



2021

Contributor Notes

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Contributor Notes

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J. Alcon is an undergraduate at the University of North Dakota graduating in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree. She is married to the most wonderful man alive and they have two exceptionally sweet boys. She lives a life of exquisite seclusion just north of the badlands on Blue Creek Estate.

Heather Barry is a Mojave Desert native living off-and-on between Grand Forks, North Dakota & California. She's an English major in her senior year. She (hopes) to be joining the North Dakota Army National Guard in 2021 & continue to write poetry & short stories, but mostly poetry & social issues more widely.

Meghan Bird was born and raised in Chanhassen, Minnesota, and is currently a senior at the University of North Dakota where she is working hard to obtain her BA in English, as well as her certificate in Writing and Editing. Meghan's career goal is to work in publication as she wants to help aspiring writers the way her professors and classmates have helped her!

Erin Breen: I'm a part-time, online student here at UND with an anticipated graduation date of June 2022. I earned a certificate in creative writing with a focus in poetry from Idyllwild Arts Academy where I also served as the nonfiction editor and social media manager at <http://parallax-online.com/>. My pieces have been published in a few publications and my chapbook, *Misconceptions*, was published by Wild Idylls Press. Outside of UND, I work full time and intern at Cars.com. I live in Elgin, IL, with my teacup poodle, Betty, and my best friend since high school. I taught myself how to read when I was four and haven't stopped since.

Kylee Danks is a senior at UND graduating in December 2021. She is majoring in

Communications and Visual Arts with an emphasis on Painting and Drawing. She has interned and worked at UND Art Collections and has been involved in local art events. When not working with the arts she spends time with her dog, Casper, and enjoys the outdoors.

Cole Dennis: Howdy, my name is Cole Dennis. I am an Air Traffic Control major from Kansas City, MO and graduated in the spring of 2020. I am currently working for a company called UFA in Mayland and am waiting for the FAA to start hiring so I may become an Air Traffic Controller. During my time at UND I was a proud member of the Pride of The North marching band and a member of SATCA. In my spare time, I'm out for bike rides around the greenway, hanging with friends, or out taking photos (the night sky is one of my favorites to shoot). I really enjoyed my time at UND and can't wait to comeback and visit friends and take more photos.

Casey Fuller is an English PhD student in his first year at UND. His grew up in the cloudiest city in the United States: Olympia, Washington.

Connor Grenier is a student at the University of North Dakota. Among his hobbies of reading, going outside, playing games, and enjoying the company of others, he finds time for his favorite of any artistic pursuit, writing.

Leah Noel Hanley is currently in pursuit of a Master of Arts degree in English at the University of North Dakota. Her writing focuses on the exploration of deeply human experiences, through which she hopes to inspire empathy across cultural boundaries, and to promote the need to conserve and preserve our Earth. When Leah is not writing (or completing schoolwork), she is likely cross stitching, cooking, or spending quality time with her loved ones.

Charlotte Hatch is a senior at UND majoring in Commercial Aviation, hoping to get hired as a certified flight instructor this summer. Originally from Central Pennsylvania, she enjoys this spring weather. She spends her free time painting, weaving, playing drums, and biking.

Charles Henry is a second semester English M.A. student at UND, with interests in composition theory, sociolinguistics, and the early modern and medieval British periods. He received his undergraduate in English and Education at West Liberty University, where he also began his creative writing journey. His writings often deal with exploring the underside of the expected experience of language and examining the

shifting forms and conventions of writing. Charles has lived all over the eastern U.S., originally growing up on a farm in the Ohio valley, and he enjoys bringing those experiences into his writing.

Brenda Kezar is a short story writer pursuing a bachelor's in English. She has the uncanny ability to imagine the worst that could happen in any given situation, and she channels that superpower into writing speculative fiction in the genres of horror, science fiction, and fantasy. When not reading or writing, she wrangles research rodents for the UND School of Medicine.

Derek McFarland is a commercial aviation student from Pennsylvania.

Keely McLean is a sophomore at the University of North Dakota from Rosemount, Minnesota, majoring in Commercial Aviation with a minor in English. Keely has spent her time here by attending hockey games at the Ralph, collecting plastic bags for the Energy & Environment Club and studying at Archives Coffeehouse. Keely is looking forward to returning to her summer job where she teaches children's golf camps, getting sushi with her friends and hiking in her local regional park. With her education from UND, she plans on traveling across the country and abroad to pursue her passions in journaling and flight.

