Larry C. Skogen is BSC’s sixth CEO. Retired from a career in the U.S. Air Force, Skogen has been a high school teacher and college faculty member in a variety of military and civilian institutions, including the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is author of works about federal Indian policies and the history of the American West. Skogen has a doctorate in history from Arizona State University, Tempe; MA in history from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg; and BS in secondary education from Dickinson State University. A native of Hettinger, he is married to Alison, a native of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Clay Jenkinson is a North Dakotan, born in Minot, raised in Dickinson, who left to go to college and then lived elsewhere for more than 20 years. But he came home half a dozen times a year, without fail, and said, to anyone who would listen, that he wanted more than anything else to return to North Dakota. Then in 2005 he did. Now he says he will never leave.

Clay is a humanities scholar, a writer, an award winning historical performer and the voice of his alter-ego Thomas Jefferson on the weekly NPR program “The Thomas Jefferson Hour.”

He holds degrees in the humanities from the University of Minnesota and Oxford University. He is a backdoor historian, a Chautauquan, and an essayist. He has published half a dozen books, including the award winning edition of the writings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in North Dakota, A Vast and Open Plain. He writes a weekly column, Sundays, for the Bismarck Tribune (bismarcktribune.com), and travels extensively as a historical performer of such characters as Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt, among others.

Clay is the Director of the Dakota Institute, a subsidiary of the Fort Mandan Foundation; the principal consultant of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, which was his brainchild; and a distinguished humanities scholar at Bismarck State College, where these conversations occur.

His mother still lives in Dickinson in the house that Clay grew up in and his only child, Catherine Missouri, lives in western Kansas.

Clay lives on the northwestern edge of Bismarck, where his library house is rapidly being eaten by suburban sprawl.
October 7
Lewis & Clark: Reassessing the Partnership
Our guest in this conversation is Dr. William Foley, one of the nation’s leading authorities on William Clark, and one of Larry Skogen’s mentors. The standard view of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, articulated by Stephen Ambrose, is that they enjoyed “the closest friendship in American history,” that they were essentially Tweedledee and Tweedledum in the wilderness. In fact, they were remarkably different men in their basic sensibilities and outlooks. Clark was a well-grounded pragmatist, and Lewis was a high-strung, mercurial, self-punishing romantic. The conversation will be based on Foley’s 2004 biography *Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark*, and Clay Jenkinson’s *2012 The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer in the Wilderness*.

November 4
JFK: The Man, the Myth and the Assassination
As BSC and the Dakota Institute prepare for next year’s 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Skogen and Jenkinson will begin the discussion of the life and achievement of the 35th President of the United States. The martyrdom of JFK on November 22, 1963, after just 1000 days in office, allowed the American people to project onto JFK their dreams of idealism, the promise of the 1960s, and the myth of Camelot. The conversation will review the principle achievements of the Kennedy administration, LBJ’s efforts to achieve JFK’s legislative agenda, and the legacy of the fourth presidential assassination in American history. BSC, the Dakota Institute, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota are planning a three-day symposium on the promise and achievement of John F. Kennedy for the fall of 2013.

December 16
Charles Dickens and America
At one point Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was the most popular writer in the English speaking world. Like everyone else of his era, Dickens was interested in the new republican experiment in government across the Atlantic Ocean. He visited America in 1842 to lecture and read from his work. His impressions of the American experiment were not favorable and led to two books about the United States: *American Notes for General Circulation* (nonfiction, 1842) and the novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843–44). Dickens was appalled by American manners, skeptical of the experiment in democracy, and appalled by slavery. He returned to America for a second visit in 1867. This time he began to think more highly of America and Americans. At a banquet in his honor at Delmonico’s restaurant in New York in April 1867, he magnanimously promised never to denounce America again. Jenkinson and Skogen will talk about the genius of Dickens and his complicated relationship with the New World.

January 27
Separation of Church and State: A Conversation with Thomas Jefferson
On January 1, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to the Baptists of Danbury, Connecticut, acknowledging their letter of praise for his religious tolerance. In his reply Jefferson said that his reading of the First Amendment was that it erected a “wall of separation between church and state.” Although the phrase appears nowhere in the U.S. Constitution, Jefferson’s words have come to serve both as the best short paraphrase of the doctrine behind the First Amendment and as a lightning rod for our continuing national conversation about the relationship between church and state. Jenkinson and Skogen will attempt to determine just what Jefferson’s philosophy of church and state was, to “place” Jefferson’s views in the larger context of the U.S. Constitution and the early national period, and to assess the current status of the “wall of separation.”

March 24
North Dakota Legislature: An Historical Retrospective
By the time this conversation occurs, the 63rd Legislative Assembly of the North Dakota Legislature will be moving towards a close. Skogen and Jenkinson will look back on the history of the North Dakota Legislature. Which legislative sessions have been the most dramatic, most productive, most controversial, most consequential? At a time of unprecedented change in North Dakota landscape and culture, the conversation will explore how the ND Legislature has handled other difficult or volatile periods.

May 5
Great Conversations in History
As recent political campaigns and the television talk shows prove, the art of conversation is largely dead in the United States. But genuine conversation holds an important place in the history of culture. Jenkinson and Skogen will examine the art of conversation in the ancient world, in the history of Christianity, in the Enlightenment, in the history of the United States, and—to the extent that it is possible—in our own time. What makes a good conversation? Who have been the great conversationalists in human history? How does genuine conversation contribute to the social, cultural, and political health of a society? Where can one find great conversation today (aside from the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium)!

Dates are subject to change. For more information, call BSC Continuing Education, Training and Innovation at 701.224.5600 or visit www.bsctalk.com.