New space brings sense of community to students
GIS and Engineering Technology on leading edge with 3-D printer, other equipment

Set it and forget it: Over a few hours, a two-dimensional drawing on a computer pad takes another form. As digits do a Star Trek-like transport, the drawing becomes a miniature building, a car, a gear machine with moving parts, anything you want — and all in 3-D.

Pick it up. Hold it in your hand. The layered gypsum object has bulk — weight, height, width, — even color copied from the drawing. The Z-Corporation 450 3-D printer in the new Engineering Technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician classrooms is a “wow” factor for everybody.

Considered a showcase piece and one of only two in North Dakota, the 3-D printer shouts: “This is what you can do,” says David Sagsveen, assistant professor of civil engineering technology. “With our new equipment, we’ve jumped 20 years overnight.”

Students can now train on the “latest and greatest” equipment used in industry, he says. Besides the 3-D printer, the two programs have a new map scanner, plotter printer, and six Trimble R8 (GPS) survey receivers with TSC2 controllers, all funded with a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

Engineering Tech and GIS are fairly new programs, eight and five years old, respectively. Before last fall, faculty were scattered all over Jack Science Center, holding classes and keeping track of equipment on every floor, even other buildings. Now Sagsveen, his two teaching colleagues and students have their own space in the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence.

The two programs share a bright classroom and have a 20-station, dual-monitor computer lab all to themselves. Instead of jockeying for space and time with math and computer science students, GIS and Engineering Tech students work on high-powered computers loaded with the only 64-bit operating systems on campus. The rapidly upgraded software for computer aid design (AutoCAD) and GIS can’t run on anything else.

“We have a huge sense of community now,” says Angie Milakovic, GIS assistant professor. “Students can be in the same room all day. They know each other better and have access to us just around the corner.”

The consolidated space has generated a sense of identity and inspired Milakovic and her students to develop bigger projects. GIS now has internships with the U.S. Forest Service, State Historical Society of North Dakota and other agencies. Enrollment is rising in both BSC programs.

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Demand is strong for GIS skills
Continued from page 1

“The latest trend in communicating ideas is storytelling,” Milakovic says. “Maps tell a story and are used everywhere today. It’s hot to be able to map. If you’ve got mapping skills, you’re marketable.”

Because global positioning systems (GPS) and remote sensing are being used in so many industries, graduates with GIS skills have a better chance of employment across the board, Milakovic says. In fact, most of BSC’s GIS students have other degrees. One has a doctorate and couldn’t get hired teaching geography without GIS training. These seasoned workers are taking GIS to keep their jobs or change jobs.

Engineering Tech students take a GIS class, and graduates have benefited from that knowledge, Sagsveen says. Demand is strong and many have found work in wind farm development and North Dakota Department of Transportation projects the past three years.

“We’re pleased these two closely related programs have a new home,” says Dr. Drake Carter, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Demand is strong for GIS skills
Continued from page 1

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The new equipment has application for other learning opportunities. GIS/engineering tech instructor Mark Steele and AutoCAD students are helping energy faculty produce 3-D teaching models. They’re “building” wind turbines for use in BSC’s new Renewable Generation Technology program.

Seasoned workers return for GIS training

Kailee Ludeke graduated from Denver Automotive and Diesel College in 2000. She has an AAS degree and did maintenance and repair for the City of Denver and Denver Delivery. Ludeke is a second year GIS degree student and has a paid internship as a cartographer at the Federal Highway Administration. She wanted a more secure job/career and liked the wide-ranging applications for GIS.

“That appealed to me – not being anchored to one thing. GIS is a fairly new field, so there are a lot of opportunities out there. The more I learn, the more I enjoy it and see how GIS applies to everyday life. Analysis and data help the world be more effective. When I see something on the news, I think ‘they’re probably going to use GIS to figure it out.’ That reinforces my decision because I see how my training will fit into various situations.”

Ashley Persinger, ‘02, earned a BS in wildlife management from North Dakota State University in 2006. She worked for the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service throughout the country. Most recently, she was employed by Western EcoSystems Technology, an environmental and data consulting firm. Persinger is in the GIS Technician Certificate program. Her internship with the U.S. Forest Service involves digitizing 1941 aerial imagery of North Dakota grasslands using BSC’s new scanner/plotter equipment.

