



# — THE — Mysticician

[ N E W S ] P A P E R

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December 11, 2025

A Song by the Choir - Joseph Hildenbrand participates in a patriotic song with choir. Noah Schettler | Photography

## Students Honor Veterans Through Music

**Alondra Vidal**  
Reporter

On Nov. 5, the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium was filled with harmonious music, gratitude, and an enthusiastic crowd as the Bismarck State College band and choir performed their annual fall Patriotic Concert, coming together to honor veterans. People took their seats—veterans,

*“I believe it’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone to sit together and savor a moment”*  
Patience Mosbrucker

teachers, and students alike, all eager to experience the concert. The event kicked off with the presentation of the colors, leading into a powerful rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” performed by the Concert Choir. The

Mystic Chorale, made up of teachers, staff, and students, followed with heartfelt performances of “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” and “God Bless the USA.” Throughout the concert, images of

veterans, the United States, landscapes, and communities were displayed, creating a powerful connection that celebrated the cherished memories of the nation. The String Ensemble contributed beautifully, their violins playing with an angelic quality. The concert concluded with a moving flag-honoring segment that paid tribute to the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force.

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FOR  
WEB

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# MYSTIC MEDIA

## SHENANIGANS



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## MYSTIC MEDIA MISSION STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to students and the community. With this goal in mind, Mystic Media is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. We strive 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. Mystic Media strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organizations. Mystic Media upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking material to the college community. Thoughts expressed may not be the opinion of all the staff or BSC community.

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# Music

Cont. 1

To make this event successful, both the performers and professors had to prepare extensively. According to Cowart, they began practicing at the start of the fall semester, along with rehearsing their music for the upcoming Holiday Concert.

The most challenging part for the performers, as noted by BSC student Redik Glaser, was memorizing the military songs. Glaser said he enjoyed the process, but admitted it had its challenges.

“It was very tiring,” Glaser said. “And I was ready to go home.”

Additionally, the backstage crew worked diligently to set up the stage, sound, and lighting.

The songs selected for the concert were chosen with meaning and intention. Cowart emphasized that she dedicates time to listen to each selection to ensure the program is diverse and engaging.

“I believe that the more prepared you are for a concert, the more confident you feel, and that principle applies in many other areas as well,” Cowart said. “Our students are amazing at what they do, and I always trust that they will do

their job.”

Their thorough preparation paid off. The concert sparked nostalgia for many attendees, particularly the veterans, evoking memories tied to the music. A particularly moving moment during the performance was the rendition of “Prayer of the Children” by the Men’s Choir. This song captured the perspective of children exposed to the horrors of war, reflecting their fear through its harmonious melodies and soaring notes. The initial quietness builds to moments where the men’s voices resonate loudly, which may have evoked strong emotions in the audience. The song serves as a poignant reminder that war impacts countless innocent lives who have no involvement in the conflict. It depicts children praying to God for salvation, pleading with the lines, “Can you hear...? Can you feel...?”

The Honor Flight Network was also able to attend the Patriotic Concert. Veteran and Board Member of the Western ND Honor Flight Network, Patience Mosbrucker, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend.



**Darren King**  
Assistant Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences

the Western ND Honor Flight Network is to transport America’s veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country. This initiative is a wonderful way to honor and thank our veterans for their service.

Assistant Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences Darren King expressed his thoughts on the Patriotic Concert.

“I thought it was wonderful and a fan-

“For the Honor Flight to be allowed to participate was beyond our expectations,” Mosbrucker said.

She spoke towards the end of the concert about the Honor Flight Network. According to their website, the mission of

tastic tribute to all our fellow citizens who have served in uniform,” King said.

King and Mosbrucker shared their favorite pieces from the concert, with Mosbrucker’s being “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” As a veteran, she was reminded of her own experiences with military songs. King mentioned that he particularly enjoyed “The Air Force Song,” which was performed during the flag-honoring segment at the concert’s conclusion.

“It made me feel proud, it made me feel nostalgic, it made me think about my dad’s military service and my military service too,” said King.

The event fostered a sense of connection with veterans and the audience through the power of music. The audience honored veterans as their service songs and flags were displayed. The concert wrapped up with an audience applause, celebrating the moment with joy and appreciation.

Photo Spread on Page 14-15

# Pick Up the Paper and Read Local

Sophia Fafard  
Co-editor

In a world of fake news and evolving artificial intelligence, it can be difficult to discern lies from truth as people scroll through endless amounts of content. Social media acts as an echo chamber for media consumers, causing divisions between people to grow. The answer to mitigating these issues might be found in the most traditional media outlet; the local newspaper.

North Dakota Newspaper Association Executive Director Cecile Wehrman leads an initiative titled Read Local. The campaign seeks to inform communities in North Dakota of the importance of local news outlets and show the connection between thriving newspapers and thriving communities.

Although many people tend to believe newspapers are dying in North Dakotan communities, this is not the case. Newspapers are now more important than ever.

“Towns with newspapers have more volunteers. They [also] have more people running for public office, and they have more people voting,” Wehrman said. “They even have better financial ratings from municipal bonding.”

