

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College – April 20, 2005

Students find fossils in land art materials

It's another example of the bond between art and science. Students moving rock Wednesday, April 20, for one of the Greg Blair land art collaborative projects found clam fossils in the rocks. They alerted **Brian Hushagen**, assistant professor of art, who then called John Hoganson, state paleontologist. Hoganson came to the campus and examined the fossils and dated them to the Cannonball Formation, roughly 60 million years ago.

The fossils were found in rocks in debris piles west of the Community Bowl. It is likely they were excavated when work was done on creating the bowl. Hushagen said several of the specimens will be donated to the State Fossil Collection, some will likely go to the biology department, and the remainder may find themselves in the rock wall that will be part of the labyrinth in front of the Jack Science Center. ArtsQuest guest artist Greg Blair will work on several land art installations April 22-26.

Hushagen said John Hoganson offered to lead a mini-field trip to discuss fossils found in this deposit. It would be open to anyone wanting to attend.

BSC organizes region's first Optimist college club

BSC's Energy Club will become the region's first college club of Optimist International in the Dakotas Manitoba Minnesota District. **Lonnie Bertsch**, assistant professor of commercial art and Optimist member since 1990, wanted to help BSC Energy Club members gain recognition for the many community service projects they have done throughout the school year.

"The main goal of Optimist International is friend of youth," says Bertsch, Optimist governor assistant of North Dakota. "The biggest kicker for these energy graduates is that prospective employers are all looking for community service on their resumes."

With benefits of Optimist membership, BSC students and the new club also will acquire general liability insurance while acting on behalf of the club. Under guidance of club advisor **John Holtan**, assistant professor of power and process plant technology, the club has taken on a number of projects, such as cleaning the grounds at Salvation Army sites.

A charter banquet for 30 members of the new BSC Energy Optimist Club will take place Thursday, April 21, at 6 p.m. in Student Union Dakota Room. Members will take an Optimist oath and vote to elect officers of their new club. Optimist dignitaries from St. Louis and Brookings will install the members.

BOG receives national Campus of the Year Award

The BSC Board of Governors was honored with the Campus of the Year Award from the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) at the National Conference on Student Advocacy in Washington, D.C. March 16-22.

BSC students have been very active in ASACC, giving presentations at national meetings, and hosting a summer institute at BSC in 2004. Three BSC students also serve on the national board. **Pat Jund**, director of student life, accompanied 13 students to the conference. While in Washington, students met with U.S. Congressman Earl Pomeroy. They also met by teleconference with U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan.

‘Figments’ wins regional Best Magazine Award

BSC’s Figments of Imagination Spring 2004 literary publication won the first place Mark of Excellence Award as Best Magazine published once a year from the Society of Professional Journalists Region 6. The publication will be placed in national competition. The literary publications class produced the magazine, with student **Jennifer Weiserber** of Bismarck serving as editor-in-chief. Advisor for the project was **Karen Bauer**, journalism instructor.

Commercial Art Show displays BSC student talent

The BSC Commercial Art program presents its 35th annual show April 25-28 at Kirkwood Mall with more than 660 student entries. On display will be photography, graphic art, and illustrations created in pastel, airbrush, scratchboard, pen and ink, and other art media.

“We’re expecting to be bigger than past shows and the quality is excellent,” said **Lonnie Bertsch**, assistant professor of commercial art.

About 45 BSC students have entered computer-generated logos, stationery packages, and other projects for judging by local artists and print and marketing professionals. Judges will assign ribbons to the winners Monday evening. Commercial art students will be on hand to answer questions throughout the show. They will headquarter between the Target and J.C. Penney wing of the mall.

Dan Leingang receives PTK new advisor award

Dan Leingang, assistant professor of math and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, received a 2005 Paragon Award for New Advisors at the PTK international convention in Dallas this month. He was one of 30 recipients of the award, which recognizes distinguished service by chapter advisors who are serving their second through fourth year. Leingang and five BSC PTK members were among 4,000 students and advisors attending the convention.

MRCC Auto Tech student receives two awards

An automotive technology student from the Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC) won two awards at the N.D. SkillsUSA Skills and Leadership Conference in Wahpeton April 3-4. The student placed first in the postsecondary job skills demonstration contest and third in the postsecondary job interview competition. The MRCC Auto Tech program is offered through the N.D. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and BSC.

BSC welcomes new employees

Amy Schafer was an agent assistant for American Family Insurance before assuming her cashier and accounts receivable position at BSC March 30. She left Idaho for Bismarck last fall after working nearly four years in accounts receivable at Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort. Schafer is a 2000 graduate of Dickinson State University in business administration and holds North Dakota property/casualty certification. She enjoys many activities with friends and her cat Gizmo.

Michelle Olsen, instructional designer, wrote microbiology curriculum at Yellowstone National Park and spent four years at Apple Computer as a curriculum writer and technical trainer in Salt Lake City. Other work includes education consulting for Paragon Consulting in Idaho and elementary and middle school teaching at Plaza and White Shield, N.D. Olsen has a master's in human resources training and development from Idaho State University and master's in instructional technology from Lesley College, Cambridge, Mass. Formerly of Dillon, Mont., she has a grown daughter and enjoys horseback riding and photography.

BSC employees lead statewide groups

Three BSC staff members are serving as leaders of statewide organizations this year. **Marlene Seaworth**, disability support services coordinator, is president of the North Dakota Disability Services Council for 2004-05. **Jeanne Masseth**, CCE training manager, is president of Central Dakota Human Resource Association. **Mary Friesz**, director of development and marketing, is president of the North Dakota Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Faculty and Staff News

Five employees traveled to Las Vegas March 21-24 for the HEUG Conference for PeopleSoft users in Higher Education. Attending were **Mary Eisenbraun**, business office manager; **Karla Mongeon-Stewart**, director of business and finance; **Jeff Jacobs**, director of financial aid; **Karla Gabriel**, dean of admissions and enrollment services; and **Sandy Fried**, assistant registrar.

Dr. Donna S. Thigpen, president, was the keynote speaker at the 2005 Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing Convention in Biloxi, Miss., March 31.

Dr. AnnMarie Kajencki, professor of English, was a presenter at the 16th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, Fla., March 30-April 2.

Marlene Swenson-Seaworth, disability support services coordinator, attended the AHEAD Regional Training Conference in San Diego from April 7-9.

Jay Meier, director of career and counseling services, attended the 2005 annual convention of the American Counseling Association in Atlanta April 4-10.

Melba Millard, Phoenix program equity coordinator, attended the Working Women 2005 National Conference in Washington D.C. from April 6-9.

Sara Vollmer, training manager, **Wendy Pank**, assistant professor of sociology, and **Betty Aberle**, custodian, attended the Replication Institute for Rehabilitation Faculty and Geriatric

Services Providers Seminar in Charleston, S.C., April 7-9. Their trip was sponsored by the Learning First Embracing Diversity Team.

Representatives from BSC gave a presentation titled "Responding to National Industry Need: Capitalizing on a Niche Market" at the American Association of Community Colleges 85th Annual Convention. Attending were: **Dr. Donna Thigpen**, president; **Dr. Wayne Boekes**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs; **Carla Braun Hixson**, associate vice president for corporate and continuing education; and **Bill Wahlman**, director of online energy programs. The convention took place in Boston April 8-11.

Zachary Allen, energy technology online multimedia coordinator, traveled to Denver April 13-16 for onsite work at WAPA's Electric Power Training Center for the electrical transmission systems technology (ETST) program.