Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez has muddied her boots in 40 countries, taking American assistance and hope to Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East with teams from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). With more than 25 years of experience in international aid and humanitarian support, Halmrast-Sanchez has followed an ethic learned and adopted as a child growing up in Bismarck.

“My background was always helping others,” says Halmrast-Sanchez, daughter of Beverly, now married to Everett Miller, and the late Jerry Halmrast. “My father impressed upon us very young that service to country was an important part of what we needed to do.”

Growing up in a family of teachers, she became one herself after BSC, graduating with a BS in education from Valley City State College in 1983. She went right into the Peace Corps (’84-’86), teaching disadvantaged kids health and physical education in Guatemalan villages and at a local sports center. As a special project, Halmrast-Sanchez rehabilitated an old swimming pool so she could teach underprivileged children swimming. In 1987, she joined USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), rising through the ranks from a disaster operations specialist to deputy director and acting director.

During her 12 years in OFDA, Halmrast-Sanchez managed America’s global response to an average of 75 disasters and emergencies a year and the accompanying humanitarian aid. Her work expanded to Disaster Assistance Response Team leader during Hurricane Mitch in Honduras (1998), civil strife in Kosovo (1999), famine in Ethiopia (2000), and the earthquake in Bam, Iran (2004), as well as leading responses to guerilla conflicts in Angola (1989-92) and the Philippines (2004). She moved into director of operations for deployments to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and conflict in Lebanon (2007). Driven by the sense of community and service she valued as a youth, Halmrast-Sanchez said her work simply expanded from what she did in the Peace Corps to the world arena.

“I’ve been able to assist people in some of the worst disasters countries have faced,” Halmrast-Sanchez said. “These great experiences come with the satisfaction of helping these vulnerable people as well as the opportunity to represent my country and say ‘we care.’”

She said most of her job has been management, liaison, helping communities strengthen capacity to address difficult issues and identifying processes to accomplish goals. In the field, she and USAID staff collaborated with the U.S. military, non-government agencies such as
Growing a college

Spring! In North Dakota it came early on the heels of one of the mildest winters on record, but that makes it no less welcome. Who doesn’t love seeing the shoots rising from the ground, lilacs budding, tulips blossoming, and students studying on suddenly green lawns?

This issue of Connections is all about the cycle of growth: The buildings rising up all over, the seeds planted in students, the nurturing and pruning required to keep things healthy, and the roots that anchor us. A healthy college needs strong roots – deep ties to the community and a regularly renewed commitment to our students and our mission.

Connections is growing, too. This issue extends online where you’ll find additional stories and more photos at bismarckstate.edu/Connections.

Read on to learn how two of our alumni blossomed in the world (pp. 1 and 3), dig into the companion planting that makes for a healthier crop of citizens (p. 8), and discover how careful tending made our buildings grow (p. 9).

Happy spring and thanks for reading.

Marnie Piehl, Editor

Halmrast-Sanchez credits BSC instructor for problem-solving skills

Continued from page 1

CARE, and local citizen and government leaders. While living three years in Iraq, Halmrast-Sanchez was involved in several programs, including a USAID get-out-the-vote initiative, and a center to educate women, particularly war widows, about their voting rights and local government.

From 2008-09, Halmrast-Sanchez was embedded with the U.S. Brigade Combat Team serving Baghdad. As a member of the U.S. government’s Provincial Reconstruction Team, she went out daily in an armored vehicle with military escort to assist the Sadr City District Council in stabilizing and organizing community projects. What will remain with her forever is the commitment of people from the U.S. and host countries willing to work in such conditions, the ravages of the Angola water shortage in the 1990s, shocking hurricane damage in Honduras, and what was accomplished helping Iraqis caught in the fighting through the Maria Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund.

Now back in Washington, D.C., Halmrast-Sanchez works as director of the USAID’s Office for American Schools and Hospitals Abroad, assisting facilities that best demonstrate American ideals and practices. Her office manages 200 grants supporting secondary and university schools and hospitals. Collected near her desk are her six individual awards from the USAID, 10 group/unit awards, and the master’s degree she earned from the National Defense University’s Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2005.

Adept at problem solving, Halmrast-Sanchez credits a BSC sociology class and instructor Ray Heid for her skill.

“I learned logic that – ‘for every action you do, you have to understand the consequence of your action.’ When I think of anything, I go through that process,” Halmrast-Sanchez said. “It was such a life lesson, so important to me, and one of the best classes I ever took.”

