



The Dean's Perspective

It's difficult to believe that October is almost a thing of the past. Where did the summer go? Time passes so quickly that it's important to me to send a quick update to the campus every few months. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

There are exciting changes coming to MSU Online in the form of new tools for Blackboard users. In this newsletter you will read a little about two of them, Community Engagement and Content Management. Also this fall, faculty and students will receive notification that we will be taking down the Blackboard server from December 23rd to approximately January 6th. That means faculty using Blackboard for campus courses and faculty with fully online courses will not have access to their course shells during this time.

I'd like to welcome Tom Rakness to the CEL team. Tom joined us in September as the full-time certified proctor for the Academic Test Center. Tom is an MSU alum and spent many years overseas as an English language instructor.

Another new CEL staff addition is found on the Minot Air Force. Trish Randall has been hired to assist Brigitte as we work to improve our service to military personnel and dependents. Trish is also an alumni of MSU.

Back by popular demand is the CEL Fall Open House! The open house is our way of saying "thank you" for your support over the past year. Also, it's an opportunity to take a quick break on an autumn day. Put November 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on your calendars and stop by for refreshments and pleasant conversation!

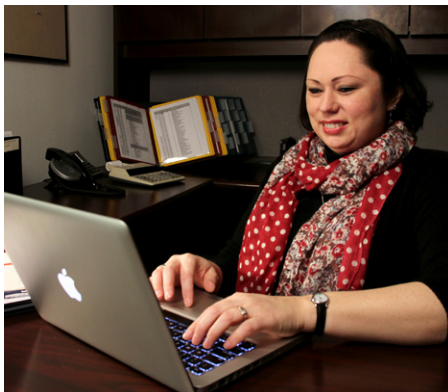
—Dr. Kristin Warmoth, Dean of Center for Extended Learning

*Fall
Open
House*

To thank you for your support, the Center for Extended Learning staff would like to invite you for refreshments.

Thursday, November 6th
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Jones Room, 3rd Floor,
Administration Bldg.

Center for Extended Learning Enrollments



*Numbers do not include non-degree credit (MATH 102).

	Fall 2013 Unduplicated Enrollments	Fall 2014 Unduplicated Enrollments	% Change in Unduplicated Enrollments
Independent Study	19	23	21.1%
Online Asynchronous	1171	1068	-8.8%
Online Synchronous	42	46	9.5%
Interactive Video (IVN)	54	41	-24.1%
Bismarck	116	76	-34.5%
Dual Credit (Face to Face Off Campus)	199	189	-5.0%
Fargo	63	66	4.8%
Minot AFB	236	259	9.7%
Total	1900	1768	-6.9%

Minot State University on Bismarck State College Campus

Greetings from MSU @ Bismarck State College! We are hosting 18 face-to-face courses for this fall semester and 21 courses are scheduled for the 2015 spring semester on the BSC campus.

Mike Wardzinski, Criminal Justice Advisor/Instructor is currently advising 23 students for the upcoming spring semester.

The Social Work program is advised by Susan Herzog and will have 12 students ready for Field Placement in spring 2015 located in and around the Bismarck area. The MSU @ BSC Admissions Committee will be interviewing 10 students in the spring; the students have submitted applications for the Social Work program.

Jeanne MacDonald, Advisor/Instructor for the Management and Marketing has provided a few quotes from MSU @ BSC students to remind us of why we do what we do for MSU:

“I love how you can take classes online or you can take them in the classroom. It is all about what you are comfortable doing.”

—Anonymous

“I really like this program because I am able to stay on track with my degree plan while maintaining my full time job. No other school was willing to help me as much as Minot did and I would like to thank the entire staff for that!”

—Daniel Mastel, Management major

“It is great to have a few teachers close by. The IVN classes help with interactions, and even if the teacher isn't on campus, you can still talk to them in a more face to face communication. Also, by having the option to receive an MSU degree through BSC is very convenient and adds diversification in the online classes.”

—Karly Kruckenberg, Management major

Dr. Paul Markel, a professor of psychology with Minot State University, now has an office located on the Bismarck campus in the Horizon Building. He is the new advisor for students pursuing the MSU bachelor's degree in addiction studies or psychology on the campus of Bismarck State College. This is Dr. Markel's nineteenth year with Minot State. Dr. Markel is contacting his 20+ advisees to set up an appointment with him to plan class schedules for the spring semester!

Dr. Kristen Warmoth, MSU Dean, Center for Extended Learning hosted the fall Student Feedback Session for the Bismarck MSU @ BSC Students. The meeting provides Bismarck students the opportunity to express their comments, questions or concerns they may have as a distance learner. The event was held at Bismarck State College on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014.

—Bobbi Jo Zueger, Bismarck Center Student Services Coordinator

Online Degree Programs

MSU Online is now on Facebook (Minot State University Online) and Twitter (@MiSU_Online)! Like and follow us to get news and updates!

