The Schonert twins, Irene Beatt and Inez Baker, were members of BSC’s first graduating class in 1941. They dressed alike through college and married classmates. Their lives expanded exponentially with the opportunity to acquire a college education. See story on page 13.

Educators visit BSC and western North Dakota
Energy partnership would train oil and gas technicians in Ghana by fall 2012

Bismarck State College is exploring an international partnership with Takoradi Polytechnic in Ghana to deliver training through BSC’s nationally recognized portfolio of energy programs.

The two-year college is located along the coast in Sekondi-Takoradi, the twin-city capitol of Ghana’s western region. The area has proximity to the developing oil fields and is known as an industrial and commercial center.

BSC President Larry C. Skogen and the Rev. Professor Daniel Nyarko, president of Takoradi Polytechnic, announced the talks at a news conference in BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE). Accompanying Nyarko were his wife, Betty Nyarko, and Matthew Gyan, dean of Takoradi Polytechnic School of Engineering.

The partnership may involve an exchange training program and online courses. Part of the program could be delivered from Bismarck with other elements delivered at Takoradi Polytechnic, Skogen said. Several models will be considered.

Nyarko said his institution hopes to enroll 50 students in two BSC programs, Process Plant Technology and Instrumentation and Control, by September 2012.

Skogen stated that the potential partnership aligns with BSC’s mission to offer quality education and workforce training to local and global communities.

Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann, North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) deputy adjutant general, also spoke at the news conference. The NDNG has built ties to Ghana through its State Partnership Program.

Continued on page 2
The program reflects an evolving international affairs mission that links U.S. states with foreign nations to promote and enhance bilateral relations.

“We’ve been working for some time to help the National Guard in its mission in Ghana, and the Polytechnic might just be the answer,” Skogen said.

In 2009, Skogen and Kari Knudson, vice president, NECE, traveled to Ghana to begin talks with educational institutions and representatives of the energy industry. The visit by Takoradi Polytechnic officials is the result of those efforts.

Activities during the visit included tours of the BSC campus and NECE and meetings with energy-related companies and organizations in the area. The group also toured Medora and other points of interest in western North Dakota.

The 40 percent tax credit creates significant advantages for people over 70 ½ who can use distributions from their IRAs as direct gifts to charities. Additionally, savings can be realized on the cost of gifting appreciated property such as stocks.

Passage of SB 2160 provides greater incentive for North Dakotans to contribute to the endowment funds of North Dakota charities, creating more self-sufficient and continuous charitable efforts by wide-ranging charities across the state.

According to Binek, the BSC Foundation has already seen a sizable number of donors take advantage the tax credit expansion since the legislation passed last spring.

Binek says that SB 2160 will significantly enhance the ability of North Dakotans to do good. “This change has a huge impact on North Dakota charities.”

The BSC Foundation worked with the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations, North Dakota Community Foundation and the Minot Area Community Foundation on the legislation.
BSC Foundation Board elects 2011-12 officers

John Weeda was elected president of the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees for 2011-12 at the Foundation’s recent annual meeting. Weeda, a trustee since 2002, is plant manager at Great River Energy.

Bill Townsend is now chairperson of the board. Townsend, president of Dakota Awards, has been a trustee since 1999.

Two trustees were selected as committee chairs, Michael Schmitz, Finance Committee; and Paul Sandness, Programs Committee.

John Weeda
Bill Townsend
Dave Clark

Janeanne Bischke is president and owner of CrossCountry Courier, headquartered in Bismarck. She served on the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce board and as relief society president of her church.

Jim Poolman is president of Jim Poolman Consulting Inc. of Bismarck. He is on the Big Brother Big Sister Board of Directors and is vice chair of the North Dakota Republican Party.

Dave Sauer is senior vice president of administration at Basin Electric Power Cooperative. He serves as a director for Buffalo Valley Archers and is on the Mercer County Economic Development Board.

Byron Dorgan and Marv Erdmann were named trustees emeriti. Dorgan represented North Dakota’s at-large congressional district in the House from 1980-92, served as North Dakota tax commissioner from 1969-80 and was a U.S. Senator for North Dakota from 1992 until January 2011. Erdmann, longtime Bismarck businessman and community leader, moves from trustee to trustee emeritus.

New representatives on the board are Michelle Lindblom, BSC associate professor of art, as BSC faculty representative; Jay Meier, BSC director of counseling and advising services, as BSC staff representative; and Mary Klecker-Green, supervisor of public and member communications for Basin Electric Power Cooperative, as BSC National Alumni Association representative.

