

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I write this, the first snowfall of the season is blanketing the landscape. It's peaceful. I slowed down driving to work and took the time long-needed to craft this note. I welcome winter. The care required to stay safe and warm means we race out the door less, savor life more.

Now, winter's naysayers might tell you we slow down because in the cold our brains, like our cars, won't start. They'd fall in with Calvin and Hobbes creator Bill Watterson who says: *I like these cold, gray winter days. Days like these let you savor a bad mood.*

And while it may be easy to be in a bad mood these days, I'll instead take a lesson from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* instead:

*Blow, blow, thou Winter Wind,
Thou art not so unkind, as Man's Ingratitude...*

So I am grateful – grateful to be alongside my colleagues in higher ed committed to the greater good. At BSC, we have the technology, facilities, abilities and most importantly, the students to drive the future of North Dakota and parts unknown.

Every day, we help students learn their way – online, in person, at work, in a classroom and often, all of the above. Research recently conducted by MTV, as they, like us, work to connect with gen Z (16-24 year olds), found that the most defining trait of gen Z is "its unprecedented digital connectedness – and paradoxical real-life isolation..." So MTV is working on programming that will "jump start a feeling of interpersonal connectivity."

We get that. BSC is in the connectivity business. How can students find their beyond *without* human connection? The following stories show how college is more than knowledge transfer – how the experience and people found here helped our former students achieve their dreams. We are focused on ensuring our current and future students can do the same.

Thanks for reading.

Marnie Piehl

Marnie Piehl, Editor



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MYSTICMEDIA
A BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTION

INSIDE



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L-R: Lynette Harr-Isakson, RN; Craig Comes, P ('07); Darci Grunett; Luke Zabka, ('17); Ciara Archambeau, ('17)

EMS TEAM SERVES COMMUNITY IN HEART OF HURRICANE'S DESTRUCTION

BY MARNIE PIEHL

By 5 a.m., 24 hours after Hurricane Irma decimated Florida, Darci Grunett was headed into the heart of the destruction. And for her, that's normal.

"In our field, we run toward things that others are running from," Grunett says of her profession. She's a veteran paramedic with 27 years of service and BSC's Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic Program Director.

Grunett was one of two dozen volunteers called up by the North Dakota EPR (Emergency Preparedness and Response) Medical Volunteer Reserve team. She flew to Tallahassee and then was assigned to Marathon – one of the island communities in the Florida Keys.

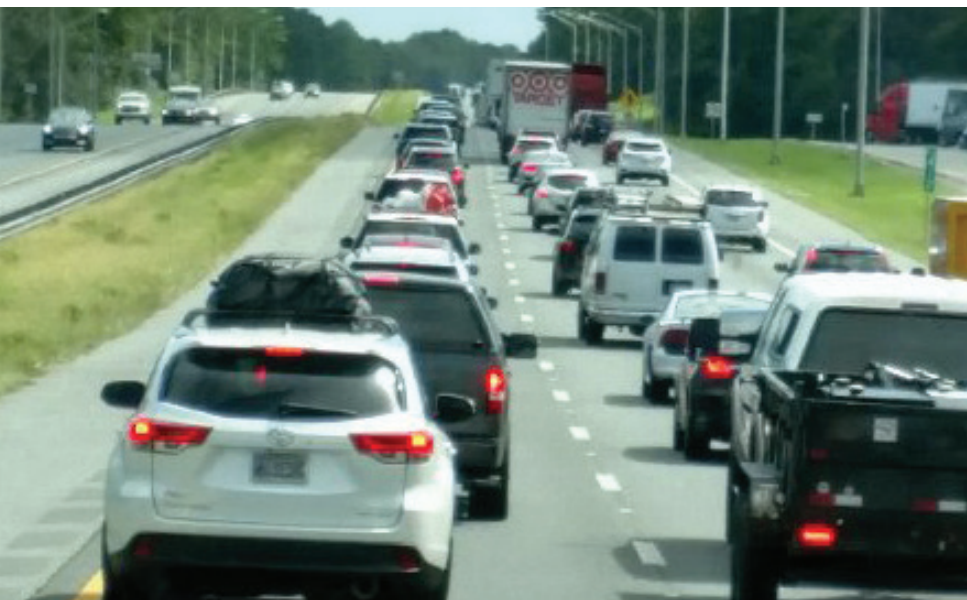
The Marathon hospital was destroyed by the hurricane, and Grunett's team set up a temporary hospital alongside the Red Cross shelter at the local high school. The Florida Keys were hit hard. On nearby Cudjoe Key, those who didn't evacuate didn't survive. "One hundred percent of that key was damaged," she said.

On Marathon, the team provided medications and treated injuries – working 15-20 hour days during their weeklong deployment. "In any disaster, there's no normal. That has to be built. We figure out what needs to be done and build from there," Grunett said.

Before regular supplies arrived, the team scavenged medical supplies from the military, and later, when the local Walgreens opened up, they bought what they needed. "We made the best of it."



Destruction along the road to Marathon, Fla.



Traffic out of Tallahassee meant a 5-hour trip became a 15-hour trip for Grunett's team.

Grunett's team included four graduates of the BSC Paramedic Program. "I was so thrilled to work with students – I felt like a mom, watching out for them. But they knew what they were doing. We've done a good job."

Grunett continued to teach during her time in Florida. Her classes normally have a strong online component, and during her deployment they moved fully online. "The students thought it went well."


She's excited to have been able to experiment with a more fully online approach. "Some of these classes we may want to move fully online in order to expand, redesign ...and make an even better program."

During her career, Grunett has been deployed a number of times -- to Minot after the flood of 2011, to Cuba as part of a flight-based NICU team from New Mexico, and more recently to the Dakota Access Pipeline site. She also has served on medical teams for seven AIDS rides and five breast cancer walks around the country. This time around, she obtained permission from campus leaders within a few hours of getting the call to serve.

"I am so grateful that BSC would allow me to do this. It's all about people in need, and I love the fact that BSC is so supportive."

Grunett returned to Bismarck once the federal response teams took over in the Keys, but she'd go back tomorrow. "[There's] so much to be said to going where people are hurting ... being able to be there for them and help them out."

Disaster situations bring out the best in people Grunett says. "There are no egos at play.... It's an amazing way to work with people. It brings out the best in every part of you."

To learn more about BSC's Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic program, visit bismarckstate.edu/academics. 



The team helped set up a Red Cross shelter.



Fortunately all the residents of this Marathon nursing home were evacuated before the storm hit it.



Damaged boats pile up after flooding in Marathon.



HIS GUIDING LIGHT IS DOING RIGHT

BY MARNIE PIEHL

In the waiting room of the North Dakota Attorney General's office, a composite photo shows North Dakota's attorneys general all the way back to the 1880s – 29 of them. The majority served in the role for two years or less, some served two terms, but none come close to the 16 years Wayne Stenehjem ('71) has served in the role.

"I see the empty spots in the frame. I look at my term like the professors at BSC who instill lifelong learning. I'm building a legacy of good, honest work for the people who will come after me," Stenehjem says.

