



Connections

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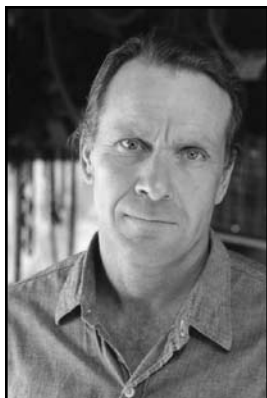
A newsletter for Bismarck State College alumni, contributors and friends.



Songwriter Chuck Suchy honored

Chuck Suchy is a farmer, a man tempered by seasons, weather and machinery, who could never suppress his gift of music. He has come a long way from the coffeehouse and town hall circuit, performing on stages at the Smithsonian Institution, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Winnipeg Folk Festival, Ordway Music Theater in St. Paul, and the airwaves of National Public Radio. Songs from his six albums spin on play lists in Germany, Belgium, and Italy, while venues in Chicago, Kansas City, and Tulsa beckon between mending fence and feeding cattle.

As the state's designated Centennial Troubadour, Suchy's work is the universal song of



Chuck Suchy, '68, a singer-songwriter whose extensive musical accomplishments, national recognition, and deep commitment and service to the state have enriched and preserved North Dakota's rural legacy, is BSC's Alumnus of the Year for 2007. The college will recognize him at a dinner May 10 in the Student Union Missouri Room and during commencement May 11. BSC's National Alumni Association board selects the annual recipient.

the soul soaring over North Dakota prairie fields and beyond, shaping a vision of what it means to live on the land. With nurturing diligence, his summer hands seed timeless stories of farm, family, and the simple joys and trials of life. As a critic from the Boston Globe said: "Suchy's songs make you hope

it's really like this, somewhere out there . . . where the only skyscrapers are silos."

His inspiration hovers among the blue hills south of Mandan, where melody and lyric often emerge from a dream at dawn or astride a tractor seat, plowing furrows of rhyme and metaphor in the quiet solitude. This voluntary isolation is key to his creative process, he says, when composing an anthem such as "West Dakota Breezes," the whimsical "Simply Fly," tuneful "Molly's Field," and more than 50 others.

As rancher and artist, he remains an astute observer of the changing landscape of

rural economics and the feelings about such upheaval. Because he believes in community, Suchy helps where he can as concerned neighbor, friend, advocate, and balladeer.

In heartfelt song, he writes about farm foreclosures, anger and rage, the death of a young girl in a snowstorm, mechanical breakdowns, debilitating stress, and the hold-me comfort of a loved one. In life, he attends the state Legislature, does benefit concerts to preserve prairie churches, bolsters youth with his time and good nature, and gives quiet support to countless people in need of someone who cares.

"His very life is his service," says his wife, Linda Syvrud Suchy, a bell-tone vocalist and musician herself. "He resists being compartmentalized and labeled, so people who need the service organization won't find it because he's a non-institutional guy. He's about preserving North Dakota and its legacy and beauty. All the answers to the questions are there in the songs."

Chuck's childhood home was filled with music, his mother on piano, and his father played accordion and violin by ear. Suchy started accordion in second grade, practicing for hours in his room after lessons with Wally Maki, a club entertainer and one of his first mentors. By high school he was playing baritone horn and guitar and trying to wrestle.

As the only boy and youngest after three sisters, he says his launch always hinged on being the obligated caretaker of the family farm or going to college, like everyone was doing in the mid-1960s.

"It was a fumbling-bumbling time and I didn't know what to do," Suchy says. "I had no real trajectory. My message from my parents was it would be nice if I stayed."

After graduation, he called Ed Kringstad, BSC's longtime wrestling coach, whom he had met recruiting at Mandan High. Scholar-

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1-800-BSC-ALUM

BSC's World Wide Web
site address is
bismarckstate.edu

Dinner honors Suchy and Bischof

Make reservations by May 7 for the BSC Alumni Awards Dinner Thursday, May 10, in the Student Union. Social begins at 6 p.m., with the dinner and program following at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner honors Chuck Suchy, Alumnus of the Year for 2007, and Ken Bischof, Rising Star Alumni Award recipient.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Seating is limited to 200. Checks payable to the BSC

Alumni Association should be mailed to Jason Matthews, Alumni Coordinator, Bismarck State College, P.O. Box 5587, Bismarck, ND 58506-5587.

Those unable to attend who would like to send cards or letters of congratulations for the honorees can mail them to the same address. For information, call Matthews at 701-224-5692.

Suchy involved in music, gained confidence in wrestling

Continued from page 1

ships were gone, Kringstad said, but he might be able to help with books.

"That was the lead rein that caused me to make a decision," says Suchy, a second string wrestler at BSC who started his sophomore year, was named co-captain, conference champ in his weight class, and went to nationals. "I credit Ed Kringstad a great deal. Under him is where I gained confidence, not only in wrestling but to be on stage in front of a group."

"I've always been impressed with his ability to perform at all levels," Kringstad says. "He adjusted well and was a hard worker. To me there is no difference between music and athletics. Both have incredible kinetics. It wasn't unusual to go down the road in a bus with Chuck playing guitar and singing with the team."

Suchy found BSC's accessibility impressive. For him, it was important to be at a community college and receive help from that community. Undecided about programs, Suchy chose Ag engineer at registration and met engineering instructor and farmer, Mike Wickstrom, who mentored him on to NDSU for his BS degree in mechanized agriculture.

Suchy blossomed at BSC, involving himself in band, chorus and drama. With a lead role as Sky Masterson in "Guys and Dolls," he played opposite fellow wrestler Gordon Weiss, now an actor in New York. Though Suchy had spring farm work and calving, director Jane Gray Stewart convinced him to audition saying, oh, it's just a half hour a day. "Later, at 1:30 in the morning . . .," Suchy says with a wry smile.

He enjoyed her and music instructors Francis Elliott and Gilbert Gervais, who made themselves available outside class. They also provided rehearsal space for Green Briar

Singers, a local combo comprised of Suchy, guitarist-artist Dale Twingley, and future Nashville composer-arranger Greg Nelson.

After college, Suchy returned to the farm, planting and grazing its thousand acres and booking a growing number of area gigs. His future crystallized in 1982, when he realized his life on the farm was worthy of song after listening to a tape by Canadian singer Stan Rogers. Suchy began to compose, slipping in tunes at performances, until his "discovery" in 1985 by a former Winnipeg Folk Festival director, who heard him sing in Mandan. He so impressed Winnipeg audiences that Flying Fish Records offered him a recording contract on the spot.

Suchy now sells off his own label, Little Blue Stem Records, often producing with Peter Ostroushko, musician and longtime collaborator. He sings at large national festivals and conventions, but remains the modest man he's always been, a product of accidental mentorship, playing small towns and schools, and "trying to get started in music," he says.

Despite his success, Suchy feels his greatest achievement is having stayed on and paid for the farm. "It's also my greatest source of frustration," he says. "I'm searching like the rest of us, but I just keep trying. And I'm a lucky guy. That's who I am."

His legacy includes some good songs, he says, and pride in family. He and Linda also have inspired two of their three children to pursue their own music careers. And on any day in any place across America, community is shared and immortalized by listening to Chuck Suchy.

Bischof named 2007 Rising Star

Bismarck businessman Ken Bischof, '92, will receive the 2007 Rising Star Alumni Award at the Alumni Awards Dinner.

The award honors young alumni who have demonstrated exceptional achievements. Bischof is president and CEO of United Printing Inc. in Bismarck. The BSC National Alumni Association selected Bischof to receive the honor in recognition of his success in business and his contributions to the community.

"My opportunity to work with good people and good organizations over the years has made me so much better in what I do," Bischof says.

"Getting jobs in industry helped me develop and BSC was key in that respect. Our instructors at the time gave me some good leads and I got jobs in industry during my freshman year."

During his sophomore year at BSC, he took a position with United Printing where he met company president Joe Hauer. Bischof credits Hauer as one of the most influential individuals in his life.

Bischof received an associate in applied

science degree in commercial art. In 1995, he co-founded, along with Darvin Fettig, Spit'n Image. Spit'n Image merged with United Printing in 2003. When Hauer became chairman of United Printing in 2004, Bischof was elected president and CEO.

Active in Bismarck-Mandan, Bischof is a trustee for the BSC Foundation, a past director of the BSC National Alumni Association, and serves on the Dickinson State University Foundation board of directors.

He serves on the THEO Arts board of directors, Northern Lights Boy Scout Council executive board, United Tribes Technical College Commercial Arts Advisory Board, and on marketing committees of the ND Chamber of Commerce and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Bischof and his wife, Laurae, live in Bismarck with their two children, Lauren and Laken.



Ken Bischof

Donors are generous to Foundation

The Foundation welcomes new and renews President's Club members for January 1 through March 31, 2007.

Alliance Pipeline
Associated Builders
Barr Engineering Co.
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Frank and Joanne Bavendick
Bismarck-Mandan Development Association
BNC National Bank
BNI Coal, Ltd.
Constance A. Boler
Butler Machinery Company
Capital City Lions
Coventry Health Care
Dakota Community Bank
Dr. Douglas Eggert & Michelle Lindblom
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Expressway Inn
Gate City Bank
Dr. David Gayton
John W. Giese
Golder Associates, Inc.
Ray Grabar
Industrial Contractors, Inc.
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ND Council on the Arts
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PepsiAmericas
Prairie Knights Casino & Lodge
Qwest Corporation
Roughrider Impala Association
Safway Services, Inc.
Schmidt Insurance/SIA Marketing
St. Alexius Medical Center
Starion Financial
US Bank
Cyndy Welken-Place/AFLAC
Westmoreland Coal Company
Paul and Lorna Wohnoutka
Zuger Kirmis & Smith



Ellefson receives Jack Fellowship

Joe Ellefson, associate professor of criminal justice, has received the 2007 Jack Fellowship, a \$25,000 professional development grant from the BSC Foundation.

Ellefson is pursuing a doctorate in teaching and learning with emphasis in higher education at the University of North Dakota.

The doctorate is a lifetime goal of Ellefson, who says the degree will not only enhance his professional credentials but BSC and the criminal justice program.

“We’re always stressing to students – ‘you can do it,’” says Ellefson, the first of his family to obtain an advanced degree. “What I’m doing is not dependent on age, and what better way to demonstrate that but to do it. You’re never too old to learn.”

Ellefson was a licensed police officer for 30 years, starting in 1975 at Grafton, his hometown. He then worked for Morton and Burleigh counties and was a surveillance officer and pre-sentence investigation officer for the state Department of Corrections. He joined the BSC faculty in 1995.

Ellefson has achieved his education in spurts, waiting 13 years between his law enforcement training to start at BSC and 13 years to begin his Ph.D. He is a 1991 graduate of BSC and has a BS in criminal justice from Minot State University. In 1993, he obtained a master’s degree in management from University of Mary.

The Jack Fellowship was established to make a major impact on one person’s life by removing a financial obstacle to advanced

Hartley brings experience to Foundation staff

Susan Hartley recently joined the BSC Foundation staff as administrative assistant. She brings a variety of work experiences to the position, including employment with law firms in Minneapolis and Willmar, Minn., and in the benefits department at the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod headquarters in St. Louis.

She was an historical interpreter at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn the past three years.

Hartley has an AA degree in legal secretary from Valley City State University. A native of Edgeley, Susan and her husband, Dean, and son, Ross, live in Underwood.



Joe Ellefson



Susan Hartley

education. The intent is for the educational experience to ultimately benefit BSC and its students. Endowed by Tom and Peg Jack, funds are used for sabbatical leaves that partially underwrite the salary and/or expenses of a full-time employee.

In memoriam

Contributions were made to the Foundation in memory of: **Given by:**

- Curt AndersonDr. Kermit and Patty Lidstrom
- Verna Borud BSC Employees
- Lu Ella Erickson BSC Employees
- Leon Hagerott..... BSC Employees
- Esther Hornbacher Dr. Lloyd and Susan Anderson
BSC Employees
- Jim HurkesDr. Kermit and Patty Lidstrom
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Keith and Rita Nodland
- Martha Okerson Dr. Lloyd and Susan Anderson
BSC Employees
- Mavis PatchenDr. Kermit and Patty Lidstrom
- Josephine Templeton..... BSC Employees

In honor of

A gift was given by Constance A. Boler in honor of Ralph Werner.

Nuclear program approved for exchange network

BSC now has all five of its nationally recognized energy programs available to community college students through the League for Innovation in the Community College, an international consortium serving two-year colleges.

The Nuclear Power Technology program was approved in February to be included in Project SAIL (Specialty Asynchronous Industry Learning), an exchange network of colleges and businesses working to promote industry-driven programs and fill workforce needs.

Employees give \$52,748 to college

The following employees of Bismarck State College generously donated a total of \$52,748 to the BSC Foundation during the 2006 calendar year.

Christopher Abbott	Lorraine Hatzenbeler
Betty Aberle	Lori Heinsohn
Gregory Achtenberg	Amy Helgeson
Chere Allard	Tammy Heupel
Zachery Allen	Debra Hieb
Dr. Lloyd Anderson	Jean Hinton
Marlene Anderson	Carla Braun Hixson
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Gregory Bach	Michael Holman
Shirley Bachmeier	Kevin Holmstrom
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Joseph Bawolek	Melody Hopfauf
Alicia Berger	Dr. Perry Hornbacher
Dee Bertsch	Lisa Hoynes
Lonnie Bertsch	Michael Hubbell
Carla Bickert	Lane Huber
Don Bigwood	Brian Hushagen
Gordon Binek	Jean Hushagen
Dr. Wayne Boekes	Jeffrey Jacobs
Stephanie Borud	Michael Jordan
Elaine Bowman	Dr. Ron Jyring
Wes Braun	Laura Kalvoda
Jaclyn Bugbee	Jim Kautzman
Dr. Drake Carter	Clancy Keller
Carol Cashman	Paula Kemnitz
Ryan Caya	Michael Kern
Travis Chrest	Nick Kjos
Dave Clark	Jack Kline
James Conley	Greta Knoll
Jordis Conrad	Albert Koch
Bill Cossette	Pam Kostelecky
Jan Dralle	Timothy Kramer
James Eggert	Michael Kubisiak
Mary Eisenbraun	Robert Kuntz
Joe Ellefson	Ken LaMont
Donna Ellison	Dan Landeis
Bruce Emmil	Keith Landeis
Julie Erickson	Kristin Larson
Theresa Felderman	Barbara Burgum Lee
Vi Fish	Daniel Leingang
Dr. Donna Fishbeck	Michael Lenhardt
Carol Flaa	Tom Leno
Linda Fossum	Michelle Lindblom
Donna Fricke	Rita Lindgren
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Kathleen Gappert	Dr. Janelle Masters
Buster Gilliss	Yvette Matthews
Kim Goodhart	Michael McCormack
Pat Gross	Jay Meier
Dean Gunsch	Lonna Meier
Dawn Halle	Melba Millard-Moore

Carmel Miller	Len Stanley
Francis Miller	Karla Mongeon Stewart
Marvin Mutzenberger	Cheryl Templeton
Katherine Netzer	Dr. Donna Thigpen
Martin Nielsen	Sean Thorenson
Rita Nodland	Linda Tonolli
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Lynette Borjeson-Painter	Ivan Tschider
Wendy Pank	Carolyn Twingley
Byron Paul	Debbie Van Berkomp
Kenneth Paulus	Jocelyn VanLishout
June Perrizo	Sara Vollmer
JoDean Knutson-Person	Joseph Vuolo
Yvonne Peters	Connie Wagner
Kristie Petersen	William Wahlman
Dr. Thomas Porter	William Walz
Todd Reidman	Michael Wardzinski
Jean Reisenauer	Lyle Warner
Daniel Rogers	Mike Wavrin
Art Rude	Elmer Weigel
Daniel Schmidt	Bonnie Weisz
Julie Schroer	Eva Wentz
Dr. Jane Schulz	Rhonda Weyer
Marlene Swenson Seaworth	Anita Wilson
Karen Selensky	Julie Wilson
David Sitte	Shirley Wilson
Carla Sivesind	Marge Windhorst
Jeffrey Skibicki	James Wright
Eunice Smith	Vickie Wyant



Business students qualify for national competition

Seven members of BSC's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (Future Business Leaders of America) won first place awards at the State Leadership Conference, hosted for the first time by the BSC chapter in March.

More than 80 students from colleges in North Dakota and western Minnesota competed in academic competitions in several categories. BSC's chapter finished third in overall points.

The seven first-place winners and two second-place winners are qualified to compete at the Phi Beta Lambda National Competition to be held in Chicago in June. Advisors are BSC faculty members Lynette Borjeson-Painter and Amy Helgeson. Borjeson-Painter was named Adviser of the Year.



Class Connections

Alumni Association



Cathy Langemo

1960s

Dr. Gary E. Johnson, '63, Grand Forks, was named interim vice president for research at the University of North Dakota in February. He has served as assistant vice president for research and co-project director of N.D. EPSCoR since 2005. Johnson was BSC's Alumnus of the Year for 2005.

1980s

Cathy Langemo, '81, Bismarck, is co-author (with JoAnn Winistorfer) of an updated and revised version of "Tracing Your Dakota Roots." This new version, published in October, adds DNA (genetic genealogy) to its categories, and expands its list of Web sites and resources. It also has a Dakota timeline and settlement history and tips on producing a family history book.

1990s

Larry Oswald, '90, and **Mary Klecker-Green**, '95, both of Bismarck, recently graduated from Leadership Bismarck-Mandan. Sponsored by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, the seven-month program prepares members of the community by strengthening their skills and broadening their awareness to become effective and progressive community leaders. Oswald is an energy consultant with Montana-Dakota Utilities. Klecker-Green serves as communications coordinator for Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Shane Swenson, '95, Devils Lake, recently joined Farmers Union Insurance as an auto appraiser. He was owner of Northern Auto Body in Devils Lake for 10 years.

Mick Miller, '99, is president and general manager of Red Trail Energy, one of the nation's newest coal-fired ethanol plants, located at Richardton. In an article about the plant in the March 2007 Ethanol Producer Magazine, Miller says that 25 of the plant's 30 workers received training through BSC's Process Plant Technology program.

Justin Sackman, '99, Bismarck, received the Bronze Award from his employer, Bianco

Realty, the last two years. He has been employed with Bianco for three years.

2000s

Steve Myers, '04, Underwood, is working as an operator at the Blue Flint Ethanol plant near Underwood. He was featured in a Bismarck Tribune article that focused on North Dakotans who returned home to begin employment at the new plant after working in other states. The article was published January 28.

Shane Heinle, '04, Thief River Falls, Minn., is employed as a PDC electronic technician with Digi-Key Corp., an industry leader in distribution of electronic components.

Emily Edlund, '04, Gilbert, Ariz., works in the accounts payable department of the Phoenix Suns basketball team. She has been employed there since May 2006.

CLASS Connections

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Let us know what's new in your life by submitting updated information to:
BSC Alumni Association
P.O. Box 5587
Bismarck, ND 58506-5587

Name: _____ Class: _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Check here if new address
 Check here if your name has changed
 Previous name _____
 BSC Degree & Major _____
 Employer name _____
 Your Position _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____
 Recent achievement _____

Alumni begin 'The 1939 Society'

The BSC Alumni Association has always relied on the college's rich history to build on tomorrow. But today, the Association has taken this motto to the next level, creating a new era for the association and a new opportunity for alumni to give back to their alma mater. This new opportunity is "The 1939 Society," named for the college's founding year and introduced in October as part of the association's strategic plan.

Alumni coordinator Jason Matthews says the society is unique. "To our knowledge, no other community college alumni association has a similar program," said Matthews.

Alumni who join the society within its first year are considered charter members. Current members are: Dalles Krause, '53; Harley Swenson, '56; Morris, '52, and Irene (Boehm), '57, Tschider; Harold Schulz, '56; Bert Gerhart, '60; Michael LaLonde, '62; Michael McCormack '62; Carolyn (Heskin) Twingley, '68; Linda (Hansen) Falkman, '68;

Patrick and Mary (Coad) Dirk, '69; Steve, '81, and Debra (Schmidt) '80, Chuppe; and Gregory Chuppe, '81.

Charter members will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Dinner on May 10. To become a charter member of the 1939 Society, contact Matthews at 701-224-5692.

"The Alumni Association is in a new growing phase and the 1939 Society is vital to that growth," says Matthews. "Besides providing financial support for our programs, it creates an important tie back to our college's history and establishes a new tradition."

