Bates Tech President's Newsletter | Jan. 2024

President's Update

1 - President Lin Zhou

Dear college community,

Welcome to the Winter Quarter! With the new quarter well underway, it is exciting to see our hallways and classrooms buzzing with activity.

We have had a busy January, beginning with a well-attended Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, featuring The Peace Bus with Kwabi Amoah-Forson, on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at South Campus. Thank you to the planning committee and especially to DEI Officer Marcus Harvey, who secured the speaker and delicious BBQ food for the attendees. Kwabi's mission is to promote peace, and I am certain that those who heard his message have already incorporated ways they can help promote peace in their communities.

On Thursday, Jan. 11, we hosted a successful Advisory Committee Appreciation Dinner. During this event, we thanked our advisory committee members, who are made up of labor and industry volunteers. These volunteers dedicate their time to ensuring our programs meet industry needs and standards, and they suggest opportunities to advance the programs. Guest speakers included a member of the Practical

Nurse program advisory committee, Nancy Olsen, and a member from the Architectural Woodworking and Cabinetmaking program, who is also an alumnus, Aaron Berger. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who played a part in making this evening memorable, including the Culinary Arts program, whose students crafted the perfect dinner, and the Bates Foundation, who provided beverages. A special acknowledgment goes to the planning committee, led by Madeleine Kiuttu, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction Johnny Hu. Madeleine's dedication and leadership were instrumental in ensuring the success of the Advisory Committee Appreciation Dinner.

Wishing you a productive and fulfilling quarter ahead!

Sincerely,

Lin Zhou

Department Updates

INSTRUCTION

Central Campus

On January 18, a group of about 20 students from Washington High School visited Bates Tech to get a taste of the broadcast world for an eSports production. Their productions were broadcast on the College Vision channel and can be seen on **YouTube.** We extend our grateful appreciation to faculty members Ken Witkoe and Ace Wheeler for providing a meaningful experience to these high school students.

ESL

Congratulations to our accomplished ESL students who completed ESL courses and have embarked on their new academic journey at Bates Tech. Since Fall 2023, the ESL program increased from just two students to 105 in Winter 2024. Our ESL students have demonstrated resilience, dedication, and commitment to personal growth. Their achievements will contribute to the diversity and strength of our local community.

New faces and new roles…welcome to Bates Tech!

Marjorie Rasmussen, Math Instructor

Marjorie graduated from Western Washington University with a Master's of Science in Mathematics and from Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology. Marjorie taught math at Western Washington University while studying for her master's degree and has 9 additional years of tutoring experience. Loving a variety of subjects, she has also worked/volunteered in horticulture research, corporate financial analysis, animal welfare, emergency medicine, and with physical therapists. When she is not working, she enjoys hiking, concerts, and baking.

Joshua Bero, HVAC Instructor

Josh graduated from New St. Andrews College and attended graduate school at the University of Reykjavik School of Energy where he studied thermodynamics. He has written graduate-level textbooks in electrical engineering, HVAC engineering, and the National Electrical Code for engineers studying to get their professional license. He currently sits on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Washington State L&I Electrical Department as the training school advisor and holds a license by the state to grant continuing education hours for the electrical trade. Previously, he lectured in astronomy at the Pierce College Science Dome. Outside of school and the trades, he works as a professional jazz musician for one of the most active bands in Tacoma.

Teri Tveten, I-BEST Instructor, Electrical Construction Program

Teaching has taken Teri around the world—mostly Asia-- but now she is home where she grew up. In my many, many years working in higher education Teri has never tired of new learning experiences and challenges, particularly as they relate to helping and supporting students. At Bates, she will learn more about electrical construction while assisting students with basic math and communication skills. She is excited about this new journey.

Grace McKenney, CTE Teacher Prep Program Coordinator

Grace has worked in student support at Tacoma Community College as a head tutor and as a graduate teacher assistant at Central Washington University. These positions gave Grace the spark to pursue student support as a passion. She will also soon have a Master's of Science in Cultural and Environmental Resource Management from Central Washington University. When she is not working, Grace loves to pursue artistic endeavors through graphic art and painting, baking, spending time outside hiking, and photography.

STUDENT SERVICES

Enrollment Updates

Fall Quarter's total college enrollment was up 4% compared to last fall. The most significant gains were in our Career Training, ESL (English as a Second Language), and Child Studies. The winter quarter also looks strong with a 7% increase in enrollment at this time as we are still waiting for some of our apprenticeship enrollments to come in.

