

# THE MYSTICIAN

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Volume 77 Issue 4

Winter Play  
P4

Swiftmas  
P8

Jayzon Owens  
P15



# Bismarck State College News Magazine

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**On the cover:**  
Travis Nelson, UND space studies alumni, was leading the teams to the launch site with the high altitude balloon at the North Dakota Near-Space Balloon Competition on Nov. 21 at the University of North Dakota.

Photo by: Brett Williamson

## From the Editor's Desk

Well, we've made it to the end of the semester. For some, this was just the beginning of college and for others, the workforce is calling their names. Regardless, we all took the classes we needed to and are continuing to move forward.

It seemed like every month when we were working on a new issue of The Mystician, I couldn't believe it was that time already. Time didn't stop for a minute, but that just kept me constantly working hard.

When I look back on this semester, I am so proud of the newsmagazine we have been able to produce, not to mention the special edition we put together. The struggle to schedule interviews, meet deadlines and suffer through editing has all been worth it.

In the first issue of the semester, I encouraged everyone to make this year the best it can be, and I truly hope you all did. There were points in this semester that I wanted to scream, cry, laugh hysterically and slip into a two month coma, but there were also points where I couldn't stop smiling because of the amazing things, people and growth happening in my life.

No matter what program you're in or what you plan to do in the future, I know you can relate. As if our instructors didn't test us enough, life tested us this semester as well. Most of us had triumphs and defeats, but all in all, I hope each and every one of you look back and recognize what you've gained from this semester at Bismarck State College.

Have a great winter break and good luck in 2016!

Always,

Katie Winbauer  
Editor-in-Chief



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**In the photo:**

Taylor Jung, who plays Eurydice, goes over lines with Erin Weichel, the director of the winter play at Bismarck State College.

Submitted by Alexis Larson

Story by: Alexis Larson

# Winter Play: Eurydice

THE BISMARCK State College winter play “Eurydice” twists the Greek Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice with an epic tale of love and loss.

Seen through the eyes of Eurydice, audience members get a different sense of the story.

Nick Van Sickle, a sophomore at BSC, will be acting in his second production of the semester. He likes the play because this is nothing like the production he was a part of at the beginning of the semester. Van Sickle will be playing two characters who are drastically different, but have some similarities.

“It will be a challenge, but that’s why theater is such an exciting aspect of the fine arts,” Van Sickle said.

He will be playing “Interesting Man” and “Lord of the Underworld.”

Director Erin Weichel, who was in former BSC plays and also was the theater movement and dance teacher, has many ideas to add to the show to try to make it memorable.

“This play is full of interesting theatrical conventions you don’t normally see,” she said. “There will be raining elevators and a play full of water and music that isn’t a musical.”

Certain characters will become part of the set. The actors have to portray challenging characters. Some characters change from a man to a child, while some become more human throughout.

“The characters have a language all their own known as the “language of stones,” and memories of the world above are stricken from the language,” Weichel said. “Sara Ruehl also creates a language all her own in the play that is simple, yet beautiful.”

Every part of the stage will be used and divided during different scenes. Half will be the underworld and the other half will be above ground. There also will be a river at the end of the stage where the actors dip themselves in the Underworld. Robert Day, who is the assistant stage manager, is responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly.

“I think it is a beautiful modern retake of a classic Greek story. It’s the way they portray the relationship of Eurydice and Orpheus and it is adorable,” Day said. “The best part is throughout the whole play you just see the tragic downfall of the relationship and how they are forced apart from each other, which will grasp their attention and leave them wanting more.”

The production requires attention to detail and precise movements. Taylor Jung is playing Eurydice, who is one of the main characters, and is on stage throughout the entire production.

“Playing a titular character is harder than you think,” Jung said. “It doesn’t give you much down time, but being on a stage is the best part about theater to me.”

Jung, along with the other actors, is preparing for opening night. She highly encourages everyone to come out to the production.

“I think people should come because it’s a different version of the story of Orpheus and Eurydice, if you’ve ever heard it,” said Jung. “It’s interesting to find out what actually happened to her in the Underworld other than what went on in Orpheus’ head.”

Eurydice will be performed in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium, Dec. 9 -12 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 with a student ID and \$10 without.

*(Alexis Larson is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*

# BSC Professor Presents in Poland

Story by: Ashley Thorpe

ON OCT. 6 and 7 in Radom, Poland, an international conference was held to focus on Casimir Pulaski, a native of Poland. Pulaski is a prominent but not very well known American war hero during the time of the Revolutionary War. The conference was titled “Casimir Pulaski and His Epoch in History, Literature and Culture.” Out of the numerous attendees there, only four of them were American, and Dr. AnnMarie Kajencki, professor of English at Bismarck State College, was one of them.

Kajencki has been at BSC for over 23 years and is a prominent figure in the English department, teaching classes ranging from college composition to British literature. In 2005, Kajencki released a children’s book titled “Count Casimir Pulaski: From Poland to America, A Hero’s Fight for Liberty,” focusing on Casimir Pulaski and his influence on American history. Kajencki has always had a heavy literature influence in her life from her father, who was a military historian and wrote numerous books on Poles who played

a part in American history. In fact, Kajencki’s father is the reason she ended up writing the Pulaski book.

“The publisher from New York knew of [my father’s] work and asked him to write this children’s book,” Kajencki said. “I had been my father’s manuscript consultant since the early 1980s, so my father, busy at the time researching and writing another book, told the person that his daughter AnnMarie would be happy to write the book.”

So she did. Using her father’s research, she laid out the book following the specific instructions from the publishing company. The book was published by Rosen Publishing Group in New York, New York in 2005. Ten years later, in April of 2015, Kajencki was approached by a professor with interest in her book, expressing her desire to present on her book at a conference centering around Pulaski.

“I received an email from a professor at the University of Radom who wanted to ask me some questions about my 2005 book,” Kajencki said. “We started corresponding, and I then learned of the conference taking place in October. So I decided to attend the

conference, and then I thought I might as well submit a proposal to see if it would be accepted, which it was.”

The proposal Kajencki submitted led to her presenting on the Battle of Brandywine on Sept. 11, 1777, during which Pulaski saved George Washington’s army from annihilation.

“BSC’s Michelle Kraft, an instructional graphic designer, helped me put together a razzle-dazzle PowerPoint presentation,” Kajencki said. “My presentation was enhanced because of this fantastic PowerPoint that we put together.”

Kajencki was able to visit a museum dedicated to Pulaski while she was in Poland as well. The museum is called the Warka Museum, located about an hour away from Radom.

“The museum is in the original building that the Pulaski family owned,” Kajencki said. “It was their country residence. So the museum is filled with antiques and original furniture.”