Janeanne Bischke
Jim Poolman
Dave Sauer

Michelle Lindblom
Jay Meier
Mary Klecker-Green

Foundation Board of Trustees adds members

The BSC Foundation welcomes three new trustees, two trustees emeriti and three new representatives.

Jim Poolman
Bill Townsend
Dave Clark

Founding Board of Trustees adds members

Michelle Lindblom
Jay Meier
Mary Klecker-Green

PAGE 3
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Richard and Joann Baker
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Carla and Dick Bickert
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Gordon and Paula Binek
Bismarck Mandan Officials Association
Patrick and Johanna Bjork
Bob Eckert Painting
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Karla and Gary Gabriel
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Dr. Kevin and Ann Gilchrist
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Paula Kemptt
Michael Kern
Shelly Killen
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David Klein
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Bill and Kathy Knudson
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Thomas and Michele Marple
Jeanne and Brian Masseth
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Christopher and Donna Mae Seifert
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Byron and Christine Blowers
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The Clinics of St. Alexius
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Leroy and Arlene Ernst
Duaime and Phyllis Espedarg
Rick and Sue Evans
Bruce and Barb Evanson
PAGE 4
BSC honors Stenehjem

Bob Stenehjem, 59, BSC class of ’72, and North Dakota Senate majority leader, was killed in a one-vehicle accident in Alaska in July.

First elected to the North Dakota Senate in 1992, Stenehjem represented District 30, which includes parts of south Bismarck and rural Burleigh County. He was elected the Republican majority leader in 2001. He touched nearly every piece of legislation that moved through the Senate, and was actively engaged in higher education discussions, asking probing questions and demanding accountability.

As noted by BSC President Larry C. Skogen, Stenehjem’s support was never a given, and sometimes hard-won, but always well-considered. This was exemplified by a conversation between the two regarding the completion of the fourth floor of the NECE. When first asked to support the necessary funding, Stenehjem said, “I won’t say no, but that doesn’t mean I’m saying yes.”

Skogen said Stenehjem then spent a great deal of time listening to the arguments for completion, touring the facility (once in the midst of a major blizzard) and determining how best to complete the project while balancing the state’s other needs.

Stenehjem ultimately said yes to supporting the completion of the NECE, and, appropriately, BSC hosted the senator’s memorial service on the fourth floor on July 25. Nearly 1,200 people attended the service.

“BSC is better because Bob Stenehjem cared about us. He made a difference to BSC and North Dakota,” Skogen said.

Stenehjem’s BSC legacy continues with the establishment of the permanently endowed Bob Stenehjem Memorial Scholarship fund. Contributions are ongoing and earnings from the fund will provide an annual $1,000 scholarship to a BSC student. The scholarship is a tribute to Stenehjem’s leadership in North Dakota and his commitment to education.
Bob Kuntz leaves his mark on BSC campus

Bob Kuntz, 50, chief buildings and grounds officer, died unexpectedly Aug. 4 at a local hospital after collapsing outside his home. His last day at work was spent examining the future site of his dream – a new physical plant building funded by the 2011 ND Legislature.

The new maintenance building will be named the Robert A. Kuntz Physical Plant Building to honor his memory.

Bob began working at BSC in 1987 and his fingerprints remain pressed into all areas of the campus. Charged with new construction, building operations and grounds, Bob guided the construction of the National Energy Center of Excellence, Jack Science Center and Lidstrom Hall. He oversaw remodeling of Schaefer Hall, BSC Armory, Meadowlark Building, Technical Center, Mystic Hall and Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. Most recently, he was engaged in plans for the Student Union addition, an upgrade of the Bismarck Community Bowl and the new physical plant.

His job stretched to signage, plantings, vendor bids and billings, code observance, parking lot repair and energy saving installations. Bob was a quiet force, handling it all with diligence, humor and kindness.

Bob grew up on a farm near Hebron, N.D., and graduated from North Dakota State College of Science with a degree in plumbing and air conditioning. He was an avid hunter, played softball and officiated high school football for 28 years. He leaves his wife Rosemarie, children Nathan and Rachell, his father, four siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews.

At the request of family, the BSC Foundation has created the Bob Kuntz Memorial Scholarship to honor his memory.

Bob Kuntz scholarship receives full funding

Pledges received through September to fund the Bob Kuntz Memorial Scholarship total more than $21,000. A minimum of $20,000 was needed to establish a scholarship endowment with an annual student award of $1,000.

BSC employees responded generously. Some honored his memory by pledging sustaining gifts with payroll deductions directed to the scholarship fund. The Foundation also received contributions from vendors who worked with Bob on projects throughout campus.

