At Bismarck State College, compensation and benefits are standard incentives for employees. But instead of a company CEO granting bonuses for good work, pay package raises come from the state Legislature, which allots money based on a funding formula and enrollment, not merit.

What can a college do to ensure employee satisfaction and retention?

A college is only as good as its people

Valuing its people is a cornerstone of BSC’s culture, institutional goals and objectives. The college offers a wide array of programs and initiatives that give employees added satisfaction, voice and empowerment in their jobs. From tuition waivers to faculty mentoring to campus governance, employee retention (and recruitment) is a central element of BSC’s makeup.

One of the most high profile of these programs is the annual Faculty and Staff Awards for Excellence. The awards recognize employee contributions to the college and students, and are accompanied by a monetary gift from the BSC Foundation. One hundred eleven employees have received the award since its inception in 1986. Nominations come from students, BSC employees and community members. Members of the BSC Foundation Programs Committee, student Board of Governors, faculty and staff select the recipients.

Of the four excellence winners this year, two have been at BSC for only a few years. Dean Bellin and Dusty Anderson work in technical areas, Bellin as assistant professor of technical theatre, and Anderson as BSC’s video production specialist.

Bellin established the new technical theatre option in the Theatre Arts program and increased production quality and value of all BSC and community events in Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. As an instructor, he incites enthusiasm in his classes, as Bellin’s nominator noted: “Dean urges students to own their own education.” Bellin also motivated a team of technical theatre students to enter a regional contest and win it in only their second year of participation. His training helped them sweep the Stage Crew Showdown at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Iowa last January. With invention and intensity, Bellin has created a thriving program that already has been recognized on a regional level. His work at BSC also connects him to theater throughout the Bismarck area including BSC’s production partnerships with the University of Mary and Capitol Shakespeare.

Dusty Anderson, recipient of one of the staff excellence awards, has championed BSC’s capability to communicate with the world via livestreaming technology and high quality digital videos that market BSC’s programs. His projects have included coverage of BSC’s two major symposiums on Eric Sevareid and the 9/11 anniversary with their national guests, and the Conversations at BSC dialogue series between President Larry C. Skogen and renowned humanities scholar, Clay Jenkinson. Anderson helps faculty with video or audio needs, as well as teaches the Mass Communications Advanced Video Production class, where students created the first “MystiCast” video magazine.

Anderson is known for volunteering across campus, offering ideas and expertise that endear him to nearly every department. “Dusty is the one who steps up in any capacity needed,” his nominator wrote. “We all benefit from Dusty’s ideas, professionalism, strong work ethic and friendliness.”

Ken Paulus, professor of welding and the second faculty award winner, exemplifies the long term dedication found at BSC that makes a difference in student learning. Paulus taught 30 years in the Welding program he forged, while expanding the program to two years and adding welding apprenticeships and scholarships. He now takes welding on the road in the Mobile Welding Lab he designed and developed to train employees of BSC industry partners in several states. Always reaching, Paulus leads with thoroughness, patience, high expectations, and concern for students.

Continued on page 2
Getting things done at BSC and beyond

One of the best things about BSC is our can-do attitude. I can hear you groaning – what a North Dakota thing to say! But BSC is a place in the heart of North Dakota, and this spirit – more solution-ary than revolutionary – is our heritage. We pursue answers. We jury-rig ways to meet needs. We focus on our obsessions – known as passions in less practical places. At BSC we get things done even if the odds are against us. And to be frank, while we are the third largest of the 11 colleges and universities in the North Dakota University System, we receive the lowest amount of state dollars per student. That means we’re challenged every day to do what we know needs doing.

This issue of Connections tells stories of students, alumni and employees finding grants, volunteers, reserves of energy and partners to get things done. You’ll see this can-do approach in the internal grants provided by the Foundation; in the alumni who give freely of their knowledge and enthusiasm; and in people like Dean Gunsch and former president Donna Thigpen who, through their work, leave legacies here.

And because you have ties to BSC and North Dakota, you probably see it in yourself, too.

Thanks for reading.

Marnie Piehl, editor

College rewards, recognizes valuable employees

Highly credentialed as a welder and welding inspector, Paulus helped revise the BSC and North Dakota University System welding curricula, chairing that state committee as well as several BSC administrative committees. He was Transportation and Construction Department chair and became a full professor of welding in 1999. Paulus has earned the Faculty Award for Excellence twice (1991 and 2012). “He is an icon,” his nominator wrote, “and not afraid of trying something new. He has expanded BSC’s influence among some of the larger energy corporations in North Dakota and beyond.”

The work of counselor Nancy Gordon contributes to the rich student life on campus, and was recognized in her nomination for the staff excellence award. Her dedication to helping students create success in their personal and academic lives falls into the “going-the-extra-mile” category. As an advocate, she puts student needs first with retention as her primary goal.

To help students navigate options, Gordon created the Mystic Advising and Counseling Center’s Resource Guide. She also teaches psychology online, advises the campus Anime Club, and chairs the Student Success Project and A Healthy BSC Community teams.