Kajencki was given the opportunity to attend the conference with the money she received from the BSC Foundation.

“It was an honor to go, and it was an honor to present,” Kajencki said.

*(Ashley Thorpe is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



**In the photo:** Dr. AnnMarie Kajencki attended a conference in Poland focusing on Casimir Pulaski, who she focused a children’s book on. Submitted photo

# Film Puts Bismarck on the Map

Story by: Meghan McNeil  
Photos Submitted



FEW ASSOCIATE the town of Bismarck with the film industry, but Dan Bielinski is trying to change that.

Bielinski came from New York City to Bismarck to serve as a visiting professor of theatre at the University of Mary. He arrived to virtually no film community.

"It's sort of the situation where you have to make your own opportunities," Bielinski said.

Last May he put together a small cast and crew to embark on a six-day journey into the cinematic process.

"I started writing in March and filming in May, it was a very quick process," Bielinski said.

The eighteen minute thriller follows the story of a lonely man who tries to do the right thing. He wrestles with the issue of unfit parents and their rights to their children. The film takes an

unexpected twist in the story, leaving the audience reeling.

Bielinski starred, produced and wrote the film.

"The 'Good Father' is really meant to kickstart some real narrative filmmaking here in Bismarck, there is virtually no filmmaking going on outside of Fargo," Bielinski said.

Although our state has a film commission, the government of North Dakota gives no tax breaks or incentives to the film industry. Giving no one the ability to fully pursue a film career.

"I wanted a chance to meet members of the community, so we can start to build a real film community here," said Bielinski.

Bielinski hopes that this will be a major step forward for serious filmmaking.

"We hope that the 'Good Father' will serve as a magnet to draw in film makers so we can all support each other," Bielinski said.

The film will not just be showcased in the region he said.

"We are submitting it to film festivals across the world; We are pretty confident of its good reception," Bielinski said. "We got some good feedback from New York and L.A. with contacts I have in T.V. and film."

The film will make its official debut to the community at the Dakota Digital Film Festival in April. In the meantime, another script is in the works for next summer.

"This is just the beginning – watch out," Bielinski said with a chuckle.

*(Meghan McNeil is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



# Celebration of Hanukkah

Story by: Ivy Bergstrom

This time of year is often celebrated with tinsel covered trees, boxes covered in paper and mistletoe hung in doorways. Christmas is celebrated by many, but because it is the predominantly celebrated holiday in this region of the world, other holidays do not get as much attention. One example of this is Hanukkah. This year, Hanukkah began on Dec. 6 at nightfall, and ends on Dec. 14.

Ben Topp, a resident of Chicago, IL said that people who are unfamiliar with Hanukkah should know that "it is a joyous holiday."

Topp said it is important to him because it is a holiday he and his family could celebrate together. He also said memories of Hanukkah that stick out in his mind include songs, food and gifts.

People celebrate Hanukkah in many ways, one of which is by the kindling of a nine-branched menorah. On each night of Hanukkah after sundown, a candle on the menorah is lit using the ninth and center candle. Traditionally, at

this time, a prayer or blessing is recited in memory of the miracle that happened and started it all.

Gifts are also given out each night of Hanukkah.

"My favorite part of Hanukkah is giving gifts to our kids," Topp said. "This has changed of course as my favorite part of Hanukkah when I was a kid was getting gifts from my parents."

Celebrators also play games with a four-sided top known as a dreidel. On each side of the dreidel is a Hebrew letter. When put together, they form the phrase "Nes Gadol Haya Sham," which means "a great miracle happened there," alluding to the miracle of Hanukkah. The dreidel game begins with every player having eight pieces of candy and each player submitting a piece into the center, or "pot". Each player takes turns

spinning the dreidel, and depending on what side of the dreidel lands face-up, the player gets either half the candy in the pot, all of the candy in the pot, none of the candy in the pot or they put a piece of candy in the pot.

Other traditions include fried food, an allusion to the olive oil that burned for eight days. These foods include potato pancakes known as latkes, and jam filled doughnuts which are called sufganiyot.

*(Ivy Bergstrom is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



  
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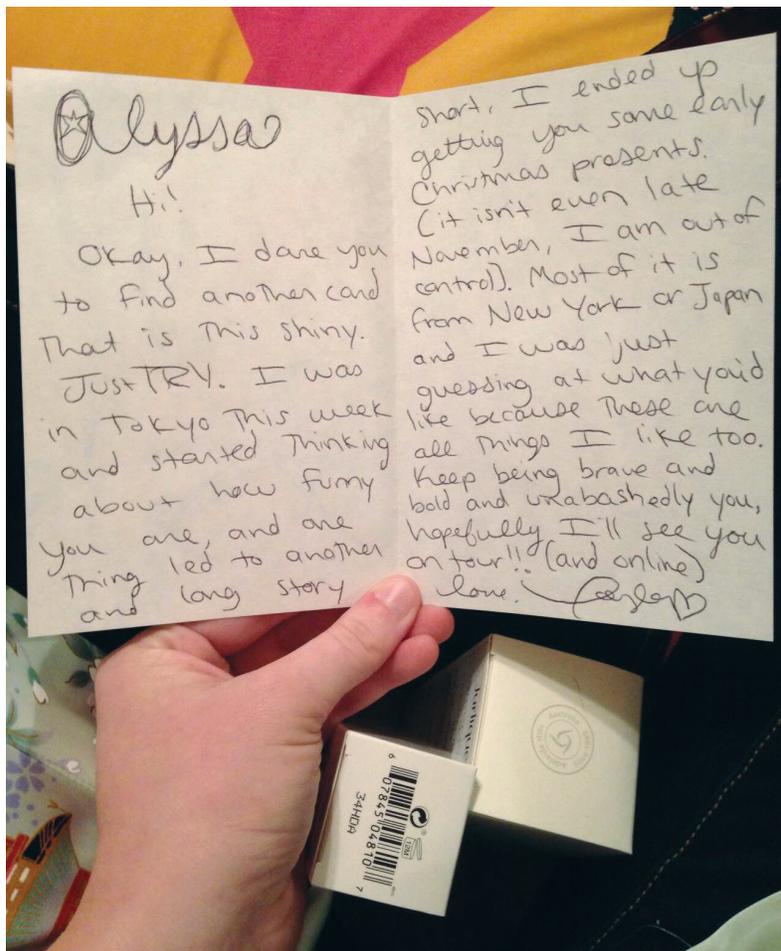
  
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# Have Yourself a Merry Little Swiftmas

Story by: Ashley Thorpe



## In the photo:

Taylor Swift wrote letters to each fan she gave gifts to last year. She personalized each one with information she found from their social media accounts.