“Every job I’ve applied for wants these skills. In every interview, they’ve asked me about GIS. The internship will be the first GIS job I can put on my resume. It’s great. This contact will be so valuable.”

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Ashley Persinger

Objects created in the 3-D printer

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Foundation thanks donors at annual dinner

BSC Foundation Executive Director Gordon Binek welcomed guests to the President’s Club dinner in October. Donors listed below were honored for cumulative donations to the Foundation. Presenting awards were BSC President Larry C. Skogen and BSC Foundation President Bill Townsend. Marv Mutzenberger, associate professor of sociology, gave the invocation.

Jack Fellowship recipient Theresa Felderman thanked the donors for getting her back on track to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology. She said her goal of obtaining the degree had been put on hold for years.

Brianne Fuzesy, music lecturer, and the BSC Jazz Combo provided musical entertainment.

Council for Resource Development Region VIII
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Great River Energy
Diamond Award - $100,000—249,999
Chad Gilchrist
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Myron L. Pfeifle
Ruby Award - $50,000—99,999
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Kadmas, Lee & Jackson
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Xcel Energy Foundation
BSC honors 77 employees for years of service

The BSC Foundation honored 77 employees for their years of service during the annual December holiday party. President Larry C. Skogen and BSC Foundation President Bill Townsend presented awards while BSC Foundation Executive Director Gordon Binék introduced the recipients.

Marv Mutzenberger, associate professor of sociology, was honored for 30 years of service. He came to BSC as the Lutheran Campus Pastor, and soon after was hired as a faculty member. He has taught religion, sociology, psychology and political science classes. Also a coach for baseball and cross country, he announced for baseball and basketball games, and administered a Communitu program for five years.

Ken Paulus, professor of welding, received a 30-year award. He taught the welding credit classes until 2010, when he joined the Continuing Education, Training and Innovation Division. He now focuses on training for industry, which he had also done previously. Paulus teaches online classes, onsite in BSC’s mobile welding lab and for apprenticeship classes. He was instrumental in developing the new welding simulator trailer and the training program at the State Penitentiary.

Carol Cashman, associate professor of speech, received a 25-year award. She is chair of the Service Learning Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Committee, is a Continuous Quality Improvement facilitator, and serves on the Faculty Development Committee. Cashman was a long-time member and is former chair of the North Dakota Community College Consortium.

Angie Uhlich also received a 25-year award. She is the Medical Laboratory Technology director and chair of the Medical Arts & Emergency Services Department. She has written 10 self-studies for the MLT and Phlebotomy programs, resulting in the maximum number of years possible for national reaccreditation.

Receiving 20-year awards were Dave Clark, executive vice president; Kathy Ellingson, food service worker; Debbie Mantz, Continuing Education, Training & Innovation (CETI) trainer; Byron Paul, associate professor of electronics/telecommunications technology; and Joe Vuolo, associate professor of accounting.

Fifteen-year recipients were Joe Ellefson, associate professor of criminal justice; Donna Fishbeck, associate vice president for student affairs; Jamie Gable, custodian - Schafer Hall; Lori Heinsohn, director of CETI; William Pearce, physical science lecturer; and Earl Torgerson, associate professor of carpentry.

Receiving ten-year awards were Tamara Barber, associate vice president for finance and operations; Karen Bauer, assistant professor of journalism/Mystician advisor; Jean Berger, custodian supervisor; Janet Decker, grant development coordinator; John Ell, maintenance; Mary Friesz, director of marketing; Dawn Hagerott, assistant professor of music; Jeff Jacobs, director of financial aid; JoDean Knutson-Person, assistant professor of chemistry; Daniel Leingang, associate professor of mathematics; Sue Lippert, administrative assistant - provost and vice president for academic affairs; Carolyn Martinetti, CETI database technician; Laura Novak, English lecturer; Trudy Riehl, associate professor of surgical technology; Michele Schatz, client server specialist; Daniel Schmidt, program manager, National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE); Jane Schreck, associate professor of English; Cathy Schuh, criminal justice lecturer; Thomas Stein, associate professor of English; Sean Thorenson, associate professor of graphic design & communications; Connie Wagner, computer science lecturer; Kathy Waldera, reference librarian; and Shirley Wilson, associate professor of accounting.