He's grown the division over the years by adding investigators to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and establishing new crime

labs – ramping up the resources North Dakota needs to surmount big problems.

"We tackled the meth lab problem and took care of it. Right now we're banding together to get information from pharmaceutical companies [to address] the opioid problem. I don't know a family who is not affected – or at least knows someone affected – by opioids, heroin or alcohol."

He tells the staff he hires that the AG's office is for those who "want to provide service to the state of North Dakota, to look back and see that you made it better, made it safer, and contributed to the state."

50 YEARS SINCE N.D.'S FIRST FEDERAL LOAN

Students encounter a lot of firsts their freshman year of college. In 1967, when 18-year-old Grady Porter went to register at what was then Bismarck Junior College, he secured a truly historic first: He took out the first federally-insured student loan in the United States.

BJC registrar Herb Schimmelpfenig knew of the brand new federal program, and sent Porter down to the Bank of North Dakota (BND) to see if he could find the funding he needed to go to college. Porter left the bank with a loan of \$350 – enough to cover tuition, books and fees for the year. The note was signed by BND employee, Marvin Stenehjem.

BND invited Grady and his wife Jeanette to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of that loan last summer. During the event, Stenehjem's son, BSC alumnus and North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, noted that his dad was very

proud of that particular loan and the other student loans that followed.

"Dad said that North Dakota students shouldn't be denied education for a lack of money. The Bank of North Dakota should be proud of this work."

Porter had an athletic scholarship to BJC, but knew it wouldn't pay all the bills. The oldest of five, he says the loan made it possible to go to college. After graduating from BJC, he went on to Valley City State University, graduating with a little over \$4,000 in student loan debt. The average student loan debt today is \$30,000.

"I made 99 payments of \$45 to pay it off," he says.

BND President and CEO Eric Hardmeyer says that while BND still provides student loans, changes in federal

regulation mean that focus is on the BND student loans during college and refinancing student loans after college, including those from the federal government.

"We couldn't make that federal student loan to you today," he told Porter during the celebration.

But they did make the loan. And by helping that first student, BND helped hundreds. Thanks to his student loans, Porter was able to go on to a long career in counseling and human services, making a difference for troubled youth at the State Industrial School (now Youth Correctional Center) and later through state agencies in North Dakota and Nebraska. He recently retired.



As one of seven kids, Stenehjem learned how to contribute early on. His dad worked at the Bank of North Dakota, and Stenehjem remembers that he earned \$550 each month, and \$150 of that went to rent. Every kid in the family got a job as soon as they were old enough, and paid for their clothing, social life, and even the dentist, out of their own pockets. College was financed through hard work and loans from the Bank of North Dakota (see sidebar).

Stenehjem enrolled at Bismarck Junior College in 1970 and, because he took college courses throughout his senior year and the summer after, earned his associate degree in one year. It was at BJC that his interest in lifelong learning was sparked.

"Mike [McCormack] instilled the importance of history. I took every class I could from him. Arnold Lahren showed me how things fit into the real world."

His "passible English accent" got him roped into some theater with BSC's legendary theater professor Jane Grey Smith. "She hauled me in from the hallway and onto the stage," he says.

Stenehjem views BSC as great stopping point for "expanding your world."

"We need those kinds of things," Stenehjem says – referring to the music, theater, speakers and community enrichment offered by the college. "Education isn't just two to four years. It's the outreach and service to community. The impact goes further than that. We need to encourage people – learning should not stop just because you graduate."

"You know, there's nothing wrong with knowing things if only to be good at Jeopardy," he laughs. The nightly gameshow is a family tradition. "It's just a good thing to have a broad education."

After BSC, Stenehjem went on to UND but wasn't sure what he'd go into. "I thought about psychology, becoming a history professor, social work. All my [BSC] classes gave me a background from which to expand."

It was advice from a family friend that finally pushed him to law school. During high school, Stenehjem worked as a janitor at a hospital – it was repetitive work. During that time, the friend told him, "if I wanted to do something different every day, be a lawyer."


The Stenehjem family has a long tradition of public service, and during law school Stenehjem ran for the North Dakota House of Representatives. He opened his first law practice in Grand Forks the same year he first served in the House. He spent two terms as a representative, and 20 years in the North Dakota Senate.

Stenehjem ran for Governor in the Republican primary in 2016, but lost to current Governor Doug Burgum. He doesn't plan to run for governor again. He says he'll remain in his current role as long as the voters allow. "I'm sticking with this job – I love this job."

Voracious reading and extensive travel help keep his perspective fresh and the work invigorating. Stenehjem and his wife, Beth,

have been to Rome, Athens and Egypt as well as several other countries. "The history of our constitution can be found in Greece and the forum of Rome. We are part of ideas borrowed from all over the world."

The work of the attorney general can be challenging, and the object of extensive criticism, but Stenehjem says his "guiding light is doing the right thing."

"I tell the staff we hire that the North Dakota taxpayers invest a lot in us. Everyone contributes to making this a great state. I want to look back and realize I made a profound difference." 

You're invited to join BSC President Larry C. Skogen,
BSC alumni and friends on a

Rhine River Cruise

aboard the Ama Stella

June 3-11, 2018



The Rhine River, From Amsterdam to Basel, has been central to European history since the times of the Romans. Later, as a trade route, the river became the lifeblood of the growth of central Europe and its feudal system. In more modern times, the Rhine River and its valley have provided the flashpoints in a series of wars, particularly between Germany and France, which have helped define modern Europe and, most recently, the European Union. Today, all that history provides a magnificent tapestry for river travelers.

Please join President Larry C. Skogen on a cruise of the Rhine River, enjoying the history, culture, cuisine and beauty of that tapestry.

For more information, contact: Direct Travel/Satrom Travel & Tour
701-258-5000 or 1-800-833-8787 or
visit satromtravel.com/items/detail/247



BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE
 ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

SHE WORKS TO MAKE DOWNTOWN BISMARCK A DESTINATION



BY KIMBERLY SINGER

Bismarck Downtowners Association Executive Director Dawn Kopp, '99 BSC alumna, has been in her role for 10 years now. Around 2008 she helped create a walking map of Downtown Bismarck. It featured 25 places. The map is updated annually, and this year 70 shops, restaurants, galleries and other destinations are included.

"It's really stunning what we've seen happen in Downtown Bismarck, and it creates such a sense of pride to be, at least in some way, a part of the movement of revitalizing downtown."

Her dream at the Downtowners is to help make other people's dreams a reality. "I really want to be more involved in growing the local industry and fostering people's dreams and hopes, and creating what they want to see as an entrepreneur or as a business person."

Some of Kopp's passion for Downtown Bismarck comes from growing up in the area. She's originally from Mandan. "We would go to the Dakota Twin Theatres and see movies there. It was always just so exciting to come downtown."



Kopp said she's most proud of what she sees take place outside of her office after 5 p.m. every day.