Submitted photo

WITHIN THE world of social media, anonymously creeping through personal information on any public profile is a very easy thing to do. The dangers of social media and anonymity are endless, however, in the case of Taylor Swift fans, easy opportunity for creeping can be the best thing in the world. After all, it's always possible that a famous pop singer is one post away.

Last year around this time, global superstar Taylor Swift started secretly picking fans, all who have accounts dedicated to her, and extensively studying all the personal information she could find. She searched for details on their occupations, took note of their likes and looked for their interests. After gathering all the data she needed, she left a single emoji on a random post: 🇺🇸

Intense chaos ensued. Swift's "people" privately messaged the recipients of the Santa emoji asking for addresses. Many assumed that they were going to be receiving Swift merchandise in the mail. All of them were wrong.

The first of over 30 fans to receive a package was Hailey Nichols from Alabama, who has been a fan of Swift for nine years. She was one of the many fans who believed she was

receiving Swift merchandise and was in for a big surprise.

"Upon opening [the box] I saw a card, and I realized this wasn't merch and that was Taylor's handwriting," Nichols said. "I freaked."

Among the numerous gifts that Nichols received from Swift, her favorite one was a tea set with a note from Swift explaining, "I thought of you when I saw this in Japan because you can drink tea using this or ... whatever else you feel like drinking."

After more gifts were sent and more reactions were posted on social media, Swift fans lovingly dubbed the acts as "Swiftmas." One of the most memorable of the Swiftmas gifts was when Swift herself delivered gifts to a Connecticut fan named Stephanie Barnett last November in hopes of meeting Stephanie's son, Leyton.

"I was entirely shell-shocked," Stephanie said about Swift visiting her home. "There are few words to describe opening up your front door and seeing Taylor Swift standing there in front of you. It felt completely surreal."

Swift spent the day with Stephanie and Leyton. She played in the leaves and drove toy cars with

Leyton and later sat down to chat with Stephanie. Swift brought multiple toys for Leyton while Stephanie is particularly fond of a diamond necklace from Swift.

"I would say the gift of her presence has to be the most valuable of all," Stephanie said. "The fact that she took time out of her incredibly busy schedule to visit and want to meet my son means the absolute world to me."

The reaction from the fans last year was enormous and heart-warming, "Congrats!" and "I'm so happy for you!" zipping all around the Internet, but this year fans are planning on giving back more than words. Another recipient of a Swiftmas package, Alyssa Lawson from Tennessee, commented on the inspiration that Swiftmas caused.

"Taylor's kindness has inspired me to pay that kindness forward to others," Lawson said. Lawson and the friends that she has met through Swift are

sending each other Christmas cards this year, and Lawson is very excited about it.

Lawson is only one of the many Swift fans who are planning to partake in Swiftmas this year. Nichols plans to send cards to an assortment of Internet friends this year, and Stephanie has been working on recreating Swiftmas experiences by sending emojis and pretend "confidential" messages to fellow fans in an effort to send out Christmas cards and holiday cheer.

"I've seen a lot of this," Stephanie said. "I think it says a lot about how people want to pay Taylor's giving spirit forward."

When asked about expecting Swiftmas gifts this year from the famous superstar, Stephanie seems to be hesitant. She has been keeping her eye on Swift's activity and, as a fan, has seen the way she works for years.

"Honestly, I'm not sure," Stephanie said. "We are already well into November, and she is so busy on tour this year. Taylor often never does the same thing twice, but she always finds ways to give back to her fans."

So perhaps fans shouldn't be expecting 30 pound Fed-Ex packages to show up at their doors this year, as there has been no information regarding Christmas festivities from Swift this holiday season. However, fans will still be watching Swift for more opportunities to interact and communicate.

As for all the Swift haters out there: Merry Swiftmas, and bah humbug.

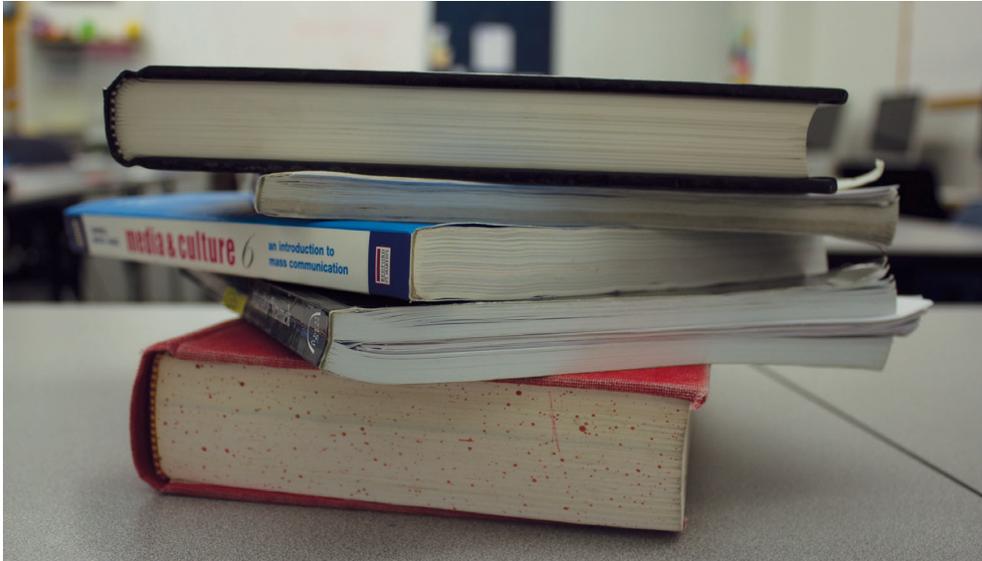
*(Ashley Thorpe is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.com.)*



**In the photos:**  
The recipients of Taylor Swift's gifts assumed they were getting merchandise, but found personalized gifts when they opened their boxes.  
Submitted photos

# Finals Week is Approaching

Story by: Adam Pfeifer  
Photo by: Katie Winbauer



AS THE semester draws to a close, many Bismarck State College students are preparing for final exams in an effort to ensure a passing grade.

Many finals have been cropping up as large looming icebergs in the educational path, and some students have acclimated themselves to overcoming such obstacles through differing forms of study.

“Personally, I like to read the chapters that we’re going over ... and get it really engraved in my brain so I can kind of recall it better,” BSC student Catie Schafer said.

Schafer has one final this semester in her online class, Intro to Visual Arts. She plans to go over the notes she took from the entire semester. She said the final will be writing a summary of whatever topic her instructor assigns.

Schafer’s advice for each student preparing for finals is to study.

“Don’t procrastinate – just do it. It’s terrible, but it helps.”

Matalyn Lund is another student preparing for finals at BSC.

