

# *FYI* Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ September 29, 2005

## Online student numbers on the rise

The number of students taking online classes has increased 9.4 percent from last fall. Lane Huber, director of distance education, says BSC has 1,173 students taking 2,734 online enrollments this fall. Online enrollments (class seats) have increased 6.8 percent from last fall.

Of the 1,173 students, 626 are taking only online courses. Of these 626 unduplicated students, 272 are taking general education/electives and 354 are taking energy technology online classes (or a combination of energy/general education electives).

Huber reports that this semester we have online students from 44 states, two Canadian provinces, and one student from Australia.

## BSC welcomes new employees

**Jacinta “Cindy” Splichal**, admissions office assistant, has eight years experience in data entry and office support with A.N. Enterprises, Dickinson, and the University of Arkansas, Lafayette, where she was administrative assistant for University Relations. A native of Dickinson, she has a BS in elementary education from Dickinson State University and was a substitute teacher for the Dickinson and South Heart school districts for six years. Splichal and her husband Bob have three grown daughters and a son, who just returned from U.S. Army service in Iraq. She enjoys hiking, reading, and outdoor family activities.

**William “Tom” Waddell** joined the energy curriculum team Sept. 16 as developer/instructor for Nuclear Power Technology Online. A native of South Dakota, he has 40 years experience in nuclear power, working most recently in the field of human performance at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. Waddell taught at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations in Atlanta and served 20 years on U.S. Navy submarines, retiring as lieutenant commander. He was maintenance manager at nuclear power stations in New York and Texas and did corporate compliance work at Carolina Power and Light. Waddell enjoys woodworking. He and his wife Alicia have a son and daughter.

## Instructional team revising ETO curriculum

BSC is moving closer to a standardized curriculum for Energy Technology Online (ETO) programs. Applied Math, the first of six revised core courses, was made available to online students Sept. 12 with another five courses in progress and scheduled for launch by late November.

ETO instructional designer **Michelle Olsen**, and **Phil Padgett**, online course developer/instructor for Nuclear Power Technology, have worked together since May to create an overall curriculum template using Instructional Systems Design, a research-based process that

leaves behind the standard textbook approach. Over the summer, the pair formulated goals and objectives for fundamental courses across all five energy programs. Different learning styles were addressed with multimedia animation, simulations, and audio presentations to create a more interactive learning experience.

With information from power plants and refineries, job task databases, and resources for best teaching practices, the revised curriculum is based on what people actually do in the workplace and the skills and attitude used to do the job. Padgett, a former U.S. Navy Commander who directed design of safety related curricula, said the method derives from government/military safety and compliance training, an exacting exercise that leaves no margin for error. This is a different emphasis than academic learning, where courses are as varied as their instructors, who choose textbooks closest to what they want to teach.

“For us that introduces the possibility of error,” Padgett said. “We’re trying to be logical and more accountable and prove to industry that what BSC is doing is valuable. Companies will have a measurable return on investment down the road and know that students have demonstrated the ability to do that job with a high level of proficiency.”

Olsen and Padgett are placing all their research in a database that can be configured for various uses, including BSC-branded textbooks and other materials for marketing to other institutions. Olsen said their methodology gives BSC control of its curriculum rather than the textbook companies. It also eliminates losing course content when an energy instructor leaves, and possible instructional bias of one person’s career experience and comfort level in the courses that were previously designed.

“What we want students to do is written right into the curriculum and supports people in the workplace,” Padgett said. “We’re looking for the most comprehensive inventory of knowledge and skill that reflects what the student needs to know to be successful.”

On Sept. 23, Padgett and Olsen began training faculty to help with the instructional model, which will address a related goal to align both online and campus curriculums. Initial focus will be on Power Plant Technology.

## Tom Stein wins first place for poem

Thomas Stein, assistant professor of English, won the Class C – 1st prize (blue ribbon) for his poem “In Pravets” in the 2005 N.D. State Fair Writing Contest. Pravets is the town in Bulgaria where Stein spent the 2003-04 academic year on a fellowship through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program. Stein agreed to have us include the poem in this newsletter. It will be published in the spring edition of a journal called *Buckle &*.

