

**Lysbeth Em Benkert**  
**Professor of English**

Department of Languages, Literature, and Communication Studies  
Northern State University  
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**Education:**

Ph.D. English Literature; Washington State University, 1994  
M. A. English Literature; Washington State University, 1990  
B. A. English-Biology; Chatham College, 1988

**Dissertation:**

*Class, Gender, and Education in the Formation of Epistemic Positions of Renaissance Narrative Versifiers.*  
Dissertation Readers: Prof. Louise Schleiner (director), Prof. Stanton Linden, Prof. Carol Siegel, and Prof. J. M. Massi.

**Research/Creative Activity**

**Books/Chapbooks**

*#girl stuff.* Dancing Girl Press. August, 2018. Chapbook length.  
*Rosetta Stone.* Full-length manuscript. Under review with several literary presses.  
*Letter from Liminal Spaces.* Full-length manuscript. Under review with several literary presses.

**Publications, Refereed journals**

"Faith and Redemption in *The Winter's Tale*," in *Religion and the Arts*. 2015 (19. 1-2): 31-50.  
"Shakespeare on the Prairie: The Shakespeare Club of Aberdeen South Dakota," in *Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation*. Fall/Winter, 2007 (2.2).  
<<http://www.borrowers.uga.edu/cocoon/borrowers/issue?id=7151>>.  
"Re-Writing Rabelais's 'Nonsense': The Feminine Grotesque in Alexander Pope's *Dunciad*," in *The McNeese Review*, 2006 (44): 53-69.  
"Translation as Image-Making: Elizabeth I's Translation of *The Consolation of Philosophy*," in *Early Modern Literary Studies*, 2001 Jan; 6 (3): 20 paragraphs. *EMLS* is published by the University of Sheffield Hallam and the University of Toronto.

**Publications, Original poetry in peer reviewed literary magazines/anthologies**

"Object Relations." *Highly Unusual Online Literary Journal*. April 28, 2021.  
<https://highlyunusual.wixsite.com/highlyunusual/blank-page-1>.  
"A poor, bare, forked animal." 2021 Chapbook. Reed Magazine, San Jose State University. (selected from over 3,000 submissions).  
"Persephone's Table." *Bombay Gin* 46, 2020. (forthcoming)  
"Neither mice, nor cookies, nor boxes." *Right Hand Pointing*, issue 139, July 2020.  
<https://www.issues.righthandpointing.net/139>.  
"The State Dessert Is Kuchen." In *South Dakota Poems*, Christine Stewart, ed. 2020.  
"Red Hibiscus." *Briar Cliff Review*, vol. 32, 2020.  
"Amorphous Solid." *One-Sentence Poems*, May 14, 2019.  
<http://www.onesentencepoems.com/osp/?p=5489>.  
"Volta," "Thinking Like a Glass Cat." *Pasque Petals*, Fall, 2018.  
"forensic explorations." *Rogue Agent*, September, 2018. <http://www.rogueagentjournal.com/issue42>.  
"Re-creations," "Literally," "A ghost of my former self." *All the Universe Shining*. Scurfpea Anthology Annual Publication, 2018.  
"Triangulation." *Pasque Petals*. Spring, 2017.  
"Doing the Math." *One-Sentence Poems*. May 10, 2017.  
<http://www.onesentencepoems.com/osp/?p=3528>.  
"Cassandra," *Fickle Muse*. Feb. 12, 2017. [note: *Fickle Muse* has since ceased publication]  
"Mother Love." *Her Heart Poetry*. March 2017.  
"Taking Care of Business," "What My Mother Taught Me," "Ruby Slippers," "Potential Energy," and "Actively Useless." South Dakota State Poetry Society, *Pasque Petals*, Fall 2015.

### Other Publications

- "Monkey's Journey West: The Trickster Goes on a Quest," in *The Proceedings of the Twenty-first Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*. Ed. Judith A. Dorn. St. Cloud State University, 2014. Web.
- "Using the Bugs Bunny Theory of Comedy to Make Sense of Katherine and Petruccio," in *The Proceedings of the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*, 2010. Web.
- "Anne Dowriche" and "The French History," in *Facts on File Companion to Pre-1600 British Poetry*. Ed. Michelle Sauer. NY: Facts on File, 2008.
- "Gender and Genre in Teaching Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*," in *The Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*, Nicholas Wallerstein and Roger Ochse, eds. Spearfish, SD; 2002.
- "Using Science to Teach Fiction: Computers in the Literature Classroom," in *The Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*, pp. 89-97 IN: De Smith, Robert J. (ed. and intro.); *Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Earlier British Literature*. Sioux Center, IA: Dordt College; 2001.
- "The Feminine Grotesque in Pope's *Dunciad*," in *The Proceedings of the Fourth Dakotas Conference on Early English Literature*, Bill Clemente and Mary Mokris, eds. Peru, Nebraska; 1996.