“I just try to really pay attention in class because some of the finals are cumulative,” she said.

One thing Lund does in preparation for her math final is starring problems that her instructor says will be on the exam. Another way Lund studies is by making flash cards after she completes her homework.

Lund also said studying with a friend or taking time to concentrate at the task at hand are both helpful.

*(Adam Pfeifer is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*

## Finals Schedule:

### First Class of Week

7:00 or 7:30 Mon.  
8:00 Mon.  
9:00 Mon.  
10:00 or 10:30 Mon.  
11:00 Mon.  
12:00 Mon.  
1:00 Mon.  
2:00 or 2:30 Mon.  
3:00 or 4:00 Mon.  
7:00 or 7:30 Tues.  
8:00 Tues.  
9:00 Tues.  
10:00 or 10:30 Tues.  
11:00 Tues.  
12:00 Tues.  
1:00 or 1:30 Tues.  
2:00 Tues.  
2:30 Tues.  
3:00 or 3:30 Tues.  
4:00 Tues.

### Final Time

Mon. Dec. 14 7:30 a.m.  
Wed. Dec. 16 7:30 a.m.  
Tues. Dec. 15 10:00 a.m.  
Wed. Dec. 16 10:00 a.m.  
Mon. Dec. 14 12:30 p.m.  
Wed. Dec. 16 12:30 p.m.  
Tues. Dec. 15 3:00 p.m.  
Thurs. Dec. 17 3:00 p.m.  
Fri. Dec. 18 7:30 a.m.  
Tues. Dec. 15 7:30 a.m.  
Thurs. Dec. 17 7:30 a.m.  
Mon. Dec. 14 10:00 a.m.  
Thurs. Dec. 17 10:00 a.m.  
Fri. Dec. 18 3:00 p.m.  
Fri. Dec. 18 12:30 p.m.  
Tues. Dec. 15 12:30 p.m.  
Thurs. Dec. 17 12:30 p.m.  
Mon. Dec. 14 3:00 p.m.  
Wed. Dec. 16 3:00 p.m.  
Fri. Dec. 18 10:00 a.m.

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# Students Aim High, Really High

Story and photos by: Brett Williamson

LAST SEPTEMBER, the Bismarck State College science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) club launched its first high altitude balloon to the outer reaches of the Earth's atmosphere. The balloon successfully climbed past the stratosphere's ozone layer, 107,062 feet to be exact, and the club was able to track and retrieve the payload roughly 42 miles east of Bismarck.

The success of the mission took notice. The North Dakota Space Grant Consortium invited BSC to participate in the North Dakota Near-Space Balloon Competition on Nov. 21 at the University of North Dakota with UND's Space Studies program.

"The mission of Space Grant is to give students the hands on experience in STEM to inspire them to follow that experience to careers," Caitlin Nolby, deputy directory of North Dakota Space Grant Consortium said. "Space Grant has affiliates at all the two, four year and tribal colleges in North Dakota. Tony Musumba is one of our affiliates. He came to our high altitude conference in 2014 and expressed interest in a program with his students."

Musumba, BSC associate professor of physics, and the students of the STEM club were asked to submit a

proposal for a mission with the ND Space Grant Consortium. The proposal was accepted and the club was given a budget to complete two payloads for the launch.

"We had people that were genuinely interested in doing ballooning," Musumba said. "The growth of the club helped. I'm glad we got the other payload, so we can think about two projects at the same time."

The club was asked to design a series of experiments that could pertain to a manned mission to the surface of Mars. The altitude the balloon would reach during its travel would simulate the surface of the red planet. The data collected by the mission could be translated to Mars.

The STEM students put together experiments that spanned multiple driplines at BSC. The club added Bacillus bacteria samples to the payload for the BSC biology department to see the effects of the upper atmosphere on life. The payload

also included a HOBO data logger, an Arduino sensor collector, Kenwood 710 Tranceiver and one jumbo egg.

Adam Stonestreet, BSC sophomore and STEM club member, took pride in his work with the Arduino. The club referred to the Arduino as "Adam's baby."

"It is the latest in technological sensor collection," Stonestreet said. "It has two temperature sensors, one internal and external. There is also an external

humidity sensor, an O3 sensor and a magnetometer."

Stonestreet invested more than eight hours in preparing this one device for its mission.

"The most challenging part was writing the code," Stonestreet said. "Basically we had to tell the Arduino what it was talking to, how to read it, what to do, how to write the data to SD card. Every little last step had be thought out. We are on the fourth version of the code and are very confident."

With less than a month to prepare, the morning of the launch arrived. Musumba and seven STEM club members made the trip to Grand Forks for the mission. BSC was met by Shiloh Christian School, Kindred High School and UND's Space Studies, who were also approved to attach payloads for the mission.

The cold early morning November air cut through the students as they checked and double checked their payloads for the launch. Schools would assist each other in the rigging of their projects to the eight foot diameter balloon.

Once the payloads were secured and the balloon was cleared for launch, the students and advisers marched the balloon out to the launch site and initiated the countdown. As the final payload ascended to the heavens, the next phase of the mission began; track down the balloon and recover the data.



**In the photo:** Tony Musumba, associate professor of physics at BSC, with the retrieved payload.

**In the photo:**

Adam Stonestreet, BSC STEM club member, monitoring the payload location while on the retrieval mission.



If everything went to plan, the balloon would raise to 100,000 feet, then burst from expansion, sending the payloads back to earth via parachute, about 50 miles to the east.

The teams loaded into their vehicles and headed due east into Minnesota to begin the hunt for their airborne payloads. Not long into the mission, the unfortunate happened: the GPS signal was lost. The location of the balloon was unknown.

As the communication with the balloon went dark, the teams grew anxious. The Kenwood 710 transceiver that BSC attached to their payload began to pick up the signal from the BSC payload. The BSC STEM club took lead of the search mission and led the teams to the landing site.

"It was really exciting," Brennan Johnson, BSC sophomore and STEM club member, said. "It was really cool. The closer we got, we got more pings. We would get coordinates from the transceiver and I would punch them

in the phone. Every time we got new information, I would retype it in my phone to find the current location. Eventually it stopped and we took point and led us to the area. Then they were able to pick it up on spot tracker, GPS, and led us the rest of the way."

"It was a team effort," Johnson said. "We had the only working radio for receiving transmissions from the tracker."

The UND's spot tracker was programmed to send a signal every ten minutes, but malfunctioned during the course of its flight. The spot tracker was able to start sending signals when it returned to the surface.

The payload was located roughly 70 miles east of Grand Forks near Mahnomen, M.N.

Once the teams were in the area and knew the location of the payloads, BSC launched a drone to get a visual on the landing site for the search party.

