlike any other class at Northern and is great prep for medical school. – **Marcus Marcellus**

This experience will be beneficial for my future as I pursue a career in the medical field. It will really help set me apart from others and allow me to understand how the human body works on a deeper level. – **Molly Wynn**

I love the hands-on aspect of the class. It has been super beneficial to see the body, muscles, organs, etc. in a person because to see them first hand and relate them to previous knowledge has been a great learning tool. Also, it is a great way to prepare for graduate school. – **Breann Jackson**



## Dr. Lewis Helps Edit a Literary Series



Dr. Ginny Lewis, Professor of German, has been serving as series editor

for the scholarly publishing company Peter Lang of Zurich and New York, having taken over, as one of three editors, the *Studies on Themes and Motifs in Literature* series in 2015.

The series was begun in 1991 under General Editor Horst Daemrlich of the University of Pennsylvania, with whom Lewis studied while earning her Ph.D. Since assuming her role as editor, Lewis has overseen the publication of six volumes:

*Becoming Fiction: Reassessing Atheism in Dürrenmatt's "Stoffe,"* by Olivia Gabor-Peirce

*Serious Fiction: J. M. Coetzee and the Stakes of Literature,* by Duncan McColl Chesney

*Seven Essays: Studies in Literature, Drama, and Film,* by Abdulla M. Al-Dabbagh

*The Final Crossing: Death and Dying in Literature,* edited by John J. Han

and Clark C. Triplett

*Somnambulist Lucidity – the Sleepwalker in the Works of Gustav Meyrink,* by Eric Klaus (forthcoming)

*Celebrating the Sacred in Ordinary Life: James Joyce and the Renaissance Magus,* by Thomas D. Absher (forthcoming)

The series advances the study of themes and motifs across the spectrum of world literature in order to investigate the patterns that inform literary production as a whole and the creative treatment of inherited culture in national literatures and by individual authors. Lewis finds her work as series editor extremely rewarding, because it allows her to put her

experience as a seasoned scholar to use in mentoring younger scholars who may be seeking tenure at their home institutions or are entering the academe having recently completed their Ph.Ds. But well-known scholars also propose books for the series, and the opportunity to read their work and see it through the publication process is likewise rewarding. In the end, scholarship is about a conversation concerning complex topics that are worthy of exploration, because they allow us to understand the human journey just a little bit better. When Lewis facilitates the final publication of a volume, she donates a copy to the NSU library, thus enriching the collection in world literature.

## English Club TV Makes Its Debut

Students and faculty tuning in to the NSU television this year will notice a new program: *English Club TV*. This new student-run television show is hosted by two English majors, Ashley Jenkins and Holly Holborn, and centers on discussions of books, ideas, film, and a host of cultural issues.



The bimonthly show features a different guest for each program, and the discussion ranges across a spectrum of topics. The inaugural show, which paired a student and faculty member—Melanie

Monnier and Dr. Elizabeth Haller—centered on a *Lord of the Rings* theme, and explored questions of film adaptation and casting choices. Subsequent programs have featured as guests Drs. Ric Dias, Pen Pearson, Erin Fouberg, and Lysbeth Benkert-Rasmussen. Conversation topics have ranged from career options for students and Shakespeare's plays to the Electoral College and more personal stories. *English Club TV* has allowed students

to interact with professors and staff and to learn about fun facts and personal interests of NSU instructors. Show host Ashley Jenkins explained that this is an aspect of the show that she finds greatly appealing: "What I really like about *English Club TV* is learning about everyone's path to being a professor. It's easy to forget that our faculty were all university students once, and it's interesting to hear how everyone got from point A to point B." Jenkins points

to all the fun facts students will learn about their professors as one reason to tune in to the show: "I think students should watch because they will learn a few facts about NSU's faculty that they wouldn't have learned in class. Why does Dr. Pearson always wear a triceratops necklace? Why did Dr. Dias, admittedly, hate graduate school? Which Marvel movies does Dr. Benkert enjoy?" And perhaps it's not just students who would like learning those facts.

## Students Gain Applied Skills in Victim Advocacy

Victim advocacy is activity committed to providing comprehensive services and support that address the physical, emotional, and financial needs of individuals and communities that result from victimization.

A victim advocate has the unique ability to devote attention to the various needs of the victim while at the same time acting as a liaison with criminal justice system officials to keep the victim and their support network informed of the progress of the criminal case. Law enforcement agencies, shelters, and court services are some of the system components that utilize victim advocates.

