

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ May 3, 2006

ArtsQuest closes with plays, art sale, music fest

Another spring jam-packed with great ArtsQuest events is about to end. Here are the remaining events.

Student-directed short plays for adult audiences are scheduled May 3 at 3:30 p.m. and May 4 at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. in Schafer Hall, Room 23. On May 4, visit the Art Department during its open house and art sale from noon to 5 p.m. in Werner Hall.

On Friday, don't miss the outdoor music festival with such bands as GypsyFoot, Poinsettias, Wisconsin Is Coming, the Minneapolis-based group 10Foot5, and more, playing from 11 a.m. to sundown near the Jack Science Center. Bands and solo artists change on the hour with 15-minute sets by BSC students. In case of rain, head to the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. Enjoy tie-dye and other activities and concessions sponsored by campus groups. For the performance schedule see the news release at bismarckstate.edu/news/spotlight/#s1

BSC lineworker students place third in regional competition

BSC's electrical lineworker students placed third overall at the 4th annual College Linemen's Rodeo at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kan., April 8.

Competing were about 70 students from BSC and six colleges from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Arizona. This is the first time BSC participated in the event.

BSC students won three team awards and three individual awards.

Placing third as a team in the 35-foot pole climb were Dave Pederson, Tioga; Casey Skelly, Velva; Brad Anderson, Stanley; and Thomas Larson, Regent.

Another team placed third in the crossarm changeout event and fifth place in the 35-foot pole climb. Team members are Mike Lewis, Hisham, Mont.; Andrew Sonsalla, Marmarth; Lex Lindbo, Minot; and Jonathan Engholm, Brainerd, Minn.

Winning individual awards were Mike Lewis, fifth in pole climb and crossarm changeout; and Thomas Larson, sixth in pole climb.

Mystician and Jennifer Weisgerber win regional journalism awards

The Mystician newspaper won second place in the category Best All-Around Daily Student Newspaper (published no more than once per week) in the Mark of Excellence

Awards of the Society of Professional Journalists Region 6. These awards, for the 2005 calendar year, were presented April 1 in Minnesota.

Jennifer Weisgerber, a Mystician editor, won two first place photography awards. In the photo illustration category, the award was for "Handing Down the Names." In the feature photography category, her photo "High Haven" placed first.

First place regional winners advance to the national round of judging. Winners will be announced in mid-May. This year, collegiate journalists submitted more than 3,100 entries in 43 categories across SPJ's 12 regions. A list of awards can be viewed at www.spj.org/news.

Computer science students score in contest

Three BSC computer science students competed in the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium programming contest April 6-8 at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Sophomore Nathan Levi, Bismarck, and freshmen Justin Blasy of Mandan and Michelle Richard, Belfield, took 19th place in a field of 34 teams from a six-state area. They used Java programming language to code their solutions. Students received a packet of eight problems to solve in a three-hour period.

Teams consisted mainly of junior and seniors from four-year colleges and doctorate-granting institutions.

"This is especially intimidating for college freshmen and our students handled it well," said **Karen Arlien**, assistant professor of computer science.

Preston Schmidt elected to international office in Phi Theta Kappa

Sophomore Preston Schmidt of Mandan was elected International Vice President of Division III of Phi Theta Kappa for 2006-07 at the international conference in Seattle April 20-22. Nine BSC students and three advisors were among the more than 3,800 students and advisors at the conference. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of the two-year college. Advisors are faculty **Dan Leingang**, **Michelle Lindblom** and **Ryan Pitcher**.

According to Leingang, Preston is the first North Dakotan and the first student from this four-state region to hold an international office in Phi Theta Kappa. There are 59 community and technical colleges in the region.

Preston ran against 10 others running for the same office before becoming one of two finalists in the division.

Preston credits his campaign manager, Samantha Berget, a BSC sophomore from New Richmond, Wis., for his success. They formulated a full campaign that included

brochures and a display booth representing Preston's theme of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Once chosen as a finalist, he was required to give a three-minute speech on the new Phi Theta Kappa honors topic. The topic is "Gold, Gods and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power."

Preston will be enrolled at BSC again next year. His international position requires a lot of traveling, as he will visit many of the colleges in the region. He will be representing an organization that has 2 million members and 1,200 chapters in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, British Virgin Islands, Germany, Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau.