She liked BSC history teacher Mike McCormack’s openness and ability to teach critical thinking skills, and Ed Kringstad’s “get-out-there-and-do-what-you-want-to-do” mantra. Biology helped her understand how everything fits together, while BSC’s liberal arts courses opened the world beyond. She also took North Dakota’s work ethic into her career.

An athlete at Bismarck High School, Halmrast-Sanchez was a competitive swimmer and worked at local pools as teacher and lifeguard - “I was a

Continued on page 3
2012 Rising Star succeeds in fast-track career

Energy has powered the Miller family for generations. Mick Miller’s dad, grandpa and uncle all retired from the Mandan, N.D., refinery. In 1994, his brother Mitchell, ’94, entered the process plant business, too, quickly moving into supervisory positions. But Mick was surprised when he found himself adding Process Plant Technology (PPT) to his business management classes at BSC. Miller, ’99, planned to own and manage a convenience store. He worked for one selling gas all through high school and college.

“That intrigued me,” Miller said about Mitchell’s success. “I called and told him I was in process classes and wasn’t going to manage a gas station.”

Miller finished PPT in 11 months and graduated in three years with Associate in Arts (Business Management) and Associate in Applied Science (PPT) degrees. After graduation, he accepted an operator position at Diversified Energy Company (DENCO) in Morris, Minn., becoming plant manager of the ethanol facility two years later and vice president of operations of its consulting affiliate, Greenway Consulting. He left after six years (2005) for Red Trail Energy in Richardton, N.D., to become general manager and to lead the ethanol plant construction and startup.

Miller rose to president and CEO of Red Trail Energy and stayed until 2009. He left to become business development manager – and eventual president – of Energetix, the company brother Mitchell and a partner founded in Ada, Mich., to offer biofuels management and operations services. They purchased a Michigan process plant in bankruptcy, a startup. Energetix became plant manager of the ethanol facility two years later and vice president of operations of its consulting affiliate, Greenway Consulting. Miller left after six years (2005) for Red Trail Energy in Richardton, N.D., to become general manager and to lead the ethanol plant construction and startup.

Miller rose to president and CEO of Red Trail Energy and stayed until 2009. He left to become business development manager – and eventual president – of Energetix, the company brother Mitchell and a partner founded in Ada, Mich., to offer biofuels management and operations services. They purchased a Michigan process plant in bankruptcy, a venture that led to ownership and management contracts with three plants in three other states. Besides Energetix, Miller works full time as general manager of ethanol production facilities in Rosholt, S.D., and Morris, Minn. His brother and partners run plants in Michigan and Indiana.

Miller’s nominator wrote: “At age 33, Mick is truly a rising star in the energy industry. It is quite an accomplishment to be the president and CEO of a company when you are so young.”

Miller said BSC provided his launch to success. Wrestling for 12 years in grade and high school also instilled in him what hard work is and the lesson: “winners are winners and losers are losers.”

“Combining the two degrees was a great combo for me,” Miller said. “BSC was the backbone for helping me prepare to be successful. The field I have chosen has provided a lot of opportunity. Because I’ve had the right education, it allows me to progress in my career. One of the greatest aspects of hard work is being recognized, and the Rising Star Award is a reminder of that.”

Halmrast-Sanchez

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water rat,” she said. She pursued art and busied herself as a teen-ager helping with her father’s campaigns for park board and state Legislature. After the Peace Corps, she was a staffer on Kent Conrad’s first campaign for U.S. Senate. Her family includes two sons Luis Allyn or Luisito, 21, and Christopher, 20, who are attending community college in Alexandria, Va. Three sisters live in Bismarck: Sandy Blair, Jill Monson and Heidi Stein.

Though she has seen and affected the world, she considers her greatest achievement to be her sons, who she said are well grounded and happy. For herself: “If I continue learn something every day, I’m happy, and I’ve enjoyed the challenges.”

Learn more about Halmrast-Sanchez at bismarckstate.edu/Connections.

Outstanding alumni to be honored May 10

Join us in honoring Alumna of the Year Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez and Rising Star Award winner Rick Miller at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at the BSC Student Union.

Reservations are being accepted until May 4, seating is limited. Tickets are $25 per person. Checks can be made payable to the BSC Alumni Association and mailed to BSC Alumni Office, PO Box 5587, Bismarck, ND 58506-5587. Questions? Contact Rita Nodland at (701) 224-5692 or (800) 272-2586 or Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu.
Nurturing a complex college ecosystem

Higher education is a complex ecosystem with many interdependent elements: federal and state regulations, policies, and laws; the university system’s policies and procedures; and the expectations of students, parents, employees, our communities, and our industry partners—to name just a few. If one element in our ecosystem is altered in any way, every part is impacted, positively or negatively.