When the payloads were recovered, the students were anxious to see their data. The sensors were plugged into laptops and analyzed on the long trip to back to Bismarck. To the surprise of many of the students, the egg survived the journey to heavens. Many joked about it being the longest egg drop they have ever seen.

"We will analyze the data and the recorder will make a report and then will submit it for public distribution and make it available to the public," Johnson said.

The BSC STEM club is planning to pursue future launches after the success of the two missions.

"There has been talk of doing launches for the high schools at BSC already," Musumba said. "Even though that sounds great, I would love to work in concert with the Space Grant because that's where it all began."

*(Brett Williamson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*



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# Reviving a Past Tradition

Story and photos by: Alexis Larson

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE offers many different sports teams, but they will soon be adding another to the list.

Buster Gilliss, the athletic director at BSC, is delighted to bring back the dance team, which was a tradition at BSC in the past.

Gilliss hired Bridget Carlson, a former Timberwolves dancer, as the coach of the Mystiques. Carlson majored in dance and exercise science at Mankato University. She now is a trainer at the Woman's Health Center in Bismarck.

Carlson's goals for this year's team is to have one big performance that gets the dance team's name out there, whether that be a local high school invitational or the state competition.

"I am so excited to be working with the new dance team," Carlson said. "The girls have had only two weeks of

practice and have learned so much so fast. We can't wait to get out there and start performing at some BSC basketball games."

So far the team has added five members to the list: Shaina Murphy, Kassy Kirk, Ashley Gatzke, Alexis Larson and Caylie Mosset.

The girls all have specific goals for themselves this season. Kirk's goal is "to improve as a dancer and become a strong performer, while making friends along the way."

The team and Carlson are hoping to increase their size before the first performance.

"I just hope we can add more girls to the team. This is such a great opportunity to continue dancing in college and this would be an even greater experience if we could have a larger team," Murphy said. "We have a

lot of fun, high energy routines and we can't wait till our first performance to get our name out there and show them what we got."

Carlson and the dancers are not the only ones who are excited to get the dance team back up and running again.

"I'm glad that Buster is getting the dance team started again," Christian Burns, BSC's program coordinator, said. "It will be great to keep the Bismarck/Mandan area students that love dancing here in Bismarck."

The team is encouraging anyone who is interested to try-out. Coach Carlson can be contacted by phone at 218-289-1603 or by email at [bridgetcarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgetcarlson@hotmail.com)

*(Alexis Larson is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*

# Following in the Footsteps

Story and photos by: Andrew Dill

WHENEVER SOME people think of Bismarck State College athletics, they immediately think that the talent comes from inside the state boundaries.

Although that may be true for many, BSC's point guard Jayzon Owens took a different path, going away from home to pursue his dream.

The 5-foot-11 guard grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, nearly 708 miles away from Bismarck. That's roughly

10 hours and 20 minutes of driving. So what made Owens decide to come all this way to play basketball? His big brother, Anthony Moody.

"I was noted that it was a good opportunity to come out here because of my older brother," Owens said. "He went to [University of Mary] and had a connection with one of the coaches. We decided it was the best decision for me."

that big of a challenge to me," he said.

When talking about BSC's basketball team as a whole, Owens likes the way the team has come together.

"We've had our ups and downs but we are sticking to it and not giving up because we know it's not about one person on the court, it's about what the team needs and that is for everyone to give it their all," Owens said.

For a player to continue to get better day in and day out, development is a part of the process. Every single player in the country has a weakness, yet they continue to grind it out in hopes of trying to improve upon that one thing. As for Owens, he has been trying to find his jump shot.

"Since I've been here, I've been struggling with my jump shot," he said. "They [coaches] tell me I'm thinking too much about how to shoot it instead of just letting it fly. If I can regain my focus on how it was back home and get back into my rhythm, then it'll be easier for us to win more games in the end."

Every individual has a set goal for themselves or for their team for the remainder of the season, and Owens has the win column on his mind.

"I'm a very competitive player and I hate losing more than I love winning, so for us to come out on top with a winning season would be a good start to a very good team next year," Owens said.

*(Andrew Dill is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*



Moody was an All-American at the University of U-Mary, averaging nearly 21.8 points per game during his senior year. Moody spent just two years at U-Mary, finishing his career ranked 13th on their all-time scoring list. Moody went on to play in the NBA Development League, catching on with the Sioux Falls Skyforce before eventually heading overseas to play.

Adjusting to the college game is something that takes time for players, especially coming straight from high school. Owens mentions that college basketball isn't the same as high school basketball.

"It's more of a fast pace game instead of a set every time down. Adjusting to this has been what I expected in terms of the speed because my brother warned me early on so I think adjusting to the speed of the game wasn't

# Teacher Training

Story by: Erik Mattheis

STARTING THIS year, new students at Bismarck State College were required to watch a video in regards to alcohol, drugs, parties and sexual harassment. Later in the semester, it became the instructor's duties to watch a mandatory training video pertaining to sexual harassment.

"The video was extensive; it really covered the nuances of sexual harassment," J. Michael McCormack, professor of history at BSC said. "The video gave you scenarios and a choice of answers as to is this sexual harassment or is this acceptable."

Inside of the video, staff and faculty were given many different scenarios to watch and interact with to see what was truly bad or what was acceptable under the Title IX regulation.

"Some scenarios could have been real life, and some of them did not appear to be in the world of the reality that we live in," McCormack said.

The students and faculty were each given a different video to watch. The project got started with Title IX regulations and went through Human Resources.

"Title IX is a federal regulation," Rita Lindgren, chief human resources officer at BSC said. "Recently in the last few years, parts of Title IX have been strengthened. As a result of that strengthening, we are being mandated by federal law and as a campus, we want to be compliant. So

we developed a sexual misconduct and title nine compliance policy."

Lindgren is the Title IX coordinator at BSC.

As a part of the policy that was created, a requirement is that students and faculty are provided with some way of being trained about sexual misconduct. The student video was coordinated through student affairs.

Much like the student video in the fall, the faculty video could be paused and continued at a different time. Some instances shocked staff and faculty at BSC.

"One thing that kind of struck me and most of the test takers near my age is that some of the nuances of sexual harassment under this law, a lot of us would have been guilty of years ago," McCormack said. "The subtlety of what is considered harassment now would not have been considered harassment in earlier generations."

