

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION FOR
BSU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



THE **TASC**
Ahead

*Restoring lives and
affecting change.*

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

HORIZONS

THIS ISSUE *Spring/Summer 2011*

Volume 26, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2011

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COVER STORY

Pamela Fladeland Rodriguez heads the Illinois state agency that serves and advocates for people in the courts, jails, prisons, and child welfare systems who need treatment for substance abuse or mental health problems.

Editor's Note: The last issue of *Horizons* was incorrectly identified and should have been labeled as Winter 2011, Volume 26, No. 1.

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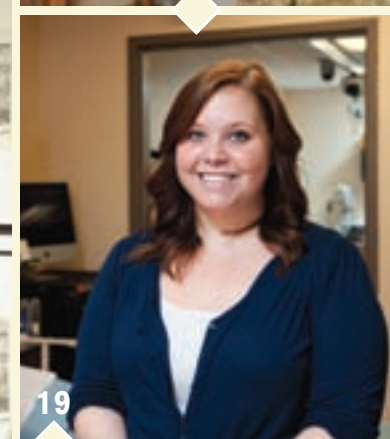
TRENT BAALKE FIRST AND GOAL



DR. LEAH CARPENTER SOCIAL NETWORKING



ARTISTIC EDGE



KELSEY JOHNSON LIFE-SAVING STEPS



AN ALLURING DISCOVERY



ERIKA SWANOE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS



FROM **PRESIDENT R. HANSON**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring at Bemidji State is full of anticipation as the season signals not only the end of winter, but also the beginning of new opportunities for students who are graduating. This year, over 800 are joining our BSU alumni family. As a graduating class, they are the first to experience commencement at the Sanford Center, the area's new regional events facility and home of Beaver hockey. While anxious to start a new tradition at BSU, they're equally eager to make their mark in the world beyond our doors. I'm certain they will. Their Bemidji State experience - both in the classroom and through co-curricular opportunities - has armed them with the ability to think critically, solve perplexing problems, engage meaningfully in the world around them, and approach challenges, whether in their personal or professional lives, with confidence.

This issue of *Horizons* reflects the power of the Bemidji State experience. You will meet alumni with very different interests and backgrounds - from social work and technology management to health and physical education - who have accomplished amazing career feats. You'll also learn about the richness and diversity of BSU's educational setting, thanks to a faculty continually striving for excellence. The results of their efforts are reflected in the students who are featured.

No doubt you have heard that Bemidji State has been wrestling with a \$5 million budget deficit due in large part to Minnesota's economic challenges and budget woes. The recalibration plan first introduced in January has stabilized the University's financial picture. While some programs were cut and several reduced in size, the rest are beginning to emerge stronger, more focused, and better prepared to serve students well into the future.

With summer about to burst onto the scene, the campus community is busy getting ready for the Class of 2015. Fall enrollment looks promising with another large group of freshmen expected. That's the beauty of the academic cycle. There's not much time to dwell on the past. We're always preparing for the future.

All the best as summer approaches,

» 1 **Online Ojibwe language resources launched**

As part of ongoing efforts to support Shared Vision, a Bemidji community-building initiative, BSU posted a wealth of Ojibwe language-related materials to its American Indian Resource Center website. The resources include a printable poster, a number of Ojibwe language videos, and a complete archive of the *Oshkaabewis Native Journal*, a BSU publication that remains the only academic Ojibwe language journal. An easily accessible primer for translating nearly 100 English phrases into Ojibwe, the video features Bemidji State's renowned Ojibwe scholar **Dr. Anton Treuer**, professor of languages and ethnic studies, who pronounces the words listed on the poster. The *Oshkaabewis Native Journal* archives include PDF downloads of all 13 issues released since 1990 along with free downloadable audio archives.

