

Tom Porter chosen for composition program

The American Composers Forum (ACF) has chosen **Dr. Thomas Porter**, BSC professor of music, for its Faith Partners program. Over the next two years, Porter will collaborate with members and staff of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the (Roman Catholic) Church of St. Paul in St. Cloud, Minn., to create six new pieces of sacred music for their performing groups and congregations. He applied to the Faith Partners program and was selected by the church consortium after interviews with both parishes.

Porter has composed more than 100 works from songs to multi-movement piano solos and a symphony. His Faith Partners compositions will be choral pieces, possibly a congregational hymn or vocal lines for a group of cantors. “I will be tailoring music for the parishes,” said Porter, who holds membership in ACF. Faith Partners is an unprecedented program to reintroduce composers into religious settings where they have historically flourished and to reinvigorate sacred music. ACF supports composers' artistic and professional growth through a variety of programs and services.

Dan Leingang selected for national honor

Dan Leingang, associate professor of mathematics, is among 24 Phi Theta Kappa advisors selected from across the U.S. to serve as Faculty Scholars for 2008. This honor includes participating in the Faculty Scholar Conference at the Center for Excellence in Jackson, Miss., in late January. The Faculty Scholars will receive instruction in various interdisciplinary aspects of the 2008-10 Honors Study Topic, “The Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences.”

Scholars will also begin the Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Development Course certification process, which will conclude before the 2008 International Honors Institute, where they will be seminar leaders. For the list of Faculty Scholars, go to:

<http://www.ptk.org/breakingnews/currentbn1.htm>

Energy Club helps out Mandan Head Start

Members of the BSC Energy Optimist Club donated \$200 worth of toys, sleds, shovels and learning materials to Mandan West River Head Start in mid-December. Students purchased the items with proceeds earned working at the Great Plains Energy Expo, where they drove vans and staffed the sign-in booth at the Bismarck Civic Center. **Ryan Caya**, club advisor, said the students embrace this type of giving as part of the club's mission to help children and the community.

BSC welcomes new employees

Custodian **Jeremy Wehri** works in the BSC Library and Werner Hall art department. He grew up in Hebron and graduated from BSC with an AAS degree in Agribusiness (Farm and Ranch Management option) in 1998. Wehri continues part-time employment in maintenance at Wal-Mart, where he has been for five years. He was a delivery driver and warehouse worker for Dakota Boys Ranch in Bismarck for three years and did construction in Hazen. Wehri enjoys movies and relaxing with friends.

Baker **Sheila Curl** has an AAS degree in Hospitality Management from BSC. She split the past 10 years as head daytime cook at Medcenter One and as a cook at Country House Deli. Curl also managed Badlands Brew, a Bismarck coffee shop, and was a partner-owner of String Bean Coffee north. A graduate of Golva Public Schools, Curl spent four years in Bowman, working at the depot as a barista and caring for an aunt. She is married to Robert Curl, has two grown sons, Justin and Brian Schillo, and enjoys music and grandson Caleb.

Mary McDermott, administrative assistant for Energy Technology Programs, worked the past eight years for Dickinson State University as administrative secretary and public information coordinator. She had a 21-year career in the military, serving 10 years in the U.S. Army stateside, Alaska and Germany. Sgt. 1st Class McDermott also spent 11 years in the New York National Guard stationed in Rochester and Geneseo. While there she earned a BS in organizational management from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. Raised near Taylor, N.D., McDermott is recently engaged to Bill Sennert of Bismarck.

Darvin Fitzgerald, returning programmer analyst, telecommutes from Fargo, where he moved in May after his wife got a job there. He will be on campus once or twice a month. Fitzgerald was hired in November 2004 as enhanced Web developer and assigned in early 2005 to the IT department as query writer/application developer. He wrote the Ask Mystic query and works with PeopleSoft and Web-based in-house applications. Fitzgerald graduated from BSC in computer information systems and acquired a BS in the same field from University of Mary. He and his wife have three daughters.

BSC Foundation approves grants

The BSC Foundation Programs Committee recently awarded \$39,519 in grants for projects headed by faculty, staff, and student government in 2007-08. The Foundation received 26 requests to fund campus events, leadership training, equipment, and student development and recruitment. Twenty-three projects were funded with distributions between \$250 and \$5,000.