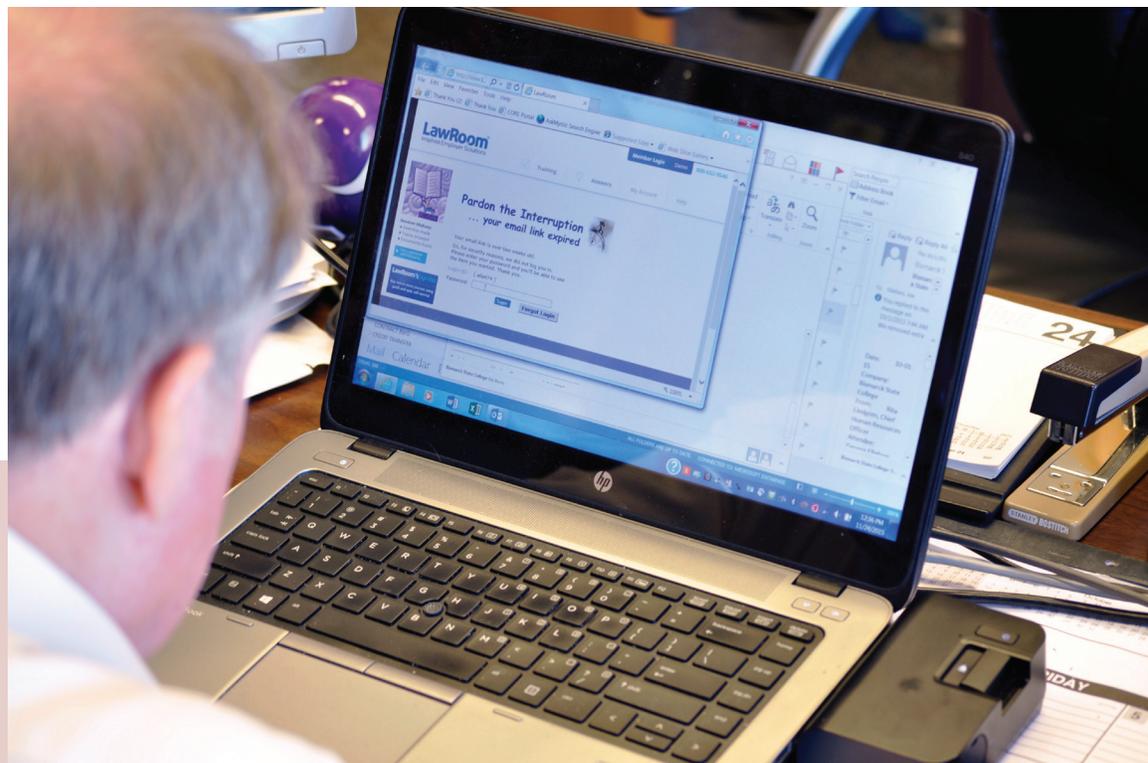
The video was roughly around 90 minutes and was very interactive with the staff and faculty.

"Ongoing training will be required. We will continue with any new hires or students coming to campus will have to go through the training video," Lindgren said. "On the student side, we are also be providing prevention training. On the faculty side, there will be more investigation training."

BSC has over 800 faculty and staff hired and six have yet to complete the video training. The human resources department is working with the "It's On Us" campaign that was pushed by President Barack Obama. The campaign is all about sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Other areas that they are working with are the Abused Adult Resource Center, law enforcement and the National Guard.

*(Erik Mattheis is the MystiCast Director. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*

**In the photo:**  
Bismarck State College instructors were required to participate in a training video this semester. The video focuses on acceptable behavior under the Title IX regulation.  
Photo by: Erik Mattheis



# Prescriptions for Life

With Dr. T & Nicci J

Farewell...Insert sad face now:



We are writing our last official column for the Mystician! It's been a long, eventful run. For the last two years we have brought you Dr. T and Nicci J's Prescriptions for Life. Each month, we have been fortunate enough to share our personal point of view with you on topics such as fashion, relationships, social media and the list goes on. We hope you have found our advice enlightening if not, slightly amusing.

Nicci is graduating and moving on to follow her dreams! This is the last issue, but not the last you will hear from us.

We'd like to leave you with a few closing quotes we have found inspiring and hope you do as well:

**"Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world"**

- Marilyn Monroe

**"I want to get more comfortable being uncomfortable. I want to get more confident being uncertain. I don't want to shrink back just because something isn't easy. I want to push back, and make more room in the area between I can't and I can."**

- Kristin Armstrong

**"Today I will kick ass and make dreams happen... but first, coffee!"**

- Anonymous

**"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?"**

- Marianne Williamson



Dr. Theresa Felderman is the associate professor of psychology at Bismarck State College. Nicci Johnson is a Life-Coach at Nicci Johnson, LLC. With combined experience, they give readers tips on a variety of topics.

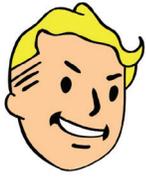
## Happy New Year!

Here is where you can get your future "prescriptions" filled:

Coming in January  
2016!

Get your Dr. T and Nicci J fix  
on [urlradio.net](http://urlradio.net)

Look for the  
Prescriptions For Life Blog  
on [niccijohnson.com](http://niccijohnson.com)



# Fallout 4

# MASTER SWORD REVIEW



## Fallout 4: Gem of the Year

Story by: Brett Williamson

CRAWLING FROM the wreckage of the great nuclear war, I set out to avenge my deceased lover and find my missing child. Armed only with my knuckles and cool head, I found myself surrounded by countless foes and no allies. This is the world of 2287 A.D. The Commonwealth.



Fallout 4 is the fifth Fallout title from Bethesda Softworks. The anticipated title hit shelves just in time for the holiday season, but I don't suggest waiting till Christmas morning to get your mitts on this gem.

Fallout 4 is an action RPG with a large interactive map populated with factions warring for the wasteland and nasties just waiting to fill you full of holes. There are friends to make and enemies to dispatch. Players need to be swift with the trigger but also need to think about the consequence of each action.

Upon entering the world, with your fully customizable character, you are forced to adapt to the cruel unforgiving world. Your character will grow in the direction of each decision you make. With each level gained, you will be allowed to add a "perk" to your character. The perks range from strength buffs, intellect points, lock picking skills and marksmanship. The character builds are limitless. I found myself sticking to marksmanship and abilities to build long range rifles out of salvaged and looted

items. As I grew, so did my weapons. With a little hard work, my once trusty pipe rifle evolved into a 50 caliber sniper rifle with a long range night vision scope. Perfect for picking off pesky raiders at safe distances.

The world itself, while not overwhelmingly huge, was full of adventure. I would find other survivors on my journey and take on their quests while attempting to pursue the main quest. With more than 50 hours into the game, I have yet to complete the main quest. It is exciting to see who you will find and what direction they will take you.

Some of the NPCs you come across will volunteer to fight by your side. The game allows you to travel with one of these companions at any given time. From your first companion, a stray dog named Dogmeat, to later companions like the loud mouth journalist, Piper, or the do no wrong super mutant, Strong, each choice made with the characters affect your relationship with them. If you play your cards just right, you may not need to avenge that dead wife, if you know what I mean.



