Credit goes to the arts for steering the Heskin-Twingley family on the road to becoming a BSC family. Ties to BSC go back three generations to Orland Heskin. In the 1940s, he had a joint contract as choral director for Bismarck High School (BHS) and the new Bismarck Junior College on BHS's third floor, along with renowned band director Clarion Larson. Heskin's daughter, Carolyn, kept the music going as a BJC student. She and future husband, Dale Twingley, joined the choir and the Greenbriar Singers, a Christy Minstrels-style group that Dale accompanied on guitar. Dale also had a band called The Prisms. Though he'd focused on sociology, Dale discovered he preferred his art studies with Ardyce Miller, a decision that steered his future career.

“We certainly couldn’t have had better faculty teaching us than we did, the individual attention – everything we still offer today,” says Carolyn Twingley, who has worked in the BSC Library for 38 years, six of those teaching an English composition course.

Carolyn pursued her interest in writing as a columnist for the Mystician and had a work-study job in the library. After she and Dale graduated with Associate in Art degrees in 1968, they went to Minot State University for Bachelor of Science degrees in art education (Dale) and English (Carolyn). Dale also earned a master's degree in art from the University of North Dakota. He taught a year of pottery at BSC and spent most of his teaching career at BHS, retiring in 2001.

Carolyn specializes in inter-library loans and the BSC archives, which exist in large part due to her efforts. Prior to the early 1990s, archival items such as annuals and old catalogs were stored under a stairway with the Christmas decorations. Carolyn was always assigned to retrieve information from them because of her institutional memory and knowledge of community names. Her concern (and grumbling) resulted in seed money from then-BSC President Kermit Lidstrom to purchase the first shelving and acid free containers.

“We now have a room filled floor to ceiling with our history,” Carolyn says. “I’m proud of that and I think it will just get better as years go by.”

The library also holds memories for the Twingley children. As young boys, Jonathan and Ben accompanied Carolyn to work on Sunday nights. The
Welcome to the January issue of Connections. It's a new year and I'm new too, so you'll find this issue reflects my learning curve. It's filled with the latest BSC news as well as some context that shows how these developments affect the Bismarck-Mandan community and North Dakota economy.

The past few months have been eye opening as I've learned all the ways BSC is both a dynamic community college and a dynamo in the economic development of North Dakota. This convergence is not an accident as our stories in this issue indicate. Our lead story (pp. 4-5) shows how we work with industry to train the workforce, while offering a liberal arts core curriculum that produces graduates (like the Twingley family pp. 1-2) who are critical thinking contributors to the world.

Our engagement in the community creates a foundation for many of the concepts changing the landscape of this region (such as the potential visual arts center on campus, p. 16). And our alumni support and the efforts of the BSC Foundation provide the scholarships and campus improvements that make much of the above possible.

If you would like to subscribe to Connections, contact Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu. Thanks!

Marnie Piehl, Editor

Piehl joins BSC College Relations

Marnie Butcher Piehl recently was hired as the public relations and communications manager in the BSC College Relations Department. Long-time Director of Communications Jordis Conrad retired in June.

Piehl has experience in higher education, healthcare and the software industry. Most recently she was the public relations director at Odney, a full-service advertising agency in Bismarck. She lives in Menoken, N.D., with her husband, Shadd, and their three active boys.

BSC serves three generations of Twingleys

Continued from page 1

boys reveled in the typewriters, paper drawings and playing the college’s collection of 33-rpm jazz recordings, an activity that inspired Jonathan’s love of jazz and the musical images that appear in his artwork. Jonathan works in New York City as a freelance illustrator, book author and gallery exhibitor. He taught drawing at BSC during the 1996 summer session and now teaches illustration as a senior lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Ben attended BSC from 1996-98 where he dabbled in ceramics in Richard Sammons’ classes. He graduated in mass communications from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and works as a news photographer in Pensacola, Fla. Ben also has a side business selling his pottery and teaches pottery at a city arts center on weekends.

“That came from his experience at BSC,” Carolyn says. “For Dale, Ben and I who were students, BSC was a launch for what our life’s work would be.”

Their life’s work – and the lives of the Twingleys – are inextricably tied to BSC.

“The sense of community here is just remarkable. We who have stayed for decades can attest to that,” Carolyn says. “In the archives, I come across my dad’s picture, my husband’s, mine, my son’s and his friends’, and it’s kind of like a giant family scrapbook for me because of all the ties our family has to this school.”

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Ambitious strategic planning agenda on track

BSC is in the midst of developing a five-year strategic plan that includes five phases and a 30-person task force of internal and external stakeholders.

The end of December saw the completion of Phase III: Making Sense of the Issues. At that meeting, taskforce teams presented concept papers on one of five overarching themes that arose during the data gathering phase in November: Quality of Education, Collaboration, Technology, Student Experience and Image of the College.

During Phase IV: Vision Conference in January, the task force and other stakeholders will use those concept papers to develop a shared picture of the future including strategic themes, challenges and specific goals.

The process will wrap up in February with Phase V: Goals Conference, in which the task force and stakeholders draft goals for each strategic theme and create an implementation plan to achieve those goals.

The standard timeline for strategic planning of this magnitude is a year. BSC’s six-month timeline is ambitious, says Jane Schultz, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness and strategic planning, but on track to ensure that the planning is rolled into the spring budgeting process.

“We’re hoping for a plan that’s very focused on what we view as important now. To have that as we enter the budget process means that we will walk our talk in the coming years,” Schultz says.

For more information about BSC’s strategic planning efforts, visit www.bismarckstate.edu/about/planning.

Historic BSC maintenance building finds new home

The old maintenance building on campus was moved board by board last fall to Buckstop Junction to join the collection of 20 historic buildings east of Bismarck. Until the Missouri Valley Historical Society stepped up to deconstruct and move it, the deteriorating building was set for demolition to make way for BSC’s new Robert A. Kuntz Physical Plant Building funded by the state legislature.