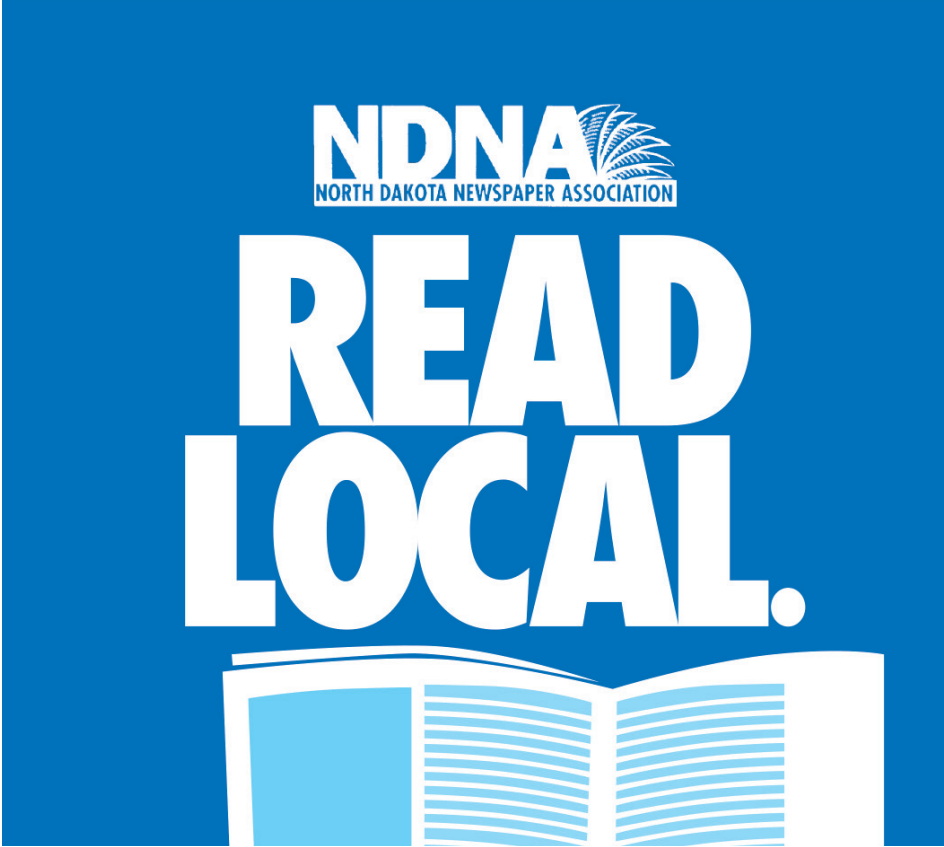
All of these factors have led NDNA to shift their focus onto the Read Local campaign.

Wehrman explained that local news has become crowded out by things that have nothing to do with a person’s everyday life. A high competition for attention between media sources has led people to pay attention to their Facebook feed rather than an actual newspaper for their local news. Read Local asks people to pay attention to what’s going on in their own community, rather than what is only on their screens.

“We are now entering a post-reading world,” Wehrman said. “People are spending their free time on podcasts and videos because they are entertaining, but they are not a replacement for local news sources.”

The lack of reading ability in children has become a real issue, with many people taking note. Journalists and even YouTubers have expressed their concerns, revealing that tablets in classrooms have already had negative impacts on children’s reading scores.

“Will future generations learn to



read, or will Siri and Alexa read for them?” Wehrman asked. “It’s an important question.”

People can now find newspapers in print, online, on websites and apps, and through social media. Still, local news continues to compete for local attention, and it is getting crowded out by the rest of the world, such as bigger news and entertainment models.

Despite this changing media landscape, North Dakota holds strong, with 72 newspapers still in print throughout all of North Dakota. Sometimes, a local newspaper is the only news source in the smaller communities in North Dakota. Many of these small newspapers are run by passionate individuals who wish to see their newspaper thrive.

Students can also get involved in supporting their local newspaper. The NDNA Education Program offers paid internships to students interested in working for their local newspaper in hopes of getting students interested in working for their local paper and telling stories in small towns.

“We’ve spent between \$30,000 and \$55,000 a year for the last five years putting a dozen or so interns out in newspapers to try and get more interest

in telling those stories and working in small towns,” Wehrman said.

The amount of newspapers in North Dakota proves that local news has yet to become obsolete. With passionate individuals like Wehrman spreading the word, local newspapers may not only get the recognition they deserve, but also the support they need from their communities.

“Newspapers are not dying,” Wehrman said. “They are changing and evolving.”

As newspapers evolve with the world around them, the importance of the local newspaper may become even more vital. Newspapers aid in the democratic process and promote critical thinking among the younger population, removing us from the echo chambers that tell us what we want to hear. Read Local tells us exactly how to leave this echo chamber with a final call to action. Wehrman will continue to share this message as she drives her decade van throughout North Dakota: “Start Reading Local.”

# Cyber Club & WiCyS Club

Bismarck State College students are eligible to join two cybersecurity clubs this year. These are WiCyS and Cyber Club. Both clubs are open to all BSC students, regardless of degree, and both clubs meet monthly.



WiCyS club members participate in online training activities designed to promote and encourage new persons in the field of cybersecurity and cyber-adjacent fields, such as Artificial Intelligence. Meetings are monthly and take place at the Advanced Technology Center in Room 210. The meetings are virtual and in-person. WiCyS will meet from 7 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. The WiCyS club adviser is Lynette Borjeson Painter. For any questions, contact her at 701-224-5755.

CyberClub is another cybersecurity opportunity. In CyberClub, members prepare for and train to compete in cyber competitions around the region and nation. Meetings are monthly and take place at the ATC in Room 210. Meetings are virtual and in-person, and the club will meet from 6 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Club advisers include Painter and Deborah Mantz. Contact Painter at her previously mentioned number or Mantz at 701-224-2407 for any questions.

- Meeting Dates for Both Clubs:
- December 9, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- February 10, 2026
- March 3, 2026
- April 14, 2026



# Fall Semester Wrap-up

If you could describe this semester in one word, what would it be?



Olivia Grote | Reporter

**Move-in Day!** - Autumn and Brylee walk together on move-in day.

“Cold, because it’s cold outside”

Jessa Lee



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Getting Ready** - Watch out! Mystics are serving!

Stic’ to it

“Adventure, because I’ve met a lot of new people.”

Jasmine Casas



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor

**A Mystic Bullseye** - Arianna Beatty throws the axe attempting a Mystic bullseye.

“HOPEFUL, Now that I’m in college I’m finally understanding who I am and what I want to work towards”

Chance Leingang



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Team Spirit** - The BSC Track team shows support as Dexter Yohan, Jack Koppelson, Nathan Mathern, Cameron Naslund, and Cayden Kraft cheer from the sidelines.



