

# *FYI* Campus Newsletter

Bismarck State College ~ September 3, 2008

## Kim Christianson named director of Great Plains Energy Corridor Office

Kim Christianson was hired recently as director of the Great Plains Energy Corridor Office, located in the National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE). This is a new position at BSC.

U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan secured funding to establish a Great Plains Energy Corridor Office, which will provide education and outreach services to the energy industry, initially in North Dakota and eventually expanding to neighboring states. Sen. Dorgan and BSC will hold a news conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, in NECE Room 355 to announce the opening of the office and Christianson as the director.

Activities of the office will include facilitating two major energy conferences in Bismarck - the Great Plains Energy Expo and Showcase scheduled in November, and the Renewable Energy Action Summit, usually held in May; hosting additional "action summits" for particular sectors of the energy industry; and serving as a focal point for unbiased information on the current activity/status of the North Dakota energy industry.

Christianson has more than 20 years experience working with energy programs for both North Dakota and the U.S. Department of Energy. His primary areas of focus were with energy efficiency and renewable programs, including wind energy, ethanol, biodiesel, biomass and solar. He also was involved in some planning and policy development for other energy sectors in the state.

He served for 16 years as manager of the Office of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency with the N.D. Department of Commerce. Other positions include working as an energy conservation specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy in Denver, and in the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance/Division of Community Services with the N.D. Office of Management & Budget. Christianson also has experience in community and economic development in the South Central Dakota Region and for the city of Underwood.

Christianson's wife, Gail, teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Grimsrud Elementary School. They have two daughters, Merete, a senior at Macalaster College in St. Paul, and Laura, a sophomore at Bismarck High School.

## BSC welcomes new faculty

Eleven new faculty members were hired this fall, along with a returning instructor, and an adjunct instructor who has become full time. Four of the instructors are BSC graduates.

**JACLYN ALLEN, Assistant Professor of English**

Allen returns to BSC after two years in the Denver area, where she continued to teach English-related courses online as an adjunct instructor. She started at BSC in 2003 as a full-time English instructor and moved into an assistant professor position in 2004. Allen grew up in Lake Poinsett, S.D., and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from South Dakota State University in Brookings. Graduation honors included Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year. She taught a comprehensive writing program in 2002-03 at The College of Southern Idaho, a Twin Falls community college. Allen also was a high school English and Spanish teacher in Hayti, S.D. She and husband Zak are expecting their first child in October.

**DEAN BELLIN, Technical Theatre Instructor**

Bellin graduated in 2007 with a MFA in theatre design from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He was a teaching assistant and guest lecturer in scenic design and technical director of the university's Earle Ernst Lab Theatre. Bellin also did scenic design for Kuma Kahua Theatre in Honolulu. A native of LaMoure, Bellin attended North Dakota State University in the 1990s and graduated with a BFA in theatre arts in 2003. He was technical director for Trollwood Performing Arts School in Fargo from 2003-07 and worked a year as assistant technical director for the F-M Community Theater. Bellin was a technician for NDSU's Festival Concert Hall from 1993-97, when he also served as technical director for summer productions at LaMoure County Summer Theatre and Dakota Prairie Regional Center for the Performing Arts in New Rockford. Last year, Bellin started his own general contracting business in LaMoure.

**ERIC BLESS, Assistant Professor of Biology**

Bless earned his MS in biology from the University of North Dakota in 2007 and did his undergraduate work there in biology and chemistry. He received the Department of Biology's APSAC research award in 2006. Bless was a graduate teaching assistant, lab instructor, and graduate research assistant in fish disease. He did undergraduate research on prairie insects at Louisiana State University in 2003. Last year, Bellin was an environmental scientist for the N.D. Department of Health, inspecting water and wastewater treatment plants in eight southeastern counties and training operators. He presented at the Northern Plains Biological Symposium in Grand Forks in 2007. A native of Bismarck, Bellin is married to Kelsey Bless.