The building’s history goes back to Bismarck’s Fort Lincoln, which is now the campus of United Tribes Technical College. Known as T-23, the building was among 18 wooden barracks at Fort Lincoln that served as headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. During World War II, the barracks became an internment camp for housing prisoners of war and American citizens of German and Japanese descent.

Moved to BSC in the late 1960s or early ‘70s, the structure has served the Buildings and Grounds Department for more than 40 years. The historical society plans to reassemble the old barracks next spring after a concrete floor is poured.

100% of BSC nursing students pass licensing exams

Practical nursing (PN) and associate degree in nursing (ADN) graduates celebrated a 100 percent pass rate on their certification exams in November.

Passing the certification, called the NCLEX (National Council of Licensure Examination), is similar to fledgling attorneys passing the bar or an accountant earning a CPA. It is the same licensure test taken by four-year nursing graduates, says Suzie McShane, assistant professor of nursing and program coordinator. Passing the NCLEX means the students are now licensed or registered nurses.

BSC offers two-year associate degrees in nursing. For more information, visit www.bismarckstate.edu/academics/programsjo/nursing.

To follow us is to know us

BSC now has an official Facebook and Twitter presence. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Bismarck_State and at www.Facebook.com/Bismarckstate on Facebook. Learn the latest about our programs, the Bismarck-Mandan community, student life, BSC in the news, important dates and so much more!
We at BSC know the value of a community college, and Second Lady Jill Biden, a longtime community college professor, has worked to ensure the nation knows it, too. The October 2010 White House Summit on Community Colleges highlighted the role community colleges play in developing the U.S. workforce and reaching national educational goals. More recently, the Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to “fostering enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues,” awarded its inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence to Valencia College in Florida. And Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., was a finalist for that prize.

The national economy has placed North Dakota in the spotlight, too. Our record low unemployment, booming energy sector, business friendly climate, and job openings are the antidote to ongoing hardship in most other parts of the country.

The ability for community colleges to retrain the underemployed and unemployed has contributed to the fact that the 1,200 community colleges in the nation are the largest and fastest growing segment of America’s higher education system.

We see that growth at BSC where we have record enrollments and a history of training people to fill the jobs that exist today, as well as those coming as the economy and the workforce evolve.

“The reason community colleges have grown so quickly is because a need exists to get students on their path in a very short timeframe,” says Dr. Larry C. Skogen, BSC president. “Community colleges have the ability to respond very quickly to that need and demand from industry.”

BSC began adding programs based on industry requests in the 1970s. Early programs like the Lineworker program and Power Plant Technology, along with dozens of others added over the years, are still preparing students to fill niche roles in key fields.

According to Dr. Drake Carter, vice president of academic affairs, BSC has added 12 new programs in the past five years alone, many in response to industry and business needs. Several of the programs added since 2006 reflect the energy boom in North Dakota. The college’s designation as the National Power Plant Operations Technology and Educational Center in 2007, accompanied by the National Energy Center of Excellence, the energy program facility, have helped attract the students, industry and federal funding necessary to meet the demand. Today, energy students make up 25 percent of BSC’s student population.
With every program added, BSC’s goal is the same: to ensure that graduates are highly employable. Even the most specialized programs are adaptable. The Instrumentation and Control program is a good example. While originally developed for the energy industry, graduates can work in any type of plant.

“We craft programs that will bring our graduates jobs,” Carter says. “BSC is experienced at working with industry and other partners to meet special needs.”

The process of adding a program requires approval within the university system as well as funding, facility space and the ability to hire faculty. The process usually takes 18 months to three years to finalize depending on the complexities of the program.

“Progressive companies look at what’s going on with higher ed in Bismarck and see positive indicators for the community as a whole.” – Russ Staiger, executive director, Bismarck Mandan Economic Development Association

Despite the hoops, BSC has always been a key player in driving the area’s economy. Russ Staiger, longtime executive director of the Bismarck-Mandan Development Corporation, cites the establishment of a formal workforce training effort at BSC in the 1990s as the best example of BSC’s role in the area’s growth.

“It was critical to our economic development to have workforce training,” Staiger says.

He notes that BSC’s “positive and natural facilitation with potential employers” has made a real difference in recruiting business.

“Unemployment is at 2.4 percent here. When employers ask us who there is to hire, we talk about the underemployment issue and availability of training at BSC. We see that in IT, healthcare and energy. Having that answer is vital,” he says.

Workforce training is only part of the community college’s role. While half of BSC’s students are enrolled in two-year technical programs, the other half consists of transfer students planning to go on for advanced degrees.

“Regardless of the industry or the role, creative thinking and communication are vital,” Skogen says. “Industry folks tell me all the time that they need employees who can think creatively in response to a rapidly changing environment. They need people to file good reports whether they’re welders, mechanical maintenance workers, lawyers or artists. That’s what the liberal arts teach.”

BSC’s commercial art and graphic design programs have long bridged the divide between workforce training and liberal arts with graduates populating advertising agencies and print companies around the region.

“BSC teaches kids how to enter into a business and succeed,” says Ken Bischoff, ’92, owner and president of United Printing in Bismarck. “BSC has a long history of producing graduates ready to work.”

Bischoff says that BSC has evolved with the industry. While students gain a strong technical and design foundation, they also learn to apply their skills across different areas and come equipped with critical thinking skills necessary to advance.

“The growth of BSC is good for business – it provides diverse skills in the workforce and qualified employees.” – Ken Bischoff, president and owner, United Printing

“The lynchpin of economic development in any community is the availability of workforce, and we train the workforce,” Skogen says.