**Royalty Stampede** - Jaxon Schaefer, Merlin, and Aisha Zaffino pose at the rodeo grounds after receiving their crown.

Submitted



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Fueling the Mystics** - A group of students eat lunch together at the Student Union. Photo left to right Channing Asked, Aiden Herman, Carson Wyant, Kage Walford, Mason Simanton, Bud Wilkie, Alex Wiczorek, and Colin Olson.

“NERVE-RACKING”

Deegan Trotter



**Campus Cowboy** - Edward Rekdal holds on tight as mechanical bull draws a crowd.

Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor

GO MYSTICS!





**A Great Start** - Dan Leingang opens the Content Creators Summit.

Jill Friesz | Submitted

# Content Creators Summit



**Buffalo's Fire** - Daniela Aki presents about Buffalo's Fire digital media outlet.

Jill Friesz | Submitted



**Creatives at Work** - Students engage with presenter.

Jill Friesz | Submitted



**Newspaper Fan Club** - Jill Friesz from GS Publishing visits with students in the Mystician office.

Submitted



**Basics of Design** - Sean Thorensen Graphic Design and Communications professor from BSC discusses the basics of design to high schoolers across the state.

Jill Friesz | Submitted



**Ready to Present** - Brian Gray and Ariana Gonzalez from KFYP-TV.

Jill Friesz | Submitted

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Oct. 9, 2026  
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# Why Does Peace Matter to Students?

Kaden Solemsaas  
Reporter

For as long as humans have been on Earth, there has always been conflict. Groups and nations are constantly fighting one another. Even in our modern era, there is still fighting across the globe. These wars provide a constant threat to the security of everyone. Time and time again throughout history, it only takes one event to turn a small-scale conflict into global warfare.

For example, the conflict in Gaza has become increasingly controversial on the world stage. Recent attempts of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza being blocked by Israeli forces have put the intentions of Israeli forces into question. Not to mention, an increasing number of reports of noncombatants being killed, particularly children. Before a recent ceasefire, the conflict was escalating at a rapid rate. However, the ceasefire was recently broken, with both sides blaming the other.

“What’s going on in Gaza is god awful, and every day it seems like an all out war is inevitable,” Bismarck State College student Gavin Kutzer said.

The conflict has been approaching coalition warfare—a type of warfare that includes multiple different groups of nations and typically occurs on a world stage. Another significant conflict in the world is the Russo-Ukrainian war. It began in 2014, but the full scale Russian invasion occurred in 2022, when hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers unexpectedly advanced across into Ukrainian territory. Over the course of the war, many countries, particularly the United States and Germany, have aided Ukrainian forces significantly. Other nations, like Poland, have begun to modernize their military—growing and expanding it at a rapid rate to defend from a possible Russian invasion. “I think that the Russian and Ukrainian conflict is pretty scary,” another BSC student, Hunter Peterson, said. “If Russia did continue to invade more countries, it would lead to terrible things.”

A Russian invasion of Poland, or any other nations for that matter, would likely spell a much larger conflict than before.

The sentiment is generally the same. Conflicts and wars can be terrible things, and can cause Americans at least some sort of fear.

“There is a possibility that America would join some of these wars, and that is horrifying to think about because our generation would likely have to fight it,” Peterson said. “I don’t think it would ever get to a draft, but Americans fighting and dying in a foreign war is still a shame.”

However, that is not the only concern that students have.

“If anything, I’m more upset that the United States is using taxpayer dollars to fund foreign conflicts,” Kutzer said.

This is another major effect on college academics, as taxpayer dollars that could be used as things like grants and financial aid are being shipped across the world to fuel conflict.

The general sentiment seems to be clear; wars and conflicts pose a major threat to the peace and security of everyone across the United States, and college students in particular may be some of the most at risk in the event of escalation of these conflicts.

# Hello Dolly! Theater Flashes Back

Olivia Grote  
Reporter

Bismarck State College first performed “Hello, Dolly!” in 1978. The show was directed by Jane Gray Stewart, and Sheila Schafer, spouse of BSC donor Harold Shafer, starred as Dolly Levi. In a flashy return to the past and continuation of tradition, “Hello, Dolly!” has made a reappearance on the BSC stage, this time as the inaugural production in BSC’s new Advanced Technology Center auditorium.

The musical had seven performances from Oct. 31 to Nov. 9. Daniel Walstad served as the show’s director, choreographer, and costume designer. The designer/technical director was Dean Bellin, Brittany Bearsheart was music director, Hollis Mackintosh Heid was choreographer, and Professor Emeritus Dan Rogers contributed to the

production. Pianist Luke Weber accompanied the musical.

“Hello, Dolly!” premiered on Broadway in 1964. The musical is based on the play “The Matchmaker” by Thornton Wilder and was produced by David Merrick and Champion Five, inc. Its script was written by Michael Stewart, and its music and lyrics were composed and written by Jerry Herman. The acclaimed musical received ten Tony Awards for its original production—including Best Musical—a record that remained unbroken for decades. During its 2017 revival, the musical set another record and received an additional four Tony awards.

The story centers around the titular Dolly (Brittany Bearsheart)’s return to her previous life following a dip away from society when her husband died. While she plots to marry the wealthy Horace Vandergelder (Jacob Frohlich),

Dolly becomes acquainted with two of Vandergelder’s frustrated employees, Cornelius Hackl (Max Wild) and Barnaby Tucker (Ladyn Meidinger), who are looking to enjoy themselves during a visit to New York City.

Walstad describes the musical as “not simply a show about a meddling matchmaker or a trip to Yonkers; it is about people daring to become the best versions of themselves.” He connects the themes of the musical to BSC’s journey of continued growth: “Just like Dolly and her friends, we are marching forward with courage, a positive attitude, and maybe even a feathered hat or two.”

BSC’s next production is their winter play “Constellations” on December 4–7. Its spring musical, “Frozen,” is scheduled for March 19–29 in the Advanced Technology Center.



Hello, Dolly! - Dancing away on stage!