The care of the BSC ecosystem is our daily responsibility. We have to keep the ecosystem healthy within a sometimes tough and demanding environment. We know that we must water, nurture and cast plenty of light upon everything we do. We also have to think about the ripple effect of our many decisions, each program change and every addition to our offerings. We need to factor in the forecast, past performance and what’s best for our institutional health and our crop of students.

ec•o•sys•tem
noun
a complex set of relationships among the living resources, habitats and residents of an area; a functioning unit of nature

In this issue of Connections, you’ll learn about some of the most visible of our ecosystem’s elements—the graduates, the facilities, our partnerships. But these elements could not thrive unless the other elements were healthy, too. We are proud of how well we tend to our complex ecosystem, and we thank all of you for your involvement, at whatever level, in the environmental preservation work that keeps the BSC ecosystem strong.

– Dr. Larry C. Skogen, BSC president

Building boom stems from growth and collaboration

Bismarck State College is the third largest college in North Dakota, serving nearly 3,900 students this spring as well as an ever-escalating number of other constituents. Last year, the college taught 1,400 collaborative students through Dickinson State University, Minot State University, and Bismarck Public Schools. Additionally, the workforce training and development offered through BSC Continuing Education Training and Innovation (CETI) brought another 16,142 students into the mix.

Increasing numbers require increasing space. Over the past several years, new spaces have been springing up all over campus.

“We went for some time in which our space was woefully inadequate,” says Dave Clark, executive vice president. “We are fortunate in that the ND Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Legislature saw that our strong market, growing enrollment and quality offerings were worthy of the investment. It helped that we have had strong leadership, both from BSC and legislatively, communicating our needs.”

Clark says that both former BSC President Donna Thigpen and current President Larry Skogen have been strong advocates for growth and creative partnerships.

“What we’ve seen is that our enrollment growth has continued as our physical space has improved,” Clark says.

Shared space and partnerships have been a significant part of the building growth over the past few years. The Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy, BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center and MDU Resources Community Bowl are all examples of an approach that aligns district and community needs with BSC’s needs as well as its vision to “offer high quality education, workforce training, and enrichment programs reaching local and global communities.”

BSC began on the top floor of Bismarck High School in 1939, moved to the Capitol grounds in 1955 and finally to the current campus in 1961. Clark says that BSC’s history with the Bismarck School District made collaboration a natural option.

“Because we were once part of the school system and have shared space in the BSC Technical Center, we knew that model would work,” he says.

As the 2012 building season kicks in, a rundown of BSC’s physical growth seems appropriate.
A healthy crop of facilities

Building projects 1961-2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schafer Hall</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>Werner Hall</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<td>Swensen Hall</td>
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<td>Technical Center</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<td>Student Union</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<td>Student housing (Mystic Hall)</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Center addition</td>
<td>1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDU Resources Community Bowl</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>Jack Science Center</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leach Music Center</td>
<td>2001</td>
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</tbody>
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Building and sustaining a college can be gauged by numbers and data, mission and policies, or something as basic as dirt. Ask any gardener. There is great aesthetic joy and education in handling dirt, stacking it up, and making things grow in it. From the first spading to winter bouquets, the environment is changed. While BSC is many things to its students, employees and visitors, the campus has not yet claimed its founding prairie grass hill as a classroom. That soon will change with the launch of an initiative known as the coulee project.

The wild bit of land rests in a depression east of Lidstrom Hall and south of the Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy. Making plans for this outdoor learning center of restored prairie and wetland is a committee of BSC faculty and Bismarck city officials, experts in natural resources, and Bismarck Public Schools staff. BSC’s Office of Innovation has helped with strategy and organization of what has become a “Wild Endeavor” championed by Duane Pool, Geographic Information Systems lecturer.

The coulee contains mature trees and a rock-lined drainage pool built during construction of the Career Academy. Planners hope to re-create natural prairie, build specimen plots for plant identification, make walkways, incorporate a sculpture garden, and try to use the storm water runoff for the proposed wetland.

“Any water feature will be highly attractive to wildlife,” said Jean Rolandelli, Science and Engineering Department chair and associate professor of biology. “We would be integrating into a sustainable community that doesn’t require watering.”

With the core plan nearly done, the committee wants students to design portions of the outdoor learning center in a contest that kicks off in April. The BSC Foundation has attached a tuition scholarship as prize. Submissions are due in August with implementation starting in fall 2012.

“We would try to incorporate the coulee into as much curriculum as possible,” Rolandelli said. “There are a million different ways it can tie into a million different classes. We also want to create student awareness about green space.”