And while the nation and the state may be focused on workforce, Skogen emphasizes that community colleges, and BSC in particular, are focused on students.

“Whether they complete a technical program and head out to the workforce, or transfer to a four year school, our focus is always on their beyond.”

BSC programs added since 2006

- Industrial Maintenance Technology (2006)
- Eligibility Worker (2006)
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy Management (2006)
- Mechanical Maintenance Technology (2006)
- Instrumentation and Control Technology (2007)
- Technical Studies (2009)
- Renewable Generation Technology (2009)
- Electronics Technology (2010)
- Petroleum Production Technology (2010)
- Petroleum Engineering Technology (2010)
- Sustainable Construction Technology (2010)
- Water and Wastewater Technology (2011)
BSC hosts Veterans Day observance November 11

Ongoing construction to expand the North Dakota Heritage Center on the state capitol grounds resulted in BSC hosting the annual Veterans Day event Nov. 11.

Speakers and attendees gathered in Sidney J. Lee Auditorium for the observance coordinated by legionnaires of Lloyd Spetz Post No. 1 on behalf of area veterans.

“Post members responded positively and immediately and had dates set aside,” said veteran Robert Wefald, editor of Legion News and chair of the post’s Open Your Heart holiday charity. “This worked out very well.”

Wefald said BSC will likely host the Veterans Day observance in 2012 and 2013 or until the ceremony can return to the North Dakota Heritage Center auditorium.

Color guards participated from VFW Gilbert N. Nelson Post No. 1326, American Legion Lloyd Spetz Post No. 1, AMVETS Post No. 9 and its auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 3, and the combined American Legion Gilbert S. Furness Post No. 40 and VFW Post 707 of Mandan.

The main speaker was Public Service Commissioner Brian Kalk, a retired Marine Corps major. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Maj. Gen. David Srynyczynatyk of the North Dakota National Guard also spoke on behalf of generations of veterans. Legionnaire Commander Howard Burns, a Vietnam veteran, served as master of ceremonies. Miss North Dakota Ariana Walker sang the national anthem.

The Salvation Army recreated their role during WWI in France by serving coffee and doughnuts in uniforms of the era.

Salvation Army Doughnut Girls with retired Bismarck physician and World War II veteran Dr. Herb Wilson in his uniform

BSC roaming professors corralled in classrooms

A visit to Cascadia College in Washington state last year inspired BSC faculty members to open the doors of their classrooms to their colleagues.

Modeled after a program at Cascadia, the Roaming Professor program was established last fall to provide more cross-disciplinary perspectives to students. According to project leader, Bob Arso, chair of the Career and Technology Department, the idea is to knit more than one discipline together in the classroom to better reflect the real world. The Cascadia class he audited brought a biology professor into a political science classroom to talk about Love Canal – a toxic waste incident that occurred in Niagra Falls, N.Y., in the 1970s.

“The biology professor talked about how the toxicity of the elements affected residents, while the poli-sci professor addressed the governmental side. Students loved it and were really engaged in the discussion,” Arso said.

While a couple of BSC’s roaming professors have presented in their colleagues’ classrooms, this primarily has been a building year for the program with Arso creating a list of those willing to bring their areas of expertise to the classroom and those willing to host.

“With the offerings in place, our faculty can plan ahead and incorporate the roaming professors into their curriculum in 2012-13,” he says.

Dozens of topics are offered by the roaming professors, ranging from Hispanic culture to DNA evolution to refinery operations.

For more information about the BSC Roaming Professor program, contact Bob Arso at R.Arso@bismarckstate.edu.

Alumni share their knowledge, too

It isn’t only professors who like to roam. The BSC Alumni Association also offers an Alumni in the Classroom program.

For more information on how to get involved in Alumni in the Classroom or to request a speaker, contact Rita Nodland at Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu or 701-224-5692.

BSC premiers videos

BSC will be launching 36 program-specific informational videos early in 2012 to increase awareness of the breadth of our programs. These two-minute videos will be available on the website and via BSC’s social media channels (YouTube, Facebook and Twitter).

From technical theater to petroleum processing to surgical technology, the faculty and students interviewed for the videos eloquently showcase the opportunities available at BSC. Watch for these digital clips coming soon, and share them widely!
Alumni Association sponsors kindergarten class

Two years ago, the Jeannette Myhre Elementary Hope for the Future initiative was started to inspire students’ dreams and foster hope for a better future.

Each classroom was tasked with making a connection with a college and Dawn Olson, Myhre kindergarten teacher and BSC alumna, contacted the BSC Alumni Association.

Since September 2010, several BSC faculty, alumni and students have showcased their programs in Olson’s classes. Recently, under the direction of Tom Marple, ’98, assistant professor of graphic design and communications, BSC advanced design students worked with Myhre students to design a new school logo. In December, Vanessa Taylor, ’09, assistant professor of surgical technology, and Kristine Binstock, BSC student, shared medical career options with students.

“Through the BSC/Myhre connection, our students are becoming aware of more career opportunities, and they now know that these careers are very much within their reach,” Olson says.

For more information on the BSC Alumni in the Classroom program, contact Rita Nodland at Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu.

Totaled car brings real-world repairs to students

Students in the Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision Technology programs had hands-on training fall semester working on a wrecked car. The 2009 Mitsubishi Galant ES was donated by the Terry Kraft American Family Insurance agency in Mandan after it was totaled in an accident.

“Terry has been very supportive of BSC in the past,” says Gordon Binek, BSC Foundation executive director and vice president for college advancement. “We asked him to keep BSC in mind if they had a vehicle, and this car fits our needs exactly. Our auto tech programs could use a number of these cars each semester, particularly a hybrid.”

The sedan has damage to the right front panel, axel and suspension but an intact engine. Students gained experience in repairing damage they will see out in the field, says Lee Friese, associate professor of automotive technology. In addition, the 2009 model allowed students to work on the latest technologies.

