Happy Holidays!

As the fall semester draws to a close I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome and support extended. It is an honor and a privilege to count myself among you.

As a mark of our ongoing collective achievement we recently received our National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Institutional Report 2012. There is much to read and consider, and, although the response rate was limited, in keeping with a boast here are a few positive highlights: Among our first-year student respondents 77% said their courses emphasized synthesizing ideas into new complex relationships, and 80% said courses emphasized making judgments about the value of information. Over half indicated they worked on projects during class, and nearly a third noted that they participated in a learning community. Among senior respondents, nearly 90% said they asked questions and contributed to class discussions, and positively rated their relationships with faculty members. Eighty-three percent of these respondents said their courses emphasized synthesizing and a similar percentage commented that they received prompt written and oral feedback from faculty. Seventy-one percent said they worked harder than expected to meet instructor expectations. Data like these reaffirm that the educational experience we are providing is, and will continue to make a difference in students’ lives now and into their futures. Our DSU NSSE snapshot report is attached to this sending.

Math professor published in prestigious journal: Dr. Nicomedes Alonso’s paper entitled, "The Symmetric Sinc-Galerkin Method Yields ADI Model Problems," has been accepted and will be published by the prestigious Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computation.

Language and Literature faculty invited to South Korea: Dr. Michael Cartmill and Dr. David Schreindl have been invited to Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea to teach during the winter session. Drs. Cartmill and Schreindl will be teaching from December 17 to January 8.

Additional presentations made at 2012 Arts and Humanities Summit: The following faculty and students presented at the 2012 North Dakota Arts and Humanities Summit at Valley City State University:

- Dr. Molisa Derk, “The Advantages of Being Second”
- Dr. Jim McWilliams, “Mark Twain in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch”
- Dr. Suzanne Russ, “Of Prairies and People: Intertwined Roots and Interconnected Fates”
- The Chautauqua group from the 2012 Theodore Roosevelt Symposium, which included DSU faculty and students.

Dr. Carolyn Burns to be keynote speaker in South Africa: Dr. Burns received a DSU professional development grant to visit South Africa in March 2013. While there she will be a keynote speaker at the South African Society of Music Teachers, and will work to establish a cross-cultural learning experience for DSU and area elementary students.

Several faculty featured in soil and human health publication: Soils and Human Health, scheduled for release December 10, 2012, features several DSU faculty contributors. The publication was edited by Dr. Eric Brevik and Dr. Lynn Burgess. Both professors contributed a total of four chapters: “An Introduction to Soil Science Basics,” “Soils and Human Health – An Overview,” “Climate Change, Soils, and Human
Health” and “Organic Pollutants in Soil.” As mentioned in last month’s Boast, a chapter authored by Dr. Pat Carr and Ms. Pattie Carr will be included in the publication. This book is the first published devoted exclusively to an investigation of the relationships between soil and human health.

**Dr. Craig Whippo’s review ranked fifth most read paper:** Dr. Whippo’s review paper stands as the fifth most read paper during the last year in *Plant Cell*, a top journal in plant biology. The paper is a historical perspective essay. Dr. Whippo’s work, co-authored with Roger P. Hangarter is titled, “Phototropism: Bending towards Enlightenment.”

**Nozny completes doctorate degree:** On November 14, Brian Nozny successfully defended his dissertation “Christopher Rouse: An Exploration of Three Percussion Standards” for a doctorate of musical arts at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. The degree will be conferred in December 2012.

**Radio documentary on 100th Anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt’s Bull Moose Campaign:** A new radio documentary produced by Prairie Public and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University pays tribute to TR’s attempt in 1912 to run for a third term as president. The documentary examines TR’s evolution as a politician and discusses why he took on a slate of progressive causes, from women’s suffrage to old age pensions, in his campaign to recapture the office he had held twice previously. Historians Clay Jenkinson and Nancy Unger are featured, as is the Bull Moose himself in early audio recordings made during his 1912 campaign. The documentary can be heard at www.prairiepublic.org/radio/listen-now/.

**Four faculty contribute to Ethics Day:** Four DSU faculty participated in the annual Ethics Day event for 250 Bismarck, Mandan and surrounding area high school students in Bismarck on November 15. Mr. Kostas Voutsas gave a presentation on ethics titled “Ethical Decisions: How Do Unethical Vampires Make You Feel?” Ms. Beverly Johnston and Ms. Lisa Corbin served as table leaders at individual tables to help facilitate discussions among students as they were presented with ethical dilemmas and situations. Ethics Day is organized by the Business Education Partnership Committee of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Chris Heringer serves as chair of the committee and as co-chair of the Ethics Day event.

**DSU Holiday Scholars Event:** DSU faculty displayed their scholarship through our Holiday Scholars book signing event December 6 in the Student Center. Recognition and congratulations go to Drs. Margaret Barnhart, Eric Brevik, Lynn Burgess, Kathleen Hanna, Jim McWilliams, David Meier, Fernando Quijano, and Mr. Clay Jenkins.

**Special thanks to Ms. Amy Magstadt** for her tireless work compiling and distilling the information submitted on behalf of our faculty and staff accomplishments. We are committed to shining a spotlight on our numerous DSU stars. When we miss someone or something, or maybe don’t get the wording just right, we feel badly, and so, we are asking for your help. In an effort to improve our process and ensure both inclusion and accuracy, please submit Boasts edited to 150 words (or less), and be sure information is complete, accurate and fully inclusive of all appropriate authors, contributors, publication titles, etc. Please submit Boasts to Ms. Amy Magstadt, DSU Associate Director of Communications: (amy.magstadt@dickinsonstate.edu)