Olivia Grote | Reporter

# Let’s Talk About Tea: *the app, of course*

Sophia Fafard  
Co-Editor

Dating has never been more different than it is now. In our modern world, not only do we have dating apps such as Tinder and Hinge, but our access to social media has allowed us to have a round the clock connection with friends, family, and even strangers. Apps like Snapchat or Instagram have created another way to find a partner or fling with features like quick add or the “suggested for you” column on Instagram. It is no wonder that it can be hard to judge someone when sometimes, the only way we get to know them is through their online presence, which can be a danger in itself.

That’s where Tea comes in.

Launched in 2023 (although some sources say 2022), Tea Dating Advice was pitched as a social networking and dating surveillance app that allows exclusively women to post personal data about men in their surrounding area. The creator of the app, Sean Cook, was motivated to create a modern “whisper network” after seeing his mother’s harsh experiences with online dating. This led to the Tea app, a place where women can share photos of men they had dated. Here, they can comment, conduct background checks, search up their criminal records, search for sex offenders, and rate men with either red or green flags in a “Yelp!” review style. The app is similar to that of the “Are We Dating the Same Guy?” Facebook groups, where women can talk about men they have dated and spill any “tea” they have on guys they have dated (hence the title “Tea”). Although there are positives to the Tea app, many ethical debates have opened up around it regarding privacy, defamation, and

other legal concerns. This has led to the app undergoing multiple incidents since the sudden peak of its popularity.

Despite launching in 2023, the Tea app did not become popular until July 25, 2025. Tea became popular due to social media promotion from women discovering the app, which led to it becoming the number one app on the App Store. The same day it reached number one, a massive data breach was confirmed by 404Media, which confirmed that the location where personal information was stored was not secure. This event caused a breach of 72,000 images (including 13,000 selfies and photo IDs, and 59,000 images from app posts and direct messages). The data breach affected users who had signed up before February 2024, yet the leaked data caused many locations and homes to be exposed online as well as personal images, conversations about abortions and cheating partners, as well as private data. A rating website, created by men to rank the women whose data was breached (titled “Tea Spill”) allowed users to rate women based on the leaked images. Tea Spill was taken down soon after it was created.

The whole kerfuffle went even deeper, as people soon learned that Tea violated their own privacy policy. Their privacy policy explained that user selfies for verification are “securely processed and stored only temporarily and will be deleted immediately following the completion of the verification process.” This was not the case. According to Tea, 13,000 of the breached images were from users verifying their images months ago. Due to this violation, some women attempted to sue the Tea app. At least 10 women sued the Tea app on August 7, 2025 in both federal and state courts, claiming Tea was

careless in their security and violated a contract. Even after the data breach, women continued using the Tea App, including college students and younger women. Those who downloaded it would keep it even after being removed from some services.

The Tea App was finally removed from the Apple App Store in October 2025 after failing to meet Apple’s content moderation standards and user privacy terms. This privacy policy included the sharing of minor’s private information on the app. The app is still available on the Android App Store and the Google Play Store.

After everything this app has gone through and the controversy it has caused, it may confound people to hear that some women still use Tea. Not only does the app lack security and slip past some privacy laws; it can create a greater divide between the sexes, which is a growing division in society today. Apps like these may lead to anger and frustration from men and encourage gossip from women, especially since anyone can lie on the app and spread rumors, which has led some to argue it is a defamation case. Still, news surrounding the app has been quiet as of late, and any information about it is vague at most. For female college students and students at Bismarck State College, this does not matter. Many continue to use the app today. While it is a helpful tool, it is important to be mindful of what information to take from it. Responsibility is key when it comes to the Tea app, and there is no need to spread rumors or hate through it. The app should be used how it was intended. It is not meant to hurt the reputation of others or gossip. Use it with the intent to inform other women, and stay safe.



# Club Allows Students to Share Their Cultures

Alondra Vidal  
Reporter

Bismarck State College’s Cultural Exchange Club is a place where students from various backgrounds gather to share, learn about, and celebrate cultures from around the world. It focuses on connecting people through traditions, food, music, and stories. Everyone is welcome to join; the doors are always open.

Every year, the club hosts a Trunk or Treat event that brings joy to everyone involved. It’s a wonderful occasion where people can dress up, enjoy delicious pizza, and share candy with others. Recently, the club also took the time to volunteer by painting pumpkins with the elderly at Edgewood, and it was incredibly

heartwarming—everyone had a lot of fun together. Cultural Exchange Club has collaborated with the Ag club as well, lending a hand when they can. The recent Clubsgiving was a lovely gathering where everyone came together to share their cultural dishes, play board games, and enjoy each other’s company. Looking ahead, there’s excitement building for the upcoming Christmas gift exchange, a tradition they cherished last year and are eager to continue.

Joining this club is a wonderful opportunity for those looking for a warm and welcoming environment. It is a chance to connect with new people and celebrate culture in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



Alondra Vidal | Reporter  
**Howdy There** - Trunk or Treat with Cultural Exchange and a cowgirl!



**Dance it off** - Cultural Exchange Club dance all night at their clubsgiving!



**Huddle in** - Last Years Cultural Exchange club takes a cute selfie.

# Music Department Spreads Christmas Cheer

Alondra Vidal  
Reporter

The Bismarck State College Music Department invites the community to celebrate the holidays with “Christmas Joy,” a vibrant concert that highlights the joy, fun, collaborations, and spirit of the season. Scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

This festive holiday event brings together multiple ensembles from the music department, including the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Men’s Ensemble, Women’s Ensemble, and String Ensemble. Each group will perform several selections on their own, interspersed with collaborative

pieces throughout the evening.

According to Band Director and Assistant Teaching Professor Kennedy Cowart, the audience can look forward to a delightful mix of classic holiday favorites, contemporary hits, and some exciting surprises.

A unique holiday event is on the horizon, combining the enchantment of a beloved story with the magic of live music. This special collaboration with Mystic Media features a Broadway-inspired mashup, showcasing a talented band, choir, and string musicians.

Attendees can look forward to a vibrant performance that includes the Jazz Band’s distinctive interpretations of popular Christmas songs. It’s

an opportunity to celebrate the season and enjoy the unifying power of art through music.