Gordon works with faculty on classroom environment and speaks on topics related to student success. Her reach extends beyond the college as BSC representative on several community initiatives. In her nomination, she is described as “one of the most committed and giving club advisors on this campus. She is continually thinking of new ideas and coordinating events to benefit her students . . . and inspires others to invest in their students. She reminds us why this college exists, and what we are here for – the students.”

See additional photos and read more about BSC’s recruitment and retention efforts at bismarckstate.edu/Connections.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Foundation supports campus – page 6
- Alums volunteer unique skills – page 4
- Outstanding students – pages 10-11
- Find photos, exclusive content and more online at bismarckstate.edu/Connections

To subscribe or change your address:
Rita Nodland
Alumni Coordinator
BSC, PO Box 5587
Bismarck, ND 58506
or e-mail to:
Rita.Nodland@bismarckstate.edu
or call:
1-800-BSC-ALUM
www.bismarckstate.edu
Students give BSC the star treatment with MystiCast

In December 2010, just as students were finishing finals, “MystiCast” streamed from the BSC campus onto the Web, marking a new era in student-produced communication. The violet and teal opening graphics swirled into outer space as a funky, percussive riff announced the opening of a 15-minute video news magazine.

With campus features taped and edited by the Advanced Video Production class, the hosted show had interviews, news on campus events, recycling, student credit scores and “commercials” about BSC. Production was shared with students in the Graphic Design and Communications program, who created the “MystiCast” logo and opening graphics.

Launched on YouTube and recorded for re-broadcast on the local Dakota Media Access TV station, “MystiCast” has since aired nine episodes, the last one produced live over the BSC website. The students’ skills have also enabled them to perform the first livestreaming of a BSC sports event this spring with more to come.

Inspired leadership brought “MystiCast” into reality. Dusty Anderson, video production specialist in BSC’s Instructional Technology Center and one of the 2012 Staff Excellence Award recipients, has been teaching the video production class since fall 2010.

“They wanted to see a student-produced show down the road. I said - why not now? So I took it and ran with it,” Anderson said.

BSC honors visionary former president

Dr. Donna S. Thigpen, BSC’s fifth president and CEO, received the college’s highest award at the 72nd commencement in May. Thigpen accepted the Distinguished Service Award from President Larry C. Skogen for guiding BSC from a traditional campus to a forward-thinking institution that offers on-campus and state-of-the-art online education.

During her 11 years at BSC, Dr. Thigpen excelled at creating partnerships with business and industry and collaborations with other colleges. Under her leadership, 14 baccalaureate programs became available through distance learning on the BSC campus and more than 20 new programs were added to BSC’s transfer and technical offerings. As a result, enrollment swelled between 1995 and 2006, increasing 53 percent.

Thigpen embraced and leveraged technology, equipping all faculty members with laptop computers and encouraging use of technology in teaching. She also became the driving force for enhancing student services to increase retention.

Visionary in outlook, Thigpen worked with energy, engaging the local business community for support and advice and obtaining more than $6 million in grants for BSC with help from the state’s congressional delegation.

As a key player in implementing the state workforce training model, Thigpen was instrumental in the creation of industry-driven programming, particularly related to the energy industry. Her leadership in this area resulted in establishment of the National Energy Center of Excellence and success of the $18.3 million capital campaign to build it. BSC has since become a national leader in online education for the energy industry.

In addition, she led development of the Dakota Nursing Program, a collaboration between North Dakota’s four community colleges, whose combined resources offer much-needed statewide nursing education and training.

See all MystiCast episodes at youtube.com/BSCMystiCast.

Read more about Dr. Thigpen at bismarckstate.edu/Connections.
Young alum brings robotics to life at BSC

Lucas Pippenger is a self-professed geek, albeit a geek of a different color. He’s all about robots.

“People who program robots are so different than the standard programming geek. It gives you something physical you can look at … you can see what’s happening. That pulls in people who are not necessarily the math or computer geeks,” he says.

Pippenger graduated from BSC in 2010 with a computer science focus, and has been instrumental in BSC’s involvement in robotics. He also teaches a two-week unit on robotics for computer science I and II students each semester that he and Karen Arlien, an associate professor in computer science, developed together. He’ll add a BSC online visual basic class to his teaching schedule this fall.

The robotics team took first place at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS), beating dozens of teams made up of juniors, seniors and graduate students from regional four-year colleges.

Arlien says Pippenger brings enthusiasm that students appreciate.

“The students really connect with Lucas. He is very interested in all things tech, such as gaming, robotics, languages, artificial intelligence, and mobile technology. He conveys that interest and excitement to each class he works with, and students like to discuss current gaming releases and technology advances with him,” Arlien says.

Pippenger’s day job is as a programmer at Odney, a Bismarck marketing agency. Because he works in the industry, he knows which skills will be important for students to leverage on the job.