Five-year recipients were Jim Alt, electric power technology lecturer; Brenda Austin, custodian - Schafer Hall; Kendal Busch, assistant professor of electronics/telecommunications/instrumentation & control; Karla Buzick, administrative assistant - associate vice president for academic affairs; Jesse Carman, AV/IVN associate; Walter Cintron, electrical transmission systems technology lecturer; John Custer, nuclear power technology lecturer; Lynn DeKrey, nursing lecturer; Joan Eckerth-Riley, music lecturer; Laura Emmil, electric power technology lecturer; Howell Flowers, power plant technology lecturer; Matt Frohlich, assistant professor of computer information systems; Nancy Gordon, counselor; Daniel Gunderson, electric power technology lecturer; Stephen Huebscherlen, human services lecturer; Greg Hutzlenbiler, assistant professor of electrical lineworker; Clancy Keller, CETI assistant; Joshua Kern, associate professor of English; Craig Kleven, assistant professor of agriculture, technology and natural resources; Greta Knoll, assistant professor of nursing; Kris Krause, psychology lecturer; Melinda Landis, advisor, NECE; Gregory Lauinger, power and process plant technology/electrical transmission systems technology lecturer; Suzie McShane, assistant professor of

Continued on page 5
BSC beneftor Tom Jack dies at age 88

Thomas Jack Jr., 88, died Dec. 2, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa. BSC’s Jack Science Center is named for Mr. Jack and his late wife, Peg, as they provided the lead gift for the campaign to construct the building.

Tom and Peg Jack also made donations to purchase the college’s carillon and to fund the Jack Fellowship, which provides sabbatical leave for a college employee to engage in an educational experience that benefits BSC.

BSC Foundation Executive Director Gordon Binek said that Tom and Peg Jack left a lasting legacy at BSC and that their presence will be felt for many generations of students and employees.

“Tom cared deeply about BSC,” said Binek. “He was very proud of the Jack Science Center and what it meant to the campus.”

In 1996 the Jacks were recipients of the BSC Distinguished Service Citation. They were honored as the Council for Resource Development Region VIII Benefactors of the Year in 1999.

Born in Illinois, Mr. Jack received a business administration degree from the University of Illinois in 1944. He worked for Standard Oil Co. from 1947-66, and for Montana-Dakota Utilities from 1966-84. For most of his career he worked in personnel relations.

BSC Theatre wins two regional awards

Bismarck State College Theatre students and directors returned from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Jan. 16-22 at Iowa State University with two outstanding production awards.

The cast of “Comic Potential” received an Award of Merit for ensemble acting from the festival selection team that viewed the play last fall. Erin Drevlow, guest dialect and movement coach, earned a special award for composing the “actoids” robotic gestures in Alan Ayckbourn’s futuristic satire of television.

The BSC play was among a short list of award-winning productions by two- and four-year colleges from an eight-state region.

For the first time, BSC fielded a technical team for the festival’s Stage Crew Showdown. Theatre Director Dan Rogers said the crew “rocked the house and put BSC’s technical theatre program on the map in a big way.”

The Stage Crew Showdown is basically a stagehand Olympics, said Dean Bellin, technical theatre director. Bellin has been expanding BSC’s technical theatre option the past three years. His four top students competed at ACTF: Tim Rosen, Jack Golden and Jesse Schumaker, all of Bismarck, and Chelsea Brown of Mandan.

BSC employees honored for service

Continued from page 4

of nursing/coordinator; Amanda Miller, distance learning and military affairs coordinator; Kyren Miller, assistant professor, NECE; Mary Morrell, administrative assistant to vice president, NECE; Phil Padgett, assistant professor, NECE; Deidre Pugh, OSHA assistant; Brent Reems, assistant professor of chemistry; Philip Rogers, nuclear power technology lecturer; Patrick Schnobrich, electrical transmission systems technology lecturer; Deb Shipman, assistant professor of microbiology; Wade Vogel, program manager, NECE; Tom Waddell, nuclear power technology lecturer; Cynthia Weigel, psychology lecturer; Craig Wilhelm, power and process plant technology lecturer; Rick Wilke, assistant professor, NECE; and Becky Ziegler, physical education lecturer.
The Foundation welcomes new and renewing Executive Club members for October 1 through December 31, 2010.