Give-N-Grill, a local charitable event that Bob supported, dedicated all proceeds from its Sept. 28 event to the scholarship fund. Event host Specialized Cleaning & Restoration raised $1,858. Company owners said turnout was the highest ever.

BSC Foundation thanks donors for generosity

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing President’s Club members for July 1 through Sept. 30, 2011.

Cynthia Welken-Place - AFLAC
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Frank and Joanne Bavendick
Beazley Engineering
Bismarck Lumber Company
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
BNI Coal, Ltd.
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Border States
Bullberry Systems
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Captain Jack’s Liquor Land
Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative
Central Power Electric Cooperative
CenturyLink
Cloverdale Foods Company
Comfort Zone Heating & Air Conditioning

Maurice Cook
Corvettes of Dakota Territory
Dacotah Paper
Dakota Caulking
Enbridge Energy, LP
EZ Spot UR
Thomas Fischer
Food Services of America
Dr. Kevin Gilchrist
Great River Energy
Halliburton
Jerome Distributing
Curtis Klein
Loren Kopseng
Kramer Agency
L & H Manufacturing Co.
Diane LaMont
Laverne Carley Estate
Lee-Noonan/Minnkota Sales
Henry C. Mahlman
Mandan Steel Fabricators
Art and Dorothy Mariner
Mariner Construction
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Montana Dakota Utilities
Resources Foundation
Midwest Motor Express, Inc.
Miller Insulation Co., Inc.
Betty Mills
Morton County Title Company
Martin Nielsen
North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co.
North Dakota Petroleum Council
Rocky Gordon & Company
Roughrider Chevrolet Association
John Sakariassen
Michael and Janel T. Schmitz
Senate President’s Forum
Larry C. Skogen
Specialized Cleaning & Restoration
Jason and Dr. Nigeria Stahl
The Smile Center
Toasted Frog
Jerry and Judy Tuhy
United Agronomy

Walmart
Whiting Oil & Gas Corporation

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing Executive Club members for July 1 through Sept. 30, 2011.

Black Ridge Bank
Bob Eckert Painting
Dakota Community Bank
Dakota West Contracting, Inc.
Great Lines Inc
Ed and Faye Hasche
Kelly Inn
Mary Pederson Koenecke
Rosemarie Kuntz
Lindtech Services, Inc.
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
M. Welch & Sons, Inc.
ND Retail Association
Otter Tail Corporation
Scott Wegner
Foundation funding assists Lineworker program

The Lineworker (Electrical) program has received vital equipment through an inventor’s gift along with efforts by the BSC Foundation to match funds from a state Workforce Training grant received from the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

This year, the Lineworker program acquired a skid steer to help place wooden poles used for student instruction. In addition, Earl Emerson, inventor of the EZ Spot UR pole setter, donated his pole setter to the program. He runs a company by the same name in Fargo. His equipment attaches to the skid steer.

“The big thing is it trains students with the latest technology,” said Gordon Binek, Foundation director and vice president for College Advancement. “When they hit the workforce, their skills are prepared for the employer who has the newest equipment and resources.”

Binek said the equipment increases efficiency and safety when placing the poles. The former method involved unloading a truckload of poles with a cable or chain and then positioning the poll to drop into a hole.

The total BSC match for the grant was nearly $54,000. The EZ Spot UR pole setter comprised about $9,500 of the match. Remaining funds came from rural electric coops, private companies and investor-owned utilities and cooperatives. The utilities and cooperatives donate money and a new set of power poles to the Lineworker program every year.

BSC receives infant friendly designation

Bismarck State College is among nine area employers recognized for being infant friendly based on a survey and a designation by the North Dakota Department of Health. This means BSC has policies that make it easier for a working woman to breastfeed her infant. To achieve the designation, employers had to offer a flexible work schedule to accommodate breaks, a private area to breastfeed or express milk with sink access to wash hands or clean equipment that is not a restroom, and allow temporary storage of breast milk in a refrigerator or cooler.

BSC campus will host Paralympic trials

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, has chosen the BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center for the 2012 Paralympics trials set for March 29-31 in Bismarck. The competition is the sole selection event for U.S. athletes to qualify for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England.

The Aquatic Center and Wellness Center has an eight-lane, 50-meter pool and is fully accessible to Paralympic athletes. A Paralympic spokesman said the facility was selected because of its new construction, excellent fast pool, ideal field of play and key venue areas.

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and promoting excellence in the lives of people with physical disabilities, including thousands of veterans. For more information, visit www.usparalympics.org.