"Seeing so much more activity. Period. Those first couple years that I worked here, you could tell when the clock was about 5:04 p.m., because all the cars left the street and that's how it remained for the night until you'd see the business employees come back in for the next business day.

"Now, often we hear people talk about how we need more parking downtown because they can't find a parking spot on the street

near the place they want to visit. That is a fantastic indicator of how successful downtown is becoming and has already become. So many people are visiting downtown, using all the parking spots on the street, walking and milling about. Helping to create that vibrancy has been just an absolute joy to be a part of."

One of the ways Kopp sees Downtown Bismarck flourishing is when people who grow up in the area leave,

Capitol Shakespeare also was created this way. Crystal Reid, a friend of Kopp's, lived in Omaha and loved the live outdoor theater she experienced there. She told Kopp that she wanted to see a live, outdoor and free-to-the-public play performed each year in Bismarck. Because Kopp knew Dan Rogers, former BSC theater professor, she agreed to help Reid and their



North Dakota Tourism


live elsewhere for a while and then bring back the experiences they gained while they were away.

"Kenny and Kendra Howard own Fireflour Pizza. Kenny

grew up in Mandan and Kendra in Turtle Lake. They were living in San Francisco for a while and became really familiar with the Neapolitan-style pizza and decided to bring it back to Bismarck. That was a really awesome way of taking something you've experienced in another city and bringing it back to share with your community."

mutual friend Kendall Speten-Hansen make it happen. Capitol Shakespeare celebrated its 10th season this past summer.


Moving forward, Kopp's hope is that more people will be aware of all that downtown has to offer. "We want to draw people into the city core, so they can visit the retailers, restaurants, art galleries and local music venues."

To find out more about Downtown Bismarck, see a list of upcoming events and check out the walking map, visit downtownbismarck.com. 

FALL OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER OPEN HOUSE OPENS EYES

A record number of high school students attended the annual BSC Fall Open House in October. Staff, faculty and student ambassadors led the 300+ students and their parents on tours of a campus vibrant with fall color and bustling with students. In the Bavendick Stateroom, sun streamed through windows overlooking the Missouri River as teams from every realm of campus ensured the visitors were up to speed on scholarship, financial aid, career and academic options that make BSC a place where every student can find their own, unique beyond.

Join us for our Spring Open House on Friday, June 8, 2018, and know that we'll show you around anytime! Contact BSC Admissions and Enrollment at 701-224-5429 or 1-800-445-5073 for a tour or more information. 



BSC CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH CAPITOL SHAKESPEARE

BY MARNIE PIEHL

Theater has a long history at BSC. Students find their voice, future lawyers leverage their accent skills (Wayne Stenejhem page 7) and alumni create connections between the college and the community (Dawn Kopp page 10).



Since Dawn Kopp ('99) and friends established Capitol Shakespeare in 2008, BSC and the BSC Foundation have been some of the strongest supporters of the organization.

Longtime BSC theater professor Dan Rogers (now retired) remembers a meeting early in the tenure of President Skogen asking for BSC's support. "He immediately said yes. BSC was able to provide a home, place to rehearse, and resources in terms of staging, rehearsal space and tools."

Additionally, the BSC Foundation has provided annual grants to Capitol Shakespeare, helping to maintain and grow the organization's offerings.

Beyond the annual production, the Capitol Shakespeare Children's Renaissance Fair exposes the community Shakespearean culture and heritage, and the traveling troupe of young players gives students a chance to explore Shakespeare.


Rogers' successor at BSC, associate professor of theater Danny Devlin,

directed last summer's production of "As You Like It" and has been involved with Capitol Shakespeare since relocating to Bismarck.

"What they do is so important. Capitol Shakespeare blazed a trail in North Dakota by offering classical theater for free. You don't see nearly enough of that," Devlin says.

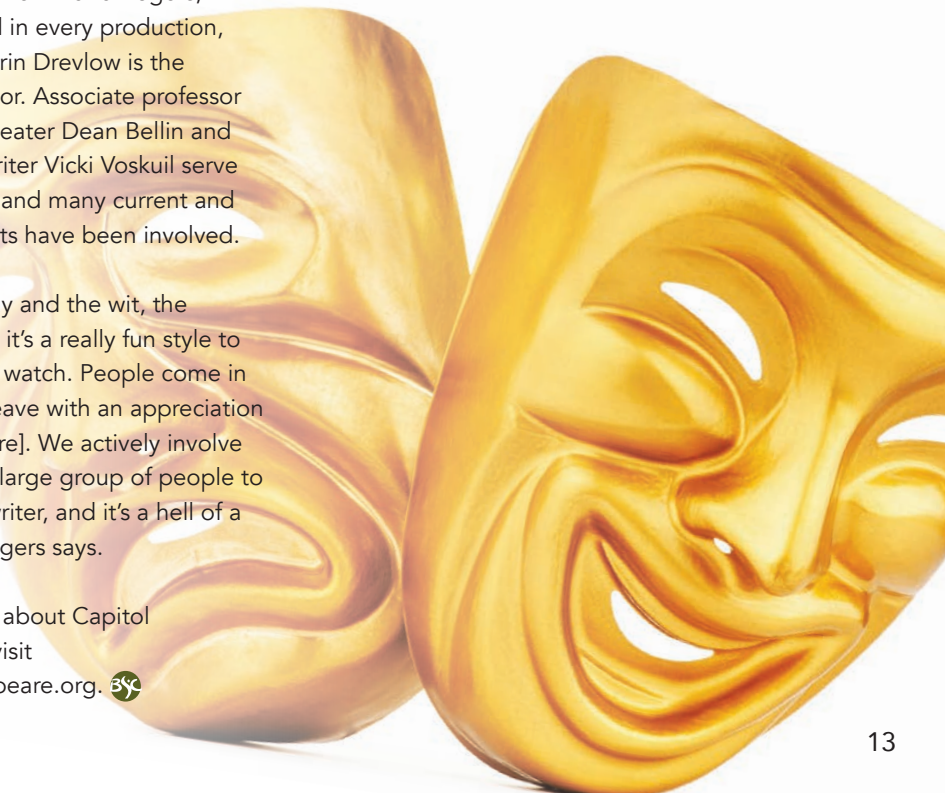
In addition to Devlin and Rogers, who has acted in every production, BSC alumna Erin Drevlow is the creative director. Associate professor of technical theater Dean Bellin and retired BSC writer Vicki Voskuil serve on the board, and many current and former students have been involved.

"The word play and the wit, the physical gags, it's a really fun style to both play and watch. People come in reticent and leave with an appreciation [of Shakespeare]. We actively involve and expose a large group of people to the greatest writer, and it's a hell of a lot of fun," Rogers says.

To learn more about Capitol Shakespeare visit capitolshakespeare.org. 



Retired BSC professor Dan Rogers in the Capitol Shakespeare's 2017 production of "As You Like It." The play was directed by Danny Devlin, BSC associate professor of theater.