Advanced Business Methods  
Don and Lynne Bigwood  
Justin and Renee Forde  
Dr. David and Karen Gayton  
Gurholt Construction  
Wayne R. Harris  
Ed Hasche  
Charles Iten  
Dr. Craig Johnson and Connie Hofland  
Dr. Marlin Johnson  
Joan Kleven  
Mid-America Steel  
DuWayne and Sharon Ternes

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing President’s Club members for October 1 through December 31, 2010.

Advanced Mechanical  
Cynthia Welken-Place - AFLAC  
American Bank Center  
AmeriPride Linen & Apparel Services  
Gary Anderson  
The Atkinson Company  
Brad and Claudia Ballweber  
Bank of North Dakota  
Barr Engineering Co.  
Bartlett & West Engineers  
Beabout Company  
Beazley Engineering  
Gordon and Paula Binek  
Bismarck Honda-Nissan-Hyundai  
Bismarck Tribune  
Bismarck-Mandan Home Builders Association  
BNC National Bank  
BNI, Co., Ltd.  
Bob Eckert Painting  
Bobcat  
Walter and Lucille Braun  
Bullinger Tree Service  
Burger King  
Butler Machinery Company  
Capital City Construction, Inc.  
Capital City Restaurant Supply Co.  
Central Mechanical Inc.  
Cynthia Clairmont  
Control Microsystems  
Corvettes of Dakota Territory  
Corwin Churchill Motors, Inc.  
Coteau Properties Company  
Country Suites  
Coventry Health Care  
Dakota Awards

Thank You, BSC Foundation Donors

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Kathleen Dobovsky  
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Stacy Tschider  
Twin City Roofing  
US Bank  
Scott Wegner  
Wells Fargo Bank North Dakota  
Stephen Welsh and G. Franklin Welsh  
Western Steel & Plumbing  
Joe Wolfe

In memoriam

Contributions were made to the Foundation in memory of:  

Given by:

Lawrence Blumhagen.............. BSC Employees  
Andreemene Charles.............. BSC Employees  
Tom Jack......................... Gordon and Paula Binek  
Jordis and Marc Conrad  
Rita and Dennis Lindgren  
John Sakariassen  
Dr. Donna Thigpen  
Valace Moore..................... BSC Employees  
Harold “Harry” Moos.............Lorraine Moos  
Richard “Dick” Palmer........... BSC Employees 
Bismarck-Mandan Retired  
Teachers Association  
Shirley Schreck................... BSC Employees  
Ryan Schulz........................Jane Schulz  
Jozefa “Josie” Strankowski..... BSC Employees  
Beatrice Wanstrom.. Bismarck-Mandan Retired  
Teachers Association
Digitized images of photos and documents from the BSC Library Archives will take you on a journey into BSC’s past. A variety of documents can be found at http://digitalhorizonsonline.org. More than 200 BSC items are available on the site, which is funded by a grant from the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Search the site with the terms Bismarck Junior College and Bismarck State College, as some different items are found with each term. The photos on this page are examples.

Other photos and documents are from historic events, such as a 1951 photograph of Gov. Norman Brunsdale signing the land bill for the BJC campus on the Capitol grounds. Pictured and identified with him are several educators and politicians. Another item is the printed program from the dedication ceremony for opening of the current campus on Schafer Heights.

Recent additions to this site were made possible through a second successful grant application written last spring by Carolyn Twingley, BSC librarian handling serials, interlibrary loans, and the archives. A 1968 graduate of BSC, Twingley wrote the first grant in 2009.

“This didn’t cost us a nickel,” said Twingley. “Student interns came to campus to do the scanning.” Other student interns have assisted with BSC Archives work in the past.

“While I know we will continue to collect documents, photos, artifacts and media in archives collections, including those here at BSC, I also know that it isn’t always convenient or possible for everyone interested to come to campus to see or use these materials,” Twingley said. “Although we

“Although we at BSC have just started the digitization process, it will eventually make these collections available to the public through their computers.”

– Carolyn Twingley

Carolyn Twingley

BSC staff members are working on a separate project to scan yearbooks from 1941-81 and all issues of “Figments of Imagination.” These will be available at a Mystic Memories link on the BSC Alumni and Library Web pages in Collections.