Finally, the Men’s Ensemble is set to warm hearts with a delightful and humorous holiday selection.

Kennedy Cowart shared that the Holiday Concert is one of their favorite BSC traditions.

“It brings together the entire Performing Arts community, showcases student talent, and gives everyone a chance to celebrate the end of the semester with some feel-good music,” Cowart said.

Bring some friends and attend the Holiday Concert to support BSC’s music department.

# Campus Group Crusades for Christ

Mygel Porter  
Social Media Manager

Bismarck State College offers many clubs and organizations for students to meet like-minded people and even share their faith. Cru is one of these organizations.

Cru, also known as Campus Crusaders for Christ, is a small college group that meets every Thursday in the alumni room in the lower floor of the student union. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. for an hour-long bible study. Afterwards, most students go upstairs in the student union to play pool, ping pong, and hang out. Cru has been at BSC for 26 years now.

Nancy Shirley is the team leader for the Northern Plains team. The Northern Plains team includes all the

campus ministries and colleges in western North Dakota. Shirley and her husband Troy started Cru on the BSC campus as they noticed there weren’t many ministries on the smaller campuses in the western area. They believed that college students needed a place to meet and grow. They said they felt excited about seeing ministries on campuses, so BSC was ideal for Cru as the college did not have it yet. Unfortunately, they are no longer working with Cru on the BSC campus.

Mark Voigt is on staff with Cru at BSC as a non-paid volunteer. Voigt explains Cru as a “church youth group, but for college students or young adults.”

Cru offers a few positions for students, two of them being the Cru President and Cru Vice President. Jolynne

Strobel is the President and Maddison Fagerland is the Vice President. As the President of Cru, Strobel’s responsibilities are to start the introduction for every week, talking to the leaders on what they plan to do for that week and what they want to share with their members.

“Students should come to Cru to learn more about faith in God, meet new friends, and have good clean fun,” Voigt said. He added that there have been some changes to Cru’s usual processes.

“Something new this year is student-led worship that has been taking place occasionally,” Voigt said.

If you are interested in Cru, Voigt recommends following them on their Instagram page @ bsc.cru.

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The Mystician



Next issue 87.10  
on February 5



MystiCast

December 19th  
LIVE

The MYX



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BSCMYX!

# Campus Directory

**Campus Police Safety & Security**  
**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday  
**Location:** Student Union Lower Level Room 120  
**Phone:** 911 – Emergency  
701-223-9111 – Non-Emergency  
701-224-2700 – Office

**Mystic Advising & Counseling Center (MACC)**  
**Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday  
**Location:** Student Union Lower Level  
**Phone:** 701-224-5752

**Bismarck State College Library**  
**Hours:** 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday  
**Location:** Skogen Hall  
**Phone:** 701-224-5450

**Bismarck State College Bookstore**  
**Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday  
**Location:** Student Union  
**Phone:** 701-224-5453



# Editorial

OUR VOICE

## Letter from the Editors



Kayden Schmitcke & Sophia Fafard  
Co-Editors

This has been quite the semester. It has flown by, which is one of the reasons we are working on this letter thirty minutes before our publication deadline. Before you laugh at us though, let us explain all the things that have happened recently. So, let’s all take a collective breath, and reflect on the semester.

Since we last published, we have had a few big events come our way. This includes the Content Creators Summit. The Summit took place on November 14, and it consisted of a keynote speaker, panels with creative professionals, as well as video, podcast, and newspaper activities for high school students to attend. The event taught us a lot about content creation, and it was great to be able to network and connect with professional creators.

We also found out that Bismarck State College is bringing back football. An announcement at the Advanced Technology Center brought athletes, students, and faculty together to witness a historic moment in BSC history. You can learn more about the football team from the press release on the sports pages.

Overall, this semester has been an interesting one. Despite some bumps in the road, we are buckling down for finals and looking forward to three weeks of Christmas break. See ya next year, folks!

...Wait a minute, we forgot to mention—something important is coming to the Mystician next semester. Something big. A story that YOU as a BSC student can help us write. If you care about things and want to incite change, we are here for you. Keep an eye out for upcoming stories that are fully relevant to YOU as a student. We will be publishing them next semester. Our first story comes out in our February issue.

That’s all we have to say for now. Enjoy this issue of the Mystician over winter break with a cup of hot cocoa beside the fireplace. Drive safe, stay warm, and have a Merry Christmas!

## Need a part-time job?

Are you passionate about storytelling, broadcasting, design, or audio production? Mystic Media at Bismarck State College is your platform to bring those passions to life.

### What Is Mystic Media?

Mystic Media is BSC’s student-run media: The Mystician (print & on-line newspaper), MystiCast (video broadcast), The MYX (radio station), and Figments of Imagination (literary arts magazine)

### What Roles Can You Explore?

We’re looking for creative, driven student contributors across a variety of roles:

- Reporters, columnists, copy editors
- Photographers, videographers, camera operators
- DJs, podcasters, broadcast anchors
- Graphic & web designers, cartoonists
- Advertising managers, sports reporters, and more

MysticMedia

### Why Join Mystic Media?

Make an impact on campus through creative storytelling and media production. Learn from experienced advisers—like Karen Bauer, Dusty Anderson, and Cole Bernhardt—who guide our student teams . Build a **versatile portfolio** with printed, video, live, audio, and digital work. Gain **leadership experience** and opportunities to earn **scholarships** or work as a **paid student** employee

Apply online through Student Employment.  
Reach out to karen Bauer, Mystic Media Adviser, for details: call 701-224-5522 or email karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu

JOIN NOW!  
MYSTICMEDIA  
BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

## One Battle After Another: A Modern Masterpiece



Jaxon Miller  
The MYX Executive Producer

Paul Thomas Anderson’s latest film, “One Battle After Another,” cements his place as one of this generation’s greatest directors. The film follows Bob Ferguson, a former member of the French 75 rebel group, fighting to save his daughter from being captured by a corrupt military Colonel, Steven J. Lockjaw. The film primarily takes place in the fictional town of Baktan Cross, where Lockjaw tries to hunt down Bob’s daughter, Willa.

