

# *FYI* Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College – December 12, 2007

## Students reap big savings at bookstore

Innovation at the BSC Bookstore has resulted in \$51,513.74 in textbook savings for students in select classes during fall semester. The textbook rental program gives students in three general education classes and the Mechanical Maintenance Technology program the option to rent textbooks at less than half to one-third the purchase price.

Last spring, bookstore manager **Tanya Fuher** initially worked with the English, speech, and math programs to choose books that faculty would use for at least three years. Mechanical Maintenance became part of the rental plan in January to help the new program's first students. The first semester of the program required 18 books at a retail cost of \$1,150. Rental books provided a savings of \$610.28 per students. Second semester required another seven books totaling \$424. Second semester students saved \$214.82. Since spring of 2007, the rental program has saved Mechanical Maintenance students \$27,418 over two semesters.

This fall, rentals of MATH 210 Elementary Statistics, COMM 100 Speech Communication, and two books used in English 110 College Composition I yielded a \$35,080.10 savings for 766 students enrolled in those classes.

Bookstore staff helped to develop a computer module to track the books, charge the rental cost to financial aid and third parties, and assess late fees for overdue returns. During the 2006-2007 academic year, unreturned books accounted for less than 4 percent of total rentals. Students are charged full price for an unreturned book. In spring 2008, the bookstore will add BIOL 126 Human Biology and Western Civilization to the rental program. Based on fall sales of those books, the rental program could potentially save students \$20,000. Fuher has applied for an Innovation Award from the National Association of College Stores.

## BSC Theatre earns nomination

BSC Theatre faculty received notification that a scene from the fall play, "Picnic," was nominated for the Region V Invited Scene Showcase at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in January. The ACTF scout who viewed the production chose the Act III scene between characters Howard and Rosemary played by **Justin Welton** of Washburn and **Farren Gunderson** of Mandan. **Dan Rogers**, associate professor of theatre/speech, directed the show, and **Craig Moxon**, technical theatre instructor, designed the production.

## "You like potato and I like potahto..."

And so that old Gershwin song goes about varying pronunciation of words. Here at BSC, it's a new building and a division's name change that need a standard pronunciation so we all know what we are talking about when we discuss NECE or CETI.

According to those authorized to determine the pronunciation of these acronyms, in both cases, the correct pronunciation is to say each letter individually.

For NECE (National Energy Center of Excellence) say N-E-C-E.

For CETI (Continuing Education, Training and Innovation) say C-E-T-I.

When using these terms in written communication, the style is to write out the words on first reference, followed by the initials in parenthesis, and then use the initials on later references.

## Technology conference benefits from Qwest grant

The Qwest Foundation recently awarded \$10,000 to Bismarck State College's Teaching and Technology Conference to be held June 3-4 at Best Western Doublewood Inn, Bismarck. The conference will provide North Dakota K-12 and college educators, technology coordinators and administrators with information and training on the latest in technology advances for teaching and learning.

"This grant provides a unique opportunity for Qwest to make a difference in the lives of North Dakota students and help inspired teachers do their important work," said Scott Macintosh, Qwest state president for North Dakota.

**Karen Selensky**, BSC conference manager with BSC's Continuing Education, Training and Innovation, said, "The TNT Conference Committee appreciates Qwest's support. This grant will help us bring in experts on teaching with the tools of the digital generation, and on redefining and retooling the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom."

## Carpentry students assist with Northwood reconstruction

BSC Carpentry students, accompanied by assistant professor **Earl Torgerson**, spent the weekend of Nov. 16-18 helping with the reconstruction of homes in Northwood. On Aug. 26, a devastating tornado caused damage to most structures in the community southwest of Grand Forks. Other groups working in Northwood that weekend were the N.D. State College of Science Carpentry program, the Air National Guard and the Grand Forks Home Builders Association. Photos tell the story better. [Click here to view a brief slide show.](#)

## BSC welcomes new employee Joan Mapel

**Joan Mapel**, assistant professor of energy technology, has 15 years experience in plant operation and maintenance. Her most recent position was auxiliary operator at Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station. Mapel also worked for Cargill Inc., Koch Refining Co., and Ingersoll Rand. A BSC graduate, Mapel has an AAS in process plant technology and a BS in education from Mayville State University. Born in Washington and raised in North Dakota, she has a background in secondary education and agriculture. In her spare time, Mapel enjoys remodeling houses, raising livestock, sports, baking, sewing, and discussing politics.

## English classes participate in Harvard-Smithsonian study

BSC recently took part in a survey by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics on what high school experiences influence career plans of college freshmen, particularly women and under-represented minorities. College Composition I students took the optional, anonymous test in classes this fall and returned between 400 and 500 surveys, said **Jane Schreck**, associate

professor of English. Project PRiSE (Persistence Research in Science and Engineering) is being administered to a representative sample of higher education institutions across the country. Schreck said BSC was likely selected at random to participate in the 20-minute survey. In return for participation, BSC will receive the survey results from Harvard, including BSC's data compared against the national profile. The goal of the research, funded through a National Science Foundation grant, is to build a foundation for successful educational policies designed to boost science education in the United States.