In Pravets

sun  
burnished as an etruscan shield  
arches above chinese porcelain sky

birds butterflies grasshoppers  
drift through balkan winds

in the field  
beneath the mountains  
horses swish their tails &  
eat tall grass  
plentiful  
from spring rains

it has been a month  
since I wrote any words

## Art Rude offers song collection

The arts and sciences came together equally for **Art Rude**, math and physics instructor. He manipulates numbers as well as notes in his dual calling as teacher and singer-songwriter. A vocalist all his life, Rude started writing original songs in 1971. He performed in bands and has been a solo act the past 15 years. His greatest hits compact disc, "Rude Beginnings," is now out in digital format and contains seven re-mastered songs in the novelty genre. Some of the titles popular with listeners are "Jello in the Sunshine," "Howdy, Mr. Reagan," and "40-below Keeps the Riff Raff Out." The CD release party is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, on the TR Deck of the Bismarck Elks Club. Rude performs his first Bismarck concert Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the historic Buckstop Junction Hotel on east Bismarck Expressway. The album and concert tickets can be purchased at the BSC Bookstore or on his Web site at [www.artrude.com](http://www.artrude.com).

## Monster Concert features multiple pianists Oct. 2

It's a trick to get 10 keyboardists and five pianos on stage at one time. But the congestion is all in the spirit of the seventh annual Monster Concert scheduled at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

The program features 42 local pianists and consists of 15 pieces at various skill levels performed by two or three players on each piano. Co-sponsored by BSC and the Bismarck-Mandan Music Teachers Association, the concert funds a \$200 annual scholarship to a private music student in grade nine to 11, and a \$200 scholarship to a BSC keyboard student. Admission is \$5.

## Music faculty and alumni present opera program

BSC music faculty members **Tom Porter, Dawn Hagerott, Kathryn Ring** and **Clyde Baumann** presented an educational program, "This Is an Opera," to more than 600 sixth grade students from the Bismarck Public Schools on Sept. 23 at the Belle Mehus Auditorium. The program introduced students to the many facets of an opera and featured performances by members of the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus, including solos by BSC alumni **Bill Franke** and **Natascha Bach**, and commentary by alumna **Joyce Tello**. **Craig Moxon**, BSC assistant professor of technical theater, provided lighting effects.

## Faculty & Staff News

**Lynette Borjeson Painter**, assistant professor of computer information systems, recently was granted Microsoft Office 2003 Editions Master certification. In order to be granted this certification, a candidate must successfully pass all of these certification exams: Microsoft Word

Expert, Microsoft Excel Expert, Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Access (or Microsoft Outlook).

Attending the Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE) meeting in St. Louis Sept. 20-23 were **Kevin Holmstrom**, energy technology online program manager/instructor, **Phil Padgett**, energy technology online program instructor/developer, and **Bill Wahlman**, energy technology online director.

BSC President **Dr. Donna S. Thigpen** represented BSC and the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association at the N.D. Department of Commerce business gathering and showcase in San Jose, Calif., Sept. 24. Dr. Thigpen is president of the BMDA this year. She also met with a BSC alumna from the San Jose area.

## ConnectND newsletter available online

The Fall 2005 issue of eBulletin (the ConnectND newsletter) is now online and available in printable format at: <http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/news/ebulletin-09-2005.pdf>

Articles include:

- User groups drive ConnectND future
- Passing the (NDUS) oversight baton
- NDUS Help Desk handles fall traffic
- Students access ConnectND en masse
- HECN mainframe retirement nears

## State employees earn cash for good ideas

Got a smashing idea to save money at BSC? There is a payoff for thinking outside the box. The Office of Management and Budget has announced awards of \$1,051.70 to Maureen Vosberg and \$2,000 to Curtis Clementich for suggesting money-saving efficiencies in state government. They received their recognition from the state Employee Suggestion Incentive Program. Under the law, employees can receive 20 percent of any savings realized over a 12-month period up to \$2,000. Savings must relate directly to the proposed change. The proposal also must be beyond the expectation of the employee's job performance.

Vosberg, OMB Human Resource Management Services, suggested that state employees use Dexonline instead of calling directory assistance. Savings totaled \$5,258.50 the first year.

Clementich, Department of Transportation at Karlsruhe, N.D., suggested improving the pipe culvert marker installation, which saved \$9,576.