Congratulations to the following online degree seeking students featured on the Spring 2014 semester College of Business Dean's List:

- Heidi A. Berndt, Management
- Mataya A Grigsby, Management
- Aaron Michael Krebsbach, Management Information Systems
- Christian B. Miller, Applied Management
- Stephen Paul Neubauer, International Business
- Jon W. Scott, Applied Business Information Technology

This honor is extended to those students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship with a semester GPA between 3.50 and 3.79. Great job!

—Trisha Nelson, Online Degree Advisor

CEL Credit Coordinator

The Academic Test Center is continuing to thrive and expand. Recently, we were able to create a new full time staff position to proctor tests and schedule appointments. Thomas Rakness was hired and has hit the ground running. He's had a big task in becoming certified to proctor exams with 15 different test companies. The test center has also established relationships with three additional test companies: Castle, DSST, and Pearson Vue. We are excited to continue to expand the testing we are able to offer to the public. The test center will be closed October 27th – 31st to allow for an expansion of the administration area in the test center. This will allow for a more efficient check in area while not diminishing the amount of testing stations we are able to offer. We are excited to unveil our reconfigured space at the Fall Open House on November 6th.

The Fall semester was another strong enrollment for dual credit students with 199 students enrolled and 265 course enrollments. In addition to offering courses at Bishop Ryan, Minot High School, Glenburn, Our Redeemers, and Des-Lacs Burlington, this year we were also able to offer classes at Surrey. I am happy to welcome Edwin Mwanza, Luann Stehr-Seastrand, Maria Carpenter, and Angela Schnaible as new dual credit instructors.

—Jennifer Beneke, Credit Coordinator

The Office of Instructional Technology

The Office of Instructional Technology would like to announce the rollout of two new **Blackboard** tools:



Blackboard

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Social Learning tools** enable users to discover, connect, and communicate with their learning network through social, informal means that complement the more formal education experiences. The tools include a rich Profile, a People tool to discover others at your institution and across Blackboard's global learning network, a Messages tool for quick communication, and Spaces for informal group collaboration.
- **Organizations** provide online collaboration space for campus groups, clubs, committees, faculty, students, and administration. These collaboration spaces will be familiar to users since they are modeled after the course environment used every day.
- **Portal functionality** leverages flexible modules and tabs to provide a one-stop shop for all academic and campus information.

CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- Content Collection with Blackboard Drive – a simple yet robust **file management system** for personal, course, and institutional document management, sharing, and re-use.
- Blackboard xpLor – a cloud-based, **global learning object repository** for authoring, copyright, sharing, and discovery of rich educational materials and open educational resources.
- **Personal ePortfolios** for showcasing achievements and experiences and sharing with others both within and outside the institution.
- **eReserves** for librarians to make digital versions of copyright-cleared reserve readings available directly in the course.

For more information, contact Mark Timbrook, MSU Office of Instructional Technology at 701-858-3832 or Sherie Saltveit at 701-858-3280.

—*Sherie Saltveit, Online Instructional Designer*

State Authorization Update in Alabama

In the last few months, Minot State University applied for and received a Private School Certificate of Exemption from the State of Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and a Non Resident Institution Certificate of Approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. This approval means that MSU can now offer online courses and programs to residents of Alabama.

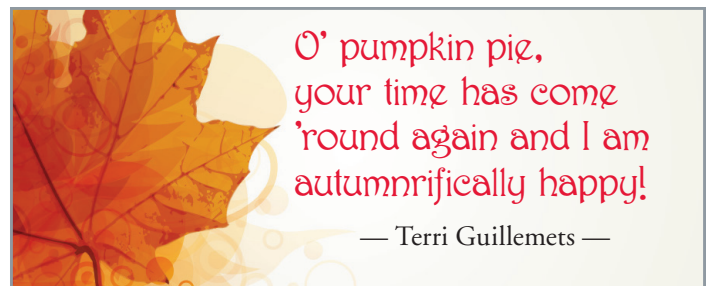
—*Jolina Miller, Online Coordinator*

Minot State University at MAFB

The CEL program on the Minot Air Force base continues to promote awareness of our classes and degrees by participating in many base and Minot community events. We have been able to grow the program by focusing on the “squadron” classes where meeting times and days are arranged around a particular squadron’s schedule. Our goal is to provide several general education courses to a specific squadron and to create a cohort effect. This strategy has proven effective because enrollment has increased and MSU has become the “go to” school for squadron classes. We continue to make our primary focus the military student and ensuring that he or she has the opportunity to take classes.

Welcome to Trish Randall who is our new Assistant Advisor on the MAFB. Trish started on October 14th.

—*Brigitte E. Mikula, Program Coordinator at Minot Air Force Base*



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