This donation is the first of its kind to the auto tech programs, Friese says. Previously, manufacturers or dealerships donated vehicles, but that source has dried up during the slow economy.

“We want to thank American Family for doing this,” Friese says. “It couldn’t have happened at a better time. It would be great to get one a semester.”

Paralympic Time Trials rescheduled

In the October 2011 Connections we noted that the Paralympic Time Trials would be held March 29-31 at the BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center. Those dates have changed to June 11-16 with the actual competition taking place June 14-16.
Books, art, culture and creativity mark events at BSC

**BookTalk at BSC**

Land – “It’s the only thing that lasts,” Gerald O’Hara told Scarlett in Margaret Mitchell’s “Gone with the Wind.” BookTalk explores that theme with three book discussions on select Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the BSC Library.


For more information visit, www.bismarckstate.edu/booktalk.

**ArtsQuest**

BSC ArtsQuest will host guest artists in literature and music during ArtsQuest 2012, a celebration of the performing, visual and literary arts in March and April. Events include a series of concerts featuring BSC’s music students, a musical, a student art exhibit and reception, outdoor raku firing, readings from the BSC literary/art journal “Figments of Imagination,” and a festival of short plays.

Guest artist Stefan Mumaw, creative director of Reign, a Kansas City-based advertising agency, and author of five books including “Chasing the Monster Idea,” will speak and conduct a creative workshop during his visit in April.

ArtsQuest began in 1998 as a project of the BSC Arts and Communication Department. For more information visit, www.bismarckstate.edu/artsquest

**Visiting Writers Series**

The BSC Visiting Writers Series will host two writers this spring. Max Brooks, author of three books on zombie survival, will give a presentation April 25 in Belle Mehus City Auditorium co-sponsored by BSC ArtsQuest. Former North Dakotan Brenda Marshall will read from her latest book, “Dakota, Or What’s a Heaven For?” on March 1 in the BSC Student Union.

Dr. Larry C. Skogen and BSC Distinguished Humanities Scholar Clay Jenkinson discuss an array of topics with audience participation from 3-5 p.m. on select Sundays during the school year. Free and open to the public, the conversations take place at Sidney J. Lee Auditorium and are aired live at www.bsctalk.com.

**Changing Interpretations of Native American and Western History (Feb. 26)**

Dr. Herman Viola, curator emeritus at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, will dissect how and why western history, the place of American Indians in American history and the future of those interpretations are changing.

**Sacred Places on the Great Plains (March 11)**

Skogen and Jenkinson will talk about the ways in which the two Great Plains cultures ascribe meaning to landscape, including sacred meaning.

**International Human Trafficking: An Historical Perspective and Relevance to the Heartland (April 22)**

Patrick Atkinson, founder of the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons (ITEMP), will provide an historical overview of human trafficking and an update on the current worldwide situation followed by a conversation about the implications of these activities, particularly in the Great Plains.

For more information, call (701) 224-5600 or visit www.bsctalk.com.
Bismarck State College by the numbers

Our fall 2011 profile numbers show the growth and change on campus. We have more students than last year and more combining online and on campus learning. We continue to educate more men than women (although the gap is closing) and our military numbers are up – almost 3 percent of BSC students serve in the military. Our retention rate of 65 percent is higher than the national average and our 97 percent placement rate reflects the quality of our graduates.

But the numbers are only part of the story. Beyond the numbers are the people, the offerings and the accomplishments of our students and employees. The real story is that people of all ages are choosing BSC – a community college with a global reach – to get to their beyond.

Data based on NDUS official fourth week enrollment totals.

Enrollment 4,392
FT student ............... 2631 (60%)
PT students ............. 1761 (40%)

Programs
Liberal Arts .............. 1601 (34.20%)
Technical ............... 1776 (40.40%)
Non-Degree ............ 892 (20.30%)
BAS .......................... 223 (5.10%)

Gender
Female .................... 2023 (46.06%)
Male ....................... 2364 (53.83%)
Unknown ................... 5 (0.11%)

Age
Under 18 .......... 434 (9%)
18-21 ............... 1,978 (45%)
22-29 ............... 953 (22%)
30-39 ............... 553 (13%)
40-64 ............... 473 (11%)
65 and over .... 1 (0.0%)

Degrees Earned
Associate .................. 989 (83.6%)
Diploma .................... 7 (0.6%)
Certificate ............... 154 (13%)
Certificate of Completion 1 (0.1%)
BAS .......................... 32 (2.7%)
Total .................... 1183

Mode of Education
Distance .................. 1746 (39.80%)
Face to Face (on campus) .... 1850 (42.10%)
Face to Face + Distance ...... 796 (18.10%)

Others
Distance 39.80%
Face to Face (on campus) 42.10%
Face to Face + Distance 18.10%
Anderson leaves legacy at Fort Mandan

Historical interpreter and BSC graduate Gary Anderson, '97, died unexpectedly in October. A long-time employee of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation, Anderson was the face of Fort Mandan. Dressed in period clothing, his bearded visage has graced billboards across North Dakota.

An expert on Lewis and Clark as well as Lt. Col. George A. Custer, Anderson earned an Associate in Arts degree studying history at BSC. According to Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation Vice President Wendy Spencer, Anderson’s passion for telling the story of Fort Mandan inspired his colleagues on the interpretive staff as well as thousands of visitors.

The foundation has established the Gary Anderson Fort Mandan Fund in his honor. Contributions to the fund will be used for interpreter training and acquiring artifacts for the fort – areas in which Anderson was highly involved.

Anderson lived in Center, N.D., with his wife.

For more information about the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation or to contribute to the fund, visit www.fortmandan.com.