While robotics may seem like a stretch when it comes to relevant job skills, helping students develop the algorithms that translate into code for robots to use to solve problems shows the students how computer science concepts are applied.

Pippenger, like the students, appreciates seeing the physical outcome of robotics rather than just programming in abstract.

“You can actually see a robot running across a track. [Students think] ‘hey, I finished that and it works’,” he says. Robotics, according to Pippenger, requires a different kind of thinking, and makes learning more fun. By inspiring that kind of thinking in BSC students, Pippenger does the same.

Mapping BSC in 3D – alum volunteers time, talent

Tyler Paul first graduated from BSC in 2008 after receiving an Associate in Science with a focus in electrical engineering, and a second time in 2011 after completing an Associate in Applied Science in engineering technology. After more than three years on campus, the guy could draw you a map of the place, and as a matter of fact, he is.

Paul is volunteering his time to create a 3D model of the BSC campus that will be uploaded to Google Earth within the next year. He is working closely with BSC professors Jean Rolandelli, Mark Steele and Scott Agnew on the project. The map will provide a birds-eye, multi-directional view of the campus, fly-through videos as well as building and landscaping details all stamped onto a terrain model of Google Earth.

He’s been working on the model for more than a year, after building 3D models of campus buildings in his BSC AutoCAD classes.

“A CAD technician at Houston Engineering, Paul creates 3D project maps for clients. When a company spends millions on a project, 3D maps can ensure the projects stay on budget and on track.

After he graduated from BSC, Paul went on to NDSU intending to pursue an electrical engineering degree. He found that he preferred application to theory. “BSC trained me for a profession” he says.

He came back to BSC to focus on engineering technology, earning a second degree.

“BSC is 15-20 years ahead of similar technology programs. The software and hardware available are more powerful and advanced than what I saw at a larger university. Also, you can get on a computer anytime. It opens your eyes to new technologies and what you can do.”

BSC’s hands-on computer labs and low student-teacher ratios made all the difference to Paul.

“At BSC you’re using industry software and learning how to use it to do your job. The engineering technology program defined the information you need to know to have a good job with great pay.”

Great pay may be one of the outcomes of his career, but Paul volunteers his time to BSC. He considers the mapping project as a chance to pay back the college for launching him into a career he loves.
Gunsch takes program to high level during career

On Tuesday, May 15, associate professor Dean Gunsch cleaned out his office in the Technical Center and left with just one box and some pictures. Lots of things left, he said, but those were for the next person to use. Other challenges wait as he closed his door on 34 years of teaching Automotive Technology at BSC, saying, “I really enjoyed working here. People have been really great.”

Gunsch started in 1978, when Automotive Technology was an 11-month program. He piloted the program’s restructuring, added more graduation options, and spent many years as program chair and then as Transportation and Construction Department chair. Gunsch led the effort to achieve certification for Automotive Technology from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation in 1990 and the ASE (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence) certification for faculty.

“Everything he does is professional,” said Lee Friese, current Transportation and Construction chair. “If it’s something to do with auto tech, policies or Faculty Senate, he knows his stuff and how to handle himself in a professional manner. He’s very knowledgeable and does his research.”

In 1993, Gunsch won a top educator award for achieving the highest score in the nation on the Automotive Service Excellence advanced engine performance test. He compiled and wrote the lengthy application that gave Automotive Technology the designation as best college program in the nation in 1992 from the Automotive Industry Planning Council. Gunsch thinks his biggest contribution has been to facilitate these program milestones.

While proud of these accomplishments, he said, “It still comes down to teaching. I have students who did pretty well and some started their own business. When it all comes down to it, students … give the job meaning.”

Nick Kjos retires, moves on to new adventures

Nick Kjos, associate professor of electronics/telecommunications, came to BSC in 1993 after working in the oil industry as an instrument supervisor for a seismograph company that made underground maps.

“What I’m leaving behind is a lot of good friends, some wonderful memories and, hopefully, some students who learned something from me,” Kjos said. “This has been a wonderful job. I really enjoyed my stay at BSC.”

His full teaching load has included analysis/theory, digital electronics, and a telecommunications class. He also taught computer hardware early on for the Computer Support Specialist program.

Kjos served on the BSC Computer Use Steering Committee for 17 years as member and president and on the Faculty Senate and the Assessment Committee. He also took special interest in SkillsUSA as administrator or judge of the technical education competitions on campus from the time he was hired. Kjos was recipient of many “You Make a Difference” awards from colleagues and staff for his dedication to continually updating digital classes with new technology.

Kjos will be married this summer. He and his wife are moving to join other family members in Arizona, where Kjos plans to semi-retire and do training or consulting in electronics.

Variety of events shine spotlight on campus

President’s Run
Motorcycles and cars joined BSC President Larry C. Skogen and the friends of Don Russell Friday, July 13, in a run from BSC to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Participants donated a minimum of $100 per vehicle to the BSC Foundation to ride in the fifth annual event that benefited the Donald L. Russell Memorial Scholarship Fund. Riders ate lunch in Medora, and toured Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Whiting Petroleum Natural Gas Processing Plant southwest of Belfield.