A living classroom

Rolandelli said that the reclaimed green space provides multidisciplinary opportunities for BSC students. Ideas include:

- Art could oversee placing and rotation of student sculptures.
- Accounting students could work with the coulee budget and real cost receipts.
- Chemistry could sample water components.
- Carpentry could construct the plot perimeters.
- Journalism students could write about the project.
- The video class could create a documentary.
- Spanish students could translate plant names.
- Sociology could ask how being outside affects the student mind set.
- Psychology class could study the “No Child Left Inside” movement.
- Biology could study which insects and wildlife adopt the coulee.
- All this development could be captured on a podcast.

Planners hope the walkways can be incorporated into the Bismarck Park District’s trail system and the Tom O’Leary loop.

2004-Today

Like the area population, building and remodeling projects on campus ramped up in 2007. The campus continues to grow. Clark notes that one of the key factors to that growth is the support of the BSC Foundation which provided an opportunity for the college to expand in critical trade/technical program areas. For instance, the college leases both the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence and the Mandan Mechanical Maintenance campus from the Foundation.

Horizon – Leased in 2004

The Horizon Building houses marketing and communications, accounting services departments, OSHA, as well as North Dakota University System collaborative partners and system office staff.

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BSC Allied Health – Leased in 2005
To accommodate the expanding allied health programs, BSC began leasing space in a downtown building in the fall of 2005.

Meadowlark – Leased in 2010
The Meadowlark building houses BSC’s human resources, payroll, physical plant and security staff.

BSC Foundation/Alumni House – Foundation purchased in 2007
The Foundation House is home to the BSC Foundation, Resource Development and BSC National Alumni Association.

BSC Mandan Mechanical Maintenance Campus – Completed in 2007
The BSC Mandan campus houses the Mechanical Maintenance Technology program, the first program of its kind in the region. The $1.4 million facility was funded through the sale of bonds, a federal earmark, City of Mandan Vision Fund and contributions from industry.

Lidstrom Hall – Completed in 2008
Named for President Emeritus Kermit Lidstrom, Lidstrom Hall opened in the fall of 2008. The student residence houses nearly 80 students in apartment-style suites.

BSC National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE) – Completed in 2008
The NECE is the outcome of a community, industry and government collaboration that included an $18.5 million capital campaign. Since its opening, BSC’s energy programs (most of which are housed in the NECE) have grown to 25 percent of BSC’s enrollment.

BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center – Completed in 2010
The $9.4 million center was authorized through a joint powers agreement between BSC, Bismarck Park Board, and the State Board of Higher Education. The center is managed by Bismarck Parks and Recreation and houses the highest caliber competitive swim facility between Minneapolis and Seattle.

Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy – Completed in 2010
Forty percent of this 97,000 square-foot space is dedicated to BSC, the rest serves high school students in a hands-on, state-of-the-art learning environment.

BSC Technical Center – Remodel completed in 2012
The Technical Center remodel allowed for expansion of the Welding program, benefitting both BSC and Bismarck Public School (BPS) students. This project also provided space for BSC’s Computer Information Systems programs and the BPS Adult Education program.

Mystic Hall – Remodel completed in 2010
Mystic Hall provides living space for 30 students in eight apartment-style units.

Plotting the future
According to 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bismarck and Mandan have grown about 10 percent since 2000, and newer data is bound to reflect the impact that oil has had on the area. BSC’s enrollment has increased 60 percent in that same time period. According to Clark, BSC submits a campus master plan to the State Board of Higher Education every two years, requiring that the college look ahead regarding the needs of campus.

“We’re obviously in a great, growing community and we know the need for our services and facilities will likely reflect that. Our campus master plan puts BSC in the position to provide the best educational experience possible to students and be a community resource.”

MDU Resources Community Bowl – $8 million improvement project to begin in 2012
Operated by the Community Bowl Authority made up of Bismarck Public Schools, BSC, the City of Bismarck, University of Mary, St. Mary’s Central High School, and Bismarck Parks and Recreation, the facility is managed by BSC. Since 1997, the Bowl has hosted more than 6,300 events on campus.

NECE fourth floor – To be completed summer/fall 2012
BSC received legislative funding in 2011 to finish the fourth floor of this landmark facility. The finished space will include a large stateroom, laboratory and classroom space, a catering kitchen and workforce training rooms.

The new physical plant will house campus security, physical plant staff, vehicle, equipment and supply storage, and mail center operations.

BSC Student Union expansion and remodel – Phased project to be completed in 2014
Adding 14,800 square feet and an extensive remodel will provide new student social gathering spaces, more food service areas and a larger bookstore.