### Conference Presentations, Literary Criticism

- March, 2016, "Shakespeare on the Plains," presentation for the Shakespeare Symposium held by the University of South Dakota in conjunction with the Shakespeare First Folio exhibit at the National Music Museum, Vermillion SD.
- April, 2015, Panel discussion on teaching early modern British literature, for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, Mayville State University, North Dakota.
- April 2014, "Monkey's Journey West: The Trickster Goes on a Quest," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, St. Cloud State University.
- April, 2010, "Using the Bugs Bunny Theory of Comedy to Make Sense of Katherine and Petruccio," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND
- April 2008, "Faith and Redemption in *The Winter's Tale*," as part of a seminar at the annual conference of the Shakespeare Association of America, Dallas, TX
- April 2006, "Shakespeare on the Prairie: the Aberdeen Shakespeare Club" as part of a seminar at the annual conference of the Shakespeare Association of America, Philadelphia, PA
- April, 2005, "'I will invite some ladies that I know': Aemilia Lanyer's Rhetoric of Context," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, Morris, MN
- April 2004, "Adapting the Master: Joe Calarco's *Shakespeare's R&J*," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature in Sioux Falls, SD
- March, 2003, "Anne Dowriche and *The Golden Legend*," for the South Central Renaissance Conference, in New Orleans, MS
- April, 2001, "Gender and Genre in Teaching Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, in Spearfish, SD
- April, 2000, "Using Science to Teach Fiction: Computers in the Literature Classroom," for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, in Sioux Center, IA
- April, 1999, "Teaching Shakespeare through Performance and Text" with Michael Shiller, for the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, in Aberdeen, SD
- Oct., 1998, "'A Lamentable Discourse of Truth': Anne Dowriche's Female Martyrological Voice and John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*," for the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada
- May, 1997, "High Expectations--Spenser's View of Audience," for the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Banff, Alberta
- Apr., 1996, "The Feminine Grotesque in Pope's *Dunciad*," for the Fourth Dakotas Conference on Early English Literature, Peru, NE
- Oct., 1995, "Euphues and the Madrigals" with Prof. Lori Wiest, for the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Spokane, WA
- Feb., 1995, "Anne Dowriche and the Symbolic Re-telling of Protestant History," for the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, Tempe, AZ

### Poetry Readings

- "South Dakota in Poetry: A Celebration," ed. Christine Stewart-Nuñez. Virtual Reading for the South Dakota Festival of Books. Oct. 15, 2020.

Women Poets Collective Virtual Reading for the South Dakota Festival of Books. Oct. 9, 2020. Posted at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=359804538548282>.

Women Poets Collective Virtual Poetry Reading. June 7, 2020. Posted on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWiSGhyGM3Q>.

Women Writers Collective. Dakota Wesleyan University. March 15, 2019.

John R. Milton Writers' Conference. University of South Dakota. October 26, 2018.

Great Plains Writers' Conference. South Dakota State University. March 24, 2018.

Women Writers Collective. South Dakota Festival of Books. Deadwood, SD. September 23, 2017.

Dakota Women Poets. Siouxland Libraries, Downtown Sioux Falls. April 20, 2017.

John R. Milton Writers' Conference. October 28, 2016.

### Other Conference Experience

April, 2012, Hosted the Twentieth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature at Northern State University.

April 2001 and 2002, Organized and hosted an undergraduate research conference – Celebrating Excellence across Campus – for the Northern Plains Region; students from across South and North Dakota from all academic disciplines participated

Apr., 2000, Attended the Conference of the Midwest Regional Honors Council with 9 student members of the Honors Program

Apr., 1997, Served as faculty mentor for a student as she revised and then presented a paper at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Austin, TX

Jan., 1997, Attended the NCTE conference “Conflict and Consensus: Exploring Diversity and Standards in the Portfolio Movement” in New Orleans as a department representative

### Honors/Grants

Spring 2021, Sabbatical leave to complete a book-length collection of poetry.

“One of the Guys,” original poem, semi-finalist for the 2019 Joy Harjo Poetry Competition, *Cutthroat A Journal of the Arts* (1,000+ entrants).

*Letters from Liminal Spaces*, full-length book manuscript. Quarterfinalist in the 2020 Colorado Prize for Poetry.

