

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College – November 4, 2004

Get ready to learn about AQIP

Here's another acronym to learn and use: AQIP. AQIP stands for Academic Quality Improvement Program.

Last year a study team made up of members from each Learning First team researched whether BSC should begin using AQIP, an alternative accreditation process. Our accreditation will still be done through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, sometimes referred to as NCA.

The study team recommended to the President's Cabinet that BSC apply to NCA to work toward maintaining our accreditation by using the AQIP process. Over the summer, the Cabinet agreed with the team's recommendation, and BSC is now beginning the process of becoming an AQIP campus.

AQIP is a continuous improvement process based on quality principles. It differs from the traditional accreditation process with its self-study, report, and accompanying NCA team visit.

Dr. Drake Carter, associate vice president for academic affairs, is the leader of the new AQIP Implementation Team.

"AQIP is a quality-based accreditation process," Dr. Carter said. "With AQIP, BSC will conduct a self-assessment, set our own goals, and measure how well we are making progress toward achieving those goals."

"There are four steps to becoming an AQIP campus, and the implementation team is working on the self-assessment, which is the second step," Dr. Carter said. "The self-assessment, called Vital Focus, will require the involvement of all employees. Completion of the Vital Focus will allow BSC to apply to NCA to become an AQIP campus for purposes of maintaining our accreditation."

Dr. Carter plans to host two information meetings later this month for employees to learn more about AQIP.

AQIP Implementation Team members are **Marlene Anderson**, Library; **Jordis Conrad**, Communications; **Donna Fishbeck**, Student Development; **Tanya Fuher**, Bookstore; **Lori Heinsohn**, CCE; **Jean Hinton**, Surgical Technology; **Michael Kubisiak**, Institutional Research; **Daniel Leingang**, Mathematics; **Dr. Janelle Masters**, Faculty; **Jane Schreck**, English; **Dr. Jane Schulz**, Instruction; and **Julie Schroer**, Biology.

Those who also served on the initial study team are Conrad, Fishbeck, Hinton, Leingang, Schreck, Schulz and Schroer.

BSC to offer Spanish course with focus on business

BSC's evening section of introductory Spanish in the spring semester will focus on Spanish for business. The four-credit hour class is scheduled from 5:20 to 7:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Jan. 11.

Ryan Pitcher, assistant professor of Spanish, said this is the first class in a new "Spanish for Work" series.

"We've had requests from business people in the community to offer this kind of instruction," Pitcher said. "This is a Spanish 101 class that anyone can enroll in, but we'll be focusing on business topics. Students can expect the same results as they would from any other beginning Spanish course, but their functional capabilities will be catered to more of a commerce-oriented environment."

No previous experience in Spanish is required. Course content will incorporate traditional, everyday vocabulary into specific contexts such as opening a bank account, paying credit card bills, addressing an audience, preparing a resume, and purchasing insurance. Travel and human resources are among the other areas that will be covered.

BSC play explores small town politics in 'Book of Days'

BSC Theatre brings St. Joan to the heartland with the Nov. 10 opening of Lanford Wilson's "Book of Days," a look at what happens to a contemporary woman's quest for truth and honesty amid small town religion practice, jealousy, and greed.

"Book of Days" explores community politics and the tragedy that twists the relationships between 12 townspeople – a number not coincidentally representative of the Apostles, and a jury. Performances run through Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

The drama derives its title from a type of calendar kept in public squares during medieval times that was dominated by listings for church celebration days. Wilson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright whose works often explore themes of alienation, loneliness, and crumbling illusions, uses the structure of this public diary to raise a social concern and afflict those he sees as the comfortable in society.

"The play is actually a political history of America since the Vietnam War disguised as a murder mystery," says director **Dan Rogers**, associate professor of speech and theater. "Wilson called it a fable and also poses a question about how Joan of Arc would fare in America's heartland today."

Ruth, the lead character, is a bookkeeper at the town's only employer, a large cheese plant. She tries out for a local production of George Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" and gets the title role. But as events unveil themselves, Ruth tries to champion truth in her own time. She becomes entangled in the affairs of church and state, just as St. Joan did in 15th century France.

"This play deals with the plight of small towns and their desire to maintain stability while needing to change and find new ways to thrive," Rogers says. "In that sense, 'Book of Days' should be very relevant to our time."

Craig Moxon, BSC technical theater instructor, provided the set, sound, and lighting design. The production's assistant student director is Genn Howe. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 224-5511.

BSC welcomes Red Horse to custodial staff

Lee Red Horse began his work at the Student Union and Office Annex Oct. 4. He was a custodian at United Tribes Technical College for four years and worked 16 years in shipping and receiving at Nonpareil Inc., a Blackfoot, Idaho, manufacturer. Born in Fort Yates, Red Horse grew up in Idaho and graduated from Bismarck High School. He attended BSC in 1977 studying automotive technology and did concrete work for the state Department of Transportation after returning to North Dakota in 1999.

Faculty & Staff News

Dr. Amy Juhala, assistant professor of English, presented a paper titled "An Advantageous Alliance: Edinburgh and the Court of James VI," at the annual meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies in Philadelphia Oct. 29-31. She represented BSC as one of three scholars on an international panel discussing literature, court and politics in the Scotland of James VI.

Francis Miller and **Dan Landeis**, energy technology online instructors, attended the 3rd Annual Aging Workforce Conference in Clearwater, Fla., Oct. 26-28.

Bob Arso, associate professor of electronics/telecommunications technology, and **Nick Kjos**, assistant professor of electronics/telecommunications technology, attended a networking seminar at AT&S Telephone in Bismarck Oct. 26-29.