Digital Horizons was established in 2007 by a consortium of colleges, Prairie Public Broadcasting, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Digital Horizons is dedicated to creating a digital collection of the region’s unique and historical resources. It supports education, scholarship, and enrichment through Internet access to these collections.
Visit the new college website at bismarckstate.edu

Need a reason to check out BSC’s new website? Maybe you want a college-bound family member to apply for BSC Foundation scholarships online, or perhaps you want to shop for a new BSC sweatshirt. Find those features and much more on BSC’s new website, which went live in November.

Enhancements to Alumni Association pages include more photographs, online shopping for college apparel, and options to update information. New to the site is Alumni Affinity, which currently features photos and information from the 1959-60 yearbook.

On the BSC Foundation site, users can now apply for scholarships online, donate online, and view the Financial Connections newsletter online. You will also find more content and photos.

Two menus on the home page help users quickly navigate the site. One menu is geared to user groups, such as Future Students and Current Students, and the other menu contains the most visited sections. Also featured is a Most Popular menu showing the 10 most visited pages, links to News and Events and other important information.

The editor’s notebook

A sense of anticipation, and then of relief. BSC’s website was launched on time, so we could breathe - but just a little. Because a website is never “finished.”

Intense activity preceded the launch. About 50 employees who are website monitors for their departments spent part of their days (and some nights) working on the newly designed site. General training, writing new content, and then more training came before the month of website building by the site monitors. Employees from BSC’s Information Services Department assisted with critical technical issues ahead of the launch.

We applaud the work of our colleagues on this massive project!

A team of three led the project, working closely with Odney’s web development experts. The team consisted of Patrick Bjork, web development specialist; Mary Friesz, director of marketing; and myself, Jordis Conrad, director of communications. Assisting in many capacities were Crystal Forster, graphic designer, and Vicki Voskuil, public information specialist.

Our department was working on the new design for BSC Connections at the same time. Crystal (Fiegel) Forster, a 1977 BSC alum, created the design. We hope that you enjoy the new look, color images, and additional content in the newsletter, and that you will check out the website!

– Jordis Conrad

The Marketing and Communications Department began planning for the new website in 2009 after BSC’s new brand and logo were developed. A Web Navigation Committee composed of BSC staff and faculty assisted by studying other websites, determining BSC’s future needs and planning the site navigation. Odney advertising had been selected to develop, design and assist with the transition to the new site.

“I want to say your new website is spectacular!! Congratulations. It is small things like that that make me proud to be a BSC alum. Keep up the great work!”

– Michael Gereszek
1960s
Al Jaeger, ’63, Bismarck, was elected in November to his sixth term as North Dakota Secretary of State. He began his 19th year in office on January 1.

1970s
Wendell Hendershott, ’71, Corvallis, Oregon, is co-pastor, along with his wife, Notsie Griffith, at Grace Lutheran Church in Corvallis. They have served the church since April 2009.

Clyde Bauman, ’72, Bismarck, has released his sixth CD, a gospel compilation, “Prairie Memories, Songs of Home, Life and Faith.” The CD is available on his website, www.farmboymusic.com. Bauman is a member of the BSC Alumni Association Board.

Mike Bruner, ’78, Bismarck, is senior creative director and partner at Odney in Bismarck. Twelve logos he submitted are among 1,000 included in the first edition of I Heart Logos, a book distributed in December by IHeartLogos.com. Included are logos he designed for North Dakota’s Tourism Division and for the North Dakota Department of Transportation’s Minot Broadway project.

1980s
Rosemarie (Hermes) Kuntz, ’82, Bismarck, oncology manager at Mid Dakota Clinic, PC, has become a Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE). Fellowship in the ACMPE is the highest distinction in the medical group practice management profession. She is the chair of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) Midwest Section and has served as an officer for the N.D. MGMA for the past eight years, currently serving as immediate past president.

1990s
Shelley (Neubauer) Seeberg, ’84, Rosemount, Minn., was recently appointed to a long-term assignment to lead the historic civil rights local union that represents sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn. This was the union that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed before he was assassinated. Seeberg is area director of the American Federation of State County Municipal Employees (AFSCME), serving Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, and now Tennessee. She was also appointed to the board of the National Civil Rights Museum, which includes the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was assassinated.