Spring, 2014, Sabbatical leave to complete several projects for publication

Spring, 2004, Sabbatical leave to complete several projects for publication

Fall, 2003, Peer Evaluation of Instruction Grant from the Office of Instructional Support to compare objectives and teaching methods of my Composition I with Dr. Anne Holmquest's Speech 101

2002, Governor's Technology Grant to digitize clips from Shakespeare productions. I now use these clips in conjunction with my Shakespeare classes so students can compare productions from a variety of directors/actors

2001, Outstanding Faculty Member, from the NSU Foundation

1999, Governor's Technology Grant to develop and implement an Internet version of English 201 – a full summer contract, plus a \$5000 equipment budget

1998, Director of a two-week Summer Teachers' Institute, “Women's Literary Legacy,” funded by the South Dakota Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities -- \$11,909

Spring, 1998, Grant from the Office of Instructional Development to research and implement a cross-disciplinary Shakespeare course with Michael Shiller in the Theater Department -- \$750

1997, Participant in an NEH Summer Seminar at The Ohio State University on “The English Reformation: Literature, History and Art,” directed by Prof. John N. King -- \$4,000

1997, Grant from the Office of Instructional Development to attend NCTE conference on “Conflict and Consensus: Exploring Diversity and Standards in the Portfolio Movement” – \$750

### Teaching Experience:

At Northern State University (Fall, 1995-present):

ENGL 497: Independent Study

ENGL 494, English Internship

ENGL 490, Senior Seminar (Early Modern Women Writers)

ENGL 490, Senior Seminar (Divine and Meditative Poetry, John Donne-Mary Oliver)

ENGL 488: Literary Studies Review

ENGL 476: Creative Writing, Poetry

ENGL 486, Rhetorical Theory and Practice

ENGL 480: Contemporary Rhetoric  
ENGL 437, Seminar in Milton  
ENGL 432, Shakespeare II  
ENGL 431, Shakespeare I  
ENGL 425: The Age of Milton  
ENGL 314, Enlightenment Survey  
ENGL 313, Renaissance Survey  
ENGL 305, Technical, Professional, and Grant Writing  
ENGL 284, Introduction to Criticism  
ENGL 258, Literature and Culture (Women in Literature)  
ENGL 215, Literature in Global Context (Politics and Literature—team taught with Dr. Jon Schaff)  
ENGL 213, Backgrounds to Literature (Genesis of the Novel)  
ENGL 213, Backgrounds to Literature (Epic Heroes)  
ENGL 201, Composition II  
ENGL 101H, Honors English Composition I  
ENGL 101, Composition I  
HON 490: Honors Thesis (Primary advisor for the student's senior honors thesis)  
HON 195, Honors Seminar I  
IDL 190 First Year Seminar (Rhetoric and Visual Literacy—team taught with Dr. Elizabeth Sills)  
IDL 190. Freshman Seminar  
IDL 101, University Success

At Washington State University (Fall, 1988-Spring, 1995)

English 305, Shakespeare before 1600  
English 302, Writing about Literature  
English 301, Logic and Rhetoric  
English 210, Survey of British and American Literature, 1800-Present  
English 209, Survey of British and American Literature, Medieval to 1800  
English 201, Writing and Research  
English 108, Reading Literature  
English 101, Freshman Composition  
Teaching Assistant, The Bible as Literature. Prof. Paul Briens, instr. of record  
Writing Lab Tutor

Correspondence/Online Courses

English 201, Composition II (on-line)  
I have written course books for the following classes at Washington State University:  
1997, English 306x, Correspondence Course in Shakespeare after 1600  
1995, English 305x Correspondence Course in Shakespeare before 1600  
1989, English 388x, Correspondence Course in Victorian Literature