The characters in this film are portrayed masterfully by their actors. Some big names include Leonardo DiCaprio, who plays Bob, Sean Penn, who plays Lockjaw, and Benicio Del Torro, who plays Willa’s karate sensei, Sergio St. Carlos. DiCaprio is the stand-out role as Bob Ferguson. He gives it his all in this performance. Bob is a washed up member of the revolution militia group known as the French 75. DiCaprio plays the role perfectly, portraying Bob as a paranoid and passive character in the first half of the film, trying to keep his daughter safe from the military group trying to hunt them down.

The score and soundtrack are nothing to scoff at either. The soundtrack contains a variety of songs by renowned artists. Some stand-outs are “American Girl” by Tom Petty, “Dirty Work” by Steely Dan, “Ready Or Not (Here I Come)” by The Jackson 5, and even “Freedom” by



Beyonce. The soundtrack is not the only great musical thing about the movie though. The score composed by Jonny Greenwood is phenomenal and unlike anything I’ve ever heard. A lot of the songs on the score start out with almost completely disorganized sound, with notes being played seemingly at random, then joining together to create a beautiful sound that can change depending on which situation the movie is currently showing. The score is incredibly important for the film, and Greenwood knocked it out of the park.

Even though “One Battle After Another” was commercially a flop, the film is considered amongst many to be one of Paul Thomas Anderson’s best films. The film has also cemented its place as film of the year from its interesting characters, phenomenal story, and beautiful score. “One Battle After Another” is a must see for anyone that is interested in film.

## Writing Doesn’t Have to be So Bad



Isaiah Johnson  
MystiCast Executive Producer

Those who know me best will tell you that I wasn’t the biggest fan of writing as a younger fellow. The mere idea of having to write things down made me start sweating. I always assumed that anything I wrote would be poor and that it would take me innumerable attempts to say anything of value. A large part of this distaste was largely due to the fact that I only wrote when my school assignments demanded it. I rarely ended up writing about anything I remotely cared about, so I developed a formula that I could quickly use for any topic. Needless to say, this led to some rather bland and uninspiring writing.

A number of years ago, something shifted in my mind. It is easy to neglect any attempts at improvement by categorizing our talents and fatalistically accepting that we will not improve

in areas we are not naturally gifted in. As a math guy, I had been operating as if I could never be a good writer. The longer I think about this position, the more I despise it. Yes, we have unique God-given talents and abilities that we should absolutely use for His glory and societal good. But this truth absolutely does not preclude the responsibility of becoming a well-rounded individual.

We have access to resources and information that would take over a thousand lifetimes to digest, so why would we not take advantage of a small sliver of it? We have the opportunity to educate ourselves on theology, logic, philosophy, history, mathematics, languages, and any number of additional subjects. This should lead to a mindset of humility and eagerness as we strive to become more competent, more articulate, more thoughtful people so we can pour into the lives of others.

Since when has learning become a chore?

Armed with a greater appreciation for learning and growing as a person, I have been making strides toward becoming a thoughtful and articulate writer. These column pieces of mine you see in the newspaper resulted from a desire to discuss meaningful topics with clarity and conciseness. Of course, I can always improve my writing abilities, but the process of simply writing about things I enjoy in the newspaper has made me a better writer. We must remember that our ability to learn is a great gift, and that we should take full advantage.



# BSC ATHLETICS

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## BSC Announces Addition of Football Program

*Mystics Football will make its return in 2027 after a 40-year absence*

Logan Hoff  
Sports Information Coordinator

Bismarck State College Interim President Dan Leingang, along with Director of Athletics Myron Schulz, announced at a press conference on Wednesday afternoon that the Mystics Football program will be making its long-awaited return to campus.

“This moment has been four decades in the making and truly marks the beginning of a new era for MysticNation,” Leingang said. “It’s exciting to see former BJC players return to campus to celebrate this announcement alongside our current students.”

Football was a staple on the campus of BSC, then Bismarck Junior College (BJC), from 1946 to 1962, and then again from 1971 to 1985. The team played in the North Dakota College Athletic Conference, which at that time was affiliated with the NAIA and consisted of eight additional in-state schools the Mystics faced off against, including current Frontier Conference members Dickinson State, Valley City State and Mayville State. At that time, BJC was a two-year program competing against four-year programs. That won’t be the case for the third rendition of the program’s competition in the NAIA.

“This is a milestone moment for our athletic department and for the future of our college,” said Schulz. “We’re restoring a tradition that meant so much to our campus and will give our students, alumni and fans another team to rally behind on the weekends.”

Schulz is all too familiar with Mystics Football, as he played strong safety on the 1983-84 BJC Football teams. Accompanying Schulz at the announcement were former Mystics Football coaches Ed Hasche and Don Bigwood, along with Frontier Conference Commissioner Dr. Scott Crawford.

“Frontier Conference football welcomes the return of Bismarck State football as the conference’s 15th team and draws the entire NAIA closer to nearly 100 football programs nationally. The entire conference looks forward to having Mystic-Nation be an integral part of game-day Saturdays each fall on the gridiron,” shared Crawford. “It will be fun to see BSC rekindle old rivalries in North Dakota and develop new rivalries across the Frontier.”

The Mystics’ first football season in the NAIA Frontier Conference will be Fall 2027. Currently, 14 schools make up the two football divisions in the conference. The program will have renewed rivalries as the fourth North Dakota team, and an opportunity to venture into uncharted territory for the college with members of the west division in Idaho, Oregon and California.

“With our transition this fall to the NAIA and Frontier Conference and now offering 13 bachelor’s degrees, BSC continues to move forward in developing well-rounded students who are prepared to lead in their careers and commu-



Submitted  
Mystics Football - Interim President Dr. Dan Leingang and Director of Athletics Myron Schulz announce football program.