Campus Life and Activities

Seven ASG (Associated Student Government) positions have been filled, with the vice president, Downtown Campus position remaining open. If you're interested, please apply! ASG is visiting classrooms to recruit and disseminate information about Spring Quarter enrollment dates. The Phi Theta Kappa Spring Conference date has been set for Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Bates Tech is hosting, and Dr. Zhou is the keynote speaker. Food Locker Pilot Program – LeMont Lucas has completed their portion of this initiative, to include identifying spaces at South Campus; Food Security Survey results are in; PTE 3 job description approved through HR and PTE Union; The partners are working to secure the funding through the state and to solidify the logistics for food transfer. The S&A fee committee is looking for one non-ASG student to complete the team. The committee will hear the proposed budget the week of March 25, 2024.

Registration

The Registration Office requests that all students log in to ctcLink to ensure their contact information is up to date. Incorrect or outdated contact information may mean missing critical updates or deadlines! Also, the state will be rolling out a new process for multi-factor authentication for student accounts. This process will be put in place to add another layer of security for students when they log onto ctcLink. Please read the Canvas notice and the Student eNews for more information.

Advising and Conduct

Outreach, Advising, and Retention Staff will be available for three upcoming Spring Quarter Enrollment Blitz Events:

- February 15, from 4-7 p.m. at Downtown Campus
- February 29, from 4-7 p.m. at Downtown Campus
- March 7, from 4-7 p.m. at Downtown Campus

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation Sessions for Spring quarter will be held as follows:

- March 18, from 9 a.m.-Noon at Downtown Campus, (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)
- March 19, from 9 a.m.-Noon at South Campus, (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)
- March 20, from 9 a.m.-Noon at Central Campus, (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Financial Aid

The implementation of the simplified FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) caused nationwide delays, but the 2024-2025 FAFSA application is now available. If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please visit Financial Aid or attend one of a FAFSA completion workshop, dates to be announced. In addition, Financial Aid representatives can be available for classroom visits. Instructors are encouraged to contact Financial Aid if there is interest in scheduling a classroom visit. For more information, visit **StudentAid.gov**.

FOUNDATION

Heart of Bates | BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Scholarship Update

The Bates Tech Foundation offered 42 Scholarships for $37,850 for Spring Quarter.

You can be The Heart of Bates!

The Bates Tech Foundation will host The Heart of Bates campaign Feb. 12-16. Foundation staff will visit the three campuses to bring attention to employee payroll deductions, where visitors can enjoy a cool treat. All employees who sign up, or those who have already signed up, will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a $50 gift card to a local restaurant – just in time for Valentine's Day. Watch your email for details!

Foundation Board of Directors

We are excited to announce that Downtown Tacoma Retail Advocate JD Elquist, Downtown Tacoma Partnership, has joined the Foundation board. Elquist is a Bates Tech Barber program alumnus and a former small business owner. We are excited to have him join the board! Welcome, Mr. Elquist!

The Foundation's board plays a pivotal role in managing financial affairs, orchestrating fundraising initiatives, coordinating special events, providing policy direction, and engaging in strategic planning. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Foundation Board of Directors, please **visit the website** or email **Foundation@batestech.edu**.

This is Bates Tech

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following January employee anniversaries!

JANUARY

Name	Job Title	Years
Michelle McElvain	Financial Aid Specialist	25
Jamie Huey	Financial Aid Specialist	21
Natalie Kuharenko	Early Childhood Food Program Coordinator	20
Marlene Huddleston	Early Childhood Specialist	19
Patricia Reno	Instructor Dental Assisting	19
LeMont Lucas	Manager of Campus Life and Activities	14
Lin Zhou	President	11
Rob Renfro	Instructor HVAC	9
Diana Kondratyuk	Early Childhood Specialist	9
Angie Henderson	Transcript and Credential Evaluator	8
Iris Silber	Record Specialist	8
Lee Jefferson	Instructor Diesel Mechanics	8
Naser Al Tameemi	Instructor Denturist	7
Kyle Byers	Fire Service Instructor	6
Rebekah Heath	Instructor Practical Nursing	6
Kathy Martin	Development Specialist	6
Nicole Strickland	Early Head Start Specialist	5
Diane Shepard	Counselor	4
Johanna Brewer	General Services Specialist	3
Machelle Doolittle	Student Retention Specialist	3
Rodolfo Hernandez	Diesel Instructor	2
Cielito Lane	Director of Enrollment/Registrar	2
Linda Briones	Early Childhood Specialist	1
Abbigail Cozzi	Instructor Nursing	1
Madeleine Kiuttu	Executive Assistant to VP of Instruction	1