BSC Fine Arts Center/Library – Potential project submission to the Legislature in 2013
A grant of $108,000 from the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget funded a preliminary design and programming effort and included funds for a structural integrity analysis of the current library. Initial results show that the current library (built in 1968) would require substantial maintenance to address major structural and safety issues. If the center is approved, it would host college and community events, house galleries for art and artifacts, studios, production facilities and classrooms, shared space for creative learning, offices, and, potentially, a new library.

Student housing feasibility study – Summer 2012
The BSC Foundation and the college are reviewing the options and feasibility of additional student housing.

For more information about strategic planning and campus updates, visit bismarckstate.edu.
Bismarck tri-college idea gaining momentum

Bismarck State College higher education collaborations and partnerships continue to grow. From international partnerships between BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence and colleges in Turkey and Ghana to the recent agreement with University of Mary in Bismarck, BSC is forging a national footprint for innovative education.

Embedded in the idea is leveraging Bismarck’s status and location as North Dakota’s capital city to tap the expertise of elected officials and other public leaders for the benefit of the institute. Project leaders said the institute could be hosted initially between the three colleges using their campuses and some transitional sites. However, discussion continues to focus on the possibility of a downtown structure to build physical presence for the institute.

Spearheading the project are BSC President Larry C. Skogen, UTTC President David Gipp, and University of Mary President Father James Shea, president of University of Mary. Russ Staiger, BMDA executive director, described the three presidents as “visionary” in their support and “enthusiastic” in their commitment.

“We’re selling a new concept and have a level of support,” Staiger said. “The BMDA is dedicated to make it happen, as well as the three presidents and their institutions. Once we get past the fundraising stage and to the design strategy, public perspective will change.”

A committee with a startup goal of $225,000 has raised about 60 percent of the money to fund a full-time director for the project, Staiger said. That point person would help put together a curriculum, find a physical space for the institute, and raise money. Staiger estimated that 75 percent of the funding needs to be in place for planning to move forward.

BSC collaborates with U-Mary on program transfers

Bismarck State College has entered its first collaboration with a private college. BSC and the University of Mary recently announced an articulation for 10 program areas that will improve student transferability from BSC to U-Mary.

“This agreement is in alignment with our philosophy of collaborating with four-year institutions to better serve our students and communities,” said BSC President Larry C. Skogen.

BSC degree programs included in the agreement are Athletic Training, Exercise Science, Physical Education, Respiratory Therapy, Sport and Leisure Management, Music, Music with Emphasis in Sacred Music, Music Education, Political Philosophy, Management, and Computer Support Specialist, which will transfer to U-Mary’s Information Technology Management program.

Skogen said transferring from BSC is a smooth process, but the articulation agreement ensures that BSC’s general education and specific program classes are wholly integrated with U-Mary programs.

Nearly 35 percent of BSC’s students, or just over 1,500, are enrolled in liberal arts/transfer programs. Another 59 are in the Computer Support Specialist program. As of fall 2011, 324 students from BSC were attending the University of Mary.

U-Mary now has a presence on campus with a new transfer office in the Horizon building. The university joins three other colleges offering upper division opportunities, Dickinson State University, Minot State University and University of North Dakota.

Read more about BSC’s academic collaborations online at bismarckstate.edu/Connections.
Karen Bauer receives $25,000 Jack Fellowship

Karen Bauer, assistant professor of journalism, is the 10th recipient of the Jack Fellowship Award from the Bismarck State College Foundation. The 2012 fellowship, valued at $25,000, helps BSC faculty and staff further their education, conduct research or pursue other professional development.

Foundation Director Gordon Binek said benefactors Tom and Peg Jack demonstrated incredible foresight by establishing the endowed fellowship fund.

"BSC can clearly see the benefits of the additional educational and training that employees gain through this fellowship," Binek said. "The fund will continue to provide financial resources to them year after year. I know Tom and Peg would be very proud of the results and how their gift is accomplishing exactly what they envisioned."

Bauer plans to use the fellowship to complete a master's degree in journalism education from the University of Missouri – Columbia. The online program will allow her to remain full time at BSC, where she has taught since 2000. She also will use the fellowship to pay for a Backpack Journalism Workshop in Washington, D.C., next spring. The skills she learns about writing a story in the field and uploading it on portable technology will benefit her students.

"This fellowship is going to be a tremendous help to my teaching and advising at BSC and life in general," Bauer said. "Gone is the pressure of knowing I won't have to take a class a semester or worry about making payments. I don't have to put myself on hold anymore."