Tammy Rohde, ’89, Mandan, was promoted to senior travel agent for the AAA North Dakota Bismarck branch office.

2000s
Paul Baumgartner, ’96, was hired as an electronics technician at the North Dakota Heritage Center. He is also president and co-owner of GoodWoodMods Inc. of Bismarck.

Amber Rae Bernhardt, ’99, returning to North Dakota after a twelve-year absence, is the executive director for Dakota Stage Ltd. community theater in Bismarck. She was a co-founder of Theater B in Fargo and did independent producing while living in Chicago.

2000s
Toby Kramer Nagel, ’05, West Fargo, is the manager of Gander Mountain Store in Fargo. He previously managed Gander Mountain stores in Woodbury and Eden Prairie, Minn. He received a bachelor’s degree in management from Minnesota State University-Moorhead.

Aaron Schmidt, ’07, is a civil engineer at the Bismarck office of Houston Engineering, Inc. He completed a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University.
Ekberg memoir published by 1980 alumna

A memoir co-written by longtime BSC supporter William (Bill) Ekberg of Bismarck and daughter Susan Ekberg Risher, ’80, of Fargo was celebrated last fall at a book release party in Bismarck.

“Dress Gray” is a 440-page hardcover autobiography that takes its name from Bill’s time at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. It follows the evolution of a childhood dream to become a pilot through Bill’s education at West Point, his military, teaching and engineering careers. In large measure, “Dress Gray” details the development of Bismarck’s Meyer Broadcasting with his late wife, Marietta Meyer Ekberg, into one of North Dakota’s major radio and television conglomerates.

The book, described as a history, memoir and love story, contains letters, stories, pictures and news articles of WWII, West Point in the 1940s, Minneapolis’ Dinkytown during the Depression, the Ekbergs’ courtship, and a sweeping account of North Dakota media over an 87-year period.

“This was an amazing body of work. Meyer Broadcasting was such an influential company, and pioneering work has been in our family for three generations,” says Susan, a 2009 BSC Athletic Hall of Fame basketball inductee. “I wanted to tell the whole story 20 years ago, but it was too daunting and I didn’t have a format until I found those letters.”

Susan refers to courtship letters between Bill and Marietta while he was at West Point. They inspired a scrapbook-like format of information distilled from thousands of business documents, photos and personal letters assembled, reviewed and organized by Susan. The story is embellished with details from Bill’s professional and personal memories.

The book is distributed by Barnes & Noble or can be purchased by e-mail at dressgray@gmail.com.

Alumni join faculty in energy and surgical tech

BSC graduates make up about one-fourth of the college’s full-time employees. Currently, 91 of 330 full-time faculty and staff members are alumni. In addition, 29 adjunct lecturers are alumni.

Among new faculty hired last fall are alumni Scott Agnew, ’92 and ’10, Vanessa Taylor, ’08, and Larry Nelson, ’73.

Agnew is an assistant professor at the National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE). He studied Process Plant Technology, and between 1993-2000 he worked as an equipment operator and foreman at Conoco Refinery in Billings. He then joined Minnkota Power Cooperative, Center, where he was a maintenance journeyman mechanic and an operator and trained operators and apprentices in safety and preventive maintenance. He is among BSC’s first graduates who earned the BAS in Energy Management degree.

Taylor, assistant professor of surgical technology, earned AA and AS degrees from BSC. She has a diploma in surgical technology from East Grand Forks Technical College, and a Lasik Keratome Technician certificate. She has 18 years of experience as a certified surgical technologist (CST) at St. Alexius Medical Center and Advanced Surgical Art Center in Bismarck, and additional experience assisting with Lasik eye procedures in St. Louis and other locations. Taylor is a past board member of the N.D. State Assembly of Surgical Technologists.

Nelson, assistant professor, NECE, has been an adjunct lecturer since 2008. Nelson had a 33-year career at Basin Electric Power Cooperative as a mechanical engineer and mechanical design engineer. He did projects at Laramie River Station, Antelope Valley Station, and Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir in Wyoming. As a senior performance engineer, he provided technical support to generation facilities from 1982 to 2010. Nelson has an AA from BSC in pre-engineering and earned a BS in mechanical engineering at North Dakota State University.
Phil Padgett named ND Professor of the Year

Phil Padgett, an assistant professor at BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence, was selected 2010 North Dakota Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Padgett was honored Nov. 18 with other state and national winners in Washington, D.C.

