

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ February 16, 2006

BSC hosts new touring play about African Americans

BSC presents a new Will & Company play about unsung African Americans who helped shape American history at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

“Portraits of Courage” is presented at no charge and sponsored by the BSC Learning First Embracing Diversity Team in recognition of Black History Month. The evening includes a post-show discussion with the actors about the play and African-American history from a theatrical perspective.

The play runs 65 minutes and is written by Colin Cox, award-winning playwright, actor, director, filmmaker, and co-author of the acclaimed stage plays “Faces of America” and “American Voices.”

Cox, a native of England now working in Los Angeles, conceived “Portraits of Courage” after noticing the absence of African American figures in today’s history books. His writing derives from historical facts and true-life experiences of the persons portrayed in this national touring show. Two actors, one male and one female, perform six roles. Audiences will meet:

- Ida B. Wells, activist and journalist, whose writing made the country deplore the “justice” of the lynching system.
- Lewis Latimer, electrical engineer and draftsman for the invention of the telephone, designed a lasting and cost-effective filament that propelled the light bulb into widespread use.
- Colonel Charles Young, a West Point graduate, relates his experiences as commander of the 9th Cavalry, the renowned Buffalo Soldiers, during three 19th and early 20th century wars.
- Entrepreneur C. J. Walker, a Mississippi laundress, became America’s first woman millionaire through her business acumen for selling “hair growth” products.
- Bass Reeves, the first black marshal, became a cowboy legend for apprehending 3,000 outlaws over 32 years by pursuing them across the notorious “dead line” into Indian Territory.
- Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper’s daughter, picked 300 pounds of cotton a day until she learned she had the right to vote. She spent her remaining life educating blacks about that right.

For more information, contact Eric Cutler, multicultural program coordinator, at 224-5798.

Online course enrollment increases

Enrollment in online courses totals 2,985 seats, the highest ever for the third week semester count, says **Lane Huber**, director of distance education. Some of the 1,260 online students are taking multiple classes, boosting class rosters 7.3 percent over Spring 2005 and 9.2 percent over Fall 2005. About 53 percent of enrollees are distance education students studying completely online and never come to campus. Of these 674 online students, 235 are full-time. Enrollment is highest for general education/elective classes with 856 students. Those pursuing energy-related programs comprise the remaining 404 students.

BSC theater director and students win awards

Dan Rogers, associate professor of speech and theater, won his second commendation for outstanding directing at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Four BSC students also received recognition at the Region V competition held Jan. 22-28 at NDSU in Fargo and University of Minnesota Moorhead.

ACTF judges cited Rogers' directorial concept for BSC's production of "Handing Down the Names," a new play with an unpublished script and no directorial or staging notes.

Sophomore Jessica Hafen of Shawnee, Kan., received a Certificate of Merit for her work as stage manager of "Handing Down the Names." She also received an interview to work in stage management at the Santa Fe Opera this summer.

Ian Knodel of Bismarck, Conrad Bauer of Mandan, and Amber Wolfe of Hazen competed individually in the national Irene Ryan Audition scholarship contest. They were selected by ACTF judges last fall based on their performance in "Handing Down the Names."

Knodel was chosen by audition to perform in a 10-minute play, written by a student playwright and cast and rehearsed during the festival. He also received two call backs to do summer stock this summer.

Alexander Becker and Andrew Becker of Newman, Ga., light and sound technicians for "Handing Down the Names," received interviews for technical positions with various summer stock companies based on their portfolios.

Nineteen theater students attended the festival with Rogers and Craig Moxon, technical theater instructor and "Handing Down the Names" collaborator. Students participated in a range of theater craft workshops, master classes, and seminars, and saw showings of nine plays by other colleges and universities from an eight-state region.

Assessment Committee members attend team-based workshop

Several members of BSC's Assessment Committee attended an intensive, team-based workshop in the Chicago area Feb. 8-10. Titled "Making a Difference in Student Learning: Assessment as a

Core Strategy,” the workshop was presented by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. In addition to attending concurrent sessions, the BSC employees spent a significant amount of time working with a mentor who focused on BSC’s assessment needs as a campus.

Attending were **Dr. Wayne Boekes**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs; **Dr. Drake Carter**, associate vice president for academic affairs; **Michael Kubisiak**, institutional research analyst; **Wendy Pank**, associate professor of sociology; **Jaclyn Allen**, assistant professor of English; **Trudy Riehl**, surgical technology instructor; **Dr. Jane Schulz**, dean of instruction; and **Dan Wahlman**, instructor of heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Faculty and Staff News

Michelle Lindblom, assistant professor of art and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, has been selected from more than 100 eligible advisors to receive an advisor scholarship to the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Seattle April 20-22. The scholarship package, valued at \$525, covers registration fees for Lindblom and a chapter officer to attend the convention and pre-conference activities.

Donna Fricke, SW region tech prep coordinator, traveled to Dallas Feb. 3-4 for the National Association of Tech Prep Leaders Winter Strategy Meeting.

Jennifer Weisgerber, textbook coordinator, attended the CRTS: Essentials of Course Materials and Intellectual Property Conference in Cleveland Feb. 5-8.