» 2 **BSU recalibration plan announced**

Dr. Richard Hanson, president of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical



College, announced plans in January to strengthen the University while reducing an anticipated \$5 million budget shortfall facing the aligned institutions over the next two years. The shortfall stems from Minnesota's current economic woes, including a \$5 billion state deficit. The recalibration plan, as it's called, stabilizes the institutions' finances through some personnel and program cuts, reductions, and integration. However, the plan also targets additional support to programs considered distinctive, innovative, and sustainable. Anticipated growth areas at BSU include programs in business, mass communication, Ojibwe studies and language, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

» 3 **Professor publishes translation of German romance**

Dr. Kathleen Meyer, BSU professor of languages and ethnic studies, translated and edited a medieval-era Arthurian

romance tale in her soon-to-be published book, *Lanzelet*. The original Middle High German work by Ulrich von Zatzikhoven, tells the story of Lanzelet (Sir Lancelot) on his knightly and romantic exploits as he discovers his true identity and wins the affections of his wife, Iblis. The second half of the book recounts Lanzelet's efforts to defend the honor of the Arthurian court and reestablish the family's kingdoms. Meyer's book combines, for the first time, a full English translation with a new facing-page edition of the original Middle High German text. To be published in June as part of publisher D.S. Brewer's Arthurian Archives series, the book can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com.

» 4 Two statewide awards honor Treuer

Dr. Anton Treuer, professor of languages and ethnic studies, won two statewide awards this spring for his efforts to protect and revitalize the Ojibwe language and improve race relations in northern Minnesota. Treuer won the Sally Ordway Irvine education award, which honors those who have made significant contributions to education and the arts. His honorable mention from the St. Paul Foundation's Facing Race Ambassador awards honored his extensive work with Shared Visions, a Bemidji area initiative to bring the Ojibwe language into people's everyday lives, including signage

development projects for math teachers. This initiative delivers content instruction and techniques for improving teacher motivation and student learning to two dozen elementary and middle school math teachers.

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education awarded the grants with federal funds from the 2011 No Child Left Behind Act.

Bemidji State receives financial management award

In February, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system awarded BSU one of its 12 Excellence in Financial Management awards. The honors are given to system colleges and universities that significantly contribute to increased efficiency and effectiveness in financial and administrative service areas.

» 5 Two from BSU complete HERS Institutes

Dr. Jeanine Gangeness, associate professor of nursing, and **Dr. Patricia L. Rogers**, dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology, have completed Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Institutes, which offer women faculty and administrators intensive leadership develop-



» 4

» 5

» 6

in public places and businesses. Treuer designated the \$1000 grant from the Facing Race award to the Bemidji Area Race Relations Task Force. The awards are the latest in a series of tributes in what has been a hectic year for Treuer since his book, *Ojibwe in Minnesota*, was named Minnesota's Best Read for 2010 by the Library of Congress' Center for the Book.

Federal grants to bolster teachers' skills

In March, BSU received two federal grants totaling nearly \$89,000 to support improved K-12 math and science instruction. The Improving Teacher Quality Program grants are funding a pair of summer workshops for elementary and secondary teachers.

The Elementary Science Curriculum Institute is receiving more than \$58,000 to support two-week programs for more than 30 elementary school science teachers. The teachers will learn and apply science content based on revised Minnesota state standards for K-8 classrooms. The second grant, totaling \$30,000, launches summer professional

ment opportunities. Gangeness completed her institute at the University of Denver in late October, and Rogers completed her program this spring at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

» 6 Pulitzer Prize-winner offers student workshops

Alan Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and founding director of The News Literacy Project, offered a pair of workshops for BSU students during an April campus visit. Miller, who spent 19 years in the *Los Angeles Times*' Washington bureau, taught students about identifying legitimate news sources, using and citing sources, conducting research, and achieving web literacy. Miller was on campus to deliver the keynote address for the University's 12th annual Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference.