Energy and ag academies held
Two separate on-campus academies brought area high schools students to campus this summer to learn about career and education opportunities in the fields of energy and agronomy. Faculty, staff and industry partners provided hands-on activities and tours to help students learn more about their options.

Art Exhibit
Photos by international photographer and poet Marla Mossman will be on display Sept. 1-30 in the BSC Library’s Gannon Gallery. Her exhibit, “The Journey of One Woman in Search of Her Religious and Cultural Heritage,” contains images of people and places taken along the Silk Road between China and the Middle East. She structured her work within the Peace Caravan Project, photographing places of historical and religious significance mentioned in the Bible, Torah, Koran and Vedas. Mossman, who lives in New York, has helped start three nonprofit organizations that promote arts, education and healthcare. www.peacecaravan.com
Foundation support helps the campus innovate

The BSC Foundation Grant Program provides funding for employee and student recognition, employee professional development, and student scholarships. Additionally, the program supports BSC staff, faculty, and student organizations by granting funds for a wide variety of projects that emphasize innovative teaching and creative learning programs.

In April, the BSC Foundation Programs Committee awarded a total of $190,376 to grant applicants for projects headed by faculty and staff in 2012-13.

- Theatre Arts program – Collaboration with Capitol Shakespeare
- Computer Information Systems program – Student/faculty attendance at Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference and Competition
- Office of the Provost – Commencement ceremony upgrade project
- Chemistry program – National Chemistry Week activities and supplies
- Speech Communication program – Participation certificates and information booklets for students
- Counseling and Advising Services – “Coffee and Careers: Fishing for Opportunity” student workshop and information seminars
- BSC Visiting Writers Series 2012-13
- English program/Figments of Imagination – “Oil’s Impact,” a collaborative art exhibit, writing and multimedia event
- BSC NECE Summer Academy – Students engage in various energy-related activities on the BSC campus
- Summer Ag Academy – Students experience campus and gain hands-on experience in agronomy.
- Simulation labs and training equipment for Nursing and Paramedics – A matching grant from the ND Department of Commerce and support from Bremer Bank provided this project with a total of $318,000.

The BSC Foundation Programs Committee also approved $12,727 to fund professional development applications from faculty and staff.

- Kristin Ellingson, scholarship and verification specialist – Tuition toward a bachelor’s degree
- Kyren Miller, associate professor, NECE – Attendance at the 2013 National Biodiesel Conference and Expo
- Karen Arlien, associate professor of computer science – Tuition for 2012 summer session for a doctorate in teaching and learning
- Vickie Volk, associate professor of computer support specialist – Summer courses for doctorate in teaching and learning
- Deidre Pugh, OSHA assistant – Tuition and books toward a master’s degree in forensic psychology
- Jeanne Masseth, CETI training manager – Partial tuition toward a doctorate in educational leadership and management
- Darcy Roberts, admissions assistant – Tuition for bachelor’s degree
- Mary Eisenbraun, student finance operations manager – Tuition and books for a bachelor’s degree
- Susan Hartley, CETI administrative assistant – Tuition toward a bachelor’s degree in organizational innovation
- Jean Rolandelli, associate professor of biology, and Dorinda Sailer, biology lab coordinator – Attendance at the Marine Aquarium Conference of North America
- Mary Morrell, administrative assistant – Tuition toward a bachelor’s degree
Clifford Keller, ‘63, retired as executive director of the North Dakota Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Keller has been with the board since 1995.

Darol Hopfauf, ‘68, retired from the Bismarck Fire Department after 38 years of service. He was the deputy chief.

Roxanne Erickson, ‘82, joined Carpet World in Bismarck as a designer. She was previously employed with MagiTouch CarpetOne.

Tracy Finneman, ‘83, was named 2011 Woman of the Year by the Bismarck-Mandan Chapter of Business and Professional Women. Finneman is the senior marketing and development manager at the ND Department of Commerce.

Cheryl Froelich, ‘87, was promoted to director of human resources for WBI Holdings Inc. She has 10 years of experience with the organization and was previously the employee relations manager.

Mike Holman, ‘93, recently celebrated 30 years of donating blood. He’s given 35 gallons over the years with 280 donations. More than 24 donors from around the country contributed in his honor on his anniversary, which was also his birthday. He says giving blood was a lesson learned from his father and it’s a way to “give back to people in need.” Holman donates whole blood and platelets which can be used to help cancer and surgery patients. Holman also coordinates the blood drives at BSC where he is an associate professor of Electronics/Telecommunications. To learn more or to schedule an appointment to give blood, visit unitedbloodservices.org.

Mary Jo Jangula, ‘95, a member of 68th Troop Command, North Dakota National Guard was promoted to master sergeant. She will serve as food service supervisor for the 68th Troop Command.