Advisor to the BSC Mystician, Bauer teaches media, reporting and editing classes, English Usage and Media and Social Change. She serves on the ArtsQuest and Campus Read committees, acts as co-advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, and is part of the BSC Excellence Through Leadership program this year. Her undergraduate degree in English education was earned at the University of Mary in Bismarck.

The late Tom and Peg Jack, lead contributors to BSC’s Jack Science Center, endowed the Jack Fellowship in 1999. A committee appointed by the BSC Foundation selects the recipients.

Buster Gilliss named to NJCAA Hall of Fame

The Men’s Basketball Coaches Association of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) named BSC Athletic Director Buster Gilliss to the 2012 Basketball Hall of Fame. He was honored March 19 during the NJCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Championship banquet in Danville, Ill.

Known for his fast tempo offenses, Gilliss posted a 503-319 overall coaching record during his 30-plus years coaching high school and collegiate basketball in North Dakota. Gilliss took over men’s basketball at BSC in 1991 and led the Mystics for 17 seasons. He was named athletic director in 1999 and continued coaching until 2008. Gilliss finished his NJCAA career with a 402-263 overall record and guided 11 BSC student athletes to All-American honors.

His teams won 11 Region 13 championships and advanced to the NJCAA Division II national tournament three times (1993, 1997, 2001), capturing a sixth place finish in 1993. Gilliss was selected Region 13 Coach of the Year 11 times and was a three-time NJCAA District Coach of the Year.

Off the court, Gilliss has been an active leader in the NJCAA. He first served as Region 13 assistant men’s director from 2000-10 before being promoted to Region 13 men’s director in 2010. He has served as a member of the NJCAA Division II men’s basketball committee since 2004. Gilliss also serves on the NJCAA ice hockey committee.
Donors shower BSC with generosity

BSC’s growth is partly rooted in the extraordinary generosity of our donors. Giving back allows our college to branch out and weather any storm. Our donors are the rainfall that ensures our students thrive and our offerings grow. Thank you.

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing President’s Club members for Jan. 1 through March 31, 2012.

Robert and Cindy Albrecht
American Bank Center
Black Ridge Bank
Gary Anderson
Patrick Atkinson
Barr Engineering Company
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Fred and Arlene Berger
Beat Western Doublewood Inn
Bismarck Title Company
Bismarck Tribune
BNC National Bank
John Burke
Candlewood Suites
Bob Canter
Capital City Lions
Capital Credit Union
Capital Electric Cooperative Inc.
Cass County Electric Cooperative
Century 21 Morrison Realty, Inc.
Connecting Point
Coteau Properties Company

Donors shower BSC with generosity

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing Executive Club members for Jan. 1 through March 31, 2012.

Capital Trophy
Dakota Cauleyking
Dr. Marlin Johnson
KEM Electric Cooperative Inc.
Lee’s Hallmark
Bertha LeGore
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Gary and Ann Scheig
Dwayne Sticka

In memoriam

Contributions were made to the Foundation in memory of: Given by:
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Howard Fricke...............................BSC Employees
Jennifer Gladden..............................Judy Anderson
John Burke.................................... Alan Butts
John and Mary Carmean
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Ardys Swanson..............................Ed and Faye Kringstad
BSC Employee donations grow to $65,519

BSC employees are among the hundreds of community members and alumni who contribute to the BSC Foundation and the BSC National Alumni Association. These donations help students attend college, create endowments and nurture their colleagues. The following BSC employees generously donated a total of $65,519 during the 2011 calendar year.