- BSC Open House Committee – \$5,000, all-day information session on BSC programs for prospective students, spring '08.
- Phi Theta Kappa – \$3,640, registration, hotel, international convention, Philadelphia in April.
- Board of Governors – \$3,270, registration, American Student Association of Community Colleges National Student Advocacy Conference, Washington, D.C., in March.
- Engineering/Engineering Tech programs – \$2,792, structure testing equipment.
- Mass Communications program – \$2,500, production camera for Basic TV and Video class.
- BSC Hospitality Club – \$2,500, Upper Midwest Food Service & Lodging Show, Minneapolis.
- BSC Agribusiness Club – \$2,000, registration, N.D. Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization National Conference, Fort Worth, Texas, in March.

- Chemistry program – \$2,000, awards/supplies and food, regional junior/senior high and elementary Science Olympiads in March.
- BSC Drama Club – \$2,000, attend Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Omaha in January.
- Phi Beta Lambda – \$2,000, state leadership conference, Fargo, April '08.
- Music faculty – \$1,500, Music Teachers National Association Conference, Denver, March/April '08.
- Student Finance staff – \$1,300, dual computer monitors and accessories to improve staff efficiency and customer service.
- Staff Senate – \$1,090, picnic table with umbrella near Student Union.
- BSC Agribusiness Club – \$1,000, partial registration, N.D. Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization state conference, Minot in January.
- Board of Governors and Mystician – \$1,000, BSC parade float and mascot costume.
- Campus Read – \$892, speaker stipend and travel expense.
- Music program - \$1,000, master classes.
- Chemistry program - \$1,000, Holt National Chemistry Week grant.
- BSC Division of Energy – \$880, Power Plant and Process Plant Technology student and parent open house in March.
- Commercial Art – \$800, display upgrade for student art show in April.
- BSC Library – \$745, BookTalk 2008, marketing and leader honoraria.
- BSC Drama Club – \$360, student dues to create a BSC chapter of the U.S. Institute of Theatre Technology, an association of design, technology, and production professionals.
- BSC Bookstore – \$250, frozen drink machine.

The BSC Foundation emphasizes proposals that involve innovative teaching and learning projects. For more information, call 224-5730.

Professional development grants awarded

The Programs Committee of the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees has awarded seven professional development grants to faculty and staff totaling \$5,860. Recipients are **Theresa Felderman**, assistant professor of psychology/sociology; **Joan Kleven**, energy technology advisor; **Craig Kleven**, assistant professor of agriculture; **Karla Buzick**, campus information center office assistant; **Todd Reidman**, automotive technology instructor; **Natasha Petry**, biology lab coordinator; and **Carla Sivesind**, payroll account technician.

The award may be used for but not limited to conference attendance such as professional and creative workshops, tuition and fees for educational coursework not covered by BSC employee tuition waivers, or purchase of software or books required for a conference or training seminar. Professional development funds are awarded twice a year. Closing dates for proposals are the first Wednesday in October and last Wednesday in March.

Faculty & Staff News

President Larry C. Skogen traveled to Fort Lewis, Wash., with **Kari Knudson**, vice president for energy technology programs, and **Joan Kleven**, energy technology advisor, Nov. 26-27 to present information about BSC's educational opportunities to Army Prime Power students.

Michael McCormack, professor of history, was the after-dinner speaker at the annual Custer Christmas celebration Dec. 9 in the commissary room at Fort Lincoln. McCormack spoke on "Christmas at the Frontier Forts." The 25th anniversary of the Fort Lincoln Foundation was also celebrated during the dinner. U.S. Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad attended and were honored for their support of the Fort and the Foundation.

Bruce Emmil, associate vice president of energy technology programs, and **Dan Schmidt**, energy technology program manager/instructor, traveled to New Orleans to attend the Power Gen Conference Dec. 10-13.

Buster Gilliss, athletic director and men's basketball coach, notched his 500th career win Dec. 13 at St. Cloud Technical College with the Mystics scoring 120 points over St. Cloud's 85 points. Gilliss' overall career record is 500-327.

Attending the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Convention in Las Vegas Dec. 13-15 were **Dr. Wayne Boekes**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, **Dr. Jane Schulz**, dean of instruction, **Carmel Miller**, associate professor of agriculture, technology and natural resources (ATNR), and **Craig Kleven**, assistant professor of ATNR.

Dr. John Darling, assistant professor of music, traveled to Chicago Dec. 18-22 for the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Julie Schroer, associate professor of biology, attended the Chautauqua Workshop on Classroom Management in St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 2-6.

Byron Paul and **Nick Kjos**, assistant professors of electronics/telecommunications technology, attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas Jan. 6-9.