Nathan Grubb, ‘96, was named northwest district governor of the North Dakota Funeral Directors Association. Grubb is with Goetz Funeral Homes in Washburn.

Ben Neigum, ‘98, has been hired by Apex Engineering Group in Bismarck as an engineering technician with the electrical services group. He has 16 years of experience in the engineering industry.

Misti Rieke, ‘02, has joined Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Management Consulting Inc., in Minot, as assistant business manager. Rieke previously worked as a teller and proof operator for United Community Bank in Minot. She is a native of Glenburn.

Mathew Lengenfelder, ‘04, accepted a role as a computer and network specialist I at the Bank of the North Dakota. He was the head information technology coordinator at the North Dakota State Library.

Tom Ternes, ‘04, joined the Bank of North Dakota as the loans supervisor in the student loans/lending area. He previously was with the University of Mary.

Chad Hatzenbuhler, ‘06, recently was hired as a graphic artist at the Bank of North Dakota.

Claudia Jahraus, ‘06, is a certified canine therapeutic massage therapist and owner of Claudia’s Canine Massage and Treats, a new in-home massage service for dogs in Bismarck. She also is a direct support professional with Pride Inc.

Cody Wilhelm, ‘07, of Dakota Impressions Landscape and Design in Bismarck was named a top landscape designer for the second year in a row. The award was granted by the 2012 N.D. Nursery and Greenhouse Association.

Courtney Trautmann, ‘09, has joined SIA/Schmidt Insurance as a licensing assistant and new business support.

Brendan Bohn, ‘10, has joined Prairie Engineering P.C. as a mechanical engineer intern. He is a Bismarck native.

Chelsey Dietz, ‘10, is interning in the human resource department of Applied Engineering Inc. She is pursuing a business administration degree from Dickinson State University.

Ryan Holte, ‘10, was hired to intern in the technology infrastructure department at Applied Engineering Inc. He is pursuing a degree in computer science from Dickinson State University.

William Woodworth, ‘11, is interning with Heidi Heitkamp’s Senate campaign this summer. His main duties will be assisting with research and communications.

A capella group takes national title

Six Appeal, a six-man a cappella singing group that includes two Bismarck natives, Jordan Roll and Reuben Hushagen, ‘09, not only took first place, but also won best original song and was named audience favorite at the Harmony Sweepstakes. The sweepstakes is a national a cappella competition in San Rafael, Calif.

Hushagen is the son of BSC faculty members Brian Hushagen, associate professor of art, and Jean Rolandelli, associate professor of biology.

Six Appeal performed in Bismarck as part of ArtsQuest in April, and will be returning to Bismarck in July for the Girl Scouts 100th anniversary celebration. Learn more at getsixappeal.com.
President’s Cup Golf Classic supports athletes

The President’s Cup Golf Classic was played June 15 at Prairie West Golf Course and the architects took the day. The first place net team prize went to Jim Tyler, Kyle Holwagner, Sam Wilke and Richard Keller, the team from EAPC, and the first place gross team prize was awarded to Brant Malsam, Dave Blair, Rob Montgomery and Brad Krogstad of Kadmas, Lee & Jackson.

Following the tournament, former Mystic men’s basketball player Enos Baker was inducted into the BSC Athletic Hall of Fame.

An outstanding scorer and rebounder for the Mystic men’s basketball team during the 1992-93 season, Baker is from New Town, N.D. He was named NJCAA First Team All-American while leading the Mystics to the school's highest finish, sixth place, at the 1993 NJCAA National Tournament in Bay City, Mich. As team captain, Baker averaged 19 points and 10 rebounds per contest as he led the Mystics to a 22-13 season record and a District 6 Championship. He was named Region XIII Most Valuable Player as the Mystics defeated Mid-State Technical College, Wis., for the Region XIII Championship. He was named to the All-Region XIII Team, the Mon-Dak Conference Team and was the MVP of the NDJC League.

The tournament raised $13,000 for BSC’s student athlete scholarships.

Supporting athletics through sponsorships, donations

Advertising and Hole Sponsors
Clear Channel/KXMR/ESPN
710AM/KFYR 550AM
KFYR-TV
KXMB/KX News
Cumulus Broadcasting/Cool 98.7 FM
Gilchrist & Fettig Financial
Dakota Community Bank & Trust
Schwan Buick GMC Cadillac
U.S. Bank
Scheel’s
Starion Financial
Gilchrist Dentistry
Eide Bailly

BNC National Bank
Associated Builders
Bank of North Dakota
Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson
Gate City Bank
EAPC

Donation Sponsors
Nabor’s Drilling
Cloverdale
United Printing
I. Keating Furniture World
Dan’s Supermarket
Jerome Distributing
JE Doors & More
Missouri Valley Petroleum
Prairie Knights Casino & Lodge

Rob Koppinger joins Foundation Board

Rob Koppinger, CFO of Kirkwood Bank & Trust, Bismarck, recently joined the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees. He is active in Boy Scouts of America, the school board of St. Anne’s School, St. Anne’s Church, Optimist Club of Bismarck and the ND Bankers Association. Koppinger is married to Mary and lives in Bismarck.