Professor Robert Arso takes part in 9/11 event


Arso and Nelson were nominated as a select few North Dakotans to participate as official stitchers. They were chosen by the New York Says Thank You Foundation, curator of The National 9/11 Flag. Carolyn Deeters, National 9/11 Flag tour events manager, is on Arso’s left. The flag, destined for the National September 11 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero in New York City, was on tour to acquire restorative patches from retired state flags.

Read the full story at http://www.bismarckstate.edu/news/911flag.
The BSC Foundation recently awarded scholarships for 2011-12 to more than 330 students who excel in various disciplines. Scholarships range from $500 to $2,000. Some of the scholarships are named for individuals who have been significant in the development of BSC or have been memorialized through donations. The named scholarships are listed after the students receiving the awards. Students must maintain their academic standing to receive the second semester award.

**Academic**

Alexa Dvorak, Bismarck ................................................. Academic Honors Scholarship
Anna Helmers, Mandan ................................................. Academic Honors Scholarship
Alexandra Kotte, Lincoln ................................................. Academic Honors Scholarship
Kaelie Schatz, Wilton ......................................................... Academic Honors Scholarship
Jaden VanEckhout, Bismarck ............................................. Academic Honors Scholarship
Tim Noltestad, Bismarck ................................................. Chris Albin Memorial Scholarship
Malik Wood, Alpharetta, GA ............................................. Alumni Athletic Scholarship
Lori Yarbrough, Bismarck .............................................. American Legion Auxiliary Lloyd Spetz, Unit No. 1 Scholarship
Chris Colby, Kenmare ....................................................... Myron Atkinson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Brittany Helm, Wilton................................... The Patrick Atkinson Scholarships for Enriching North Dakota Scholarship
Ethan Hoepfner, Bismarck ....... The Patrick Atkinson Scholarships for Enriching North Dakota Scholarship
Landon Hoffer, Bismarck The Patrick Atkinson Scholarships for Enriching North Dakota Scholarship
Katie Olson, Bismarck ................................................. Myron Atkinson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Alex Beker, New Town ...................................................... Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Chad Cunningham, Busby, MT ........................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Julia Davis, Bismarck ...................................................... Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Kyleigh Deacy, Bismarck ............................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Aleasha Klein, Bismarck ................................................. Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Dewayne Liggins, Bismarck ............................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Jenna Maas, Hazen ......................................................... Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Tiara Maxon, McLaughlin, SD ........................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Brad McArthur, Sturgis, SD ........................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Brandi Peterson, Bismarck ............................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Samantha Sailer, Dickinson ........................................... Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Zach Smith, Bismarck ...................................................... Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
MacKenzie Wade, Devils Lake ........................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Taylor Wade, Devils Lake .............................................. Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Aleksandr Odintsov, Bismarck ........................................ Frank Bavendick Athletic Scholarship
Genevieve Giese, Bismarck ........................................... David & Myma Blackstead Scholarship
Maynard Jungling, Jr., Bismarck Board of Governors Scholarship
Macie Harris, Kenmare .................................................... Georgiana Borden Memorial Scholarship
Alex Baker, New Town .................................................... Ervin & Dorothy Bourgeois Memorial Scholarship
Jenny Erhardt, Center ....................................................... Ervin & Dorothy Bourgeois Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer Bakken, Mandan ............................................. Ervin & Dorothy Bourgeois Memorial Human Services Scholarship
Shauna Egert, Washburn ..... Ervin & Dorothy Bourgeois Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Megan Humann, Hazleton .... Ervin & Dorothy Bourgeois Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Jordan Dolan, Bismarck ................................................. BPS Outstanding Student Scholarship
Austin Fettig, Bismarck ................................................. BPS Outstanding Student Scholarship
Ross Stanley, Bismarck ............................................... BPS Outstanding Student Scholarship
Jacob Stein, Bismarck ............................................... BPS Outstanding Student Scholarship
Austin Nodland, Mandan ........................................ Walter L. & Lucille Braun Scholarship
Jordan Graber, Wolford ............................................... Richard Brown Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer Herman, Kenmare ........................................... BSC Foundation Ball Scholarship
Joseph Schuler, Bismarck ............................................... BSC Alumni Association Scholarship
Rachel Olson, Maddock ................................................ Capital City Lions Scholarship
Sean Hushagen, Bismarck .............................................. Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Benjamin Jyring, Bismarck ........................................... Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Holly Krien, Bismarck ...................................................... Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Hunter Leno, Bismarck ...................................................... Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Mitchell Leno, Bismarck ................................................... Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Jordan Martinek, Bismarck .............................................. Cash For Our Kids Scholarship
Evan Gesellchen, Bismarck ........................................... Century Booster Bursary Scholarship
Aidan Baik, Sawyer ..................................................... Dan Chesak Memorial Scholarship
Mark Johannes, Underwood ........................................ Dan Chesak Memorial Scholarship
Kendra Miller, Bismarck .................................................. Jim Christianson Scholarship
Jenna Gross, Bismarck ................................................... Marc Christianson Memorial Scholarship
Aleasha Klein, Bismarck .................................................. Marc Christianson Memorial Scholarship
Logan Wald, Napoleon .................................................... Marc Christianson Memorial Scholarship
Kariisa Dean, Glenburn ................................................ Cecilia Deichert Scholarship
Jericc Jesz, McClusky ..................................................... Warren DeKrey Scholarship
Aaron Volk, Bismarck .................................................... Gordon Dietrich Scholarship
Jeremy Grossman, Hazleton ............................................ Dollars For Scholars Scholarship
Taite Grossman, Hazleton ............................................ Dollars For Scholars Scholarship
Karly Kruckenberg, Mandan ........................................... Dollars For Scholars Scholarship
Evan Thomas, Goodrich ................................................ Dollars For Scholars Scholarship
Kyla Hanson, Tioga ........................................................ James & Mildred Duffy Memorial Scholarship
Whitney Eckroth, Flasher ................................................ Echug Survey Scholarship
Ryan Magar, Renton, WA ............................................... Edwin & Dorothy Edlund Scholarship
Elizabeth Wilke, Yong, MN ............................................. Heber Edwards Memorial Scholarship
Kelsee Ganyo, Bismarck ................................................... Judith Ekberg Johnson Scholarship
Aleisha Pfennig, Hazen ..................................................... William & Marietta Ekberg Scholarship
Kadra Kalamaha, Bismarck ................................................ Cheryl Elsernd Scholarship
Rachel DeRung, Bismarck ................................................ Marvin Erdmann Scholarship
Kelsey Larson, Linton ....................................................... Richard Espanel Scholarship
Tiahna Wagner, Bismarck ............................................. Walter & Norma Fiedler Memorial Scholarship
Nicholas Hornbacher, Bismarck .......... Burt Finney Memorial Scholarship
Nathan Middaugh, Wilton ................................................ Gate City Bank Scholarship
Jill Carter, Bismarck ....................................................... Gateway to Science Certificate Scholarship
Hillary Larsen, Bismarck ............................................. Gateway HealthMart Pharmacy Scholarship
Jenna Wavrin, Bismarck ................................................... Florence P. George Scholarship
Congratulations scholarship recipients!