STUDENT Performers EXCEL



Student performers excel at competitions

This spring, BSU students were well represented at regional and national competitions for stage and musical performance. **Jessie Ladig** (ABOVE LEFT), a senior from Bemidji, became the first Bemidji State student to win a major acting award at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's Irene Ryan Scholarship Auditions. Ladig, along with scene partner **Jacqueline Teegarden** (ABOVE RIGHT), a junior in theatre from Deer River, performed a scene from Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* and won the festival's Best Classical Acting Award. **Lexie Kruse** (BELOW), a sophomore from Pipestone, was one of 47 trumpeters from across the country invited to perform in the undergraduate semifinal round of the National Trumpet Competition at George

Mason University in Fairfax, VA. A competition committee selected Kruse from among hundreds of applicants who had submitted digital recordings.

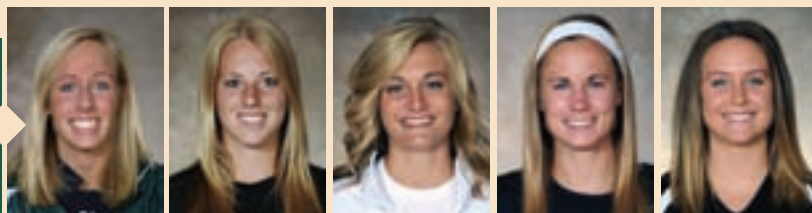


EARNING ACADEMIC HONORS»



Winter Sports Recaps

MEN'S HOCKEY closed out its WCHA inaugural season in style, sweeping Nebraska-Omaha in its WCHA Playoff series and beating eventual Frozen Four champions Minnesota-Duluth 3-2 in overtime during the WCHA Final Five quarterfinals. The Beavers finished 15-18-5 in their first WCHA season. BSU led the league in academic all-conference selections for the ninth consecutive year with 21 WCHA All-Academic honorees ... **WOMEN'S HOCKEY** posted its most wins in a season since 1999-2000 and set a school record with 11 victories over WCHA opponents. Goalie Zuzana Tomcikova, a junior from Bratislava, Slovakia, earned Second-Team All-WCHA laurels while forward Erin Cody, a senior from Roseville, was named to the league's third team. BSU also placed 15 players on the WCHA's All-Academic Team ... **MEN'S BASKETBALL** won five of its last seven games and saw junior James Ellisor, a forward from Glendale, AZ, earn Second-Team All-NSIC honors after leading the Beavers in scoring, rebounding, and field goal percentage. The Beavers finished the season ranked No. 4 nationally in team free-throw percentage ... **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** won two of its final four contests, including a 68-66 road win at Upper Iowa to snap a 14-game NSIC road losing streak. As a team, the Beavers finished the season ranked 21st in the nation in free-throw shooting ... **INDOOR TRACK & FIELD** Kristi Buerkle, a senior from Stacy, finished fifth in the 400-meter dash at the 2011 NCAA Track and Field Championships in Albuquerque, NM, to earn her fifth All-America honor. Earlier, she won her second consecutive NSIC indoor championship in the 400 meter, while teammate Raphael Gelo, a sophomore from Kabetogama, won the conference pole vault title.



KRISTI BUERKLE ALYSHA DOMIANO COLLEEN MCKAY JENNY STROMBERG LINDSEY WEYER

Beavers earn NSIC academic honors

Thirteen student-athletes were named to the 2011 Winter Academic All-NSIC Team, including five athletes from women's track and field, three from men's track and field, three from men's basketball, and two from women's basketball. BSU also had five student athletes honored with the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction honors. They were: **Kristi Buerkle** (Sr., track and field, Stacy) **Alysha Domiano** (Sr., soccer, Dayton), **Colleen McKay** (Sr., basketball, Barnum), **Jenny Stromberg** (Sr., soccer, Elk River), and **Lindsey Weyer** (Sr., volleyball, Loyal, WI). Named in honor of the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, the award is given to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher and are completing their undergraduate careers.