- Lisa Aamodt
- Christopher Abbott
- Dustin Anderson
- Marlene Anderson
- Robert Arso
- Greg Bach
- Shirley Bachmeier
- Tamara Barber
- Karen Bau
- Clyde Bauman
- Chris Beckler Yellow Bird
- Jean Berger
- Dee Bertsch
- Carla Bickert
- Gordon Binek
- Patrick and Johanna Bjork
- Eric Bless
- Wes Braun
- Elizabeth Braunagel
- Amy Brown
- Gina Buchholtz
- Holly Burch
- Christina Burns
- Bob Carter
- Drake Carter
- Carol Cashman
- Ryan Caya
- Dave Clark
- William Cossette
- Sean Cossette
- Sierra Dishon
- Janet Dixon
- Michael Dodge
- Craig Dolbeare
- Marilyn Eckroth
- James Eggert
- Diane Eichhorst
- Mary Eisenbraun
- David Eli
- George Ellefson
- Bruce Emil
- Julie Erickson
- Theresa Felderman
- Melvin Fischer
- Donna Fishbeck
- Mary Fisk
- Darvin Fitzgerald
- Carol Flaa
- Howell Flowers
- Crystal Forster
- Susan Forster
- Louis Foss
- Donna Fricke
- Mary Friesz
- Angie Frier
- Matt Frohlich
- Tanya Fuher
- Jamie Gable
- Russell Gilliss
- Nancy Gordon
- Linda Greenstein
- Pat Gross
- Dean Gunsch
- Joel Gustafson
- Jason Harris
- Sue Hartley
- Wayne Heckaman
- Lori Heinsohn
- Scott Helphrey
- Tammy Heupel
- Debra Hieb
- Carla Hisxon
- Mark Holkup
- Micheal Holman
- Lisa Hoynes
- Frank (Lee) Huber
- Lane Huber
- Brian Hushagen
- Ken Irmien
- Jeffrey Jacobs
- Barb Jerges
- Michael Jordan
- Ron Jyring
- Laura Kalvoda
- Paula Kemnitz
- Joshua Kern
- Michael Kern
- Jayne Kiner
- Nick Kijs
- Craig Kleven
- Greta Knoll
- Kari Knudson
- Pam Kostecke
- Deborah Kraft
- Michelle Kraft
- Timothy Kramer
- Andreine Krein
- Michael Kubisaik
- Dan Landies
- Keith Landies
- Robert Leinngang
- Thomas Leno
- David Lewellyn
- Michelle Lindblom
- Rita Lindgren
- Susan Lippert
- Jason Lueder
- Richard Malsam
- Deborah Mantz
- Tom Marple
- Jeanne Masseth
- Janelles Masters
- Kayla McCloud
- Mike McCormack
- Suzi McShane
- Jay Meier
- Lonna Meier
- Angie Milakovic
- Carmel Miller
- Francis Miller
- Kene Miller
- Kyren Miller
- Mary Morrell
- Marvin Mutzenberger
- Katherine Netzer
- Martin Nielsen
- Carol Nitchke
- Rita Nolidan
- Brenda Nottenstad
- David Oakland
- Arlan Okerson
- Kristyn Olzweski
- Sheryl Omlid
- Lynette Borjeson Painter
- Wendy Pank
- Byron Paul
- Kenneth Paulaus
- JoDean Knudson Person
- Ryan Pitcher
- Duane Pool
- Lee Red Horse
- Brent Reems
- Todd Reidman
- Darcy Roberts
- Daniel Rogers
- Jean Rolando
- Gregory Ross
- Art Rude
- David Sagsvreen
- Tyler Schau
- Keith Schelske
- Jean Scherr
- Charles Schmidt
- Daniel Schmidt
- Jane Schulz
- Marlene Swenson Seaworth
- Kayla Seifert
- Karen Selensky
- Mary Sennert
- Deb Shipman
- Donald Simon
- Carla Siveaisnd
- Jeffrey Skibicki
- Larry Skogen
- Rachelle Smith
- Robert Smith
- Deborah Stevenson
- Norly Swenson
- Sean Thorson
- Earl Torgronsen
- Laurie Torgronsen
- Joan Trygg
- Ivan Tschider
- Jerry Tuhy
- Carolyn Twingley
- Alicia Ulhe
- Debbie Van Berkon
- Roxanne Van Zomeren
- Wade Vogel
- Vickie Volk
- Sara Vollmer
- Joseph Vuolo
- Michael Wardzinski
- Elmer Weigal
- Lori Welder
- Kristina Wells
- Eva Wentz
- Anita Wilson
- Kylee Wilson
- Shirley Wilson
- James Wright
- Alison Zen
- Becky Ziegler
- Paul Zimmerman

Trustee changes to BSC Foundation Board

Two new trustees have joined the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees and Marlin Kling has been named development committee chair.

Patrick Ward, a trial attorney and partner with Zuger Kirmis & Smith, joined the board in January. Ward is a special assistant attorney general for North Dakota. His board activities include Prairie Public Broadcasting and the North Dakota Bar Foundation.

Jay Kost is also new to the board. Kost is president of Falkirk Mining Company, a subsidiary of North American Coal. The mine serves Great River Energy near Underwood. Kost is active in Knights of Columbus.

Marlin Kling, president and chief operating officer of Midwest Motor Express, Inc. in Bismarck, is the BSC Board of Trustee’s new Development Committee chair. Kling has been on the board since 2010.
Dana Barbie, ’73, retired after more than 36 years of federal service with three different Department of Interior agencies and the Department of Energy. Born and raised in North Dakota, Barbie earned two bachelor’s degrees after graduating from BSC. Most recently, Barbie analyzed data for the U.S. Geological Survey District Office in Austin, Texas.