The Web site is www.ptk.org. For convention information, use the link: <http://convention.ptk.org/> For information on the officers, use this link: <http://www.ptk.org/directories/intofficers.htm>

Music students making a difference

Music professor Tom Porter reports that four BSC music students are making a difference in our community. Courtney Olson, Danielle Stadick, Kelsey Fredricks and Jennifer Peake have been teaching the private piano students of Emma Overbeck at the Riverbend Conservatory of Music. Overbeck's four-month old daughter was severely injured recently, and she and her husband are with their child in Fargo.

Porter says, "Not only have they (BSC students) provided continued instruction for students who otherwise probably could not have found a teacher mid-year, but they have donated their time so that the money the families have continued to pay goes to the Overbecks."

A benefit concert for the Overbecks is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

BSC welcomes new employee

Connie M. Johnson was employed in the Workforce Safety and Insurance communications department before becoming administrative assistant for Distance Education. During her 16 years with WSI, she also did administrative work as unit supervisor for the claims department. She has an AA from BSC and BS in management from University of Mary. Johnson grew up near Wing and volunteers for the Mental Health Association of North Dakota. She is married to Mandlie Johnson and has one stepdaughter. Her activities include reading, cooking, walking and camping.

Dan Wahlman to serve as Faculty Senate president

The Faculty Senate recently elected officers and new members for 2006-07. Officers are **Dan Wahlman**, president; **Lonnie Bertsch**, vice president; and **Kitty Netzer**, secretary/treasurer.

Campus open house scheduled for Oct. 19

Oct. 19 is the date selected for a BSC Open House for interested high school students, parents and non-traditional students.

An ad hoc committee working on the open house will be seeking assistance from faculty, staff and students so that all program areas and student groups will be represented. There will be an afternoon and an evening session.

“This is our chance to show prospective students that opportunities abound at BSC,” said **Jeff Jacobs**, director of financial aid. “With everyone working together, we can impact enrollment.”

Committee members are **Jacobs, Marlene Anderson, Jay Meier, Joe Ellefson, Melinda Landis, Deidre Pugh, Brian Bernat, Lonna Meier, Mary Friesz** and **Rita Nodland**.

Faculty and Staff News

Lynette Borjeson Painter, Phi Beta Lambda adviser and assistant professor of computer information systems, and **Amy Helgeson**, assistant professor of Web development and design, accompanied 15 students to the Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference in Jamestown, April 6-8.

Karla Gabriel, dean of admissions and enrollment services, and **Tom Leno**, director of academic records and registrar, attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers April 17-20 in San Diego.

Michelle Lindblom, assistant professor of art, **Dan Leingang**, associate professor of math, and **Ryan Pitcher**, assistant professor of Spanish, accompanied students to Seattle April 18-23 for the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention.

Chad Wetzel, power and process plant technology instructor, attended an Industrial Consulting and Management (ICM) startup crew meeting in Colwich, Kan., April 18-21.

Dr. Donna S. Thigpen, president, and **Dr. Wayne Boekes**, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, attended the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference in Long Beach, Calif., April 22-25.

Erik Cutler, multicultural coordinator, attended the Symposium on the Recruitment and Retention of Students of Color in Kansas City, Mo., April 23-25.

Zachery Allen, ETO research and development coordinator, traveled to Minneapolis April 26-28 to present “Electrical Fundamentals Refresher and System Problem Solving” at the Midwest Independent System Operator Short Course.

Student loan forgiveness available for technology occupations

College graduates employed in technology-related occupations in North Dakota may be eligible for student loan forgiveness through a program coordinated by the North Dakota University System and the Bank of North Dakota.

The program provides loan forgiveness of up to \$1,000 per year for a maximum of three years. To qualify for loan forgiveness, an applicant must have:

- Graduated from a college approved by the State Board of Higher Education (including public and private colleges and universities)
- Successfully completed an SBHE-approved, technology-related program
- Maintained at least a cumulative 2.5 grade point average based on a 4.0 grading system
- Obtained a student loan from the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender and must not be in default on that student loan and
- Been employed in an SBHE-approved technology occupation in North Dakota for at least one year following graduation.

Applicants who meet these qualifications will be considered based on the date their applications are received in the N.D. University System Office, but no later than June 30, 2006. Award recipients will be notified by July 31, 2006. Applicants must apply or re-apply annually for new or continued funding.

The Technology Occupations Student Loan Forgiveness Program was introduced by Gov. John Hoeven and approved by the 2001 Legislative Assembly. The Bank of North Dakota is responsible for applying loan forgiveness payments. More information is available by calling Peggy Wipf, NDUS director of financial aid and federal relations, at 328-4114 or by accessing the University System Web site at www.ndus.nodak.edu and clicking on Student and Parent Information/Financial Aid.