## Float project continues for holiday parade

Kudos to those who braved the frigid weather to give BSC a presence in the Bismarck Holiday Parade Dec. 7. The short list of credits goes to **Karen Bauer** for helping organize the project; **Craig Moxon** and students **Jaden Hertz** and **Laura Rysavy** for lighting of the float; **Dan Rogers** for driving the truck; BSC choir members for singing; BOG president **Toby Lund** and **Jennifer Weisgerber** for helping build the float. The mascot was **Christopher Schmitz**. Several employees also walked along with the float. Karen Bauer says the mascot is unofficially named Mystic Ian. Ask her about that story! Click to view photos.

## Carmel Miller has leadership role in AgrowKnowledge

**Carmel Miller**, associate professor of agriculture, technology and natural resources, has a leadership role in AgrowKnowledge, the National Center for Agriscience & Technology Education. Miller is a team co-leader of one of four teams in technical areas identified by partners as critical growth areas in agriculture from 2008-2012. Miller and Curt Yoose of Ridgewater College in Willmar and Hutchinson, Minn., are serving as Geospatial Technology chairs. Miller attended a related meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 6-7. More information is available at [www.agrowknow.org](http://www.agrowknow.org)

## Energy Tech programs featured in national newsletter

BSC's Energy Technology programs were the "Spotlight" feature in the November issue of a digital newsletter titled Get Into Energy Newsletter. The newsletter is published by the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD), based in Washington, D.C. CEWD is a non-profit consortium of electric natural gas and nuclear utilities and their associations – Edison Electric Institute, American Gas Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It was formed to help utilities work together to develop solutions to the coming workforce shortage in the utility industry. Learn more at [www.cewd.org](http://www.cewd.org)

## BSC choirs perform for seniors, children in area

BSC choirs performed recently at senior assisted living complexes, including Primrose Apartments, the Waterford, and Marillac Manor. The choirs also sang for pre-school students from HIT in Mandan. Professor of music **Tom Porter** directs the choirs.

## Tree planted in memory of Judy Swartz

**Bob Kuntz**, chief buildings and grounds officer, coordinated the planting of a Japanese maple in honor of the late Judy Swartz, an associate professor of German and English here from 1962-68 and 1971-99. The tree was planted on the south side of Schafer Hall, in an area that Swartz could look down on from her office window on second floor. Her husband, Dick Thronset, arranged

for the tree and a memorial plaque. A German phrase, “Die Beste Lehrerin,” (the best teacher) is part of the plaque’s inscription. Swartz died in August.

## Faculty & Staff News

**Angie Milakovic**, geographic information systems coordinator/instructor, was recently elected to the North Dakota Geographic Alliance Board of Directors. The NDGA is funded by the National Geographic Society and the Legislature of North Dakota to promote geographic education in the state. The Alliance offers teacher-development programs that serve its members and their students.

**Arlene Gray**, adjunct piano instructor and active member of the Bismarck-Mandan music scene, attended the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) convention in Cincinnati in September. Gray is the North Dakota president-elect of MTNA. Founded in 1876, MTNA is the oldest professional music teachers association in the United States.

**Dave Clark**, executive vice president, presented a session titled "Institutional Collaboration - Today and Tomorrow" at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning held in Orlando Nov. 7-9. Also attending the conference were **Kari Knudson**, vice president, energy technology programs, and director, NECE; **Alicia Berger**, energy technology programs training manager; and **Lane Huber**, director of distance education.

**Pat Gross**, AV/IVN coordinator, attended the Western Council Educational Telecommunications Conference in Atlanta Nov. 7-10.

Attending the League for Innovation-2007 Conference on Information Technology in Nashville Nov. 11-14 were **Elmer Weigel**, chief information services officer; **Michael Lenhardt**, associate vice president for student affairs; **Amy Helgeson**, assistant professor of computer information systems; and **Lynette Borjeson Painter**, associate professor of computer information systems.

**Ryan Pitcher**, associate professor of Spanish, traveled to San Antonio Nov. 14-18 for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language Annual Convention and Expo.

**Karen Selensky**, conference manager with Continuing Education, Training and Innovation, attended the Learning Resources Network (LERN) Annual Conference in Orlando Nov. 11-18.

Attending The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching/Learning Seminar in Minneapolis Nov. 15-17 were **Brent Reems**, **Scott Tschaekofske** and **Jacklyne Lippert**, assistant professors of chemistry; **Bobbi Erhardt**, agriculture, technology & natural resources instructor; **Angie Milakovic**, GIS coordinator/instructor; **Carla Bickert**, associate professor of management; **Wendy Pank**, associate professor of sociology; **Suzie McShane**, nursing instructor/coordinator; and **Shirley Wilson**, assistant professor of accounting.

**Bruce Emmil**, associate vice president for energy technology programs, traveled to Washington, D.C., Nov. 28-30 to review grant proposals for National Science Foundation-Advanced Technological Education grants.

**Dave Clark**, executive vice president, attended the board of directors meeting of the Central Association of College and University Business Officers in Kansas City Dec. 2-4.