Her dreams took her
from BSC to

the Big
Apple

BY KIMBERLY SINGER

From high school on, Lindsey Ellefson had a goal: To work for CNN by age 30. Armed with an associate degree from BSC and a bachelor's degree in communications with a specialization in broadcast journalism from St. Francis College in New York City, the 25-year-old landed her dream job with five years to spare. In May, she became an associate producer of social TV at CNN in New York City.

Her dad, Joe Ellefson, a professor and coordinator of the BSC Criminal Justice



program, said he wasn't necessarily surprised she reached her goal ahead of schedule. "This young lady she goes for what she wants. I was excited, I was pleased, I was proud."

Ellefson first set her sights on CNN after touring their studio in Atlanta, Ga. She was there representing Mandan High School in a Future Business Leaders of America competition the summer before her junior year. "I set a personal intention of working for the company. I kept the ticket from the tour and have it up on my fridge."

Ellefson said she became a news hound at a young age. Her dad echoed her sentiments, and said she's been interested in journalism and the art of telling stories since she was very young. "She was reading the cartoons in the newspaper before she went to kindergarten."

She added, "I was always very interested in the goings on all around the country, and the ways things that happened in New York or Washington, D.C., affected people around me – teachers, parents, friends."

Now, her job involves making the news accessible to those very people, as well as many others.

So, how did Ellefson get to CNN, aside from a lot of hard work and determination? She worked for a media blog called Mediaite operated by Dan Abrams of ABC News.

"The goal is to monitor cable news and find the big interviews and one-liners that people might miss and turn them into content that people can consume in an article form."

"During the election season, we were working monitoring all the networks and worked hard on networking to make sure we represented all the stations accurately," she says.

Ellefson interviewed on-air talent and met a lot of people, reaffirming that CNN was where she wanted to be. "I was fortunate enough to move over here when a job opened up. It was a perfect marriage of them needing this position and finding someone who could turn those soundbites and clips into articles – that was me."

Taking online courses at BSC equipped Ellefson for her career by requiring her to be accountable and teaching her to communicate digitally. "When you get into journalism, especially starting out, you work with people you may never meet in person. It prepared me for online communication, which is a vital part of my career today."

Ellefson's role at CNN involves taking information shared in the 24/7 news cycle, and pushing it out in an article format using social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and more. One of her focuses is sharing clips and interviews from CNN's morning show New Day.


"Just today Senator Heidi Heitkamp was on CNN's New Day. She said when she watches the Olympics and sees America come out in the Parade of Nations, she's impressed and proud with how diverse our athletes are and that diversity strengthens our nation. It was a forceful statement to be delivered so early in the morning. I'm able to share that out to those who may have missed it. That wasn't

available prior to the advent of social media. I value the opportunity to make news accessible to a wider range of people."

When asked about the challenges presented by news inaccuracies perpetuated by social media every day, Ellefson said she doesn't pay much attention to it. "I always believe consumers want to be informed, and that the truth will always find its way out and prevail in the end."

Though she values news of every variety, her favorite genre is politics. "I love the way it affects the daily life of everyone throughout the country. It can be such a force of good."

As for future goals, Ellefson said she is paying close attention to any news related to the next presidential

election. "I'm already looking forward to the 2020 election, and how much excitement there will be between now and then. My goal is to do really well between now and then, so I can serve people then, too." 





A RUN-IN WITH A MOUSE LED HER TO DEVELOP A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMPANY

BY KIMBERLY SINGER

They say inspiration can come from anywhere. That couldn't be more true for inventor, entrepreneur and BSC alum Kari Warberg Block, founder and CEO of Earthkind, a U.S.-based company that develops and manufactures high performance, eco-friendly pest control for households and farms. An unfortunate run-in with a mouse inspired her to develop her first product, Fresh Cab, and a spider bite led her to create one of her company's most popular products, Stay Away Spiders.

Warberg Block was on a first date with the man who would later become her husband. Before leaving his farm to head to Minot, he needed help jumpstarting a farm truck, so she hopped in the cab. A mouse ran up her leg. She grabbed perfume from her purse. "I instinctively took it out and sprayed it like it was Raid." The rodent fled and she had what she calls her "aha" moment.

She tried many perfumes to get rid of mice and determined that the woody smelling, male colognes worked best, so she turned to nature for answers. "I look at an ecological approach. What in nature repels rodents? Well, trees, because the snow comes down and it protects the ground and the bark protects the trees. Rodents chew on the bark to get them through the winter, and the trees will die. So, trees developed their own pesticide against rodents chewing on the bark." She took that theory and tested it by giving neighbors sachets of corncobs soaked in wood- and tree-based essential oils. "People were calling it corncob perfume. It was an instant hit, because it worked."

Warberg Block didn't set out to create any products beyond Fresh Cab, but later changed her mind due to a near-death experience. "I got bit



by a brown recluse spider twice, a year apart exactly, in both legs – same place. The first one, I almost died.”

She ended up in the hospital, was given a shot and then told by her doctor that either she would be fine or her organs would shut down. Thankfully, the medicine did its work and she made a full recovery. Warberg Block realized she was bit immediately the second time it happened, was treated quickly and began research for the product that is now known as Stay Away Spiders.

In 2007, Warberg Block was able to work full-time for her company. Spurred on by demand, she began developing even more products, such as her household line of Stay Away natural repellents. In addition to rodents and spiders, she created Stay Away products to repel ants, beetles and moths.

As with most businesses, Earthkind has a lot of competition, but she said there are a couple of factors that set it apart from the pack. “We were the first company to ask the question, ‘Why can’t pest control be effective and be safe at the same time?’ So, we’ve changed the market that way. We’re pioneers.” Warberg Block also

says it’s her ecological approach that makes her products different and very effective at keeping pests away. Her method is to repel and not kill. This eliminates the need for disposing of dead rodents and insects. And, unlike poison, her products are safe around kids and pets. She said that in the U.S., about 6,000 dogs die each year from accidental poisoning.

Not only is Warberg Block passionate about creating safe, high quality products, she also places a high value on caring for her 32 employees by offering them 100 percent paid health insurance and opportunities to further their education. “It lifts society as a whole when businesses invest in people.”


She is grateful for her college education. Warberg Block earned an associate degree from BSC in Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Management. “I went from Ds in high school, coming into a college setting like that. It turned me around. I got straight As. I graduated second in my class. I absolutely loved it. It was all applicable.”



BSC also helped Warberg Block as she went on to earn a bachelor's degree. Employed full-time while working toward a degree in Business Management at the University of Mary, she was only able to take one class at a time. That all of her credits transferred was critical to her success. "I never thought I could, and I always wanted to [get a four-year degree]. Going to BSC made that possible."

Warberg Block is now using her Business Management degree to beat the odds when it comes to women in the business place. She said most women-run businesses don't reach more than \$30,000 in annual sales. Only five percent make it beyond \$1 million. "The next big hurdle is over \$10 million, which we surpassed. Only one percent of entrepreneurs have done that without outside capital. We've done more things right than wrong. We've taken more of a slow, methodical approach to growth, but it's still fast when you look back. We're growing faster than 95 percent of the companies out there."

Her success in creating effective and safe products is being noticed. "A European company came to us and said, 'We have a breakthrough product and we think you're the company that can bring this to the moms of the world.' And I said, 'I can do that.'" That product is a new type of mosquito repellent that will hit shelves in 2018. In addition, she is working on a Stay Away product for a different insect that also poses a public health risk.

"There is absolutely no road map for what any of us are doing. We have to have faith. We have to have confidence. We have to make bold moves despite not knowing how they're going to turn out. When you have a conviction that you're doing the right thing for the right purpose, that makes a huge difference." Warberg Block's conviction has carried her company further than most, and she eventually hopes to take her company global. With Earthkind products already sold at retail giants, including Lowe's, Ace Hardware, Amazon, John Deere and target.com, it seems that it's only a matter of time. 

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: USING CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREES IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

BY KIMBERLY SINGER

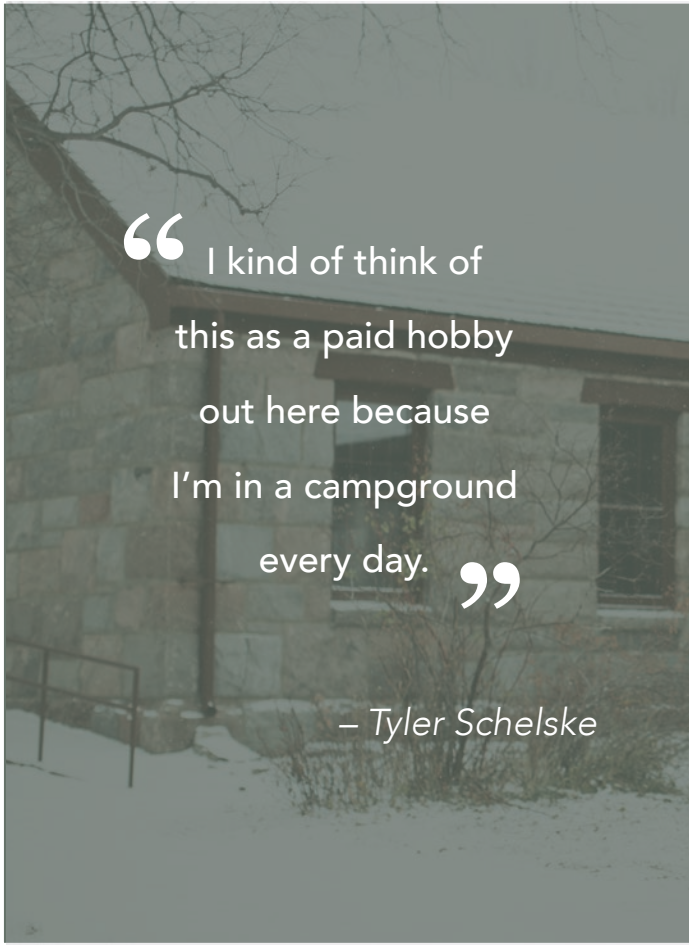


North Dakota has 13 state parks as well as many recreational areas. Tyler Schelske, a 2014 BSC grad, would like to work at all of them. In April 2017, he checked a fifth area off his list when he became site supervisor of Sully Creek State Park, located a little more than two miles south of Medora.

“They all offer something different. If I could work at every park in the state, that would be pretty cool. I started at a big lake park (Sakakawea). I’ve gone to Cross Ranch. Now I’m at Sully Creek, which is a horse park.” He’s also helped out with the Little Missouri State Park and worked at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park for the Haunted Fort.

It’s very likely that Schelske was drawn to state parks because he grew up in one. His dad, Dan Schelske, also a BSC alum, has spent 34 years working in various roles within the state park system and for the past 14 years has been Park Manager at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, seven miles south of Mandan.

“It’s a career, but it’s also a lifestyle. I was proud that he was considering it and wanting to do it. I’ve enjoyed it so much my whole career. I know what it takes for a person to do the job – the commitment and long hours. Watching him growing up, he’s had several jobs, he worked hard in sports, he worked hard in school, he’s in the National Guard, which is no easy task. I can see he’s got what it takes to do it.”




“ I kind of think of
this as a paid hobby
out here because
I’m in a campground
every day. ”

– Tyler Schelske

In his spare time, Schelske enjoys spending time outdoors biking, fishing and hunting. That’s why this career fits him so well. “I kind of think of this as a paid hobby out here because I’m in a campground every day.”

Sully Creek State Park’s season runs from April 1-Nov. 30. During the winter months, Schelske plans to work at Cross Ranch State Park helping visitors enjoy cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Schelske plans to attend the police academy which will allow him to become a park ranger. And he’d happily continue his career in his home state. “I like North Dakota.”

For more on Sully Creek State Park, visit facebook.com/prdscsp. To learn more about BSC’s Criminal Justice program, visit bismarckstate.edu. 



Schelske earned an associate degree at BSC and then went on to get a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice on BSC’s campus through Minot State University. He said he really enjoys this branch of law enforcement. “This is probably one of the few law enforcement careers that when they see law enforcement, they’re happy to see them.”

In fact, talking with Sully Creek State Park visitors is one of the things Schelske enjoys most about his job. And people from all over the country come to camp there. “A lot of North Dakotans, Minnesotans. A lot from California, Washington, Oregon and Wisconsin. I do get quite a bit of people coming up from Florida. I would say that’s one of our top 10, too. And, I ask them why they come up here and most of them are retired and they’re just looking to see the country.”

A photograph of a campus scene featuring a large brick building with many windows. A paved path leads from the foreground towards the building, with three people walking on it. A large tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the right. A decorative line of green and white circles curves across the top left of the image.

CAMPUS NEWS

Roundup

BSC AND VCSU ANNOUNCE COLLABORATIVE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BACHELOR'S DEGREE

A new collaborative program between BSC and Valley City State University (VCSU) means students now can earn an Associate in Science degree with an emphasis in elementary education from BSC and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from VCSU on the BSC campus. The VCSU elementary education coursework will be delivered to the BSC campus using various distance delivery technologies, but mostly online.

For more information visit bismarckstate.edu/vcsu.

BUSINESS AND OFFICE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS, PROFESSOR RECEIVE TOP HONORS

BSC's Business and Office Technology (BOTE) programs were recently recognized as Program of the Year, and BSC Associate Professor of Computers & Office Technology, Dr. Vickie Volk, was named Post-secondary Teacher of the Year by the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association (M-PBEA) at their recent annual conference.