**WILLIAM GIESER, Assistant Professor of Electrical Lineworker**

Gieser has eight years lineman experience, including supervising, training, constructing and maintaining the power grid. He graduated from BSC with a Certificate in electrical lineworker in 2000. After apprenticing with KC Electric Association Inc. in Hugo Colo., for four years, he recently achieved journeyman lineman status at Mountain View Electric Association Inc. in Limon, Colo., where he was lead lineman. During his apprenticeship, Gieser became certified in cable testing and aerial gloving at Mesa Hotline School, Grand Junction, Colo., and basic metering at Colorado State University. Before college, Gieser worked a year at United Building Centers in Mandan, his hometown. He and his wife Amy have three sons and a daughter and are expecting their fifth child.

**SHAWN IVERSON, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Physiology/Biology**

Iverson received his MS in biology from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, in 2005. He was lecturer in human anatomy/physiology and biology at EMU the past three years. Iverson also taught concurrently at Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor; Oakland Community College, Smithfield; Monroe Community College, Monroe; and Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn. From 1995-

2003, he taught junior high and high school biology in schools throughout Minnesota. Iverson grew up in Valley City and has a BS in education and biology major from Valley City State University. He also worked as a field paleontologist and disc jockey in Valley City and Fargo. He is married to Randi Iverson.

### **CURTIS JOHNSON, Welding Technology Instructor**

Johnson has worked at Bobcat Company in Bismarck since 1991 as a machinist and welder. From 1984-91, he operated his own sales and service business, Curt's Prop Shop in Garrison, selling boat propellers and doing welding and general repair. Johnson also worked as a 1<sup>st</sup> Class welder at Pillsbury in Minneapolis for nine years. He has a Certificate in welding from North Dakota State College of Science and trained in non-destructive testing at Hutchinson (Minn.) Area Vo-Tech in 1991. Johnson grew up in Minot and enjoys restoring vintage motorcycles. He and his wife Nannette have a daughter and two sons, one who is a sophomore at BSC.

### **CAROLINE KOZOJED, Assistant Professor of Psychology/Sociology**

Kozojed has a MS in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and is pursuing a doctorate in education from North Dakota State University. Kozojed earned a BA in psychology from Jamestown College in 1996 and returned in 2002 as an instructor and assistant professor of psychology and sociology. She has been summer school director there since 2004. Kozojed became an independent training consultant in 2005 and did research for the N.D. Department of Human Services last year on gerontology issues. In Chattanooga, Kozojed worked three years for S.I. Corporation and its S.I. University division as a management development specialist. She facilitated an employee training program to enhance individual performance. She and husband Anthony have a son, Anton, 4, and daughter, Claire, 2.

### **DR. ANTHONY MUSUMBA MWENE, Assistant Professor of Physics**

Tony Musumba is a specialist in geospace environments and satellite data base analysis. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, he received his BS in physics and master of philosophy in physics from Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya. During his education, he participated in Focus Kenya, mentoring students at Egerton University in leadership and personal and spiritual development on campuses in the Laikipia and Nakuru districts. He was a lecturer in physics and computer science at Eldoret Polytechnic and taught physics and math to high school students for the Teachers Service Commission in Nairobi. Musumba received his doctorate in physics - space science in May from the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson. He was a research assistant at the university's William B. Hansen Center for Space Sciences and teaching assistant for graduate courses in quantum mechanics and math methods of physics. He and his wife, Alice Musumba, have a 17-month-old daughter, Theodora.

### **SHERI OMLID, Assistant Professor of Speech**

An adjunct instructor since 1997, Omlid has taught speech and communication skills on campus, online and over the IVN network, and non-credit courses for Continuing Education, Training and Innovation. She is an Alternative Choice Trainer (ACT) and facilitates classes on changing unlawful behavior. Omlid has taught interpersonal communication and interview and customer service skills at the state penitentiary for three years. She graduated with a master's degree in speech communication from North Dakota State University in 1995. Omlid also has a BA from NDSU in communications and AA from

BSC. She was born in Bavaria in Germany and came to North Dakota at age 9. She enjoys spending time with family, reading and bicycling.