Padgett designed and developed online courses for BSC’s Nuclear Power Technology program and taught Nuclear Power courses online until becoming a member of the Power Plant and Process Plant Technology campus faculty starting in the fall of 2008.

Testimonial letters supported Padgett’s nomination. They describe his highly effective, innovative teaching methods, wide-ranging knowledge of the energy workplace, outstanding dedication to student learning, mentoring and coaching students on career topics, and his hands-on approach that integrates “real life,” one-on-one, role-play and project-based teaching methods.

Padgett, who had eye surgery in October and had difficulty seeing at the awards luncheon, wrote this about his experience: “Well, it did not matter that I could not see. I could hear, and I could feel the energy in that huge room. I was hypersensitive to the conversations, and never did I hear anyone talk about ways to increase enrollments or how to deal with problem students or any administrative impediments. Every conversation I heard was all about students and the great opportunities we have to make a difference. The presidents of Carnegie and CASE talked only of how special we were because we were being honored for commitment to student advocacy.”

“My feet have not touched the ground since returning,” Padgett said. “The experience has reaffirmed my dedication to look for ways to lobby for higher quality, lower cost education at every level - to make learning personal instead of impersonal, and to learn about what students are having difficulty with in time to help them recover, and to help them find their own honorable place in the world by making their class work relevant to life beyond their career aspirations.”

U.S. Professors of the Year is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Padgett was chosen from more than 300 top professors nationwide.

Online Extra: Read Padgett’s personal statement of his teaching methods at http://www.bismarckstate.edu/alumni/connection/

BSC receives international service award for educational access for adult learners

Bismarck State College received recognition from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) at its international conference Nov. 11 in San Diego. The college earned CAEL’s 2010 Institutional Service Award for expansion of lifelong learning opportunities and innovation to improve access and quality of academic programs for adult learners.

BSC president Larry C. Skogen accepted the award, which cited BSC’s development of education and training for the energy industry, online courses with interactive simulations to enhance learning, and development of the online bachelor’s degree in energy management.

Other accomplishments noted were BSC’s non-credit workforce training programs as part of Train ND and partnerships with other colleges for adults earning four-year degrees on the BSC campus. BSC’s affiliation with the CAEL-administered Energy Providers Coalition for Energy Education (EPCE) also helped expand BSC’s adult programs.

BSC provides online courses for coalition

BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence has completed the first of three online courses for smart grid technology and renewable energy as part of a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant. BSC developed the course as an education partner of Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE), which recently launched the online course to train electric power workers.

The Renewable Energy Sources and the Smart Grid course provides an overview of electricity production from solar, wind, ocean, biomass and geothermal sources. The class also covers smart grid vision, function, operation, benefits and challenges.

BSC, working in collaboration with EPCE, created the series for a DOE workforce training and development grant administered by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Instruction will provide workforce training for thousands of employees of EPCE’s six DOE grant partners. Two other courses will be delivered over the remainder of the three-year project. EPCE represents about two-thirds of the industry workforce.
Great River Energy honored for support of BSC

Great River Energy (GRE) received the Region VIII Benefactor Award for its support of Bismarck State College at an awards banquet in Washington, D.C., in November.

The Community College Benefactor Award, given by the Council for Resource Development, is the only national recognition of philanthropists to two-year higher education institutions.

Gordon Binek, executive director of the BSC Foundation, said Great River Energy’s role as an industry partner to BSC is exemplary.

“They understand the importance of addressing current issues, trends and best practices in technical education,” said Binek. “Their donations of equipment, job shadowing programs, post-secondary training and advisory committee involvement have made a dramatic impact on the quality of education here at BSC.”

GRE has provided support to BSC through cash and equipment contributions, and countless hours of employee volunteer time. The company’s Coal Creek and Stanton plants have worked closely with the college to ensure first-rate education for BSC students and training for GRE employees, he said.

“John Weeda, plant manager at Coal Creek Station, has told me a number of times he considers the partnership a great return on investment for GRE,” Binek said.

This national award is given annually to donors from ten regions throughout the U.S. and Canada who make outstanding contributions to community college efforts. The Council for Resource Development is an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges.