

*Spring/Summer 2006
Academic Update*

Curriculum Updates

At the end of fall semester, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved our AAS degree in Electrical Technology. We are happy to announce a master electrician and licensed electrical engineer, Trygve “Spike” Magelssen, will be the faculty member leading the implementation of this degree. Spike will be very busy during the coming year preparing lab facilities, marketing and recruiting students into the program, and developing electrical partnerships. As of August, the numbers seem to indicate that we have 12 new students enrolled in the program. The start up funding for this program was provided by the new two-year program monies authorized by the 2005 legislature.

During spring semester, the BOR approved the delivery of our Civil Engineering Technology (CET) program in Great Falls. Based on an extensive articulation agreement between the Great Falls College of Technology and Northern, students will be able to complete the entire CET program in Great Falls. The Great Falls College of Technology will offer all 100- and 200- level courses with the exception of the CET courses. Northern will offer the lower division CET courses and the upper division courses needed to complete the program.

During May, the faculty approved a certificate program in carpentry technology. Dan Boyer is leading the implementation of this program. The funding for this program is provided by the BILT grant (\$1.9 million). This state-wide grant and curriculum initiative is led by the MSU-Billings College of Technology. The University of Montana College of Technology-Missoula, Montana Tech of The University of Montana and Northern are partner schools.

The math faculty (Charles Pollington, Bill Swartz, and Bob Johnke) successfully led the development of two majors in math. One major is designed to meet the needs of future or current teachers; the other major is designed to provide an excellent math foundation for students enrolled in other majors such as civil engineering technology, biology or business. The Level II for the math majors will be heard by the BOR during the September meeting--keep your fingers crossed.

The social science faculty are assessing the current configuration of the Social Science – Broadfield 5-12 degree. We should see proposed changes to this degree during fall semester 2006.

Dr. Carol Reifschneider and the science faculty are leading the implementation of the certificate program in water quality. This program still needs to be approved by the BOR. This summer Carol began preparation for the implementation for the first online class for this degree by attending the class, “Seminar in Online Course Development.”

Elementary Education (and education in general)

As of July 1, the Office of Public Instruction implemented the PRAXIS II exam as a condition for licensure in elementary education. Although this mandate has never been fully embraced by the State, the testing component is part of NCLB (No Child Left Behind). The mandate does not affect the graduation requirements for our currently enrolled students; however, it may affect their ability to meet licensure requirements.

The exam is one part of the multiple assessment plan approved by the U.S. Department of Education for the State of Montana. The education field directors will meet during August to design a student teacher evaluation form that could be used by all institutions within the Montana University System. Currently, each institution uses a slightly different evaluation instrument.

We are very pleased to announce that a formal articulation agreement in elementary education between Medicine Hat College and Northern was signed this summer. Our first recruiting visit to Medicine Hat is scheduled for this fall.

During April, Interim Dean Rawn and Vice Chancellors Jensen and Jimeno met with some of the education students (several times) to listen to their ideas and concerns. As a result of these meetings, we have implemented the following:

- All College of Education and Arts and Sciences support personnel (including the Dean and the Director of Field Experiences) are located in CH 104. Our goal is to provide excellent student assistance from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- We have ordered a new podium for CH 107. The podium will store the numerous cords and computer equipment used in this room. We hoped to have the podium installed and fully functional before the start of school, but sometimes the best intentions....
- We will continue to move forward with a two-year schedule of classes. This summer, we developed a framework that will be discussed by the faculty this fall. The students (particularly those enrolled in our secondary education programs) were very concerned about changes in schedules and curriculum that (in their opinion) disadvantaged them as they were trying to complete their degree.

The Education faculty requested a review of our progress towards NCATE accreditation by external evaluators. During April, Drs. Rowland and White (The University of Montana and MSU-Billings respectively) visited our campus. Their findings are available at <http://www.msun.edu/admin/provost/Reports/2006NATEStatus.pdf>.

New Faculty and Staff

During spring and summer, we were able to fill several positions that directly or indirectly affect academic programs. It gives me great pleasure to announce the following:

Dr. Jim Longin is the new Dean of Education, Arts and Sciences and Nursing. Jim has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carroll College, a Master's degree in Education from the

University of Montana and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Wyoming. Dr. Longin brings to Northern many years experience as an administrator, particularly in the K-12 schools.

Dr. Jaakko Puisto is the new Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies. He holds degrees in General History from the University of Turku, Finland, and a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in History from Arizona State University. Dr. Puisto comes to Northern from California State University Stanislaus where he spent five years as a full-time Visiting Lecturer.

Dr. John O'Connor is the new Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education. Dr. O'Connor holds bachelor's and master's degrees in health and physical education, a Ph.D. in Kinesiology, and has experience in both K-12 and higher education. He has an excellent publication record, has presented at several conferences, and is currently pursuing a second doctorate--an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in statistics and research design.

Mr. Daniel Boyer has been hired as the Project Coordinator for the new Carpentry Technology program at Northern; he will also be teaching some courses in the program. Dan earned a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship-Sheet Metal Worker and Journeyman from the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota. He is currently enrolled in the Industrial Arts program at Northern.

Ms. Vonnie Pattison is joining the Northern faculty as a temporary, part-time Assistant Professor of Nursing. Vonnie earned an LPN degree from the University of North Dakota, an ASN from Regents College in New York, a BSN from Northern, and a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Pattison brings over 22 years of nursing care experience to the Northern nursing program.

Mr. Trygve "Spike" Meggelsen will be implementing the AAS degree in electrical technology. In addition to his licensures (previously mentioned), Spike has a master's degree in space technology; he will hold the title of Assistant Professor of Electrical Technology.

Mr. Robert Kittson begins this fall as a temporary Instructor of Industrial Technology at Northern. Kittson is a graduate of Northern's Industrial Technology program. Robert will be teaching some of Lloyd Stallkamp's courses while Lloyd is teaching Larry Strizich's courses. Larry will be spending many hours on Northwest.

Ms. Kathy Jaynes is our new Director of Human Resources. Kathy has a master's degree, and she has several years experience in the field of human resources. Her office is located in Cowan Hall 204 (the former office of the provost).

Ms. Jenni Huffman and Ms. Crystal Stepper will be serving as Program Assistants for the College of Education, Arts and Sciences and Nursing. Both of these women may be found in Cowan Hall 104.

Some Staff Changes

During spring and summer semesters, we had several staff changes that affect academic programs. They are as follows:

Vicki Gist – During Spring Semester, Vicki was named the Interim Director of the Library. Vicki was named to the position after Cynthia Harrison resigned and moved to Washington.

Lil Lipp – Lil left the mailroom and moved to the College of Technical Sciences. Lil has assumed the clerical responsibilities for Related Training.

Mark Allen – In addition to his responsibilities of Director of Education Field Experiences, Mark has assumed the responsibilities of education certification and assisting the Education faculty with assessment.

Kari Thurston – Kari resigned from her position at the Great Falls campus. Judy Oveson and Renae Munson will continue to provide support for this site.

Rob Harrison - Rob has accepted a job in Washington as an architect. Rob's duties have been assumed by Dan Ulmen and Chuck Jensen.

Carrie Molitor - Carrie is leaving Northern and taking a position here in Havre as a CPA. The position of controller is currently under review.

Northwest Accreditation

The process for completing the self-study for our Northwest Accreditation visit during October 2007 is in full swing. Northwest Accreditation is an institution-wide accreditation. As a result, the entire institution (not just one program) is covered by this process. Our mission and beliefs will be used to guide the assessment of the programs and services offered by Northern.

Our self-study is being led by Carol Reifschneider and Larry Strizich. However, the process of regional accreditation is an institutional process; therefore, we are asking everyone to become involved in this very important activity. When you are asked for information and/or input, please be willing to share your thoughts and ideas and/or complete an activity in a timely fashion. Through this accreditation process, the university seeks remedies for inadequacies along with identification and nurturing of good practices.

University Assessment Plan

This fall, we will be discussing the draft of the University Assessment Plan. We hope to have the plan finalized by spring 2007. Two survey instruments we will be implementing this fall are the Student Satisfaction survey and the Institutional Priorities survey. As we continue to implement a more data-rich environment, we will continue to tap the resources available through MSU-Bozeman.

Graduate Programs

The program in Counselor Education is continuing to see a slow, but steady increase in enrollment. The weekend format along with a three-year schedule of classes has assisted the recruiting efforts of Drs. Sellers and Foley.

We are happy to announce that interest is high enough to start a new cohort in Learning Development in Great Falls. This cohort will begin fall semester 2006. The final semester for the Browning cohort will also be fall semester 2006.

We are also experiencing a slow, but steady increase in the number of students taking advantage of our K-12 Principal Endorsement program. This program is designed for individuals who already have their master's degree and are interested in becoming a K-12 school principal. Mark Allen (who is a licensed K-12 administrator) is coordinating the program and supervising the interns. We continue to use licensed K-12 administrators to deliver this program. Our new Dean (Dr. Longin) will add expertise to this program since is also a licensed K-12 administrator.

Northern's Online University

We continue to make progress on implementation of Northern's Online University. Under the direction of Jan Brady and Randy Bachmeier, we have been able to provide faculty training sessions, implement online student services, and implement continued assessment of our progress.

Currently, the following courses have been developed for online delivery using WebCT:

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Developer</i>	<i>Delivered</i>
BUS 120	Leadership	Terry Munson	Spring 2006
BUS 341	Advanced Marketing Application	Terry Munson	Spring 2006
NURS 212	Transition to Assoc. Degree Nurs	Mary Pappas	Spring 2006
NURS 254	Principles of Nursing Practice	Judy Hembd	Spring 2006
NURS 331	Nursing in Diverse Cultures	Mary Pappas	Spring 2006
NURS 347	Health Education	Rose Hoogendam	Spring 2006
NURS 440	Leadership & Management	Rose Hoogendam	Spring 2006
NURS 441	Leadership & Mgmt Practicum	Lisa O'Neil	Spring 2006
PSYC 315	Psychology of Develop & adjust	Kim Schrenk	Spring 2006
BUS 300	Management in Organizations	Kevin Carlson	Summer 2006
BUS 335	Principles of Marketing	Kevin Carlson	Summer 2006
BUS 405	Ethics in Mgmt & Technology	Kevin Carlson	Summer 2006
CIS 110	Introduction to Computers	Roger Stone	Summer 2006
CIS 285	Spreadsheets	Roger Stone	Summer 2006
CIS 390/590	Microsoft Word	Jay Howland	Summer 2006
CIS 390/590	Microsoft PowerPoint	Jay Howland	Summer 2006
CIS 390/590	Javascript for Web Pages	Jay Howland	Summer 2006
EDUC 100	Foundations of Education	Curtis Smeby	Summer 2006
ENGL 309	Popular Genres	Steve Lockwood	Summer 2006
MATH 112	College Algebra	Charles Pollington	Summer 2006
MATH 116	Applied Statistics	Charles Pollington	Summer 2006

MATH 120	Math for Elementary Teachers I	Bob Johnke	Summer 2006
NURS 101	Nursing Syntax & Calculation	Judy Hembd	Summer 2006
NURS 218	Pharmacology for Nurses	Judy Hembd	Summer 2006
NURS 321	Theoretical Fdns. of Nursing	Rose Hoogendam	Summer 2006
NURS 322	Health Assessment	Maggie Hennessy	Summer 2006
NURS 322	Health Assessment	Theresa Petersen	Summer 2006
NURS 347	Health Education	Rose Hoogendam	Summer 2006
NURS 444	Nursing Research	Theresa Petersen	Summer 2006
NURS 446	Community Health Nursing	Lisa O'Neil	Summer 2006
NURS 447	Community Health Practicum	Lisa O'Neil	Summer 2006
SBM 338	Promotion	Terry Munson	Summer 2006
SBM 402	Small Business Management	Kevin Carlson	Summer 2006
SPCH 142	Interpersonal Communication	Mark Seiffert	Summer 2006
BUS 410	International Business	Terry Munson	Fall 2006
CIS 111	Integrated Business Apps.	Mary Verploegen	Fall 2006
ENGL 112	Written Communication II	Steve Hesske	Fall 2006
ENGL 221	English Literature I	Steve Lockwood	Fall 2006
ENGL 385	Shakespeare	Steve Lockwood	Fall 2006
MATH 116	Applied Statistics	Charles Pollington	Fall 2006
MATH 125	Trigonometry	Charles Pollington	Fall 2006
NURS 101	Nursing Syntax & Calculation		Fall 2006
NURS 305	Nursing Ethics	Lisa O'Neil	Fall 2006
NURS 321	Theoretical Fdns. Nursing	Rose Hoogendam	Fall 2006
NURS 322	Health Assessment	Judy Hembd	Fall 2006
NURS 344	Nrsng Care/Clnts Cmplx Needs	Theresa Petersen	Fall 2006
NURS 349	Clinical Preceptorship	Suzanne Lockwood	Fall 2006
NURS 355	Intro to Health Care System	Mary Pappas	Fall 2006
PSYC 461	Abnormal Psychology	Kim Schrenk	Fall 2006
BIOL 151	Essentials of Biology	Vaughn Rundquist	
CNSL 671	Career Information Systems	Darlene Sellers	
MUS 101	Introduction to Music History	Jan Wiberg	
TSCI 110	Intro to Water & Wastewater	Carol Reifschneider	

This fall, we will again be offering the course, EDUC 590, Seminar in Online Course Development (2 credits). If you have not taken this class, you are encouraged to do so. Please Contact Randy Bachmeier at 4152 or Jan Brady at 3730.

Our priority continues to be the full development and implementation of the BSN online program. As a result, all upper division nursing courses have now been converted to the WebCT platform. As noted in the above table, we are still missing courses in some of our general education categories (especially science, history, and diversity). If you teach a course in one of these categories, you are invited to become trained and to develop a class in our Online University.

One question we frequently get is, “What is the difference between an online course and a hybrid online course?” Online courses have no face-to-face contact with the instructor and leverages the advantage of asynchronous learning (any time, any place), while still maintaining quality faculty-student interaction. Once faculty becomes trained on how to use the WebCT platform, they often decide to use the hybrid online model to enhance their instruction, especially in the area of course management. However, all courses developed to support the BSN degree must be online *not* hybrid online courses.

As many of you know, WebCT has now merged with Blackboard. When we receive updates from the Burns Telecommunications Center, we will keep you informed.

ATC Open House

If you missed the ATC Open House, you missed a gala affair. The COT faculty, staff, and students demonstrated a variety of new techniques including (but not limited to) engine performance testing using computerized dynamometers, electronic system diagnostics using Smart-Car technology, fluid power training modules, particulate analysis with a ICP plasma spectrometer, survey grade GPS with a total station, digital coordinate measuring systems, and advanced CNC machining applications. A special thank you goes to everyone who participated in this wonderful event.

SkillsUSA

Every year, we host over 400 students on our campus for the SkillsUSA Conference. Lynn Stilger continues to serve as Conference Chair, and he spends many hours getting everything organized for this important event. Numerous faculty and staff also spend many hours organizing and supervising the contests.

This year, three Northern students placed in the national competition. They were:

- Nick Johnson, gold medal winner (hence, national champion)
- Cody Blanchard, gold medal winner (yep, national champion) in Diesel
- Corey Hautzinger, placed 4th in job skills demonstration
- Megan Cail, placed 10th in technical drafting
- Andi Ross, placed 20th in Auto Body

This is the first time in several years Northern has won medals at the competition. As a result of our showing at the national conference, several of our programs will also receive thousands of dollars in donations from industry. Kevin Johnson and Krista Milligan attended the conference with our students.

Strategic Diversity Plan

A small working committee has been formed and Ellen Swaney from the Commissioner’s Office met with the committee during spring semester. I am pleased to announce that our new Director of Human Resources, Kathy Jaynes, will be co-chairing this committee. You should anticipate seeing a draft of the plan during academic year 2007.

Lewistown

During spring, the old BLM building in Lewistown was transferred to Northern. We are currently working with the architects to finalize plans for renovation. Our goal is to offer our academic programs in the renovated building by fall 2007.

University Courtyard

Progress on our new courtyard continues. If you have not reviewed the drawings of what the courtyard will look like when it is done, please take a look at the .pdf file. You can access the file from our home page under Events and News. You are also encouraged to approach construction projects the same way you approach getting through lines at the airport....put your patience in a bag and take it with you.