Rebecca Buchholz, Napoleon............. John Giese Scholarship
Sheldon Weisbeck, Herreid, SD........ Frank Gilchrist Memorial
                    Athletic Scholarship
Courtney Haase, Minot......... Jennifer Gladden Scholarship
Courtney Schumacher, Napoleon...... Ray Graber Scholarship
Kenneth Bahm, Mandan.............. Leslie Gullickson Memorial Scholarship
Amanda Dietz, Linton.............. Bonnie Guttormson Scholarship
Michelle Kunz, Drake.............. Steven Harris Memorial Scholarship
Mackenzie Wade, Devils Lake....... Harvey Harris Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Duchscherer, New Rockford... Raymond Heid Memorial Scholarship
Logan Dschaak, Bismarck.............. Tim Hennessy Scholarship
Calieb Hauff, Bismarck............... Pat Higgins Caudel Scholarship
Rick Volk, Bismarck.................. Bryce & Maxine Hill Scholarship
Jordan Hochhalter, Bismarck........ Ray & Gertha Hoffman Scholarship
Mercedes Crisler, Bismarck........... Horatio Alger Match Scholarship
Stephen Horgan, Bismarck............ Horatio Alger Match Scholarship
Carl Sheldon, Bismarck............... Michael Hummel Scholarship
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Christopher Ringette, Bismarck..... Tom Jack Memorial Scholarship
Brandi Peterson, Bismarck.......... John P. Jackson Memorial Scholarship
Liza Aberle, Bismarck............... Carrie Jennings Memorial Scholarship
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Joshua Vetter, Bismarck............. Kadmars Lee & Jacobson Engineering Scholarship
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Paige Bader, Bismarck............... Thomas Kleppe Memorial Scholarship
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Lindsey Ellefson, Mandan........... Ken LaMont Memorial Scholarship
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Nathaniel Netzer, Mandan........... Mandan Band Booster Certificate Scholarship
Gabriela Mendieta, Bismarck........ susanne Delaney Matthes Memorial Scholarship
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**Congratulations to all Scholarship Recipients!**

**Performing Arts**

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<th>City/State</th>
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Ryan Caya elected president of BSC alumni board

The BSC National Alumni Association members elected Ryan Caya president and Sommer Hunke vice president at the annual meeting in August. Ryan Caya, ’99 and ’06, is an associate professor in BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence.