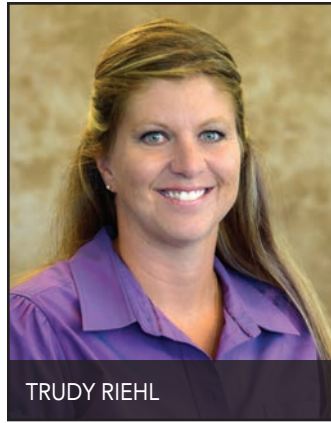
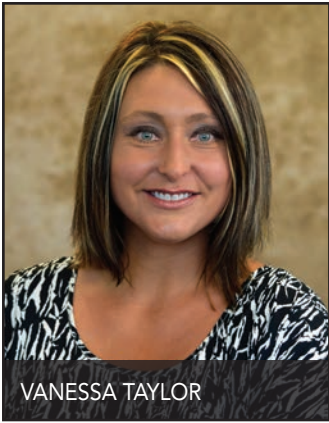
PRESIDENT NAMED TO NATIONAL PANEL RETHINKING HIGHER ED ACCREDITATION

BSC President Larry C. Skogen has been named to a new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) panel, the HLC Partners for Transformation, tasked with rethinking higher education accreditation practices.

"At times accreditation has felt like a roadblock to innovation," Skogen says. "I'm excited that HLC is thinking how accreditation can facilitate innovation instead."

BSC has long been a model of innovative delivery, Skogen says, citing the distance learning within the Dakota Nursing Program and the online delivery by the National Energy Center of Excellence as two standout examples.





SURGICAL TECH FACULTY HONORED

Vanessa Taylor, BSC associate professor of surgical technology, was recognized by the National Board of Surgical Technology & Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) in September, maintaining certification for 25 years as a certified surgical technologist (CST).

Trudy Riehl, associate professor and program director of surgical technology at BSC, received the Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists (FAST) award in recognition of her contribution to the profession of surgical technology.

BSC STUDENT OUTLETS EARN TOP NATIONAL HONORS

The College Media Association has again recognized the excellence of BSC's student-led media and literary outlets in their annual Pinnacle Awards. The student-run radio station, The Myx, earned a first place Two Year Radio Station of the Year award; MystiCast, the student-produced and led broadcast news program earned second place in the Two Year TV Station of the Year category; and BSC's literary magazine, *Figments of Imagination*, earned third place honors in the Two-Year Literary Magazine of the Year category.

The Myx, MystiCast and Figments of Imagination are part of the BSC Mass Communications program. Figments of Imagination is an annual publication that is both a credit offering and an opportunity for students in any discipline to have their work published. To learn more about these hands-on, student-led efforts, visit BSCMysticMedia.com.

FEDERAL GRANT CREATES 18 NUCLEAR ENERGY SCHOLARSHIPS AT BSC

BSC received a \$140,934 grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which will be used to fund 18 scholarships for qualified students enrolling in BSC's Nuclear Power Technology program over the next two academic years.

"BSC's program is highly affordable, so this \$5,000 scholarship covers much of the student's first year expenses. That affordability coupled with the flexibility of an online program creates a real opportunity for anyone interested in finding a career in nuclear energy," says Kyren Miller, department chair for BSC's nuclear program.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the U.S. most nuclear workers can expect to earn a salary ranging from \$50,000 to more than \$100,000 per year.

BSC's Nuclear Power Technology Program is regionally accredited and is the only fully online program authorized by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to issue the NUCP certificate through a partnership with the Exelon Cooperation.

Learn more about BSC's Nuclear Power Technology program at bismarckstate.edu/energy. For more information about the scholarship, email kyren.miller@bismarckstate.edu.

BSC FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The BSC Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed new members at its annual meeting in September. BSC President Larry C. Skogen appointed Lacey Lange as the BSC staff representative, Jean Rolandelli as the BSC faculty representative, Kyren Miller, National Alumni Association representative and Tamara Barber as fiscal officer.

Lange is the marketing manager for BSC and president of the BSC Staff Senate. Rolandelli is an associate professor of Biology and secretary/treasurer of the BSC Faculty Senate. Miller, a 1998 BSC graduate, is the past president of the BSC Alumni Association and department chair for the National Energy Center of Excellence. Barber is the associate vice president for finance and operations at BSC.

Timothy Atkinson, Chairman, North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co. was elected president of the board. Norm Clark, regional manager, Gate City Bank, was elected vice-president of the board. Debra Gallagher, president, Capital Credit Union, was elected chairman, and Dave Clark, BSC executive vice president, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The following new trustees were approved at recent meetings:

- Thomas Atkinson, Environmental Engineer at Western Area Power Administration
- John Bauer, director, ND Generation, Great River Energy
- Florence Hauer, owner, United Printing
- Ken Rutter, Senior vice president of marketing and asset management, Basin Electric Cooperative
- Sandi Tabor, general counsel, KLU
- Ron Day, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Andeavor (Tesoro)
- Kevin Dykema, Bismarck regional president, American Bank Center
- Chad Johnson, market president, First Western Bank & Trust, Bismarck
- Brady Torgerson, president of First Security Bank - West, Beulah
- Danette Welsh, manager of government relations, ONEOK



BSC focused on growth in
CYBERSECURITY
AND
HEALTH SCIENCES
THROUGH FUNDRAISING

Following a 20 percent budget reduction to the college in FY17, BSC President Larry C. Skogen is focused on navigating the college through to better times. He says that in order to continue to meet workforce needs and student expectations, BSC will be strengthening its industry partnerships and extending them into new areas of study.

“We have had tremendous support from industry over the years. Their importance to our students and the campus is highly evident in our energy programs, the National Energy Center of Excellence and the remarkable insights offered by industry experts in our program advisory groups. Now we are going to do our best to create new opportunities in some strategic growth areas.”

To that end, the BSC Foundation Board of Trustees has approved two capital campaigns that will ensure students can pursue their career goals while addressing the region's most vital workforce needs.

HEALTH SCIENCES

BSC is looking to move its in-demand health sciences programs from a rented downtown location (before the lease expires in July 2020) to a building adjacent to campus owned by the BSC Foundation. Pending State Board of Higher Education approval, a fundraising campaign would expand program capacity, increase outreach and recruitment efforts, purchase simulators, update an array of aging equipment, and add advanced certificate programs in Community Paramedics and Critical Care/Flight Paramedics.

14-16% JOB GROWTH
EXPECTED IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

- MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN
- SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
- NURSING
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/PARAMEDIC


BY 2021 THE COST OF
CYBERCRIME DAMAGE IS
EXPECTED TO HIT

\$6
TRILLION
ANNUALLY

CYBERSECURITY

Skogen says that North Dakota is in dire straits when it comes to the cybersecurity workforce needed in our hospitals, refineries, technology companies, power plants and more.

"Not many colleges offer the training required. We are in a great place to cover that need in collaboration with our sister institutions in the NDUS."

Last year BSC revamped its Computer Information Systems offerings to create a Cybersecurity and Computer Networks program, and enrollment rose by nearly 10 percent in less than a year. In the fall of 2017, enrollment increased again. The goal is to raise \$1.6 million for additional faculty, classroom equipment and outreach to recruit additional students into the program. 

Behind the scenes of campus and in the lives of students, our partners and donors make much possible. The results of their generosity can be seen every day at BSC.

bismarckstate.edu/foundation

*See what you can do.
Consider giving.*



BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Watch for a full list of our 2017 scholarship recipients and donors in the Spring 2018 issue.