Who are these women?

While their sweatshirts show that BSC decided on a name, we can’t decide on the names of these three spirited students. Can you?

The first person who identifies the women in our mystery photo will receive a BSC sweatshirt.

Contact Rita Nodland (Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu) if you can help.

Staff profile: BSC’s road warrior Kari Bitz

In three months this fall, BSC Admissions Counselor Kari Bitz put on 11,000 miles and saw 7,500 students at 15 North Dakota college fairs and one in Minneapolis. She visited 67 different high schools across North Dakota, meeting with more than 500 students at those visits alone.

Bitz has developed some tricks of the trade to engage students. During her high school visits she offers a piece of candy and an honest answer for any question asked. She doled out 2,400 pieces of candy (and answers) this fall.

“They usually want to know about the male/female ratio and the food,” she says.

Her answers are well received. The ratio is currently 53 percent male and 46 percent female at BSC, and as for the food, she says it's not only good, but “sauerkraut light.”

“And that's not always the case at the colleges around here,” Bitz adds.

She finds that students are pretty evenly split between those interested in going on to four-year degrees and those interested in technical programs. They get excited about BSC’s offerings and affordability and are often surprised by the high degree of transferability.

“They are always excited to learn about the number of degrees we offer and how we can move them into careers or the four-year programs they want,” she says.

Bitz applies the same sense of fun she brings to students to her travels. Last year, she traveled with Mystic Ian, posing him in front of landmarks like Tommy the Turtle in Bottineau, N.D., then posting his picture on Facebook and offering clues as to his whereabouts.

She also contributes to the local economy in the towns she visits. Bitz says her favorite stop is Wishek, N.D., the home of Wishek sausage. Bitz regularly bears gifts of the local favorite to colleagues and raves about it to other college reps. Bitz caused a community sausage shortage after the last college fair when her peers cleaned the local grocery store out of the meats.

“Everyone knows about it and loves it now.”

Bitz’s efforts with students are ensuring that the same can be said about BSC.
Grant changes the game for BSC by centralizing data

This fall, BSC was awarded a $1,932,550 five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III). The intent of a Title III grant is to provide money that will allow a college to complete a project that creates “positive, significant and enduring change” in the way the college operates.

At BSC, the grant will centralize campus data, providing BSC with the means to invest in the technology, consulting, training and staffing necessary to bring the data currently fragmented across campus into a central system.

Building the capacity to leverage data is a priority at BSC as it is throughout higher education.

“This is a movement nationally. Some private institutions have invested in it and achieved it, others, like BSC, are moving toward it,” says Mike Kubisiak, institutional research analyst at BSC.

By centralizing the data and creating a reporting system around it, BSC will be able to more effectively use data for strategic planning and decision making, tracking student life cycle and program outcomes, and facilitating the data-informed decisions of BSC employees.

BSC’s project, titled Data-Informed Decision Making, will be under the leadership of Kubisiak and Jane Schulz, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness and strategic planning.

According to Kubisiak, the demands for data-informed solutions and decision making are increasing at all levels: institutional, system, state and national. The grant-funded process, will allow data to be exported, analyzed and developed into reports, dashboards and other forms that will help BSC plan for the future.

“We too often find ourselves in a reactive state. We want to make sure that our starting point is always data evaluation. Look at what the data says and then plan our projects and measure our success from the data,” he says.

The grant provides a tremendous boost to BSC, injecting what was a slow incremental process with the means to put centralization on the fast track to the benefit of all, including students.

“A main focus of the grant is to fully track student success along a continuum – from enrollment to admissions to graduation and beyond. This is an area that we have focused on for some time, but with this grant, we will have enough detail to identify trouble spots along that continuum and address those very specific areas in order to improve student experience and outcomes,” Kubisiak says.

BSC had to cite its specific challenges as part of the grant application process. In addition to legacy computer systems focused on enrollment management versus informational reporting, Kubisiak says data is fragmented and the people who handle it are isolated.

“One of the tangible results we’d like to show over the five years of this effort is to see our employees accessing information in minutes that once took days to gather,” he says. “We’ll bring collaboration, tear down information silos and become more efficient and effective.”

Another goal during the life of the grant is to ensure that the outcomes are sustainable even after the grant is paid out. To achieve that, $322,091 of the federal funds were used to establish an endowment that will be matched by funds raised by the BSC Foundation.

This is the first Title III grant for BSC, and was awarded in part due to the support of North Dakota’s congressional delegation. The total cost of the centralized data effort at BSC will be financed with 67 percent ($1,932,550) federal money and 33 percent ($951,344) from non-governmental sources.

BSC Foundation adds three trustees to board

Three community leaders in the healthcare and banking industries have joined the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees.

Wendy Feeney, vice president of operations for Coventry Health Care, Inc., works in the service operations area. Feeney served on the Junior Achievement board through the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce.

Renae Hansen is west regional operations manager at Aetna health insurance company in Bismarck. Hansen is active in the National Management Association and serves as Aetna’s United Way representative.

Kevin Strege is the president of Bremer Bank. He is active in the Boy Scouts, Bismarck Vision Fund and Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce Local Issues Committee.
Foundation recognizes contributions from donors

The people, businesses and organizations that contribute major gifts to BSC were honored during the President’s Club dinner in October.

Gordon Binek, BSC Foundation executive director, welcomed guests whose cumulative contributions have ranged from $5,000 to the Lifetime Leader level of $1 million or more. Binek, BSC President Larry C. Skogen, and Bill Townsend, foundation board chairman, presented the awards.

Binek noted that the donors provide a wide range of support to BSC by endowing funds that result in annual scholarships to students and also in grants that fund activities designed to advance the college, including the Visiting Writers Series and the 9/11 Symposium, among others.