Football season opens with night game and fireworks



The gridiron season opens on Aug. 25 with a 7 p.m. game against Minot State. After the game, which is part of BSU's sixth annual Community Appreciation Day, a fireworks show will be held at the stadium. The rest of the 2011 football schedule features five home games, including two more night games, and a matchup with defending national champion Minnesota-Duluth. The squad faces Southwest Minnesota State on Sept. 17 and Minn.-Duluth on Sept. 24. Homecoming is set for Oct. 8 against Concordia-St. Paul. The Beavers also host MSU-Moorhead on Oct. 15 and St. Cloud State on Nov. 5.

Read signs with the Philadelphia Flyers

Matt Read, a senior forward from Ilderton, Ontario, signed a contract with the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers in late March. He finished his collegiate hockey career as BSU's Division I-era leader in goals, assists, points scored, and games played; he ranks 18th on BSU's scoring chart. Read made his pro debut with Philadelphia's AHL affiliate in Adirondack, PA, on March 25. Read is slated to become the eighth former BSU skater to play in the National Hockey League when he debuts with the Flyers this fall.



MATT READ

WINDS

of opportunity



DOUG FREDRICKSON

THE SKY PROVES LIMITLESS FOR ALUMNUS

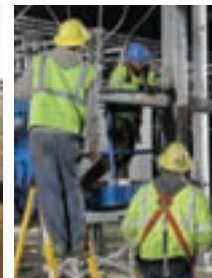
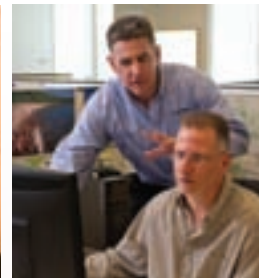
A picture of horses racing wildly down a steep embankment hangs over Doug Fredrickson's desk at Blattner Energy. The caption reads, "If you don't make dust, you eat dust." Modestly, Fredrickson shrugs and says, "I guess some people think that picture fits me pretty well."

{ story on next page } ►



"My job was to study the wind market and expand our scope and services."

DOUG FREDRICKSON



{ continued from page 5 }

In many ways, he has been making dust ever since his career began over 30 years ago as a heavy equipment operator for D.H. Blattner & Sons, which is based in Avon.

"My first job with Blattner was on a night crew building the Bemidji interstate bypass. After being promoted to grading supervisor for a project in North Dakota, Kit Blattner, one of the company owners, asked me if I'd like to learn how to estimate bridges. I said, 'All I know about bridges is what they feel like when you drive over them at 60 miles per hour,'" Fredrickson says with a laugh.

Since then, he has tackled some of the most challenging construction projects in the business and risen to executive vice president of Blattner Energy. He is quick to credit others for the company's success, but those who know him recognize his instrumental role in transforming D.H. Blattner & Sons into Blattner Energy, the largest installer of wind energy systems in North America.

A Nontraditional Student

When Fredrickson graduated from Bemidji High School, he had no plans for college. After all, no one in his family had attended and, since he was already living on his own, his focus was on making ends meet through seasonal construction work. When he was laid off from his first job as a heavy equipment operator in November 1975, he had no idea what to do next.

"A friend of mine suggested Bemidji State University," he says. "I thought, 'Why not? I guess I don't have any other plans.'"

With money he had saved from his road construction job, he bought a \$2,000 trailer house to live in, registered for classes, and soon turned an uncertainty about college into a passion for learning. The spark was ignited in his freshman English class.

"The first paper I wrote came back without a grade. When I asked my professor about it, he said the paper didn't deserve a grade," Fredrickson recalls. "That shocked me into the real world and challenged me in a whole new way."

Over the course of the next 12 weeks, the marks on his papers improved steadily until he eventually earned an A. He also gained an invaluable lesson, which he has never forgotten, about the direct connection between effort and reward.

For six years, Fredrickson maintained a dizzying schedule, working on road construction crews in the spring and summer to earn money for school and pursuing a technology management degree the rest of the year. He continued this cycle until he landed an internship with Blattner in the summer of 1981.

An Early Test

Fredrickson faced his first significant challenge during his internship. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had awarded the company a water control project on the Missouri River that required Blattner to develop a quality assurance plan – the first of its type for the firm. Even though Fredrickson had no formal training or precedents to follow, he was asked to write the plan and conduct the necessary tests.