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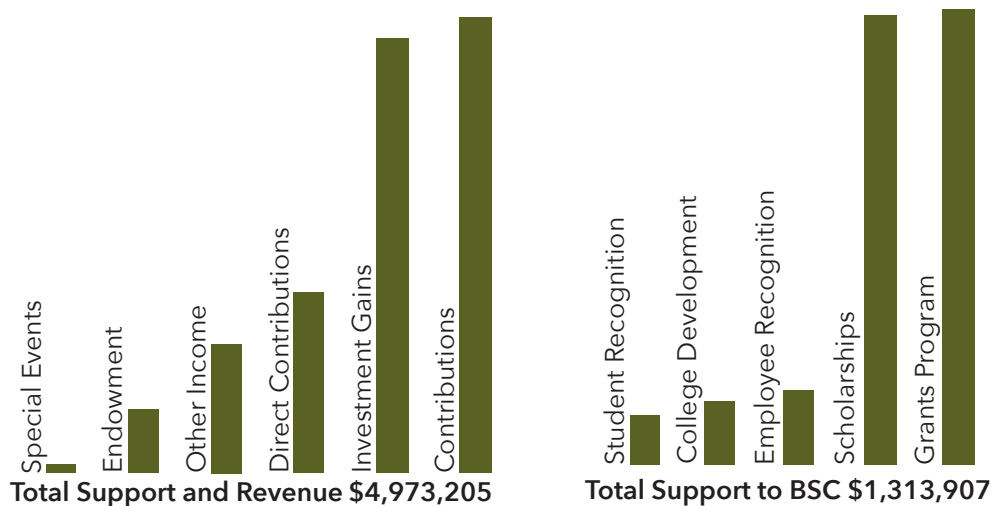
To subscribe, change your address,
or submit an alumni note:

Rita Nodland
BSC Alumni Coordinator
PO Box 5587
Bismarck, ND 58506
rita.nodland@bismarckstate.edu
1-800-BSC-ALUM



FOUNDATION 2016 - 2017 FISCAL REPORT

The 2016-17 BSC Foundation Annual Report is filled with stories and information on the good work our donors make possible. Find it online at bismarckstate.edu/alumnifoundation/reports.



**SUPPORT AND
REVENUE OVER
EXPENSES 2017**
\$3,139,976

TOTAL ASSETS*
JUNE 30, 2017
\$47,643,862
*INCLUDES LLCs

**ANNUAL GRANTS
2017**
\$647,930

Correction: In a story in the BSC Foundation Annual Report, Warren Henke's birthday was noted incorrectly. He was born Sept. 16, 1926.

Dave Lewellyn's piece, Turbulence, reflects the ever-moving waters of the Missouri River, and can be found in the Bavendick Stateroom in the National Energy Center of Excellence at BSC.


ART PROFESSOR RECEIVES 2017 JACK FELLOWSHIP

Dave Lewellyn, assistant professor of visual arts, received the 2017 Jack Fellowship from the BSC Foundation. Lewellyn has an associate degree from BSC, and a Bachelor of Arts from NDSU. He studied abroad in Italy with Montserrat College of Art, and is currently completing a Master of Art degree from the University of Montana, Missoula.



DAVE LEWELLYN

Lewellyn has exhibited his work in galleries all over North Dakota. He was chosen to be a part of the Western Design Conference 2008-2010 in Jackson Hole, Wyo., as a Juried Artist Exhibitor and was featured in the "Western Design Conference" publication. Lewellyn frequently works with natural elements that reflect his surroundings. This can be seen in the two wall sculptures he was chosen to create and install in the Bavendick Stateroom in the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College in 2017.

The \$25,000 Jack Fellowship helps BSC employees further their education, conduct research or pursue other professional development. 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. 



Keep in touch!

The BSC National Alumni Association would like your help with keeping you connected to your alma mater! If you have moved or know of someone no longer getting their BSC Magazine, keep in touch by submitting an address change and a current email address at bismarckstate.edu/keepintouch

Contact the Alumni Association office for more information at bsc.alumni@bismarckstate.edu or call (701) 224-5692.






FRIENDS AND DONORS HIT THE ROAD AND THE LINKS

PRESIDENT'S RUN MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Motorcycle and car enthusiasts joined BSC President Larry C. Skogen and family, friends, colleagues and students of retired BSC professor of Mathematics Don Bigwood for a run to Minot this past July. Participants enjoyed lunch at the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot followed by a tour of the Dakota Territory Air Museum and a special exhibit of the Texas Flying Legends Warbirds (WWII aircraft) before returning to Bismarck.

Inducted into BSC's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010 and bestowed BSC Professor Emeritus status in 2011, Bigwood taught at BSC for 45 years. In recognition of his dedication to education, the Don Bigwood Scholarship Fund was established to support students pursuing math and engineering. 

Event Sponsors


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Puklich Chevrolet
Larry Rolfson*

SAVE THE DATE

2018 President's Run
July 13, 2018

PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF CLASSIC

The annual BSC President's Cup Golf Classic brought 31 teams to Prairie West Golf Course in Mandan in June, and raised almost \$14,000 for scholarships for student athletes.

Following the tournament, Mike Montgomery was inducted into the BSC Athletic Hall of Fame. Montgomery played basketball for the Mystics during the 1969-70 and 1970-71 seasons. His efforts led the Mystics to the Mon-Dak Conference Championship, the North Dakota State Junior College Championship and the NDJCAA Region XIII Championship. He was a two-time All Mon-Dak Conference selection and earned NJCAA All Region XIII honors in 1971. 

Awards were given to the top teams in the tournament. Overall gross winner was the team from First Western Bank & Trust and Overall Net winner was the team from Wells Fargo.

Event Sponsors

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SAVE THE DATE

2018 President's Cup Golf Classic
June 15, 2018



IN MEMORIAM/HONORARIUM

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF GIVEN BY

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Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers
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Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers
Association

Donna Smith
Yvonne Peters

Pius Volk
Yvonne Peters

BSC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE CLUB & PRESIDENT'S CLUB

The Foundation welcomes new and renewing Executive and President's Club members for May 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

EXECUTIVE CLUB

Annual gifts of \$250-\$499 to
the BSC Foundation

Big Muddy Crossfit, LLC
Current Events Club
Theresia Hersch
Doug Klein
Everett and Bev Miller
The North American Coal Corporation
Bill and Joanne Redmond

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Annual gifts of \$500 or more to the
BSC Foundation

American Family –Terry Kraft
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Basin Electric Power – Stanton Station
Frank and Joanne Bavendick
Jay Beyer
Greg and Bobbie Bigwood

Bismarck Title Company
Bismarck-Mandan Home
Builders Association
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Capital Electric Cooperative Inc.
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Jim Christianson
CHS Foundation
City Air Mechanical Inc.
CoBANK, ACB
Patrick and Mary Dirk
Diane Eichhorst
Dr. Alison Fallgatter
Dr. Marcus and Margaret Fiechtner
Great River Energy
Rosemary Gunsch
Capt. Lee and Sharon Gurke
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Hess Bakken Investments II, LLC

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MDU Resources Foundation
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Nodak Electric Cooperative
ONEOK, Inc.
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Roughrider Electric Cooperative
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Paul and Patty Sandness
Jane and Gary Schulz
Dr. Larry C. Skogen
Cedric and Mary Theel
True Oil
Stacy Tschider
Wells Fargo Bank
Xcel Energy Foundation

MYSTICS TEAM ENDS AS REGIONAL CHAMPS

BY HEAD COACH JENNIFER WALSH

The 2017 Mystic volleyball season left its mark. The Mystics earned the Mon-Dak Conference championship title with a 9-1 record, won the west sub-regional title and won the Region XIII Championship over N.D. State School of Science. It was BSC's first regional championship title since 2013.