Submitted  
The Past - Mystics Football at the Bismarck Community Bowl in the 1980s.

nities, says Leingang. “Our investment in athletics supports our mission to educate and prepare the region’s future workforce and leaders by developing characteristics such as discipline, leadership, teamwork and resilience.”

Schulz said the search for a new head football coach has now begun. For all things BSC football, visit [BSCMystics.com/Football](https://BSCMystics.com/Football).

## Esports Finishes Fall Season

Pete DeMille  
Reporter

With the fall semester creeping towards finals week, Mystics Esports finish their fall play. Through the seven weeks of games, Bismarck State College has put up a fight. At the finale of the action, here are the results of the Esports teams in NECC play.

Varsity Rocket League made it beyond the regular season of play. Any chance of going into the second round was shattered when University of Michigan-Flint beat the Mystics. They finished the season with four wins and three losses before the post season.

The second Rocket League team also got into the post-season play. The other rocket league team had a great finish to their 4-3 season. They did not allow New Mexico State University to win any games, thus clinching a spot in the playoffs. The first round of post season was just as rough as the first Rocket League team.

Valorant play ended with the final regular season game. Finishing 1-5 on season play is the tough part of the season. Players did not give up easily as some games came to the wire.

League of Legends did not continue into the playoff range. Similar to Valorant, the League of Legends team finished with a 1-5 record. It was not the desired outcome, but players defended their Lane to the last breath.

Madden quietly entered this fall as well. Derek Holen completed his season 3-4. This was not enough to launch him into the Madden playoffs.



# Mystics Basketball Begins

**Bryson Mohs**  
Reporter

The Bismarck State College Men’s Basketball team opened their 2025 season on Tuesday night, Nov. 4, against the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers at the historic Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D.

The matchup marked Bismarck State’s first game of the season, while Dakota Wesleyan entered the contest 1–0 after an 89–84 victory over Grand View on Oct. 28. Both programs compete at the NAIA level, though the game was a non-conference matchup.

Dakota Wesleyan came out on top with a final score of 82–62, handing the Mystics an early-season loss.

Following the game, Head Coach Kevin Rice reflected on the team’s performance, noting both positives and areas for improvement.

“We had some goods, some bad, some ups and downs,” Rice said. “Our

execution offensively and defensively was really good at times — in spurts — but the turnovers really hurt us.”

Rice added that despite outplaying Dakota Wesleyan in many aspects of the game, turnovers made the difference.

“We beat them in just about every phase of the game,” Rice said, “but we just turned the ball over too much.”

Looking ahead, Rice emphasized that his main expectation for the Mystics this season is steady improvement each week. He also mentioned one noticeable adjustment between JUCO and NAIA competition.

“There’s more attention to detail,” Rice said.

Bismarck State will look to bounce back in their next matchup as they continue to build momentum early in the season.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Straight Shot** - Rron Radoniqi goes for a basket.

# Women’s Wrestling Pick Up First Win

**Garrett Froelich**  
Columnist

The 2025-2026 Mystics Women’s Wrestling season began on Saturday, Nov. 1, with the Bismarck State College women’s team winning their inaugural match against Augsburg University in Minneapolis with a score of 25-24.

“It just gave them, I think, more confidence,” Head Coach Tyshawn White said after picking up their first win. “Confidence, because a lot of the girls on my team are freshmen, so they got to learn from it and try to keep going because our season just started and it doesn’t end until March.”

Because wrestling is such an individual sport, it may make sense that Coach White pushes confidence so hard. Matching against someone one on one means a wrestler cannot have their head full of doubts.

On Oct. 20, the Mystics Men’s Wres-

tling Team welcomed the University of Mary Marauders into the Armory for their first home competition. The Marauders won the duel convincingly with a score of 48-6. The Mystics’ sole points came from a pin by sophomore Isaiah Horan.

The women’s first home match was on Nov. 20 against the University of Jamestown. This was the first time women’s wrestling has ever taken place in the Armory at BSC. The Mystics defeated the Jimmies in the match, with notable standouts being Rei Ogden’s win at the 1:01 mark and Alexis Schneider’s win at 1:55.

The Mystics Women’s Wrestling Team’s next dual will be on Dec. 10 in Dickinson against the Blue Hawks. Their next match at BSC will take place in February.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Mystic Pride** - William Ware and Houston Davis show team spirit.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Breakdown** - Mystics huddle for game breakdown.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

**Control** - Mystic battles for control during a women’s wrestling match.





**Mystic Cheering** - Coach Jason Harris is pumped for the game.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer



**Concentration** - The Mystics get ready.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer



**Focus** - Arionna Beatty maintains composure.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer



**Back Block** - Natalie DeCoteau gets around her defender for a shot.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer



**Victory** - Adrian Steidler raises her hand in victory following a well-fought match.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer



# Volleyball

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
10/23	Providence	L	0	3
10/24	MSU-Northern	L	0	3
10/31	Valley City State	L	0	3
11/1	Mayville State	W	3	2
11/6	Carroll	L	0	3
11/7	Rocky Mountain	L	0	3

# Women’s Basketball

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
11/4	Dakota Wesleyan	L	43	81
11/18	University of Jamestown	L	69	91
11/19	Minot State	L	55	88
11/21	Rocky Mountain	W	93	88
11/22	Carroll	L	63	66

# Men’s Basketball

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
11/4	Dakota Wesleyan	L	62	82
11/11	Trinity Bible College	L	82	83
11/18	University of Jamestown	L	75	85
11/19	Minot State	L	71	105
11/21	Rocky Mountain	L	58	99
11/22	Carroll	L	82	94

# Men’s Wrestling

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
11/16	UMary	L	6	48

# Women’s Wrestling

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
11/1	Augsburg	W	25	24
11/20	University of Jamestown	W	33	15

# Men’s Cross Country

Date	Location	Team Place	Team Score	Avg Time
11/7	Frontier Conference Championship	6th	140	26:45.60

11/21 NAIA Championship  
**Jakson Ensign**  
134th Place - 26:10.5



# Women’s Cross Country

Date	Location	Team Place	Team Score	Avg Time
11/7	Frontier Conference Championship	5th	145	24:32.30