**ERROL THVEDT, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Instructor**

Thvedt has 35 years experience in HVAC. He earned a Certificate in sheet metal from North Dakota State College of Science and attended UND-Williston for three semesters. He has additional training in heat pumps and Amana products and became a certified home inspector in 2002. Thvedt worked as an installer for Comfort Zone Heat & Air in Bismarck the past three years. He has operated Thvedt Heating and Air Conditioning since 1982, and Northwest Property Inspections since 2002, both in Fortuna, N.D. Thvedt has taught hunter education for N.D. Game and Fish for 18 years and received Instructor of the Year in 2005. He was sheet metal worker foreman during construction of Coal Creek Station near Underwood in 1978-80 and warehouse manager for a Dow-Cargill corn polymer plant in Blaire, Neb., in 2001. He and his wife Marcene have three grown children.

**DR. JOHN WEISS, Assistant Professor of Music**

Weiss has been assistant professor of music at Washington State University-Pullman since 2002, teaching choral studies and conducting vocal groups. He also was music director and conductor of the Idaho/Washington Concert Chorale. Weiss has extensive experience as a vocal soloist and stage performer in concert, recital, and opera settings and travels as an adjudicator and conference presenter. He has a doctor of musical arts from the University of Arizona in choral conducting and performance, a MFA in choral conducting and performance from the University of California-Irvine, and a bachelor of music education from Boston University. Weiss served a year as interim director of choral activities at the University of South Alabama-Mobile and was chorus master of the Mobile Opera. He lived many years in the New England states and taught high school music for six years in Massachusetts. He and his wife Cheryl have a grown daughter.

**KRISTINA WELLS, Assistant Professor of Business and Office Technology**

Wells graduated from BSC in 2000 with AA and AS degrees and played on the women's basketball team one year. She earned a BS in business education from Dickinson State University in 2003. DSU selected her business plan to represent the college in the Marketplace for Entrepreneurs "Be Your Own Boss" competition in Grand Forks. Wells did substitute teaching in the Dickinson area and has worked for the Bismarck School District since 2005. She coached girls basketball and volleyball at Wachter Middle School and tutored students in the Read Right and Title I programs. Wells grew up in Flasher and is married to Andy Wells.

**PAUL ZIMMERMAN, Assistant Professor of Energy Technology Programs**

Zimmerman, a native of Mandan, graduated from BSC with an AAS in Power Plant Technology in 2000. He has worked as a senior board operator for Conoco Phillips Lost Cabin Gas Plant in Lysite, Wyo., since 2001. Zimmerman also worked as an outside operator for a Minnesota Energy ethanol plant in Buffalo Lake, Minn., for a year. He has a Second Class B Boiler's License and additional training in latent cause analysis. Zimmerman did a lot of teaching on the job. He and his wife Danny Jo have a 3-year-old son, Preston. A former varsity athlete, Zimmerman plays softball, basketball, and golf.

**BSC welcomes new staff members**

**Harlon Kingsley**, custodian in the National Energy Center of Excellence, was a survey technician for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Bismarck for 19 years. He has worked as custodian at Edgewood Vista and Sunrise assisted living facilities and the Stamart Oasis truck stop in Bismarck over the past decade. Originally from Minot, Kingsley and his wife Carolyn have a grown son and daughter.

**Roxanne Hammer**, administrative assistant to Executive Vice President Dave Clark, was an administrative assistant at Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson Inc. in Bismarck the past three and a half years. She also worked five years as a receptionist at Alerus Financial in Fargo. Hammer, a native of Braddock, has an AAS degree in executive administrative assistant with legal emphasis from Aakers Business College.

**Virginia Grotberg**, residence supervisor at Lidstrom Hall, graduated with an AS in nursing from BSC last spring. She also has a two-year certificate in cross-cultural missions from Bethany College, Minneapolis. A native of Wimbledon, Grotberg has done mission work in Kenya, plays in a bluegrass band, and enjoys an eclectic mix of hobbies, including sheep sheering.

## 300 attend Lidstrom Hall dedication

About 300 people attended the dedication ceremony and open house of Lidstrom Hall, the new residence hall. The crowd of employees, retirees and friends of former president Dr. Kermit Lidstrom overflowed the Great Room into the L-shaped lobby. [Click here to view photos by Lonnie Bertsch.](#)

## BSC alum completes internship in Library Archives

One of BSC's 2007 graduates found the perfect internship working in the BSC Library archives this summer. BreAnne Meier, a senior majoring in public history at North Dakota State University, completed several projects under the direction of Carolyn Twingley, serials/ILL/archives librarian.

