

# *FYI* **Campus Newsletter**

**Bismarck State College – May 12, 2005**

## **65<sup>th</sup> Commencement includes honor song and alma mater**

BSC's 65th Commencement ceremony takes place Friday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the Bismarck Civic Center. New to the ceremony this year will be the performance of a Native American honoring song and the singing of BSC's new alma mater.

The class of 2005 consists of 787 students. Two of the graduates – Naomi Harr of Mandan and David Peterson of Bismarck - will give the commencement addresses. Both graduates are receiving associate in science degrees. They have been active at BSC and were named to the 2005 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges."

BSC's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Citation, will be presented to Tim Hennessy, regional president for U.S. Bank in Bismarck. Hennessy is chairperson of the BSC Foundation Board. Receiving the 2005 Alumnus of the Year Award will be Gary E. Johnson. He is executive officer of the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium at the University of North Dakota's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences and professor in the Earth System Science and Policy graduate program.

The BSC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring "Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind" food and book drive at commencement. Graduating students and guests are asked to bring non-perishable food items and books for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners. Collection tables will be at the entrance.

## **View BSC's Commencement online**

BSC's Commencement will be videotaped for later viewing online. From May 17 through June 17, the ceremony will be available on BSC's Web site. This project was initiated by the Learning First Learning Innovation Team with support from other Learning First teams. The purpose of the online commencement is to help BSC's online graduates feel like they are part of the campus community.

## **Awards of Excellence nominators praise employees**

Six recipients of this year's Faculty and Staff Awards for Excellence were honored at the annual Recognition Ceremony April 20. These awards recognize significant or meritorious achievement in performance of professional roles. A total of 44 employees were nominated. The recipients were selected by a committee consisting of members of the community and representatives from Board of Governors, faculty, staff and the N.D. University System office. Excerpts from the nominations follow:

### **Staff Award for Excellence**

**Dr. Janelle Masters**, dean of faculty– “In her present position as Dean of Faculty, Dr. Masters is a priceless liaison. Her calm and accepting manner invites open conversation and constructive solutions. She handles problems with intelligence and diplomacy, sees the big picture, and tries to make everyone happy when conflicts arise. She genuinely cares about students, staff, and faculty on this campus, and has been a tireless advocate for enriching the total campus environment.”

**Kristie Petersen**, food service supervisor –“Food service is about customer service. Again, this is where Kristie excels. Her skills and professionalism set the stage for return and additional business. Kristie’s dependability and work ethic are second to none. She is efficient, creative, and responsible. Kristie takes BSC to a higher level and goes the extra mile to make sure arrangements fit the situation and environment.”

### **Faculty Award for Excellence**

**Linda Tonolli**, associate professor of mathematics – “Her friendly smiles and whole attitude about teaching is just magnificent. A truly genuine person who cares about the future and well-being of all her students. Mrs. Tonolli takes her job very seriously but knows how to have fun and still get down to business. She has a lot of patience and gave me the confidence to succeed.”

**John Holtan**, assistant professor of power and process plant technology – “His enthusiasm and concern is out of this world! He is a very good role model for young power plant students and makes learning fun. Mr. Holtan makes you want to be there. He is extremely involved in the day-to-day lives of students and teachers and carries it outside his school duties.”

### **Adjunct Faculty Award for Excellence**

**Dawn Hagerott**, adjunct music instructor –“Dawn Hagerott is a model instructor. She is optimistic and encouraging to students, and creative in her approach to student learning, tailoring her lessons to each student and open to interactive learning. Her optimism is contagious; she spreads goodwill and cooperation in her interaction with faculty, staff and students.”

**Jill Carter**, adjunct biology instructor – “Jill Carter connects with both older and younger students and goes beyond her duties to make you feel like a real person in class. She’s a professor who makes students want to learn. Her heart is in teaching and everything she does.”

The Learning First Managing Excellence Team coordinates the nomination and selection process. Recipients receive cash gifts from the BSC Foundation of \$1,000 for full-time employees and \$250 for part-time employees.

## **Wendy Pank granted tenure**

The State Board of Higher Education recently granted tenure status for **Wendy Pank**, assistant professor of sociology. Her rank now changes from assistant professor to associate professor. President Donna S. Thigpen endorsed the application of tenure for Pank after recommendation from the Faculty Senate’s Tenure Committee.

## Choral groups perform for seniors and at high schools

The BSC Concert Choir recently performed for residents of the Waterford, the Baptist Home, and Library Square in Mandan.

“The concerts give BSC students an opportunity to reach out to members of the community, and to perform their concert repertoire in a variety of settings,” said **Dr. Tom Porter**, associate professor of music. The choir will also perform at the BSC commencement ceremony May 13.

The BSC Men's Ensemble and Women's Ensemble performed for choir students at St. Mary's Central High School, Mandan High School, Century High School and Bismarck High School. These programs provide an opportunity to promote BSC to high school students.

## Julie Erickson participates in national seminar

**Julie Erickson**, director of resource development, attended a two-week training seminar for community college resource development professionals from across the country April 11-22. Hosted by Shoreline Community College in Lake Forest Park, Wash., the seminar was sponsored by the national Council for Resource Development (CRD), which is affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges.

Erickson was one of 25 professionals who participated in the intensive seminar, spending one week at the Shoreline “model campus” and the following week in Washington, D.C. The seminar covered best practices in grant development and management and private fundraising, and featured presenters from colleges around the country. While in D.C., participants met with grant program officers in several federal departments, discussed federal relations issues and strategies with AACC and other D.C.-based associations, and met with the education aides to their Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.

## Faculty and Staff News

**Albert Koch**, OSHA consultation program manager, attended the OSHCON Annual Consultation Conference in Denver May 2-5.

**Donna Fricke**, tech prep coordinator, traveled to Salt Lake City May 3-5 for the Career Pathways Strategic Improvement Coalition Workshop for National Tech Prep.

**Dan Schmidt**, energy technology online program manager, attended the Center for Advancement of Process Technology Business Plan Meeting in Houston May 9-11.