**Academic Service:**

2020-present. Co-Chair, Shared Governance Taskforce.  
 2020-2021. Technical Writer/Editor, Four-Year Self-Study, Higher Learning Commission.  
 2020-2021. Member Faculty Senate.  
 2019-2020. President, Faculty Senate.  
 2018-2019. President elect, Faculty Senate.  
 2018-2019. Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Sociology.  
 2018-2018. Faculty Mentor for Dr. Ben Harley.  
 2017-2018. Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of English.  
 2017-2020. Member, University Assessment Committee.  
 2016. Technical Writer for NSU's ten-year accreditation report to the Higher Learning Commission.  
 Fall, 2014 – Spring, 2016. Secretary Faculty Senate.  
 Spring, 2014. Member, IAMCOM Committee to draft a university-wide standards document to guide the annual review process for faculty  
 2013-2014. Member Faculty Senate.  
 May 2011, 2012, and 2013. Assisted Dr. Elizabeth Haller on her Literary Tours of Great Britain  
 2011-present. Assessment Coordinator, Ba and BSed programs in English  
 Spring 2009. Member, search committee for Provost and VPAA  
 2008-09. Chair, search committee for tenure-track English faculty  
 Spring-Summer 2008. Co-chair, search committee for dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
 Fall, 2009-Sp 2012. Chair, Department of Literature, Languages, and Communication Studies  
 2007-2014. Advising coordinator for the English Program  
 Spring 2006-2009. Coordinator for the Department of English and Linguistics (researched and authored a ten-year program review in 2007)  
 Fall, 2005-2009. Faculty mentor for English, NSU's Rising Scholar program  
 Nov., 2002. Sat for the PRAXIS II Exam in the Language Arts  
 2003-2004. Faculty Mentor for Dr. Dominique Hoche  
 Sept., 2003-present. NSU representative on the English Discipline Council (chair, 2006-07)  
 2002-2003. Faculty Mentor for Dr. Pen Pearson  
 2001-2003. Learning Community Task Force  
 2002-2007. Member NSU Children's Center Advisory Board  
 2002 and 2003. Member, search committees for English, Chemistry and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
 Jan., 2000-2002. Chair, Honors Committee  
 Jan., 200-2002. Director, Honors Program  
 Feb., 2000. Member, Scholarship Committee  
 Fall, 1999-2005. Member, Media Board  
 1999-spring, 2005. Collaborated with South Dakota A.P English instructors in course design and assignments. I have gone to Aberdeen Central High School to give short lectures and workshops to students in preparation for the AP Exam, and I have shared my WebCT sites with up to 9 high school teachers in a school year  
 Fall, 1998. Member, General Education Steering Committee  
 1998-2008. Member, Faculty Senate (served as secretary, 2005-07; served as interim president, fall 2007; served as president elect, spring 2008)  
 1997-98. Member, Presidential Search Committee at NSU  
 1997-98. Member, Assessment Committee  
 Spring, 1997 and 1998. Member, committee to coordinate Language Arts Day, a day for area high school students to travel to NSU and compete in various language arts-related activities such as creative writing contests and an English Bowl (trivia contest)  
 1996-97. Member, search committee for the Technical Services Coordinator, Williams Library  
 1996-2000. Member, Student Orientation Committee.  
 July 31, 1998. Participant, Board of Regents' roundtable discussions on general education, Pierre, SD  
 Oct., 1997. Judge for the final round of NSU's High School Oral Interpretation Contest  
 1996-present. Faculty advisor for English majors as assigned  
 Spring, 1997. Developed a career guide for English majors  
 Fall, 1996. Developed a pamphlet describing English course offerings for distribution to faculty advisers across campus  
 1996. Participated in an interdisciplinary writing group with other faculty  
 1995-present. Member, Graduate faculty

1995-2000. Grader, English placement exams for entering freshmen at Northern  
1996-present. Participant, in several recruiting activities for NSU, including Northern Bound Days, and the Top 100 Banquet  
1995-2004. Co-sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honor Society, NSU chapter

**Non-Conference Presentations/Community Service:**

Oct. 1, 2020. Participant in "Invisible No More," in support of Safe Harbor Women's Shelter.  
1997-2019. Member Aberdeen Shakespeare Club (served as president, 2000-2001; served as vice president, 2007-2009 and 2014-present)  
Jan., 2004-2006. Board Member and Secretary, Natural Abundance Food Cooperative  
March, 2003. Presentation on "Women in the English Reformation," for the American Association of University Women  
April, 2002. Panel discussion on *Shakespeare's R&J* with Arizona State University Professor Emeritus Mary Maher prior to NSU's performance of the play  
Oct., 1998. Presentation on *Richard II* for the Aberdeen Shakespeare Club  
Apr., 1998. "Poetry, Beauty, and a College Education," for the Phi ETA Sigma induction banquet  
Feb., 1998. Panel discussion on women in history and the effects of stereotyping following a performance of *Vinegar Tom* by Northern's theater department  
Oct., 1997. Presentation on performance issues in Olivier's and Branagh's movie versions of *Hamlet*, for the Aberdeen Shakespeare Club  
April, 1997. Presentation on *The Tempest* and Montaigne's "Of Cannibals," for the Aberdeen Shakespeare Club, an Aberdeen community club of non-academics that meets monthly to discuss things Shakespearean  
Oct., 1996. Performed Annie Dillard's "Living Like Weasels" for the Celebration with Words and Music at NSU's Williams Library

**Service to Discipline**

Summer, 2016. Peer reviewer for *Religion and the Arts*.

**Related Experience:**

Fall, 2020. Consultant for NSU's production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*  
Spring 2006. Dramaturge for NSU's production of *As You Like It*  
Spring, 2002. Dramaturge for NSU Theater Department's production of Joe Calarco's *Shakespeare's R&J*  
Spring, 1998. Dramaturge for NSU's production of *Richard III*  
1997. Dramaturge for NSU production of *Fortinbras*; wrote a short summary of *Hamlet* for the program.

**Professional Memberships**

South Dakota State Poetry Society  
Women Poets Collective