The Bismarck State College Foundation Board of Trustees is comprised of a diverse group of talented business leaders and community supporters who govern the Foundation and are committed to its vision and mission. Learn more about the board at bismarckstate.edu/foundation/about/trustees.
BSC loses one of first graduates

Inez (Schonert) Baker, ’41, died May 4, 2012, in St. Paul, Minn. Inez and her identical twin sister, Irene, were members of BSC’s first graduating class. Following graduation, she married classmate, Tom Baker, worked for Dr. Walter Swensen, Bismarck Junior College’s first dean, and was among the 13 alumni asked to serve on the first board of directors when the Bismarck Junior College Alumni Association was incorporated on Sept. 27, 1961. She was the only woman and served as secretary.

Inez earned a degree in home economics education from North Dakota State University. According to her obituary, Inez “lived a life filled with beauty, action and service” and was “an artist in every aspect of her life.” She took a number of art classes at BSC, served as president of Elan Gallery and was named Artist of the Year by the Bismarck Art & Galleries Association. She is survived by two children, three grandchildren, two sisters and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Read the profile of the Schonert sisters at bismarckstate.edu/Connections/OctNov.

Donors fund Foundation grants and scholarships

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing President’s Club members for April 1 through June 30, 2012.

AE2S
Associated Builders
Frank and Joanne Bavendick
Black Ridge Bank
Ernest Borr
Bremer Bank
Charles Joseph Cassano Estate
Challenger Industries, Inc.
Cloverdale Foods Company
Cody Oil & Gas Corporation
D’Addario & Company
Daffinrud & Heinert CPA’s and Business Counselors
Dakota Bumper & Body Supply
Dakota Gasification Company
Bill and Bonnie Daniel
DarbyTech Training Equipment Inc.
Patrick and Mary Dirk
Gate City Bank
Hedahl’s Inc.
Kadmas, Lee & Jackson
KFYR TV
Loren Kopseng
Dr. Eugene and Carol Kralicek Bequest
Lignite Energy Council
Irish Linnertz
Magi-Touch Carpet One
McDonald’s
MDU Resources Foundation
MDU Resources Group Inc.
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co.
Midwest Motor Express, Inc.
Betty Mills
Missouri Valley Petroleum
Terrace and Zanne Ness
North Dakota Agricultural Association
Northern Improvement
Northwest Contracting Inc.
Prairie View Landscaping & Nursery
Ramkota Hotel
Bill and Kay Schlosser
Barry and Susan Schuchard
Southridge Chiropractic Center
Jason and Dr. Nigeria Stahl
Tesoro
Utility Workers Union of America
Scott Wegner
Tony Welder
Cyndy Welken-Place – AFLAC
Xcel Energy Foundation

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing Executive Club members for April 1 through June 30, 2012.

D & E Supply Company Inc.
Eastgate Funeral Services
Russ Hanson
Dr. Gaylord and Cindy Kavlie
Larry Rolfson

In memoriam

Contributions were made to the Foundation in memory of:

Inez Baker ................................................................. Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
Margaret Botnen ............................................ Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association
Fredrick Fischer ..................................................... BSC Employees
Jennifer Gladden .................................................... Theodore Gladden
Audrey Hart-Panko ......................................... Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association
Tim Kringstad ....................................................... Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boeke
Ken LaMont ........................................................... Dr. Ralph and Marcia Kilzer
Michael Lueder ..................................................... Tom Marple
Bruce Meland ......................................................... Steve Bratlien
Vera Mae Nauman ............................................ Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boeke
Oscar Peterson .................................................... Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association
Sylvia Frances Pool ............................................ BSC Employees
Lloyd Ritchie ......................................................... Gordon and Paula Binek
Donald Russell ....................................................... Jonathan Huber
Ardys Swanson ...................................................... Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boeke
Ardyce Miller .......................................................... BSC Employees
Jill Wiese .............................................................. Russ Hanson
Ken LeMont .......................................................... Tom Marple
Michael Lueder ................................................. Steve Bratlien

Annie “Ricki” Senger .............................................. BSC Employees
Ardys Swanson ...................................................... Dr. Wayne and Ellen Boeke
Richard “Dick” Tschider ...................................... Dr. Kermit Lidstrom
Outstanding students honored at annual ceremony

More than 300 students were recognized for their academic achievements, involvement in student government and all around excellence at the 2012 BSC Recognition Ceremony on April 18. Proud parents and family members filled the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium as students crossed the stage to accept their awards.

Nearly every BSC discipline was represented by students honored as Outstanding Students. Other awards recognized included nomination to Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges; selection to the 2011-12 edition of “Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges”; outstanding level of involvement in the BSC Board of Governors; and two nominations to the All-USA Academic Team, Ashley Renner and Tricia Schmeichel.

