

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College – October 26, 2006

See a preview of November events

November is packed with campus events, including the drama production “Nickel and Dime,” a visit from U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan to discuss his new book in relation to BSC’s Campus Read, ChoirFest and other concerts, basketball tournaments, and more.

Two Visiting Writers are scheduled in November. Julie Schumacher, author of young adult fiction, will read from her works on Nov. 15, and Kent Nerburn will be here later in the month. Nerburn is an author, sculptor, and educator who has been involved in Native American issues and education. He lives in northern Minnesota.

Keep track of events by viewing the Calendar of Events on the Web. It’s also featured on the home page right now. You can usually find more details within the News & Events link on the left side of the home page.

BSC welcomes new employees

Dennis Ziniel, industrial maintenance technology instructor, has more than 30 years experience in mechanics and equipment repair. He spent 26 years at Minnkota Power Cooperative in Center, where he became maintenance supervisor, and 10 years in the Navy as a helicopter crewman and mechanic in Vietnam, Japan, and the Philippines, and duty in the U.S. While at Minnkota, Ziniel earned an AA from BSC and BA in university studies from Dickinson State University ('04). He also wrote an opinion column for the Bismarck Tribune for seven years. Raised in St. Anthony, Ziniel is married to Linda and they have six children. Two are BSC graduates. Ziniel collects and enjoys restoring old toys, riding motorcycle, and recently published two books of fiction – “Deception in Dakota” ('05) and “Sea Devil Seven Seven” ('06).

Scott Jones, Dakota Nursing Program office and technology coordinator in Minot, is pursuing a BS degree in computer science and math at Minot State University. Jones also works from Minot as a Williston State College IVN technician. He was previously employed as North Dakota tribal colleges’ liaison for IVN and spent four years as IVN technology and site coordinator at Little Hoop College, Fort Totten. Jones grew up in Minot and has four children and three grandchildren. He enjoys computing, spending time with family, and doing mission work for impoverished youth in Minot.

Custodian **Deborah Stevenson** works in Swensen Hall. She has studied criminal justice at BSC and also attended United Tribes Technical College, and Williston State College. Stevenson also works for Spring Cleaning doing commercial buildings. She was a security officer for Bismarck-Mandan Security Inc. for two years and did maintenance at Sam’s Club. Stevenson grew up in Devils Lake and graduated from Watford City High School. She has two sons, ages 13 and 14, and enjoys biking and gardening.

Two receive AAS in Nuclear Power Tech program; interest increasing in nuclear power

Students from Massachusetts and Washington are the first graduates of BSC's Nuclear Power Technology online program. Don Merhar and Karla Sahl started the program in January 2004 and received their Associate in Applied Science degrees after summer session.

Merhar, of Richland, Wash., is manager of maintenance programs at Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station. He is in charge of staff that provides all of the support required of a commercial maintenance department.

Sahl is employed at Entergy Pilgrim Nuclear Station in Plymouth, Mass. Before enrolling in BSC's program, she had applied to become a non-licensed operator, but was not hired for the position until she had completed portions of the program.

BSC has 26 students enrolled in the program this semester, said **Bruce Emmil**, ETO program manager.

"The nuclear industry is starting to show interest in using some of BSC's credit courses as part of their internal training programs," Emmil said. "They are also starting to show interest in BSC creating additional non-credit online courses for their training programs."

He said nuclear power is getting more attention again, and that companies have been announcing plans to develop applications to file with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Construction and Operating Licenses (COLs) for new nuclear plants.

Art Rude presents sessions on brain science

Art Rude, assistant professor of mathematics/physics, was a presenter at the fall faculty development sessions at North Dakota's community colleges in Williston, Bottineau, Devils Lake and Wahpeton. He presented "The Three Pound Universe," a workshop on the basics of brain science with practical application to the classroom or any learning environment.

Rude, who developed the workshop recently, said, "The human brain is the most complicated system in the known universe. My goal is to give teachers and others associated with education a working understanding of what actually goes on in the brain. The feedback and interaction with teachers has been super."

He is listed with the Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau speakers bureau, and also speaks on these topics: "How the Brain Learns," "Working with the Motivationally Handicapped," "Algebra Anxiety," "Algebra Without the Letters" and "Everything You Wanted to Know About Fractions, But Were Afraid to Ask." Rude also has an entertainment act in which he performs original songs as a Norwegian character. This act is titled Novelty Songwriter from the Northern Plains.

Johanna McClay selected for Leadership Institute

Reference Librarian **Johanna McClay** has been selected to attend the MPLA (Mountain Plains Library Association) 2006 Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch just north of Abiquiu, N.M., Oct. 29-Nov. 3. McClay is one of 31 individuals selected from the 12-state MPLA region (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming).

Process Plant Tech program cited in Ethanol Producer Magazine

Dan Schmidt, ETO program manager, was quoted in an article titled "Passing Along the Know-How" in the September 2006 edition of Ethanol Producer Magazine. The article covered recruitment, training and retention issues for new ethanol plants.

In the article, Schmidt said that many plant managers in the ethanol industry are up to 30 years younger than their counterparts in the fossil fuel industries. The article includes other information about BSC's Process Plant Technology program, and a photo of students in the lab.

Subscribers to the magazine can view it online at www.ethanolproducer.com

Several graduates of the Process Plant Technology program are ethanol plant managers or employees or have other ties to the ethanol industry in and out of North Dakota.

Faculty & Staff News

Kristin Larson, advisor coordinator, attended the National Academic Advising Association Conference in Indianapolis Oct. 15-21.

Carla Braun Hixson, associate vice president for corporate and continuing education, attended the Center for Energy Workforce Development Conference in Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 15-17.

Lonna Meier, academic support services coordinator, attended the 2006 College Reading and Learning Association/College Academic Support Programs Conference in Austin, Texas, Oct. 17-22.

Bruce Emmil, ETO program manager/instructor, attended the National Science Foundation Conference Oct. 18-20 in Washington, D.C.

Lane Huber, director of distance education, attended the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Internet Course Exchange Steering Board Meeting in Boise, Idaho, Oct. 18-21.

Dave Clark, executive vice president, traveled to Chicago Oct. 19-20 for the Association of Colleges and University Business Officers Innovation Council Meeting.

Dr. Wayne Boekes, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, attended the National Conference for Workforce Education in Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 20-24.

Elmer Weigel, chief information services officer, traveled to Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 21-25 for the League for Innovation in the Community College 2006 Conference on Information Technology.