The Mystics hosted the District G Championship Playoff series versus Central College Nebraska – a strong program that's made the NJCAA DII National Tournament the last seven years. While the Mystics were defeated, all sets were tight, and the level of volleyball was very high.

The backbones of this year's team were sophomore co-captains Sierra Graff and Hannah Hanson. Jaycee Walter, Allie Mischel and Alyssa Beck also provided leadership on the court, in the weight room and in the classroom. The freshmen players all added to the program whether stepping into a



starting role or training and learning from others.

The Mystics return 10 players next year. Liza Doppler had a breakout freshmen campaign, and was named Conference and Region MVP. Sam Anklam, All-Conference and All-Region, anchored the backrow as the team's libero. Sidney Mann, a defensive specialist, played extensively and was a primary serve receiver. The pinpoint accuracy of setter Jessie Oja will be relied upon next season along side Caitlyn Inman who plays opposite

hitter and finished in the top 30 in the nation in hitting percentage. Kristina Lucier sat out the 2016 season with an injury, but came back as a blocking force at the net at the end of the season. Alicia Larsgaard, top middle reserve, along with top freshmen reserves Paige Schweitzer, outside hitter, and Leah Woods, opposite hitter, will also play key roles in 2018. Outside hitter Amy Jacobson sat out with an injury, but should be cleared to participate in spring season.

MYSTICS ADD MR. BASKETBALL FINALISTS

By Head Coach Buster Gilliss

The Mystics return three starters from last year, along with one part-time starter. All-Conference and All-Region selection Brody Nieuwsma of Strasburg, was the leading scorer for the Mystics last season. The Mystics picked up some well-known local talent to bolster their roster. N.D. Mr. Basketball finalists Tronis McKay, Four Winds, and KyJuan Johnson of Minot High School head that list. Other new-comers include All-State selections Drew Pearson, Des Lacs-Burlington; Austin Slaughter, Grand Forks; Dante Fischer, Mobridge, S.D.; and Conner Piatz of Bismarck High. The freshmen players will need to quickly adjust to the college game, and the team will need to improve on rebounding to implement their up-tempo style of play.

Rounding out the team are sophomores Grant Kohlus, Eagle Butte, S.D.; Michael Olson and Jared Walter, Bismarck; Jesse Roberts, Minot; and Kaelen Johnson, Peoria, Ill.

MYSTIC WOMEN CONFIDENT IN EXPERIENCE

by Head Coach Marv Pedersen

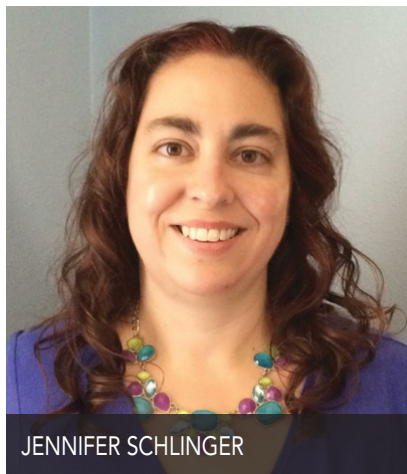
The Mystics women's basketball team is bringing experience back to the court with seven returning players. Two 2016-17 Mon-Dak All Conference players, Hannah Hanson, Mandan, and Nicole Bunting, Redwood Falls, Minn., are returning starters from last season. Hanson averaged 11.5 points per game and 6.8 rebounds. Bunting averaged 12.5 points and 3.3 rebounds.

Other returning sophomores are Bailie Beer, Lemmon, S.D.; Syann Golus, Belcourt; Mara Roteliuk, Sawyer; Taylor Schmeichel, Jamestown; and Jaycee Walter, Bismarck. The coaches are pleased with the energy and effort these sophomores bring to practice.

Freshman athletes Bailey Wilhelm, Bismarck; McKenna Weisenburger, Wilton; Brianna Honrud, Powers Lake; Ellie Gehring, Garrison; Faith Dionne, Belcourt; and Kyra Braaten, Kindred, are working hard and learning quickly.

BSC ALUMNI BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

The BSC National Alumni Association Board of Directors elected Jennifer Schlinger, '97, president and Gavin McCollam '85, vice president at its annual meeting in August.



JENNIFER SCHLINGER

Schlinger is a program administrator for Home and Community Based Services within the Aging Services area of the N.D. Department of Human Services.

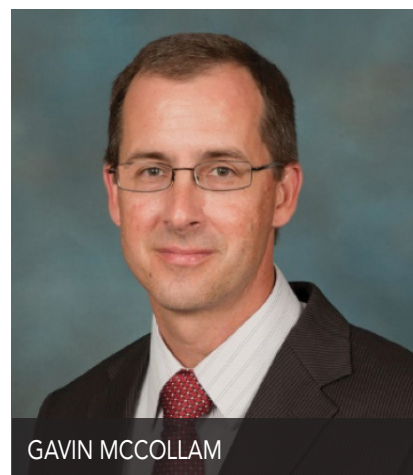
McCollam is an Engineering Services Director at Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Past president Kyren Miller, '98, will serve as board chair. Miller is department chair, BSC National Energy Center of Excellence.

Returning board members are Woody Barth, '81; John Brammell, '65; Emily Dalzell, '08 and '09; Rosella Grant, '71; Jean Monroe, '67; Anne Polasky, '94; Courtney Reiswig, '13 and Shelly Wanek, '05.

Learn more about the BSC National Alumni Association at bismarckstate.edu/alumni. 



KYREN MILLER



GAVIN MCCOLLAM

NOMINATIONS OPEN! ALUMNI AWARDS

DEADLINE
DECEMBER 4
2017

MAKE YOUR 2018 ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS TODAY

The BSC National Alumni Association asks for your help in nominating outstanding alumni for the 2018 BSC Legacy Family, Alumni of the Year and the Rising Star awards. Alumni of the Year and Rising Star nominees must be a BJC/BSC graduate. These awards honor alumni for distinguished service, career success and leadership. BSC Legacy Family nominees reflect an alumni family who has shown commitment and dedication to BJC/BSC over the years.

Nomination forms are available online at bismarckstate.edu/alumni or by contacting bsc.alumni@bismarckstate.edu or (701) 224-5692. Anyone is welcome to make a nomination.

Award recipients will be honored May 10, 2018 on campus.



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