Sommer Hunke, ’09, is an administrative assistant with the ND Department of Transportation, Construction Services Division.

Mary Klecker-Green ’95, past president, is now chairman of the board. She is supervisor of public and member communications at Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

New board members are Greg Ellwein ’81, Gate City Bank Bismarck Downtown and Gateway manager; Damian Schlinger ’97, Medcenter One Walk-In Clinic manager; and Michael J. Thomas ’04, insurance agent, Kramer Agency.

Returning board members are Randy Binegar ’81, Dr. Steve Chuppe ’81, Barry Coleman ’88, Dr. Alison Fallgatter ’94, Deb (Guy) Igoe ’70, Michael LaLonde ’62, Angie Milakovic ’97, Cheryl (Sloan) Miller ’68 and Larry Oswald ’90.

Alumni Association celebrates 50 years

Dear alumni and friends,

On Sept. 27, 1961, 13 dedicated alumni volunteered as the first board of directors and filed the paperwork needed to start the Bismarck Junior College Alumni Association. In 1983 the association changed its name to Bismarck Junior College National Alumni Association and in 1987, along with the college’s name change, the association changed its name to Bismarck State College National Alumni Association.

Through the years, we have been committed to building lasting relationships with current students and alumni. We recognize that such relationships are built on shared experiences and common interests such as:
- Alumni speakers list/alumni in the classroom
- Alumni in the community – Myhre Elementary School
- GradFest
- Scholarships – alumni and athletic
- Self defense classes for BSC students and employees
- Yearbook archival and website update
- Alumni maps – BSC GIS program

For more information on these projects, visit bismarckstate.edu/alumni.

2012 Alumni Awards Nominations

The BSC Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2012 Alumnus of the Year and Rising Star Awards. These awards honor alumni for distinguished service, career success and leadership. The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, Dec. 5, 2011.

Nomination forms are available online at bismarckstate.edu/alumni, or by contacting the alumni office at BSC.Alumni@bismarckstate.edu. Recipients will be honored May 10, 2012, during the Alumni Recognition Dinner.

Membership

Any former BJC/BSC student who is interested in the mission of the Alumni Association may become a supporting member with $25 annual dues. Dues and donations are used to fund our programs on campus and in the community. Through our premier membership program, a 1939 Society Lifetime Membership allows our alumni and friends to support and sustain our programs and projects in the years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we look forward to working with our alumni and friends to make a positive contribution to the BSC National Alumni Association legacy.

Thank you,

Rita Nodland, ’76 and ’05, Alumni Coordinator
Sisters fondly remember BSC’s founding years

September marked the 50th anniversary of the BSC National Alumni Association and the 90th birthdays of two members of BSC’s first graduating class. Twin sisters Inez (Schonert) Baker and Irene (Schonert) Beatt, ’41, now live in St. Paul, Minn., but shared their BSC stories for the Alumni Association’s anniversary documentary.

Each sister married a classmate, worked at different times for Dr. Walter Swensen, Bismarck Junior College’s first dean, and earned degrees beyond BSC. Inez was among the 13 alumni asked to serve on the first board of directors when Bismarck Junior College Alumni Association was incorporated on Sept. 27, 1961. She was the only woman and served as secretary.

“BJC gave our Depression generation a beginning for our college education,” Inez said. “Many went on to other colleges to graduate and received advanced degrees. I’m sure we are all grateful for the chance for higher education at minimal cost. Irene and I are more than pleased with BSC’s present growth and the many ways it is serving students in our state.”

Irene remembers how special the college was in 1939 despite drought and WWII. The class of 104 students invented many college organizations that provided leadership opportunities and social activities as well as community support. Irene served as president of Miraikay women’s group.

“Inez was in plays, but because we were twins there was no place for me,” Irene said. “Edith Ramstad [English instructor] encouraged me to be president of that club to even things out a bit.”

During her sophomore year, Irene was Dean Swensen’s secretary. After graduation, she attended North Dakota State University and received a degree in home economics education. Irene taught in New Salem for one year, then worked in Minneapolis as a secretary. She married Earl Beatt and had three sons. In the 1970s, Irene began working at the University of Minnesota, earning a master’s degree in health communication and the holistic theory of body, mind and spirit at age 60.

“That was cutting edge then, but not now,” said Irene, whose study included elder care. She used her knowledge to volunteer in the hospice programs at Fairview Hospital for 10 years.