"BreAnne finished an athletic collection," said Twingley. "She was very thorough and very good at tracking down names of athletes. She also arranged a display of athletic items and trophies from a long range of years."

Meier said working with the athletic collection and sorting Mystician photos that went back to the 1970s was the most interesting part of her work and helped her learn more about BSC's history.

She also completed an audio interview of Debbie Van Berkom, who has been an assistant to three BSC presidents and an interim president; prepared a contents page for various collections, including those of recent retirees Dr. Wayne Boekes and Michael Lenhardt; and worked on other projects.

BreAnne will receive nine credits for interning 12 weeks. She plans to pursue a master's degree in library science at the University of Missouri. BreAnne's mother is Lonna Meier, BSC academic support services coordinator.

## Chautauqua brings community to campus

BSC hosted the N.D. Humanities Council's Chautauqua July 25-27. Programs based on the theme "Lincoln, Land and Liberty: The Civil War Era & Beyond" took place in the National Energy Center of

Excellence. Dean of Academic Affairs **Janelle Masters** gathered a BSC committee to assist with hosting this major event. Masters serves on the board of directors of the Humanities Council.

One of the committee members, Professor of History **Michael McCormack**, said, “The BSC Chautauqua was the first not held in the traditional tent venue. The scholars were overwhelmed by the magnificent view surrounding their stage on the 4th floor of our new NECE building and the tremendous welcoming and participation of the large crowds that attended all the sessions.”

Dr. D. Jerome Tweton, the Chautauqua’s senior consultant from the Humanities Council and session moderator, commented that the BSC sessions would set the standard for all later Chautauqua programs, according to McCormack. [Click here to view photos by McCormack.](#)

## Faculty and Staff News

**Karen Selensky**, CETI conference manager, has been selected as a member of the Leadership Bismarck-Mandan Class of 2009. The program is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Selensky will join other local employees of Chamber members in the program that prepares them to be effective, progressive leaders by strengthening their skills and broadening their awareness.

**Ken Paulus**, professor of welding, taught at the Basin Apprenticeship Weld Training/Mobile Weld Lab in Wheatland, Wyo., July 14-18 and July 21-25.

**Albert Koch**, OSHA consultation program manager, attended the OSHA Course Construction Training Updates in Lakewood, Colo., July 20-23 for recertification as an instructor.

**Lane Huber**, director of distance education, traveled to Boston July 28-31 for the Campus Technology - Next Gen.edu Conference.

Attending the Biennial Conference of Chemical Education in Bloomington, Ind., July 26-30 were **JoDean Knutson-Person**, chemistry lab coordinator, and **Jacklyne Lippert**, **Scott Tschaekofske**, and **Brent Reems**, assistant professors of chemistry.

**Zachery Allen**, energy technology programs project manager, traveled to Vancouver, B.C., Canada, July 31-Aug. 1 for the Western Electricity Coordinating Council Trainers Workshop.

**Donna Fricke**, career resource coordinator, traveled to Addison, Texas, July 29-Aug. 1 for the Bridge/XAP Train the Trainer Seminar.

**Angie Milakovic**, GIS coordinator/instructor, and **Carmel Miller**, associate professor of agriculture, technology and natural resources, attended the ESRI International User Conference in San Diego Aug. 1-5.

**Johanna McClay Bjork**, reference librarian, attended the Reference Renaissance: Current and Future Trends Conference in Denver Aug. 2-5.

**Martin Nielsen**, OSHA safety and health consultant, traveled to Arlington Heights, Ill., Aug. 11-15 for the Safety Assessment Workshop.

**Bruce Emmil**, associate vice president for energy technology programs, and **Kari Knudson**, vice president energy technology and director, NECE, attended Seimens and Conoco Phillips meetings in Houston Aug. 17-19. They also traveled to Washington, D.C., Aug. 25-26 for a meeting with representatives of Ft. Belvoir-Army Prime Power School.

**Kevin Holmstrom**, energy technology programs manager, attended the Center for Energy Workforce Development Midwest Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 25-26.