Brant Malsam, ’74, was promoted to private business division leader at Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson in Bismarck. He has been with the firm since 2009.

Marc Patchen, ’76, was recognized by American Republic Insurance for 24 years of service with Gil Geffre Agency of Bismarck.

Tracy Finneman, ’83, was promoted to senior marketing and development manager at the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

Roger Steckler, ’88, was promoted to service manager of Dakota Refrigeration in Bismarck. He has been a service/installation technician with the company since 2004.

Keith Horner, ’90, was named director of St. Alexius Medical Center’s Clinical Informatics Department and also serves as director of pharmacy.

Kris Todd-Reisnour, ’90, moved her business, Dakota Osteoporosis, to join Baker Family Medicine in Bismarck. The move will allow her to focus on both osteoporosis services and family practice.

Kelly Gunsch, ’91, was named development officer at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Bismarck. She lives in Lincoln and has five years of nonprofit fundraising experience.

Mary Klecker-Green, ’95, was elected to a three-year term on the Abused Adult Resource Center Board of Directors. Klecker-Green is the former president of the BSC Alumni Association Board of Directors and the communications manager at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck.

Corey Ulrich, ’95, recently formed CSG Mueller LLC in Bismarck. Ulrich serves as president of the new company.

Justin DeCoteau, ’96, officiated at the 2012 NJCAA Wrestling Tournament in Rochester, Minn., Feb.24-26. DeCoteau has officiated wrestling for 15 years and was a member of the Mystic wrestling team from 1994-96.

Taralynn Harris, ’96, is the co-owner of Angel Cups, a cupcake shop in Fargo. Open since September 2010, Angel Cups is the only cupcake shop in the Fargo area.

Lisa Helseth, ’99, recently opened Lisa’s Gluten Free Store in Mandan. The store offers a variety of gluten-free, wheat-free and organic foods. She plans to add household items and foods for allergy sufferers.

Chad Wiedenmeyer, ’99, was hired as an Engineer I with the natural resources group of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson in Bismarck.

Kelly Wald, ’04, joined the N.D. Department of Agriculture as a research and policy analyst. She most recently worked as the communications manager for the N.D. Petroleum Council.

Master Sgt. Luke Gardiner, ’05, was a nominee for the Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year with the North Dakota Air National Guard. Gardiner joined the NDNG in 2002 and serves as the acting first sergeant for the 219th Security Forces Squadron in Minot. He is a Bismarck police officer and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Matt Reule, ’05, was promoted to safety and job training coordinator in the Human Resource Department at Minnkota Power Cooperative in Grand Forks.

Cameron Fleck, ’11, was hired as an apprentice communications technician at Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s Transmission System Maintenance Division in Williston.
BSC campus events kick off summer

Commencement
BSC will launch approximately 1,000 graduates this spring. The 72nd commencement takes place at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, at the Bismarck Civic Center. Students completing graduation requirements in fall 2011 and spring and summer 2012 semesters are eligible to participate. Graduation speaker is Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez, BSC’s 2012 Alumna of the Year.

President’s Cup Golf Classic
The BSC Foundation and the Athletic Department host the President’s Cup Golf Classic June 15 at Prairie West golf course in Mandan. Since 1996, the annual event has raised more than $136,000 for student athletic scholarships. Team registration begins at 8 a.m. with tee off about 9 a.m. All participants, sponsors and volunteers are invited to the social on the Prairie West patio after the tournament and the 2012 BSC Mystic Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

For more information, contact Amy Brown at the BSC Foundation, 701-224-5700 or amy.brown.1@bismarckstate.edu.

NECE Summer Career Academy
The BSC National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE) conducts its first annual summer career academy for young people ages 14 to 16 June 19-21. Activities include energy-related lab experiments, visits to energy companies, and learning about careers in energy. Food and lodging are free to participants through support from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Montana Dakota Utilities, Otter Tail Power Company, Minnkota Power Cooperative and BSC Foundation. For more information, call 701-224-2445.

Stories needed for BSC’s 75th
BSC will celebrate 75 years as a community college during the 2013-2014 school year and we want to hear from you! Share your beyond through stories, memories, milestones and anecdotes from your days on campus or online.

Send your BSC stories, memories and ideas to Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu or Marnie.Piehl@bismarckstate.edu.

More Connections online
Connections now has additional stories and photos online.
• Students in Rome
• Mystery photo update
• Sustainability stories
• and more

Read on at bismarckstate.edu/connections.