Irene did stage and classroom plays and remembers being double cast with Beulah Hedahl in a three-act production. Beulah had gone to university, Inez said, but came back to help run the family’s Bismarck business when male family members joined the military.

After graduation, Inez taught in Jamestown for a year and married Tom Baker after he came home from military service. She worked for the University of North Dakota, but went on to North Dakota State University for her degree in home economics education. After returning to Bismarck, Inez joined Dr. Swensen at the state capitol as his “girl Friday” helping with his counseling and intelligence testing initiative until her son and daughter were born. Volunteering at a gallery sparked interest in art and Inez took classes in several media, including ceramics, at BSC. She became president of Elan Gallery and was named Artist of the Year by Bismarck Art & Galleries Association. Inez later spent 10 years helping care for her parents and in-laws. She also fixed patients’ hair at Medcenter One as a volunteer.

The children of both sisters went on to professional success. Irene’s sons, Mark Beatt and Bruce Beatt, live and work in New York City and Connecticut. Greg Beatt lives in Minneapolis. Inez’s daughter, Tracey Baker, is in St. Paul. Her son, Scott Baker, works near Lacrosse, Wis. Both sisters have three grandchildren, and Irene has a great-grandchild.
1960s

Al Jaeger, ’63, Bismarck, was named a 2011 University Alumni Fellow at Dickinson State University. He serves as North Dakota’s Secretary of State.

Judy Price Cook, ’66, Los Angeles, Calif., was hosted by the Bismarck State College Alumni Association on July 7 at a reception for her book, “If This Land Could Talk.” Cook also spoke to BSC English and history classes through the association’s Alumni in the Classroom program. “If This Land Could Talk” is a compilation of meticulous research, personal experiences and stories passed down through her family, who homesteaded and farmed in North Dakota’s Kidder County. For more information on her book, visit her website at www.judycrack.com.

1970s

Vicki (Schwichtenberg) Schneider, ’70, Bismarck, was named a 2011 University Alumni Fellow at Dickinson State University.

1980s

Dr. Brenda Werner, ’85, was selected North Dakota Teacher of the Year from among four finalists from across the state. She has taught for 23 years, 11 of those at Bismarck High School where she teaches Advanced English, English and Literary Magazine and was instrumental in the formation of the Writer’s Club. She will advance to the national teacher of the year program.

1990s

Corrine Bliese ’91, Rapid City, S.D., United Blood Services Rapid City executive director, accepted the Chairman’s Award for Performance Excellence presented by the Blood Systems board of trustees, United Blood Services’ governing body. The Rapid City location, led by Bliese, also earned recognition as a top center in four other key indicator categories, including AB plasma fill rate and donor retention.

2000s

Sara (Haar) Mitzel, ’92, and Matt Mitzel ’89, Bismarck, became co-owners of the Rainbow Shop in Bismarck. Matt will manage the store while Sara continues as K-12 principal of Shiloh Christian School.

Corrine Bliese ’91, United Blood Services Rapid City Executive Director, receives the Chairman’s Award for Performance Excellence from United Blood Systems Chairman of the Board Steven L. Seiler.

Maria Jorgenson, ’00, was certified as a breastfeeding peer counselor for the WIC Nutrition Program of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department. Jorgenson has spent the past five years working with youth through Alternative Youth Adventures in Boulder, Colo., and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Fargo.

Sara (Haar) Mitzel, ’92, and Matt Mitzel ’89, Bismarck, became co-owners of the Rainbow Shop in Bismarck. Matt will manage the store while Sara continues as K-12 principal of Shiloh Christian School.


Shane Schriock, ’05, was promoted to prepress manager at United Printing of Bismarck and Mandan, with subdivisions of Split’n Image and City Magazine.
Sarah Malo, ‘09, was hired as a dental assistant at Feil Orthodontics in Bismarck.

Kailee Ludeke, ‘11, is a geographic information systems analyst with the Environmental Group at Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson. She graduated with an AAS degree in Diesel Technology from Denver Automotive and Diesel College and also earned an AAS degree in Geographic Information Systems from BSC.

Matthew Sayler, ‘11, joined Bartlett & West Engineering of Bismarck as a survey technician in the Field Services Division. Previously, Sayler was a field technician for Braun Intertec.

Nagoshia Morast, ‘11, was promoted to customer service representative and teller at Starion Financial in Bismarck. She is working toward degrees in finance and human resources through the Dickinson State University online program.

Taylor Kurtz, ‘11, accepted a position as a graphic design marketing assistant at Cloverdale Foods Company of Mandan. He has been a marketing intern with the company since October 2010.