NSU is the academic partner in the state-based training offered by the Office of Victims of Crime. In summer 2016, five select students in Criminal Justice and Human Services participated in the first annual South Dakota Victim Assistance Academy. The students, who participated in a simultaneous course titled Applied Victim Advocacy, included Rachel Albright, Grace Evenson,

Amanda Hieb, Kristine Maag, and Nicole Mohr. The three-credit course provided students with an introduction to the practice of victim advocacy; specifically and most importantly, central to the course was hands-on victim advocacy training, which was held at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre between June 19 and 24.



## NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



**Justin Bartel**, Professional Academic Advisor, moved to Aberdeen and joined Northern State as the Jump Start Retention Advisor in June 2015. He has a Master's in School Counseling from South Dakota State University and

BS in Geography and Geographic Information Sciences, also from SDSU. Bartel has worked with students in a variety of capacities such as school counselor, teacher, coach, admissions representative, and academic advisor.



**Brian Bengs**, Esq., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, has a Bachelor's in History from Iowa State University, a Master's in History from Louisiana Tech University, a Juris Doctor from the University of

Iowa, and a Master of Laws from The George Washington University. His areas of expertise are International Law and Criminal Law. Bengs recently retired from the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps as a lieutenant colonel with twenty-one years of active duty service. During his military service, he worked as a prosecutor, defense counsel, Assistant Professor of Law at the Air Force Academy, and operational law instructor at the NATO School. He will be developing a Homeland Security focus area within the broader Criminal Justice field.



**Joshua Hagen**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has a Ph.D. and a Master's in Geography from the University

of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor's in Geography and Political Science from the University of Northern Iowa. He was previously Professor of Geography and Department Chair at Marshall University.



**Joanne Nemmers**, Secretary for the Department of Languages, Literature, and Communication Studies, has a Bachelor's in German from Douglass College (Rutgers University). She began her career as a personnel officer

in the U.S. Air Force, serving in California and in Turkey. She has lived, worked, and traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe, bringing to NSU's College of Arts and Sciences forty years of administrative experience in a variety of industries and an understanding of foreign customs and cultures.



**Stacy Trentham**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, has a Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Morris and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from North Dakota State University. While at NDSU,

she taught a variety of undergraduate math courses and was a participant in the NSF grant-supported program GraSus. Through this program, she was paired with a local high-school math teacher to enhance the classroom experience by creating "real-world" application projects. After graduate school, Dr. Trentham went on to teach Mathematics at Armstrong State University in Savannah, GA for five years. Her research interests lie in the field of factorization theory.

## Rising Scholars Program Seeking NACEP Accreditation

NSU's Rising Scholars (RS) Program is currently seeking accreditation by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), the sole national accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships. NSU's Rising Scholars Program director, Terry Piatz, with assistance from other university departments, submitted Northern's self-study in June 2016 and expects the final decision of accreditation will be forthcoming in April 2017.

The RS Program, which allows high-school students to earn credit toward high-school graduation and a college degree simultaneously,

began at NSU in 2005. The program partners with nine high schools in South Dakota, with one more school joining in fall 2017. As of fall 2016, 460 students were enrolled in the program. Concurrent enrollment courses are taught in the high school by college-approved high-school teachers who must have a Master's degree in their discipline or a Master's degree plus eighteen discipline-specific graduate credits. NSU faculty collaborate with the high-school teachers to develop the courses. The program offers courses in Art, Biology, Chemistry, English, History, Mathematics, and Speech.

## DR. ELKHADER RETIRES



**Dr. Abid Elkhader**, Professor of Mathematics, will retire after twenty-seven years of service to NSU in the Department of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Over that

time, Dr. Elkhader's dedication to helping his students succeed has been remarkable. In addition to teaching, Dr. Elkhader served Northern in a variety of roles, including those of Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Interim Dean, Head and Director of the Department of Mathematics, Director of the Office of Instructional Services, Interim Coordinator of the Grants Office, member of the Faculty Senate, and chair of the South Dakota Board of Regents Math Discipline Council. Dr. Elkhader was also awarded a Bush Leadership Fellowship from the Archibald Bush Foundation, Senior Fulbright Scholar Award from the U.S. Department of State, and the Nora Staael Evert Faculty Award from Northern. Dr. Elkhader was recognized for his overall contributions by receiving the Outstanding Faculty Award at NSU in 1997. We thank Dr. Elkhader for all his contributions to Northern and wish him all the best in retirement.