11/21 NAIA Championship  
**Ava Stafford**  
176th Place - 23:34.9





# Campus Pets



Rylen Swensrud | Mango



Jaxon Miller | Liv



Jaxon Miller | Stella



Rylen Swensrud | Magi



Jaxon Miller | Ollie



Sophia Fafard | The Three Amigos



Garrett Froelich | Floyd



Rylen Swensrud | Spud





**Piano Patriotism** - Staff accompanist, Beth Weiss, supports the choir.

Photos By | **Noah Schettler**

# PATRIOTIC CONCERT



**Singing for America** - Clyde Bauman (R) Music Lecturer, Dean Bellin (L), Associate Professor of Technical Theatre.

The Concert Choir, Men’s Ensemble, Women’s Ensemble, Concert Band, String Ensemble, and Mystic Chorale all participated in the Bismarck State College Patriotic Concert on November 5. They played the “Star Spangled Banner,” “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”, and “God Bless the USA” to honor the veterans.



**Choir Honors Through Song** - Women’s choir reach a harmony at the concert. Pam Torres (L), Jo Lesmeister, and Adrian Brewster (L).



**Ladies of Liberty** - Members of Western ND Honor Flight attend the Patriotic Concert.





BSC Combined Ensembles



David Sovenson | Adjunct  
Instructor of Piano, Jazz Band  
Director

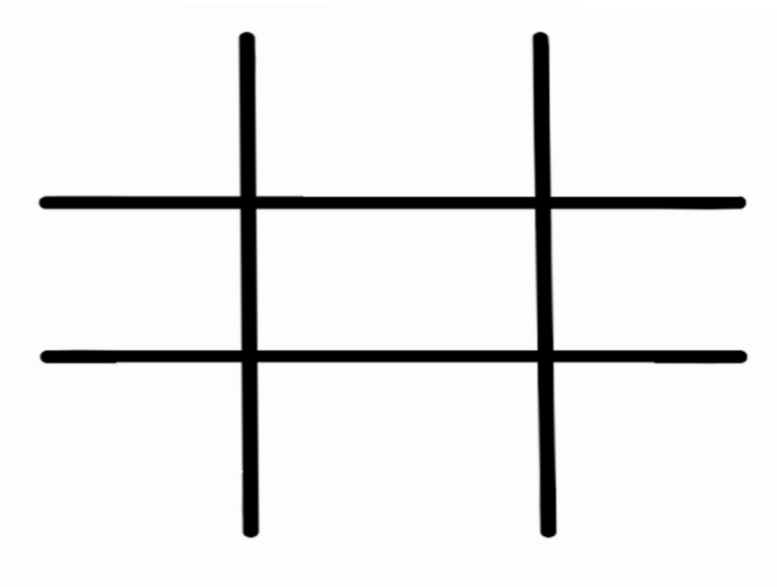


Eden Dunn (L) and Pressida Clarke (R)



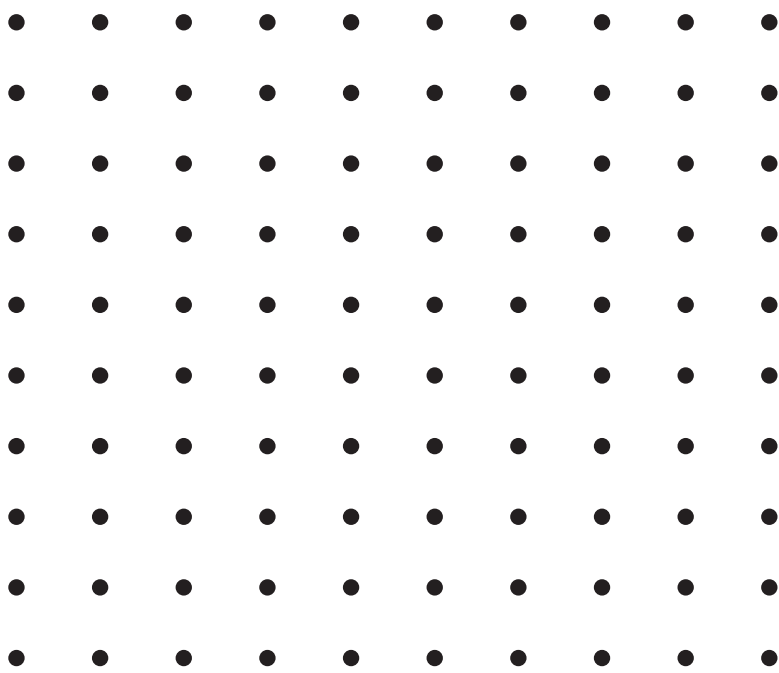
# Puzzle Page

## Tic-Tac-Toe



## Dots to Boxes

Two players take turns drawing a single horizontal or vertical line between adjacent dots on a grid. The player who draws the fourth line of a 1x1 square claims the square by putting their initial inside it and gets to take another turn. The game ends when no more lines can be drawn, and the player with the most claimed squares wins.



## Christmas Movie Trivia

- Where does the McCallister Family plan to spend Christmas in the first “Home Alone”? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does Frosty the Snowman come to life? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who plays Buddy the Elf in “Elf”? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name of the Grinch’s dog? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who plays David, the newly elected Prime Minister, in “Love, Actually”? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the password to get into the party in “Eyes Wide Shut”? \_\_\_\_\_
- In “Black Christmas”, what sorority house does Jess belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

## SAY CHEESE!



**Graphic Design** - Graphic designers pose for photo. Submitted

## SHOW OFF YOUR SMILE!

Are you interested in showing off your wonderful smile? The Mystic Media crew is here to help. If you submit a photo, you may appear in the Mystician Newspaper under the “Say Cheese!” column. How do you submit your photo? It’s simple! Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief’s email address. Send your “Say Cheese!” submission. Make sure to include the first and last name of everyone in the photo. Also, remember to title the email “Say Cheese!” Keep that smile shining, everyone!

## SCAN ME!