Graphically the game is above par. The zone load times are minimal. You can walk from one end of the map to the other without stopping to load a new zone. The environment, while war torn and deprived, can be beautiful. The

24 hour in game clock adds a sense of realism to the realm. Deciding to travel under the cloak of night or waiting till 8 a.m. for the shops to open gives the game another dimension.



The engine is similar to that of Fallout 3. Options to shoot manually or bring up the targeting computer still hold true. Aiming for the leg to cripple an opponent will buy you valuable seconds to find cover in a drawn out firefight. Whether it is bashing opponents to a pulp with a sledge hammer, sniping from hundreds of yards or spraying and praying with a mini-gun, there is a fighting style for everyone.

Clear your calendar and cash in those sick days, Fallout 4 is the adventure of the year. Save the world, clear the wastelands of the horde, rebuild society, destroy the weak or find a squeeze, the world is your oyster. Five out of five.



5 out of 5  
**MARVELOUS**

- + In depth world
- + Variety of play styles
- + Tons to do
- a few bugs/glitches



Photo by: Alexis Larson

# State of the Senate

AS THE Fall semester comes to a close, many Bismarck State College students are eager for a well deserved 4 week break. The Student Government Association is likewise concluding business in preparation for the Spring. The new semester is set for fresh beginnings as SGA finds ways to keep students connected with campus happenings.

The SGA senate approved funds for a new mobile app during the Nov. 25 meeting. The decision to purchase the app was made with the intent to connect students with the campus through one, simple easy to access source. The app will be customized to

the BSC campus and make events, announcements, schedules and information easier to access. The app will even notify the student of upcoming activities and feed updates. Students should expect to see the app available early this spring.

With a new semester comes new leadership. After submitting my letter of resignation as SGA President, Marcie Woehl is now occupying the position. My decision to step down has been a long going conversation between myself and others. I have been and will continue to remain in close contact with Ms. Woehl in ensure a smooth transition, and I have every confidence

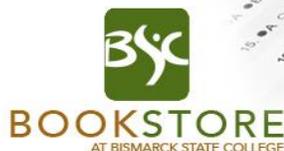
in her ability to serve the students of BSC and lead SGA in the coming semester. It has been a great pleasure to represent the students of BSC and I am excited to continue to advocate in the interests of BSC students.

The Vice-President chair and senator seats remain vacant. I encourage any BSC students who are interested in SGA to contact President Woehl at [bsc.sga@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bsc.sga@bismarckstate.edu).

-Former SGA President,  
John Bettger

**Finals Have You Stressed Out?**

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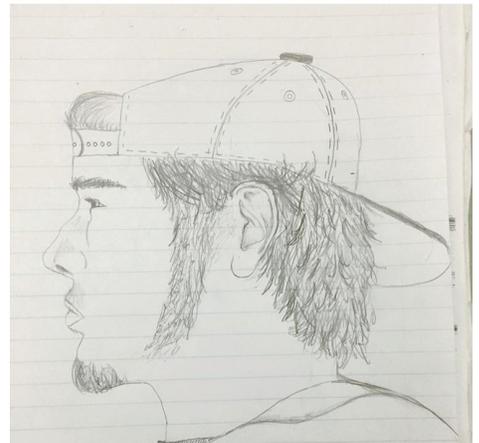


Want your posts featured in The Mystician? Use #LetsGetMystical on social media and see your posts in the next month's issue!

\*Nothing drug or alcohol related will be tolerated.

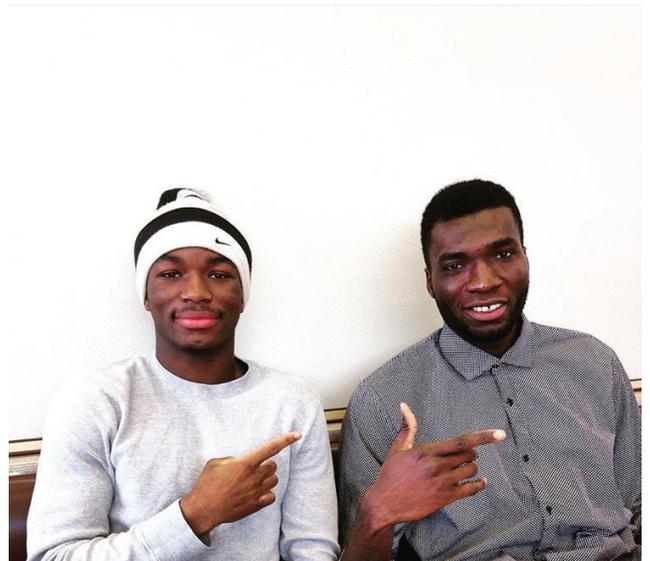
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| Alexis Larson  | Katie Winbauer   |
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Contact Us: [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org)

## Mission Statement:

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on campus, provide content that is informative, fair and concise. With this goal in mind, the news-magazine is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical practices.

The Bismarck State College Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

## Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or the Mystician Staff. We welcome comments and letters from our readers. All letters to the editor must be signed and include contact information.

## Agenda:

We, as the student-based forum of journalism provide information that is important to Bismarck State College's campus. The Mystician Staff strives to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The truth, fact-based opinions and informative sources are important to us as a staff. With these three standards, The Mystician will be well-written, respected and relevant.

# Test Me

Ahh, dreaded finals week. The thing that high school teachers over-exaggerate and you underestimate. This week happens every semester at every college.

While finals week itself is predictable, what is included in finals week is not. After speaking to various instructors at Bismarck State College, we learned that there isn't a standard for finals week throughout departments on campus. Instructors are allowed to select whichever type of final they choose, but are encouraged to indeed, give a final.

Even though most classes do have a final, it is hard to say when it will be. The last week of the semester is deemed as finals week but some instructors choose to have the last project, presentation, paper, etc. due on the last real class day. This is beneficial for students because they then have less to worry about during the actual week, unless all their classes choose to do it this way, leaving their stress for finals week to become the stress-before-finals-week-because-that's-when-finals-are-due-week.

The other thing that comes into the equation is the type of final the class will have. For example, some instructors give finals that are formatted similarly to the tests they give throughout the semester. Instead of giving a comprehensive final over the entire semester, they merely test on the last chapters discussed in class.

As students, this makes things easier, however it is not truly testing what we learned from the class. Even though a comprehensive final would be more to study and prepare for, it would accurately show how the students have progressed over the course of the semester.

Bismarck State College is supposed to be preparing students to transfer to a university or enter the workforce. If instructors are not fully testing students to make sure they are prepared for "their beyond," then what is the point of having final exams at all?