“An endowment fund to support the BSC humanities programs was created this year, and gifts of equipment will help many BSC programs fulfill their mission with new models and advanced technology,” he says.

“The support of our friends provides us with the resources to assist BSC and the students we serve. The hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants are funds beyond the college budget and truly benefit the employees and students.”

The BSC scholarship budget reached an all-time high of $460,000 during the 2010-2011 school year.

Lifetime Leader - $1,000,000+
Frank and Joanne Bavendick

Founder - $250,000 - $499,999
Dr. Eugene Kralicek Memorial Scholarship Fund

Diamond Award - $100,000 - $249,999
Walter L. Braun and Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund
St. Alexius Medical Center

Ruby Award - $50,000 - $99,999
Gate City Bank
Liatis Foundation
Morris and Irene Tschider
Bertha Wanner Estate
Whiting Petroleum Corporation

Sapphire Award - $25,000 - $49,999
Bismarck-Mandan Home Builders Association
Dave and Sue Clark
EAPC Architects
Jennifer Gladden
Northern Improvement
Praxair

Honor of Gold - $15,000 - $24,999
AE2S
Clear Channel Radio

Cumulus Broadcasting Inc.
Dakota Community Bank & Trust
Ken LaMont Memorial Scholarship Fund
Gordon and Paula Binek
I Keating Furniture World
Bob Stenehjem Memorial Scholarship Fund
Larry and Alison Skogen
McQuade Distributing Co., Inc.
Pat and Mary Ann Durick
RDO Equipment Company
Bob Kuntz Memorial Scholarship Fund

Honor of Silver - $7,500 - $14,999
AmeriPride Linen & Apparel Services
Gary I. Anderson
Maurice E. Cook
EZ-SPOT-UR
Food Services of America
Halliburton
Dr. Grant M. and Jane M. Lindstrom
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company
North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers
Northland Financial
PPC Mechanical Seals
Radisson Hotel

Honor of Bronze - $5,000 - $7,499
Dakota Caulking, Inc.
Enbridge Pipelines (North Dakota), LLC
Donna Fishbeck
Lane and Jackie Huber
Kelly Inn
Karen Traeholt
Mike and Lori Wavrin
Verendrye Electric Cooperative

Student speaker William Woodworth
Michael and Janel Schmitz
Robert and Linda Tonolli
Woodmansee’s Office Supply & Furniture
Thank you BSC Foundation donors

With more than $31 million in assets, the BSC Foundation is the third largest college foundation in North Dakota. Thanks to our generous donors, the foundation is able to support a wide range of innovative and visionary programs and activities at BSC that are not funded through traditional sources. These include student scholarships, recognition for deserving students, recognition for innovative and visionary programs and activities at BSC that are not funded through traditional sources. These include student scholarships, recognition for deserving students, recognition for employee service and excellence, internal project grants, and campus facilities such as the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, the Jack Science Center and Lidstrom Hall.

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing President’s Club members for Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011.

Aetna U.S. Healthcare
American Bank Center
American Family Insurance
AmeriPride Linen and Apparel Services
Lloyd E. Anderson, Limited
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Gordon and Paula Binek
Bismarck-Mandan Home Builders Association
Bobcat
Walter and Lucille Braun
Michael and Peggy Bullinger
Butler Machinery Company
Capital City Construction, Inc
Cedric Theel Inc
Central Mechanical Inc
Cynthia Clairmont
The Coteau Properties Company
Cross Country Courier, Inc.
Dakota Awards
Dakota Bumper and Body Supply
Dakota Community Bank
Kathleen Dobovsky
Dougherty & Company LLC
Patrick and Mary Ann Durick
Bryan and Cynthia Dviman
Eide Bailly LLP
Cheryl Elisberrd
Environmental Services
The Falkirk Mining Company
Fargo Bumper
Dr. Marcus and Margaret Fiechtner
Fireside Office Solutions
Gate City Bank
Gateway HealthMart Pharmacy
Jennifer Gladden Estate
GOJC, Inc
Great Lines Inc
Great River Energy
Hazahls Inc
Barbara Nielsen Heinle and Myron Heinle
Ethelene Hoovestol
HUB International of ND
Michael and Sue Hummel
Niles and Ginger Hushka
Charles and Carol Ilen
Johnsen Trailer Sales
Dr. Marlin Johnson
Kadtrmas, Lee & Jackson
Loren Kopseng
Tom and Frances Leach Foundation
Dr. Eugene and Carol Kalick
Liatis Foundation
Susanne Matthes Endowment
McQuade Distributing
MDU Resources Foundation
MDU Resources Group Inc
Medcenter One Health Systems Inc
Med-Trans Corporation
Merrit Trust (US Bank)
Mid-America Steel
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co.
Minnesota Power
LeRoy and Elia Nayes
David Nelson
Terrance and Zanne Ness
Otter Tail Power Company
Otto Bremer Foundation
Jack and Kristen Paris
Judy and Myron Pfeiffee
Prairie Engineering, P.C.
Professional Contractors, Inc.
Ken and Carmen Reno
Ritterbush-Ellig-Hulsing, P.C.
Lon and Jennifer Romsaas
Rones Law Firm
Ryan Chryslers Dodge Jeep of Bismarck
John and Lou Sagsveen
Saks News Inc
Schmidt Insurance/SIA Marketing
Steve Schwan
Security First Bank
Selfert Electric
John and Mary Shaffer
Skeels Electric
Dr. Larry C. and Alison Skogen
Jason and Dr. Nigeria Stahl
Starion Financial
Harley and Margaret Swenson
Mark and Stephanie Swenson
Swenson, Hagon & Co.
Joyce and Dr. Ron Tello
Tesorco Companies, Inc.
Robert and Linda Tonolli
Trail King Industries
Trucks of Bismarck
Irene Tschider
Stacy Tschider
Twin City Roofing, LLC
U.S. Bank
Wells Fargo Bank North Dakota
Scott Wegner
Stephen Welsh and G. Franklin Welsh
Western Steel & Plumbing
Al and Karen Wolf
Coxel Energy Foundation
Advanced Business Methods
Brad and Claudia Ballweber
Michael and Renae Baltzer