## FACULTY PROMOTIONS



Please join me in congratulating **Drs. Jon Mitchell** and **George Nora**, both in the Department of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics,



on their successful applications for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor last year. This marks a significant milestone in their professional development and represents a long-term,

reciprocal commitment between faculty and the university. Well done!

**Dr. Alyssa Anderson**, Assistant Professor of Biology, has published two articles in *Chironomus: Journal of Chironomidae Research*: “A Time to Reflect and a Look to the Future,” and “Benefits of Chironomid Research: Perspectives from Undergraduate Researchers,” the latter co-authored with N. J. Roberts, T. I. Durnin, and W. M. Wollman, all past or present NSU students.

**Dr. Guangwei Ding**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, collaborated on three articles in 2016: “Evaluating Winter Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) Nitrogen Status with Canopy Spectrum Reflectance and Multiple Statistical Analysis,” co-authored with Mei-chen Feng, Jia-Jia Zhao, Wu-De Yang, Chao Wang, Mei-Jun Zhang, and Lu-Jie Xiao, and “Impact of Spectral Saturation on Leaf Area Index and Above Ground Biomass Estimation of Winter Wheat,” co-authored with Chao Wang, Mei-Chen Feng, Wu-De Yang, Hui Sun, Zhuo-Ya Liang, Yong-Kai Xie, and Xing-Xing Qiao, were published in *Spectroscopy Letters*, and “Use of Spectral Character to Evaluate Soil Organic Matter,” co-authored with Chao Wang, Mei-chen Feng, Wu-de Yang, Hui-qin Wang, Zhi-hua Li, Hui Sun, and Chao-chao Shi, was published in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.

**Dr. Andrzej Duszenko**, Professor of English, published an article titled “Abnihilation of the Etym: Joyce, Rutherford and Particle Physics” in the fall 2016 issue of the *Irish University Review: A Journal of Irish Studies*.

**Dr. David Grettler**, Professor of History, published an article titled “Activity for Body and Mind: The Career of Nora Staael Evert, Physical Therapy Pioneer” in the spring 2017 issue of *South Dakota History*. Grettler also participated in the Northern Great Plains History Conference in St. Cloud, MN, where he presented a paper on James “Ackicitana” King, the last Indian scout at Fort Sisseton, SD.

**Dr. Joshua Hagen**, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, co-authored a chapter titled “Changing Modalities of Power in the Twenty-first Century” in the book *Border Politics: Defining Spaces of Governance and Forms of Transgression* (Springer, 2017). Hagen also published an article titled “Revisiting Pork Spending, Place Names, and Political Stature in West Virginia” in the journal *PAST: The International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture*, and a book review of *The Prehistory of Home* by Jerry D. Moore in the journal *Material Culture*. The Gerda Henkel Foundation also published an online interview with Hagen titled “Organizing Space, Creating Places: Interview with Joshua Hagen on Architecture of the Nazi Regime.”

**Dr. Alyssa Kiesow**, Associate Professor of Biology, published an article titled “Characterization and Isolation of Microsatellite Loci for False Map Turtles” in the spring 2017 issue of the *American Midland Naturalist*.

**Dr. Peter Ramey**, Assistant Professor of English, published an article titled “The Riddle of Beauty: The Aesthetics of *Wrætlíc* in Old English Verse” in *Modern Philology*. In addition, Ramey published a book review of Mercedes Salvador-Bello’s recent monograph, *Isidorean Perceptions of Order: The Exeter Book Riddles and Medieval Latin Enigmata* (West Virginia UP, 2015) for *Speculum*, a journal of medieval studies.

**Dr. Courtney Waid-Lindberg**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, collaborated on four articles. “Frontier Justice: Examining Representations of Modern Rural Policing on Television,” co-authored with Kristi Brownfield, was published in the *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research*. The remaining three articles were presented at professional conferences: “Perceptions of the Death Penalty,” co-authored with Steve Geer and Rhonda R. Dobbs, was presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in New Orleans, LA in November 2016; “Sexual Assault in the Military,” co-authored with Brian Bengs, was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Sociological Association in Sioux Falls, SD in October 2016; and “Grindhouse and Girl Gangs: The Globalization of Women’s Violence in Fringe Films,” co-authored with Greg DePies, was presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Seattle, WA in August 2016.

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