NEW HIRES

- Tonja Denton, Student Records Clerk
- Kathleen Dyck, Practical Nursing Instructor
- Terrill Forrey, HVAC and Refrigeration Tech Instructor
- Joshua Bero, HVAC and Refrigeration Tech Instructor
- Grace McKenney, CTE Teacher Prep Program Coordinator
- Geoffrey Ssebagala, IT Cloud Specialist
- Teri Tveten, I-BEST Instructor
- Alma Elias Trujilo, KBTC - Bilingual Program Leader
- Jessica Butterfield, Director of Pre-College Pathways

Congratulations to the following employees on their new positions!

- Evelyn Panayi, Human Resources Specialist

- Sharon Netter, Applied Business Management Instructor

PEER APPRECIATIONS

Do you know a stellar student, a fantastic faculty or a superior staff member? Email your Peer Appreciation to **communications@batestech.edu** to be featured here!

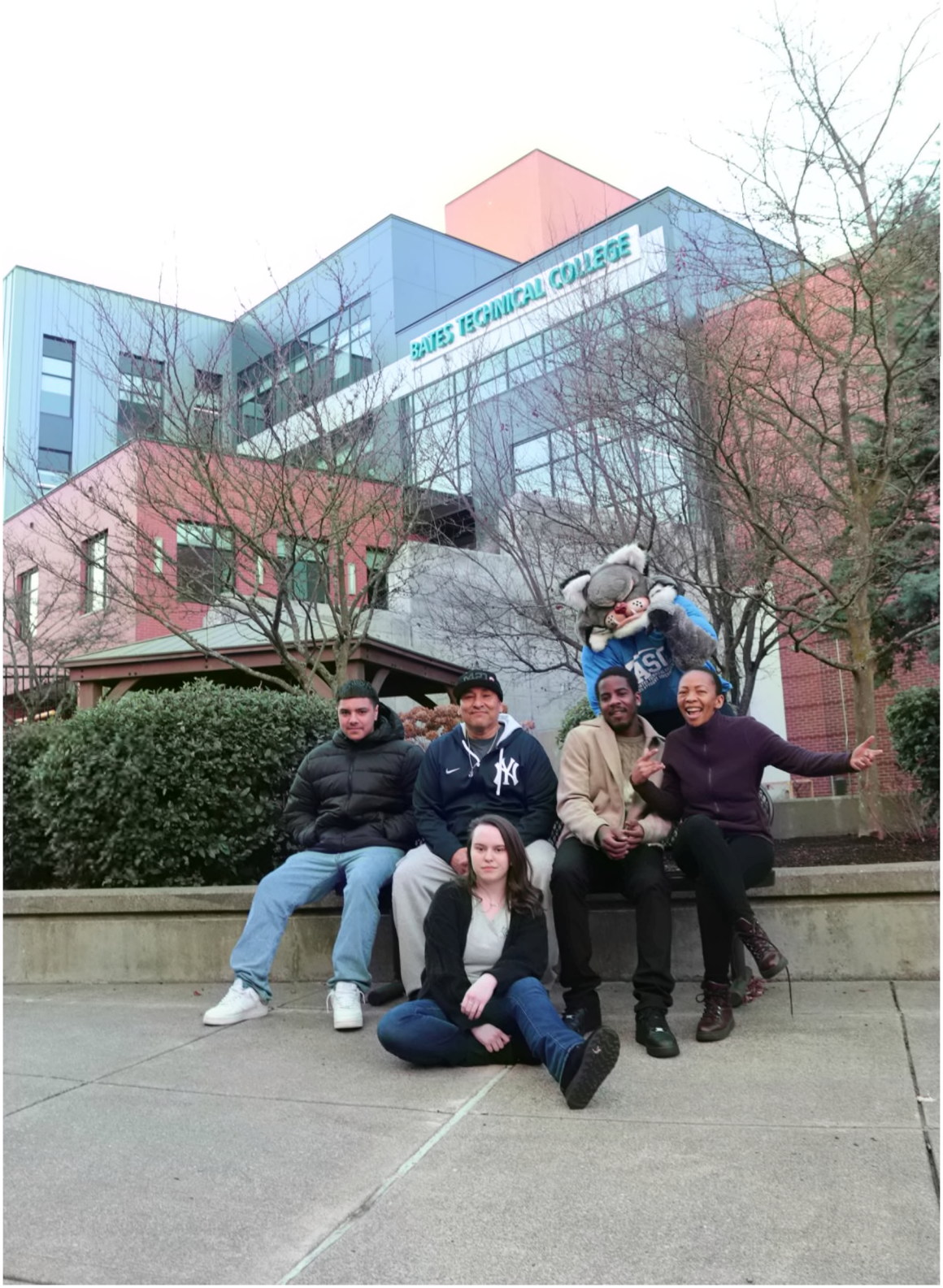
To Caleb Rivers, Campus Life Clubs and eSports