The BSC Foundation sponsors the awards program, which includes certificates and a $100 cash award or paid induction fees for each honor. Julie Schaff Ellingson, executive vice president of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association and 2008 Alumni of the Year winner (along with her husband Chad), was the guest speaker. Gordon Binek, executive director of the BSC Foundation, served as master of ceremonies.

*BSC Foundation scholarship recipients

Outstanding Students

Ashley Renner .................................................Accounting
*Samantha Krueger ...........................................Administrative Asst. - General (Online)
Melodie Jorgenson .............................................Administrative Asst. - Legal
Amber Severance ..........................................Administrative Asst. - Medical
Meg Rath .........................................................Administrative Asst. - General
Michael Bahm .....................................................Agriculture Industry and Technology
*Martha Rau ......................................................Agriculture, Technology, Food and Natural Resources
Kristi Schwaderer ...................................................Anatomy and Physiology
*Chris Alveshere ..............................................Art (Visual)
*James Wilson ....................................................Auto Collision
Brock Johnson ......................................................Auto Technology
Denton McGregor ...........................................BAS in Energy Management
Danny “Pat” Blair ...................................................Biology
Karla “Angie” Bateman ........................................Botany
Austin Muth .....................................................Business Administration
Alexander Feil ............................................................Carpentry
*Amanda Pearson ..................................................Clinical Lab Technician
*Daniel Mickelson ..................................................Computer Science
Jesse Simpson .......................................................Computer Support Specialist
*Jeff Vyska ............................................................Criminal Justice
*Tricia Schmeichel ................................................Criminal Justice
Ashley Renner .....................................................Economics
Jennifer Heinz ..........................................................Education
Jeffrey Layton .........................................................Electric Power Technology (online)
Martin Heath ......................................................Electrical Transmission Systems Technology (online)
Darron Olson ....................................................Electronics/Telecommunications Technology
*Preston Blinsky .....................................................Engineering
Bill Bates .........................................................Engineering Technician
*Paul Murphy ............................................................English
Tessa Peuser .........................................................Environmental Science
*Logan Wald .....................................................Farm and Ranch Management
*Tricia Schmeichel ................................................Foreign Languages

Dillon Zins .......................................................General Chemistry
James N. Norton ....................................................Geographic Information Systems Technician
Miranda Zotti ........................................................Geography
Calvin Anderson .....................................................Geology
Savanna Schara .................................................Graphic Design & Communication
Paul Rohrich ....................................................Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
*Nicholas Hornbacher ................................................History
Katherine Stein ......................................................Human Services
*Kalyen Retterath ..................................................Information Processing Specialist
*Vernon Larsen .....................................................Instrumentation & Control
*Megan Humann ..................................................Introductory Chemistry
*Alyssa Meier ................................................................Journalism
*Daniel Jankowski.....................................................Lineworker
*Kendra Schwing ..................................................Management
*Katie Olson .......................................................Mass Communications
Tim Jacobs ..........................................................Mathematics
*Curt Bachmeier ....................................................Mechanical Maintenance
*Kadra Kalamaha ..................................................Microbiology
*Jenna Wavrin ......................................................Music (Instrumental)
Stephen Gefroh ....................................................Music (Vocal)
Gary Smith .......................................................Nuclear Power Technology (online)
Sarah Gregg ........................................................Nursing, PN
Brian Hart ..........................................................Nursing, RN
Brandon Backman ....................................................Organic Chemistry
*Keith Mantz ..........................................................Philosophy
Jocelyn Vetter .....................................................Phlebotomy Technician
Tim Jacobs ..........................................................Physics
Cassandra Dennis ..................................................Political Science
*Joey Gab .........................................................Power Plant Technology (on campus)
Jeremy Catlett ....................................................Power Plant Technology (online)
Taylor Harmel ...................................................Process Plant Technology (on campus)
Bonnie Mavity ....................................................Process Plant Technology (online)
Alicia Rogstad .....................................................Psychology
*Travis Rossman ..................................................Renewable Generation (on campus)
Ashley Johnson ................................................................. Technical Theatre
Alisha Neigum ................................................................................ Speech
Ashley Jahner ............................................................................. Social Work
Pam Gall .................................... Web Page Development and Design (Online)
Eric Fetzer ........................................................................... Welding

Who’s Who
*Michael Bahn
*Leland Davenport
*Jenna Gross
*Markie Henry

Board of Governors
Branden Bott
Taylor Cahoon
Edward Cullum
Cole Frank
Garth Gnirk
Victoria Hackett

Branden Bott
Taylor Cahoon
Edward Cullum
Cole Frank
Garth Gnirk
Victoria Hackett

Phillip J. Corbett, S.D., named to the All-USA Academic Team, and
Dr. Larry C. Skogen