Makayla Graner, ‘11, Huff, was hired by Indigo Signworks of Bismarck to be the head of the IndiGO Express Graphics division.

Jason Glasser, ‘11, BAS in Energy Management, is a plant manager at the Milton R. Young Station in Center.

BSC offers spring tours to Scotland and Italy/Greece

Bismarck State College faculty members will lead two educational tours next spring to Scotland and Italy and Greece. The trips are open to BSC alumni, students, employees and residents of Bismarck-Mandan and surrounding communities.

The Isle of Mull, Stirling Castle and three full days in Edinburgh are among the stops for the spring break trip to Scotland, March 9-16. Travelers will see the Scottish countryside, castles, picturesque villages, Iona Abbey, Oban Distillery and Ben Cruachan Power Station which is located inside a mountain. Walking tours are planned in Edinburgh, along with time to explore. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Juhala at 701-224-5760, Amy.Juhala@bismarckstate.edu

Dates for the combined tour of Italy and Greece are May 23 to June 1. The 10-day trip includes guided tours of Rome, Pompeii, Delphi and Athens and sightseeing in the Sorrento region and Mount Vesuvius. Also available are two optional excursions: a train trip to Florence and a three-day tour extension and cruise to the Greek islands of Mykonos, Rhodes, Patmos and Santorini. Contact Michelle Lindblom at 701-224-5520, Michelle.Lindblom@bismarckstate.edu.

Your input needed for BSC strategic planning

Bismarck State College is deep into developing a five year strategic plan. The process involves a 30-person task force ... and you. To do this right, we need input. As President Larry C. Skogen says “a strategic plan is as necessary as a flight plan on a cross-country flight, a game book for a football game or a score for an orchestra.”

Help us put this very important game book together by taking our online survey. Go to http://www.bismarckstate.edu/survey.

The strategic planning process

When introducing the strategic planning process, Skogen said, “to be prepared to meet the challenges of what lies beyond today, we need to envision where we want to be and decide how to get there.” The strategic planning process, initiated in August and scheduled to be completed by February 2012, will provide a framework for that. The process has five phases.

Phase I: Getting Organized – Completed in September, this phase included the organization of a 30-person task force that reflects the diversity of the BSC community.

Phase II: Data Gathering and Engagement – Through mid-November, we will gather ideas and interact with stakeholders. The survey we are asking you to take is a part of Phase II.

Phase III: Making Sense of the Issues – During this phase, the task force and stakeholders will use the collected data to develop brief concept papers for planning. This piece is scheduled to be completed in December.

Phase IV: Vision Conference – To be held in January 2012, this interactive event will bring internal and external stakeholders together to craft a shared picture of the future including strategic themes, challenges and specific goals.

Phase V: Goals Conference – In the final phase of the planning process, the task force and stakeholders will draft goals for each strategic theme and create an implementation plan to achieve those goals.

Look for more about the strategic planning process in upcoming issues of Connections. To learn more in the meantime, go to bismarckstate.edu/about/planning.
BSC and assistant professor Wells receive honors

Bismarck State College and faculty member Kristina Wells were honored during the North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education conference Aug. 9 in Bismarck.

BSC earned the Director’s Award of Excellence in the Trade, Industry and Technical Education category for its Power Plant Technology and Process Plant Technology programs. The college received recognition for teaching an all-around curriculum that addresses industry structure, skills, equipment and safety; for continually adapting curriculum, lab equipment and online tools; and increasing female enrollment by 60 percent in a male-dominated industry.

Wells, assistant professor of business and office technology, was named New Educator of the Year — Business and Office Technology. The award is given to an outstanding educator with five or fewer years of service.

The state Department of Career and Technical Education presented the awards. Within the past five years, BSC has received additional Director’s Awards of Excellence for its Business and Office Technology program (2009), Information Technology (2007) and the Bismarck Technical Center (2006).

Enrollment breaks record for sixth consecutive year

The BSC official enrollment report logged another record-breaking year with 4,392 students enrolled. For fall semester, 2,631 full-time and 1,761 part-time students are signed up.

This is the sixth consecutive year BSC has seen a total enrollment increase and marks a 5 percent jump over the 4,177 students attending in 2010. Though full-time students declined by 112, part-time and dual credit student enrollments increased by 327, yielding a net gain.

Dr. Drake Carter, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said, “We have worked closely with our local school districts to better serve the high school students wanting college credit. Other reasons for our increasing enrollment are the strength of BSC’s academic programs and the growth of the Bismarck-Mandan area and western North Dakota.”

BSC’s enrollment has been steadily increasing for more than a decade.