Grant McMillan is a first year PhD student in UND's English Department. Grant moved to Grand Forks from the Appalachian region of North Carolina and spent his first North Dakota winter growing herbs and tending to his house plants. As the weather has gotten warmer, he has been reviving the old garden bed next to where he lives and is looking forward to growing summer veggies.

Maria Matsakis is a first-year graduate student in the English Department at the University of North Dakota.

Michaela Oosthuizen was born in Stellenbosch South Africa. She loves studying literature and running the 800m on the track and tries as best she can to balance the two passions. Ever since childhood, she was fond of writing stories and poetry. At age 9, she used her favourite place—a farm in Nelspruit Mpumalanga—as her first muse to begin writing poetry. In high school, she shifted her focus to people and events and has explored them ever since. Her poetry attempts to capture some of the complexities and depths of the human experience through simple, yet compelling verse and imagery. She also likes to season her work by experimenting with different

rhyme schemes, sounds, and form. Michaela is currently completing a Masters degree in English at UND whilst competing in track and field for the university.

Jona L. Pedersen grew up in Norway, but has since relocated to the US where they are pursuing a degree in English with a minor in biology at the University of North Dakota. Weaving contemporary culture with old myths, Jona's fiction and poetry unveil the spaces in between reality and dreaming. Passions such as wildlife biology, entomology, and environmental justice also inspire their writing. For more about their work, check out their Twitter (@JonaLPedersen) or website (www.jonalpedersen.com).

Shilo Virginia Previti was born near the marshy outskirts of noirish Atlantic City, NJ, and raised in a cedar bog during a natural Pygmy Pines wildfire deep in the Pine-lands reserve. They have held various jobs on the east coast, including teaching English in county jails, assisting with writing workshops for Murphy Writing, and moonlighting as a waitress & a newspaper deliveryman, but they have recently moved away from the sea to complete an M.A. in English at UND.

Jacqueline Raatz is a senior Drawing and Painting BFA major with affinities for French Cuisine, biking, newspaper comics and Baroque paintings. Since retiring from the ND Army National Guard, she spends most of her time with her family and in her garden, kitchen, and art studio.

Parker Stenseth is an undergraduate student studying English, Economics, and French. He has a special interest in film studies. At this point, he's just trying to figure out how to have a less successful version of Paul Auster's career.

Kai Szulborski is a graduate student, English GTA, and writer at UND. He first tried writing after he fell in love with a badly written gothic space-opera about a small blue ghoulish who uses the soul of Charles Dickens to power his giant hammer-wielding robot. Now, he mostly writes about giant sad women crying in deserts. He is currently working very hard to accelerate the process of entropy in order to eliminate all stars in the universe. That way, he can sleep in as long as he wants.

Seth Thoeke is a recent graduate of UND with a B.S. in Computer Science and B.A. in Honors. He has long been fascinated by the power of storytelling, especially science fiction and the draw of fantastic worlds. He currently works as an Associate Computer Scientist at Microbeam Technologies, Inc.

Zamzam Ulow: Hello! my name is Zamzam Ulow. This is my first year here at UND currently majoring in Computer Science. I like to read, sleep, think, and, of course, take pictures in my spare times. Photography is a passion of mine that I would like to continue pursuing and advance at. Most of my works are candid portraits of people showing raw emotions which I find beautiful. Hope you enjoy and have a good day!

Elise Unterseher is a current University of North Dakota student who will graduate in spring 2021 with a bachelor's in English and a certificate in creative writing. Starting fall 2021, she will be attending the George Washington University to earn a Masters in Publishing. In the future, Elise hopes to have a career in the publishing or copy-editing field, and then later on further her education.

Andrew Youngblom is an MFA candidate at UND who specializes in drawing and painting. He expands upon classical realism by embracing multiple strategies that may draw connections between concepts, raise questions or highlight contradictions. His current work reflects on everyday routines and existential concerns.

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Meghan Bird
Erin Breen
Kylee Danks
Cole Dennis
Casey Fuller
Connor Grenier
Leah Hanley
Charlotte Hatch
Charles Henry
Brenda Kezar
Derek McFarland
Keely McLean
Grant McMillan
Maria Matsakis
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Jona L. Pedersen
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