

FYI Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ September 7, 2005

Proposal for BAS degree approved at first step in two-stage process

BSC's proposal to establish and deliver a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Energy Management received approval from the N.D. University System Academic Officers on Tuesday, Sept. 6. Dr. Wayne Boekes, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, said this is the first step in Stage 1 of a two-stage approval process.

While the vote for BSC's proposal was not unanimous, Dr. Boekes said it received a lot of support, even though some of the system's academic officers are concerned with the mission change for BSC.

Dr. Boekes said that the offering of a baccalaureate degree by BSC would also require approval of a mission change for the college. As a community college, BSC has approval to offer associate degrees and certificates, but not baccalaureate degrees. If the mission change and BAS program are approved by the N.D. State Board of Higher Education, Dr. Boekes said he sees BSC offering specialty baccalaureate degrees. "The mission change would not mean we would become a comprehensive baccalaureate-degree granting institution in the near future," he said. "That requires a lot of other institutional changes."

The proposal will next be reviewed by the NDUS campus presidents and the Chancellor, Dr. Robert Potts. If the Chancellor and his cabinet recommend continuing study of the proposal, it then goes on to the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). If approved by the SBHE, BSC will submit a detailed proposal for Stage II, which follows the same process as Stage I.

The request that BSC offer the BAS program comes from the nearly 400 students enrolled in online energy technology programs. "These students, who live and work throughout the United States, want to continue their education at BSC," said Dr. Boekes. "They have developed a relationship and a loyalty to Bismarck State College."

Three other colleges in North Dakota offer a BAS degree, but they are not specific to energy management. Consequently, the energy technology online students are not enrolling in those programs. "North Dakota will lose the students who want their baccalaureate degrees for moving up in management in the energy industry to well-known private schools throughout the country, such as DeVry, Capella University, Peirce College or PACE," he said.

If approved through Stage 2, Dr. Boekes believes the BAS program could be available in the fall of 2007.

Campus Read begins with Craig Thomas events

You could call it Bismarck's biggest book club. Thousands of students and employees at Bismarck's three colleges will read "Tuesdays with Morrie" this fall along with community members from North Dakota Center for the Book.

The second annual Campus Read at BSC begins with two guest appearances by Craig Thomas, a 28-year-old Missouri man with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often called Lou Gehrig's disease.

It is the disease that brought writer Mitch Albom to the bedside of his college mentor, Morrie Schwartz, and what transpired there in a series of Tuesday visits.

"An Evening with Craig Thomas – Putting a Face on ALS" begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in BSC's Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. Thomas will talk about his life since being diagnosed with ALS in 2003 and the disease that doctors in three states said he was too young to have. A reception follows the presentation.

"Lunch with Craig Thomas" takes place at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9, in the auditorium. Attendees will be asked to participate in a free will offering for ALS research or the Craig Thomas Trust Fund. Complimentary lunch follows outside the Student Union with BSC Food Services staff grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. The BSC Alumni Association sponsors both events.

Read more at www.bismarckstate.edu/news/spotlight

BSC welcomes new staff members

Jeff Brown, enhanced Web application developer, graduated from BSC in 2001 with an AA and an AS in computer science. He has certificates in Desktop Publishing and Application Support Specialist from Minot State University. Brown earned a BA in computer science from Lakeland University, Sheboygan, Wis., in 2004 and is pursuing a master's degree in computer information systems from University of Denver. Brown worked in customer technical support at Sykes Enterprises Inc. and Business Office Online in Bismarck for six years. A Bismarck native, he enjoys family time with his wife Amanda and sons Dylan, 8, and Ethan, 2, and coaches for the Bismarck Hockey Boosters.

Michelle Barth began work as textbook coordinator at the BSC Bookstore Aug. 29. She graduated from BSC with an AAS degree in commercial art in 2000. Barth works part-time doing custom framing at Hobby Lobby. She grew up in Mandan and enjoys family, friends, and her cat, Max.

Ken Sabot is the new custodian in the Vocational Technical Center. He has worked in general construction for 20 years in California, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Before beginning his BSC job July 18, he spent five years at I-Rock Construction in Mandan. A graduate of Bismarck High School, Sabot enjoys fishing and riding his motorcycle.

Melinda Landis was hired Sept. 1 and works as energy program placement and assessment coordinator in Career Counseling and Services in the Student Union. Landis graduated from the University of Mary in 2004 in business administration and was a member of the Harold Schafer Leadership Academy honor society. During her year as a human resources intern for the state Department of Transportation, Landis helped develop a wellness program. A Harvey native, Landis married Kurt Landis Aug. 6 and enjoys reading, walking, and inline skating.

Joni and Jon Tharaldsen head to Minnesota

Joni Tharaldsen leaves her position as admissions office assistant on Sept. 8. A lot has happened during her five years and seven months at BSC. She met her future husband, Jon Tharaldsen, who was Werner Hall residence supervisor at the time, married Jon in January 2003 before he left to serve with the N.D. National Guard in Iraq, and gave birth to their son, Jaron, while Jon was away.

Now the family is moving to Hutchinson, Minn., where Jon has been hired as a system controller for Hutchinson Utilities. Jon earned his associate in applied science degree in process plant technology in December 2004.

Joni's main responsibility in the Admissions Office has been to work with students enrolling in the limited enrollment programs and in the EMT-paramedic programs. Joni said she will miss all her BSC friends. "The hardest part is leaving people and places that you are comfortable with," she said.

Faculty & Staff News

Lynette Borjeson Painter and **Amy Helgeson**, assistant professors of computer information systems, presented workshops at the 35th N.D. Career & Technical Education Professional Development Conference in Bismarck on Aug. 8-10. Helgeson presented a Web Site Design workshop featuring the CIW Site Design curriculum and also an XML Workshop. Borjeson Painter presented two workshops on Adobe InDesign CS2 and one workshop on Adobe Acrobat.

Lynette Borjeson Painter, assistant professor of computer information systems, recently received notice that she has completed all the requirements to become a CIW Certified Instructor (CI). The CIW certification is the curriculum used for BSC's Web Page Development and Design Program.