Phi Theta Kappa
*Liza Aberle
*Christopher Adams
*Massie Adley Adjevi
*Caitlyn Albert
*Kacie Allen
*Christopher Alveshere
*Cassandra Ash
Elizabeth Atwood
Noelle Bachman
*Curt Bachmeier
Brandon Backman
*Paige Bader
*Kenneth Bahm
Alicia Bartnes
John Beach
Lee Beaver

Sheena Berger
Tabitha Blazevic
Carl Block
*Amber Bowker
Maiela Brandner
*Wendi Brandner
Everette Brickner
*Lacey Briz
Danis Brown
*Brettan Bryan
*Rebecca Buchholz
Christopher Burton
*Jill Carter
Tyson Chambers
Quincy Chapman
Kyle Clanney

Jason Coalwell
Ryan Conger
Troy Connatscher
Kevin Cortes
*Alyssa Dahle
Michael Dauerman
*Leland Davenport
Megan Davis
Tammy Dixon
*Joseph Dixon
Megan Dockter
Rhiannon Dockter
Amy Doll
Zachary Dschaak
Brian Eckart
Amanda Engesser

*Samantha Erhardt
April Faught
Rachell Feigtsch
Anthony Ferrara
Michelle Figer
Kokou Figan
Zacharie Finneman
*Nicole Fisher
Genevieve Fisher
Rick Fisher
*Paige Fitterer
Michael Foerster
Nancy Friedt
Lori Furaus
*Joey Gab
Pamela Gall
*Courtney Gathman
Jason Gefre
Benjamin Gehrig
Daniel Geiger
*Stefanie Gerriets
*Genevieve Giese
*Trevor Goldade
Louis Graves
*Kayla Greweatz
Jenna Grinsteinner
John Grothier
*Abbigail Gueltererez
Jeffery Hallen
Nicholas Hanson
Breann Harm
Jessica Harmel
*Shannon Hawkins
Erica Hayes
Kayla Heck
Patrick Heinert
*Anna Helmers
*Markie Henry
*Jennifer Herman
*Mariah Hernandez
*Kristen Hill
David Hobson
Mark Hoochst
*Samantha Holly
Brooke Hopfaufl
*Nicholas Hornbacher
Julie Hovancik
Trevor Huck
*Georgia Hughes
Amanda Humann
* Megan Humann
Erica Hursey
Amy Ingersoll
Arthur Intieri
Thad Jaynes
Catherine Jensen
Harley Johnson
Jason Johnson
Lisa Jolley

Angie Jones
Melodie Jorgenson
*Benjamin Jyring
*Stacy Kasper
Douglas Kirkham
Lori Klein
*Boyce Kluting
Casey Knoell
David Kroeber
*Michelle Kunz
Richard Lancaster
Jake Landies
Ashley Landsiedel
Corey Larson
*Nathan Leier
Jon Lengowski
Quinn Lillesand
Mark List
Michael Little
Christopher Locklear
Alicia Lundy
Parrish Lusby
*Jenna Maas
*Keith Mantz
Christopher Marcella
Dominic Marks
Monique Marshall
Stanley Mason
John McDaniel
Christina McNichols-Flesch
*Benjamin Meier
Samantha Meyer
Brittany Mikkelson
*Cole Miller
Vanessa Miller
Valeria Mokrushova
John Moore
Ronald Moores
Audry Mosbrucker
Ryan Nagel
Karen Nalant Freeman
Kenneth Neivel Jr.
*Austin Noland
*Jordan Noland
*Timothy Nottestad
*Alekander Odintsov
Christina Olson
Josh Olson
Darus Papke
Nitatibel Patel
Christine Pearson
Brittany Pengilly
*Julie Perkins
Joan Pfannkuchen
Lance Pfister
Courtney Reiswig
*Kalyn Retterath
*Kayla Rett.
Daniel Rinehart

All-USA Academic Team Nominees
Ashley Renner
*Tricia Schmeichel

* denotes new additions

 PAGE 11
Two tough mudders survive competition

Two BSC alumni completed the Twin Cities Tough Mudder in May, an event referred to as “probably the toughest event on the planet.” While Lori Welder, ’92, and Reynold Miller, ’90, participated in the event separately, both completed it and lived to tell the tale.

The Tough Mudder is an endurance challenge designed by British Special Forces that tests the strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie of participants over 12 miles and 29 obstacles.

Despite hours spent scaling walls, leaping over four foot wide mud pits, crawling through partially-buried pipes and more, both feel the event was worth the effort. Miller says it was a rush that lasted for days and Welder calls the event “life changing”.

Welder finished the punishing course in the top five percent, qualifying her for the World’s Toughest Mudder, a 24-hour competition in New Jersey. It’s an honor she plans to decline. 

“Twenty-four hours on that course in the cold isn’t my thing… [but] it’s hard to top something of this magnitude… maybe sharks?” she says.

Miller’s follow-up challenge will likely take place closer to home -- the Kroll’s half marathon and maybe another tough mudder event in Colorado.

Both Welder and Miller work in the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, Welder as a graphic designer/developer and Miller as an assistant professor.