Contributions were made to the Foundation in memory of:

Jennifer Gladden ............................... Lloyd and Susan Anderson
Richard and Elizabeth Anderson
Levi and Bethany Andrist
Tamar and Troy Barber
Gordon and Paula Binek
Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boekees
Lee and Debra Huber
Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
Michael and Cathy McDonald
Michelle Sletten
Bill and Alva Townsend
Steve and Debbie Van Berkom
Gerald Vanderwalle

August “Gus” Katzke .............................. Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
Robert “Bob” Kunzt.....Marlene Anderson and Dan Rogers
The Dickinson Press
Craig Dolbeare
Donn and Doris Hancock
Kari Knudson and Thomas Sertfner
Marlin and Roberta Kunze
Daniel and Carol Lindsey
Gary and Kathryn Miller
Kristyn Otzweksi
Professional Contractors, Inc.
Ritterbush-Ellig-Hulsing, P.C.
Allyn and Marlene Sapa
Dr. Larry C. and Alison Skogen
Rachelle and Vince Smith
Wells Fargo Foundation

Peter G. Miller ................................... BSC Employees
Terry Oblander .................................... Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
John Richardson .................................. BSC Employees
Don "Speedy" Russell ............................. Loren Kopseng
Robert "Bob" Stenehjem ........................ DeAnn Bjornson
Dr. Larry C. and Alison Skogen
Takeda Pharmaceuticals of North America

Dorothy Wavrin ................................. Gordon and Paula Binek
BSC Employees
Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boekees
Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
Sean Wavrin and Kristin Leland-Wavrin
John Yonker ...................................... Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association
John Loerch, '60, was honored this winter when the Liberty Heights Retirement Community in Mandan was renamed the H. John Loerch Liberty Heights Retirement Community in honor of his long service. Loerch served as the community’s executive director from 1974-2008.

Jim Hizendeger, ‘67, retired this year from his first and only, full-time job as the Logan (N.D.) County Director of Tax Equalization. He was in the position for 41 years.

Daryl Braun, ’68, a financial specialist with Securian Financial Advisors of N.D. Inc, received the NAIFA Quality Award from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Cathy Langemo, ’81, published “Images of America: North Dakota Rodeo” this fall, featuring more than 200 photographs of North Dakota rodeos, rodeo stars, livestock and entertainment from the late 1800s through 2009. This is Langemo’s third book through Arcadia. The book is available in retail outlets across North Dakota.

Tari Azure, ’81, received the highest award given by the National Ski Patrol for her lifesaving efforts on behalf of a member of the ski patrol at Huff Hills in Mandan last February. Azure has been a ski patrol member and first responder since 1997. She is also a secretary at Simle Middle School in Bismarck.

Lt. Kyle L. Kirchmeier, ’83, was promoted to captain in the North Dakota Highway Patrol and reassigned as the administrative commander of the Southwest Region in Bismarck. Kirchmeier has been with the Highway Patrol since 1986.

Capt. Eldon R. Mehrer, ’90, is the motor carrier operations commander for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. He has been with the Highway Patrol since January 1991, serving in Williston, Dickinson, Jamestown and Fargo.

Terri Mellon, ’91, recently was hired as a graphic artist at KK Bold, a Bismarck advertising agency. A Mandan native, Mellon spent the last 11 years in Cleveland, Ohio, working in the publishing industry.

Kirsten Baesler, ’99, was reelected southwest director on the N.D. School Boards Association board of directors. She has served in this role since 2007. Baesler has been on the Mandan School Board since 2004, and is serving her sixth term as president.

Jennifer Feil, ’04, is the new online media coordinator at KK Bold, a Bismarck advertising agency. Feil is from Bismarck.

Jeff Wetzel, ’04, has been named executive director of Medcenter One MedEquip One. Wetzel was the interim director of the facility and previously served as director of Medcenter One Occupational Health Clinic.

Steve Rahrich, ’04 and ’09, was named to the Stanford Who’s Who list in January for his work in the field of business development. Rahrich is a creative Web specialist with the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas. He earned an Associate in Applied Science-Web Development degree from BSC.

Talia Renz, ’07, recently became certified in the developmental disabilities curriculum established by the State Council of Developmental Disabilities. Renz lives in Bismarck.

Jordan Erickson, ’10, is a Web designer and graphic artist at JR Motorsports in Mooresville, N.C., specializing in front-end Web development. He is involved with multiple websites including DaleJr.com, JRMRacing.com, TheDaleJrFoundation.com and JRNation.com. In addition to Web development, Jordan also assists with sponsorship proposals, presentations, racecar paint scheme design and print design.
The BSC Foundation honored 76 employees for their composite 990 years of service during the December employee holiday party and years of service banquet. President Larry C. Skogen and BSC Foundation President John Weeda presented awards as foundation Executive Director Gordon Binek introduced recipients.

J. Michael McCormack, professor of history, was honored for 45 years of teaching and exceptional contributions to BSC. Skilled at building community, McCormack has devoted countless hours to committee service and as BSC’s voluntary emcee and photographer for the college. His leadership extends to many local, state and regional history organizations. McCormack received the Faculty Award of Excellence and was named Outstanding Alumnus in 1994.

Professor Emeritus Don Bigwood continues to teach mathematics part time after 40 years at BSC. He retired in 2000 as associate professor of mathematics. Bigwood was honored twice with the Faculty Achievement Award and received local and regional recognitions from several professional organizations. In 2010, he was inducted into the BSC Hall of Fame as football coach and contributor to the athletic program.