I would like to thank and commend Caleb for your help this morning. I was stuck in standstill traffic and having connectivity issues, and all I could do was dial the front desk which, of course, had a recording. So, I randomly dialed a 680 number and got you, whom I have never met. In my opinion you rose above the call by working with me to make sure that my tardiness/absence was communicated to the Dean and ultimately to our customers. Thank you, Caleb!

To Jared Jones, Student Records Specialist

Today, I made a return phone call to [a student] to ensure his needs were taken care of (as I was out of the office last week). [The student] stated he was taken care of and was pleased to let me know that Jared went "over and above" to make sure his needs were addressed. He also stated this action made him feel valued and he was very impressed! Kudos to Jared!

Bobcat Buzz


BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

Meet Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Instructor, Alisha MacDonald!

How long have you worked at Bates, and what is your role?

I started working at Bates in October 2022. I am the OTA Program's Academic Fieldwork Coordinator/ Instructor.

What is your favorite thing about working at Bates?

I love the flexibility of my job and I love being able to help the next generation of OTAs. It is really rewarding to see their progress throughout the program.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

I love to travel, go to concerts, stay active, and spend time with my family.

Why did you choose to enter the OTA field?

I have always been a helper. And I wanted to find a career that helped me do that. When I saw an OT making brownies - I knew it was for me.

What is unique about your teaching style?

I like to get personal. I never want my students to feel like I am above them. We are all people, and I want them to feel like equals. I also want them to think critically. So, I often ask them what they think the answer to their questions are first before I answer.

What do you find most rewarding about teaching?

Helping my students reach the finish line (which is really just their beginning). When I was in the field, I was able to help patients every day. But in my new role, I am multiplying practitioners who will be able to help an exponential number of patients. It is rewarding to see everyone's growth.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

2 - Electrical Construction program student Andrew Freeley

Get to know Electrical Construction program student Andrew Freeley as he reflects on the completion of his first quarter at Bates Technical College!

What led you to enroll in the Electrical Construction program?

After a year-long faith-based recovery program, I really started to realize that I needed to make a change within that year. Enrolling in Bates seemed like a great opportunity. The process was expedited during the program's end, allowing me to enter the Electrical Construction program post-recovery.

How have past challenges shaped your success in the program?

I went through a pretty rough childhood and a period of homelessness pushed me to strive for a better future. Through my experiences, I honed a strong work ethic and strong communication skills. I have always had an aptitude to work with my hands and a mechanical inclination which led me to ultimately pursue electrical construction.

Can you share a challenging moment and how you navigated through it?

Entering the electrical construction program with no prior knowledge was challenging. The varied experience levels in the class and the rapid pace pushed me. I embraced the challenges and thrived in that demanding environment.

Any support services or resources that helped aid your success?

My instructor and classmates have been very supportive as a whole. If an upper-class student sees that you are struggling with something, they will really take the time to help you and are very patient and willing to help you learn. My church and fiancée are also significant parts of my support system.

How do you envision your career post-graduation?

I aim to join a union and pursue my 01 license, broadening my scope in electrical work. Although I am still deciding, I am excited about the industry and future employment opportunities.

Any advice you would offer to prospective students considering technical college?

Dig deep within yourself and be honest about what you want to do with your future and what you want your future to look like. Focus on taking the steps to work toward the career you are passionate about and eliminate the distractions. Think of what you can accomplish once you put your mind to it.