Alumni desiring to join the society may make a one-time donation of \$1,939 or set up a payment plan equal to that amount to become lifetime members of the Alumni Association. All donations to the society are tax-deductible. A portion of each donation will be allocated for membership dues and the remaining funds will be placed in the Alumni Legacy Fund. Earnings from the fund will support and sustain association programs.



Annual Golf Classic set for June 22

Gather your golf buddies and sign up for the 2007 BSC President's Cup Golf Classic. The fund-raiser for athletic scholarships takes place June 22 at Prairie West, Pebble Creek and Tom O'Leary golf courses.

Honorary chairpersons are the family of Frank Gilchrist. One of the first athletes from North Dakota to compete at the Division I level, Gilchrist was an avid supporter of area athletes and was named BSC Mystic Booster in 1970. The Frank Gilchrist Memorial Scholarship was established with the BSC Foundation in 2002 to award area athletes who demonstrate a strong commitment to academic and athletic success.

After an action-packed day of golf, participants, sponsors and volunteers are invited to the 19th hole social and ceremony for inductions into the Mystics Hall of Fame. The inductions take place at 5:30 p.m. on the south lawn of the BSC Armory.

Inductees are the 1953-54 men's basketball team and Don Prouty, Class of '58.

The 1953-54 basketball team was the first to represent the college at a national tournament. Members of the team included Killian Kaiser, Ev Miller, John Campagna, Jerry Schafer, Warren Arman, Dick Addington, Gene Koon, Dean Koon, Perl Keys, Duane

Morris, Gene Cook, Burt Siems, Jim Anderson, Neal Buechler and Paul Simons. The Mystics were coached by Cliff Nygard and Dick Karlgaard.

Don Prouty, who played for the Mystics from 1956-58, was instrumental in leading the basketball team to the regional championship in 1957.

Tournament proceeds are used to award area student-athletes with scholarships. In 2006, over 30 students benefited.

Call the BSC Foundation at 224-5700 or go to bismarckstate.edu/golf to register your team.

Team earns academic kudos

The BSC Women's Volleyball Team was named one of the 2006-2007 Academic Teams-of-the-Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The team ranked 5th highest among 52 teams, earning a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.46. To earn NJCAA Academic Team status, the students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA as a team. Linette Olson is the volleyball coach.



Frank Gilchrist, who played basketball for Creighton University, was an avid supporter of area athletes.



Technology conference benefits from Qwest Foundation

The Qwest Foundation recently awarded \$10,000 to BSC's Teaching and Technology Conference to be held June 12-13 at BSC. The conference will provide North Dakota K-12 educators, technology coordinators and administrators with information and training on the latest in technology advances for teaching and learning.

"This grant provides a unique opportunity for Qwest to make a difference in the lives of North Dakota students and help inspired teachers do their important work," said Scott Macintosh, Qwest state president for North Dakota.

Karen Selensky, BSC



Scott Macintosh, Qwest state president for North Dakota, presents grant funds to Dr. Wayne Boekes, BSC provost, and Karen Selensky, BSC conference manager.

conference manager, said, "The conference planners are very thankful to Qwest. This grant will help us bring in experts on nanotechnology and weblogs."

Students can study abroad beginning fall semester

BSC students have an opportunity to study in Norway during the 2007 fall semester. Arranged in collaboration with the University of North Dakota, the new study abroad program is unique for a community college, said Dr. Amy Juhala, assistant professor of English, who proposed the idea.

Students will spend fall semester at American College of Norway in Moss, Norway, a cooperative partner with UND. The 100- and 200-level courses are taught in English by UND faculty.

BSC students can fulfill communications (English 110), arts and humanities (Norwegian 101), cultural diversity, and other general education requirements, while also learning Norwegian. The UND course credits easily transfer to BSC.

International study is open to students with at least 15 credit hours and a 2.5 GPA. The BSC Foundation has scholarships for qualified students.

PTK earns regional awards

BSC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, received several chapter and individual honors at a regional convention in February, including a Distinguished Chapter Award and a Distinguished Chapter President Award for Amanda Zins. Faculty adviser Dan Leingang earned his fifth Distinguished Adviser Award.



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