Four BSC employees were honored for 30 years of service:
Carla Bickert, associate professor of management, teaches Marketing and HR Management in the Business program and the Management online option. Bickert serves on the Faculty Senate and Academic Standards committees and works with Central Dakota Human Resource Association on HR issues.

Lonna Meier, academic support services coordinator, runs the Sykes Student Success Center. Meier received two Staff Excellence Awards and is known as an all-campus volunteer across many departments. She served two terms on Staff Senate and on numerous committees.

Arlan Okerson, associate professor of heating, ventilation and air conditioning, teaches the entire HVAC program. He set up BSC’s HVAC program at the state penitentiary and the hybrid Lineworker/HVAC program for rural areas. Okerson received the Faculty Achievement Award and is a leader in local and regional professional organizations.

Mike Wavrin, food service manager, directs staff and develops menus for student contract meals in the Student Union Missouri Room, the Mystic Snack Bar and all BSC catering services. A recipient of the Staff Achievement Award, Wavrin served two terms on Staff Senate and two terms on All Campus Senate.

20 YEARS – Dee Bertsch, administrative assistant-Athletics Department; Buster Gilliss, director of athletics; Mark Holkup, associate professor of adult farm management; Ken Irmeng, medical laboratory technician lecturer; Scott Klingenstein, associate professor of engineering; Michelle Lindblom, associate professor of visual art, Arts & Communications Department chairperson; Henry Riegler, associate professor of psychology; Social Sciences, Humanities & Education Department chairperson; Jean Scherr, physical plant assistant.

15 YEARS – Shirley Bachmeier, custodian; Gordon Binek, vice president for College Advancement, BSC Foundation executive director; Bill Cossette, associate professor of automotive technology; Ronald Crouse, criminal justice lecturer; Linda Greenstein, financial aid programs coordinator; Tammy Heupel, coordinator for Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy Management; Lloyd Hieb, AV/IVN associate; Ron Jyring, associate professor of biology; Laura Kalvoda, library associate; Wendy Pank, associate professor of sociology; Jean Rolandelli, associate professor of biology, Science & Engineering Department chairperson; Laurie Torgerson, day supervisor and cook; Sara Vollmer, TrainND manager.

10 YEARS – Karen Arlien, associate professor of computer science; Johanna Bjork, reference and instruction librarian; Walter DeLeeuw, electric power-electrical transmission systems-power plant technology lecturer; Diane Eichhorst, music lecturer; Bruce Emmil, associate vice president-NECE; Julie Erickson, director of resource development; Donna Fricke, career resource coordinator; Tanya Fuher, bookstore manager-purchasing; Kat Hansen, biology lecturer; Amy Helgeson, associate professor of computer information systems; Deb Hieb, custodian; Kevin Holmstrom, program manager-NECE; Amy Juhala, associate professor of English; Leah Kopseng-Coghlan, accounting lecturer; Kevin Kyes, collaborative process and graduation coordinator; Carmel Miller, associate professor of agriculture, technology and natural resources; Francis Miller, lab facilitator and associate professor-NECE; Ryan Pitcher, associate professor of Spanish; David Schneider, engineering lecturer; Heather Sheehan, director of student and resident life; Carla Sivesind, payroll account technician; Joan Trygg, marketing and advising manager-NECE; Vicki Volk, associate professor of computer support specialist; Vicki Voskuil, public information specialist; William Walz, instructor-NECE.

FIVE YEARS – Marie Anderson, office support-Academic Records; Kristi Bullinger, medical laboratory technician lecturer; Michael Dodge, resident supervisor-Werner Hall; Dave Ell, maintenance; Becky Haakenson, management lecturer, Daphne Hauck, administrative assistant-Distance Learning; Lee Huber, OSHA safety and health consultant; Viggio Jensen, meteorology lecturer; Sharon Klein, English lecturer; Angie Milakovic, assistant professor of GIS; Kate Olson, accounts payable associate; Sarah Olson, advisor coordinator; Gerry Pabst, administrative assistant-associate VP for student affairs; Annie Paulson, assistant professor of nursing; Erin Price, assistant professor of English; Steve Pusc, geography lecturer; Thomas Schreck, English lecturer; Deb Stevenson, custodian; Scott Tschaekofske, assistant professor of chemistry; Paul Walter, electrical transmission systems lecturer; Taunia Welch, grants accountant.
Calling all alumni: We need your stories and talent

BSC 75th anniversary coming in 2013

BSC will celebrate 75 years as a community college beginning in 2013 and we want to hear from you! We’re looking for suggestions of outstanding alumni, memorable instructors and staff to interview, as well as stories, memories, milestones and anecdotes from your days on campus or online. Share your memories with us and commemorate the difference found beyond at BSC. Send your stories and ideas to Marnie.Piehl@bismarckstate.edu or Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu.

ArtsQuest Campus Crawl

The BSC ArtsQuest Committee is looking for interested alumni to participate in the first annual Campus Art Crawl on May 1. The Art Crawl will showcase the talents of our students, alumni and staff through art, music and demonstrations across campus.

Interested alumni should contact Rita Nodland at Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu or (701) 224-5692.

BSC explores performing and visual arts center

Thanks to a grant from the North Dakota legislative budget section, BSC is exploring the possibility of a new center to house performing and visual arts, English and the BSC library.

The $108,000 grant will cover further analysis of the existing library to determine if that building should be repaired or replaced, as well as preplanning for the new center.

“This project could be wonderful for BSC and our community,” BSC president Dr. Larry C. Skogen says. “The center could host college and community events, house galleries for art and artifacts, studios, production facilities and classrooms, shared space for creative learning, as well as offices for BSC faculty and our community partners.”