MLK Day Celebration

In observance of MLK Day, DEI Officer, Marcus Harvey, in collaboration with the DEI committee helped to coordinate this year's event, titled "Messages of Peace with the Peace Bus." Hosted at South Campus on Tuesday, January 9th, the occasion featured keynote speaker Kwabi Amoah-Forson, Tacoma's peace laureate and local humanitarian. Kwabi shared insights on the transformative power of peace and expounded on his community initiatives, both locally and globally. The event concluded with a catered spread from Famous Dave's BBQ, and attendees had the opportunity to snap some photos with the iconic Peace Bus parked outside the auditorium. A significant day for our college community, promoting the values of peace and diversity. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the success of the event.

what is
love?

THE
PEACE
BUS

Advisory Committee Appreciation Dinner

On Jan. 11, the Office of Instruction and President's Office held an appreciation event aimed at honoring the important work of program advisory committees. Attendees were able to participate in the college strategic planning process through the "gallery walk." The Culinary Arts program created and served a delicious plated dinner, with beverages sponsored by the Bates Tech Foundation. Special guest speakers included Architectural Woodworking/Cabinetmaking program graduate Aaron Berger, who now serves on the advisory committee, and Dr. Nancy Olsen, who serves as Chair of the Practical Nurse program advisory committee. Thank you to all the faculty and staff who helped make this a memorable event!

WELCOME TO OUR
HONORED BATES TECH
dvisory Committee
Members

8

8

3

1st Quarter Completion Celebration

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, Campus Life and Activities hosted the 1st Quarter Completion Celebration at South Campus. This event marked the first of its kind, dedicated to recognizing the accomplishments of students who completed their initial quarter at Bates Tech.

The gathering featured speeches from Vice President of Student Services Steve Ashpole, South Campus ASG President Lamont Spencer, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Marcus Harvey, and concluded with some delicious celebratory cake. Congratulations once again to all those who completed their first quarter, and here's to the many more successes awaiting you at Bates Tech!

Child Studies announces more than 100 families joined in Kindergarten Panel Discussion On Jan. 18, the Child Studies department hosted the annual Kindergarten Panel Discussion for cooperative preschools. This is an annual event that the department has sponsored for cooperative preschools for several decades. Instructor Joan Rapkoch reports that more than 100 cooperative preschool families attended the panel via Zoom to listen to the Q&A. The panel consisted of six kindergarten teachers in the K-12 system of school districts affiliated with our preschools. This valuable partnership has continued because of the ardent support from kindergarten teachers who know and value the cooperative preschool model. They also appreciate the preparation the faculty in the Child Studies department does for kindergarten. The department serves more than 700 families, and the long-standing Kindergarten Panel Discussion event serves as another avenue to expose the parent and caregiver community to the college and its program offerings. ***Kudos to the Child Studies department!***

Culinary Arts program partners with organic drink vendor Tractor Beverage Co.

The Culinary Arts program is excited to partner with [Tractor Beverage Co.] The company aims to help shape the next generation of leaders and creators in culinary arts and food service. Their line of certified organic, non-GMO beverages is only offered through restaurants and is available for $1.50 for a 12 oz beverage at the Downtown Campus Cafe'. Tractor is proud to provide craft beverage options to Bates Tech students and employees and is excited to watch the growth of the students as they enter the culinary arts and food service industry.

Bates Technical College ESPORTS

Esports News

Come watch Bates Technical College's Esports Varsity Team Competition on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Watch as our student athletes compete in Super Smash Brothers Ultimate against schools across the nation in a battle of wits! Come watch with us in the Campus Life and Activities (CLA) Center at DT A125 with snacks, or view live **here** on Twitch.tv.

Dates to Remember

Find additional details on events and important dates view the **college calendar.**

FEBRUARY

- Central Campus Open House, **February 8**
- Leadership Listening Session, **February 13**
- ASG General Assembly meeting, **February 14**
- Spring Quarter Enrollment Blitz, **February 15**
- Presidents Day, College closed, **February 19**
- Board of Trustees Meeting, **February 26**
- Spring Quarter Enrollment Blitz, **February 28**

- Bates Social Club Karaoke night (Employees only), **February 29**

Bates Technical College | www.BatesTech.edu

Access our social media accounts and connect with us at linktr.ee/batestech

© Copyright 1940 - 2023