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> week  
of finals my teachers  
gave to me:

4 all-nighters  
3 hours of crying  
2 mental breakdowns  
& a month of  
anxiety!

# Scapegoating

Story by: Ashley Thorpe

IN A time of great terror and confusion, the automatic reaction is to look for someone to blame. If we can point our finger at a group of people and say they did it, everything becomes a little bit easier. Once we have a target to place the blame on, to set our sights on, to try to defeat, everything becomes much more bearable.

In November, Paris, France was attacked by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, with the group's territory straddling the border between the two countries. As the world mourned for Paris, many started looking for someone to blame. ISIS claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks. However, where the world went wrong was when we turned our eyes to not only ISIS members, but to the whole Islamic community.

Blaming all Muslims for the actions ISIS is comparable to blaming all Christians for the actions of the Ku Klux Klan. Blindly accusing all Muslims for the terrorist group's actions is not only

ignorant, but it is scapegoating. The fact of the matter is that many Muslim leaders are speaking out against ISIS, but we're not listening to them.

After the Paris attacks took place, Muslim leader Ahmed Miktar, president of the Imams of France, stated, "We join with all of our fellow citizens in opposition to these barbaric acts, which target the foundations of democracy to which we are all attached, and which are of equal and direct concern to the Muslim citizens of France."

In Oslo, Norway in February, over 1,000 Muslims circled around the synagogue to represent their rejection of a terrorist attack. The attack took place by an Islamist extremist on the main synagogue in Copenhagen, and the circling around the synagogue symbolized protection for the Norwegian Jewish community.

A leading voice of the Islamic community condemned the oppression of Christians in Iraq by extremists. The denouncement was by Iyad



Ameen Madani, who is the Secretary General for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This group represents 57 Muslim countries. Madani referred to the act as a "crime that cannot be tolerated." He also said that these people "have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence."

Muslims around the world are loudly condemning ISIS. But we are turning a blind eye, refusing to let our scapegoat loose. We must support modern Muslims and empower those who are voicing their opposition to ISIS, or we will soon find ourselves in a world of hate and distrust that we will be unable to escape.

*(Ashley Thorpe is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*

# Trending Topics: Help Wanted

Story by: Katie Winbauer

EVEN IF a person has never been to Bismarck before, it doesn't take long to realize that virtually every business is hiring – the signs are everywhere.

Usually people complain about unemployment rates being high and that no one can find jobs anywhere, but my complaint is the opposite because of where I live.

With our economy being so good, it seems like every business with entry level positions is hiring. Not only that, but employers are so desperate for workers that they're paying them several dollars above minimum wage even though they may not have experience or all the skills necessary.

At my own place of employment, several employees moved here from other states that had high unemployment rates. They were making less money than they are here, and were being expected to do more.

Since businesses are so desperate, employees can get away with almost anything. Issues that workers would be fired for in cities with high unemployment rates might not even get discussed because of the desperation for employees businesses have here.

One would think, with this problem of finding and keeping employees, that new businesses would halt in Bismarck. For some reason, we have new stores, restaurants and banks popping up frequently.

While I'm excited to have these new businesses, I worry that they're not going to thrive because of the lack of workforce and I don't get excited about going to businesses that don't have the staff to provide their services.

MacKenzie River, a chain restaurant in town that has been open for a few years, has changed its hours because there isn't enough staff. Fiesta Villa,

a local restaurant, also had modified hours due to a lack of employees. These problems will keep getting worse with more and more businesses opening.

With the city continuing to grow, I am unsure when this problem will be fixed. Businesses will just have to continue bringing in employees from other parts of the country or even the world, which might not last long if Donald Trump really builds that wall.

*(Katie Winbauer is the editor-in-chief of The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



# Point of View

## Refugee Crisis

Story by: Devin Stelter

THE RECENT horrendous terrorist attacks orchestrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have sparked debates on whether or not the United States should accept refugees fleeing terrorism in Syria.

Personally, I find the notion of not accepting men, women and children who are running for their lives to be absolutely disgusting.

What have we become as a nation? A bunch of xenophobic, prejudicial fear mongers that would allow mass slayings of innocent people?

Some (Donald Trump) would go as far to say that we might have no choice but to shut down mosques across America.

It is ridiculous that people think that as long as we don't accept Syrian refugees, we will be protected from ISIS. If ISIS wants to infiltrate the United States, they are not going to abandon those plans because we won't accept refugees.

The United States House of Representatives passed the SAFE Act of 2015 on November 19. The bill would require that background checks of all refugees would have to be performed before they are allowed to enter the United States. Unfortunately, our intelligence agencies do not have much of a foothold in Syria, so almost all of the refugees we would potentially be accepting are not in our system to evaluate.

All that adding background checks does is create more roadblocks and extends the time it takes to attain asylum in the United States.

Another portion of the bill states that three top national security officials, FBI director James Comey, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson would have to verify that each and every refugee poses no immediate security threat.

How does one expect to be able to save a significant amount of lives if each one of those lives has to be individually approved by three separate intelligence officials?

All the bill is meant to do is to delay the entire process of accepting refugees.

Currently, all refugees coming to the United States are vetted before they arrive on U.S. soil. The process also takes an average of 18-24 months to complete.

ISIS is not going to wait 18-24 months while going through interviews and fingerprinting to attempt to infiltrate the United States.

Another aspect of this entire situation is how fantastic of a job both ISIS and the media are doing of striking fear into people.

Two major goals of any terrorist organization is to impose fear and to divide a population of people.

Not like it did not already exist, but Islamophobia is growing at an exponential rate in the United States.

The problem is not with Islam! We are not fighting a war against Islam, no matter how hard FOX News tries to convince the American people of that.

Religious division is exactly what ISIS wants to occur in America. They want to show Muslims around the world just how much the west hates them. That is how ISIS can rapidly grow in numbers, and we are contributing to that growth through our own bigoted views of a religion of 1.5 billion people.

The situation that we are in is similar to one we had during WWII. Between 60 and 70 percent of Americans did not want Jewish refugees coming to America for fear of losing jobs to them. What followed was the deadliest genocide in human history. I fear with the helplessness America has shown, we may unfortunately see history repeat itself.

So far, Turkey has accepted 1.8 million refugees. Germany may take up to 800,000 refugees. Greece, which is in terrible financial woes, has accepted 88,000 Syrian refugees. France, the location of the terrorist attack that killed 129 people, have vowed to accept 30,000 Syrian refugees in the next two years.

So why does the acceptance of refugees stop with us?

*(Devin Stelter is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*



Winter Break is Dec. 19 - Jan. 10.