"I really had no idea how to go about it, but I knew I could find a way," Fredrickson recalls. "I learned at BSU that there are lots of smart



people out there who can help you. You just need to go find them." After finding an expert who was willing to help him, he studied and practiced on his own. When the Corps of Engineers technicians conducted their inspection, his tests passed.

Building Bridges

Jim Potter, one of the people who originally hired Fredrickson, later became his partner at Blattner. The two worked together on industry challenging projects, including Duluth's Lake Avenue Bridge. Competitors predicted the project's complexity would destroy the company's concrete division. Risks were high. A fatal accident had happened during a similar U.S. bridge project, an occurrence the pair intended to avoid.

The complex design required a temporary support system to hold the full weight of the 20-million-pound bridge. Fredrickson and Potter conquered the challenge by building what locals called the "upside down forest," a flexible support system comprised of over 1,500 trees driven point down into the ground.

Fredrickson was also charged with keeping the bridge's exposed steel supports from rusting. "I remembered learning about a thermal plastic that adheres to steel in one of my classes at BSU," he explains. "Sure enough, it worked. To my knowledge, no one had created epoxy-covered bridge supports until then. Now, it's used everywhere."

The construction duo went on to oversee the Pickwick Tunnel in Duluth, yet another complicated project that required blasting close to downtown and historic landmarks. "Doug took on the challenge and taught himself about rock anchors, drilling, and blasting," Potter notes. "He has an amazing ability to roll up his sleeves and tackle any new project."

Winds of Change

In 2001, winds of change began blowing at the century-old D.H. Blattner & Sons. After years of expanding its markets while continuing civil construction work, company leaders decided it was time to focus on opportunities aligned with the firm's values of quality construction, strong customer relationships, and employee development.

Fredrickson was charged with developing the company's wind interests, an industry in which Blattner had gained a toehold by doing what it did best, concrete and roadwork. However, he began to observe other aspects of the wind projects and wondered if the company could expand into those areas as well.

"My job was to study the wind market and expand our scope and services," notes Fredrickson, whose efforts resulted in significant revenue growth and, in 2009, a corporate name change to Blattner Energy. Today, the company's energy sector work accounts for 95 percent of its revenue and a majority of the largest wind farms built in the United States today.

A member of the leadership council for the American Wind Energy Association, Fredrickson now spends considerable time advocating for wind energy interests in Washington and garnering political support.

A Near Miss

Reflecting on his career, Fredrickson says he has no regret even though a personal goal nearly eluded him. After accepting the internship with D.H. Blattner & Sons, his career unfolded so quickly that he left school just a few credits shy of a bachelor's degree.

In 2010, Fredrickson's sister, Linda Hanson, a BSU alum serving on the Bemidji State University Foundation board, told BSU leaders about her brother and asked how he could finish his degree. Following policies enabling the University to grant academic credit for substantial career accomplishments, BSU awarded him a bachelor of applied science degree in technology management.

A group of BSU officials traveled to Blattner Energy headquarters in Avon last year to surprise Fredrickson with a framed diploma. Secretly, all the company employees gathered for the presentation and applauded as he received the surprise. Fredrickson choked with emotion as he told them how fortunate he was to work with such a great group of people and credited them for the company's success.

"I had pretty much given up on the idea of completing my diploma and thought I was okay with that," Fredrickson explains. "But I'm so grateful my sister and the people at BSU pushed beyond my inclination to just let it go."

"When I was young, my decision to go to BSU changed the course of my life. I can't fathom where I would be today if I'd made a different choice at that fork in the road. I'm really glad I can now officially say I'm a graduate of BSU." ■



POST A COMMENT
www.facebook.com/BemidjiState

*“The ultimate goal is to
win championships, that’s
what it’s all about.”*

TRENT BAALKE

FIRST AND

BAALKE'S GAME PLAN INCLUDES RETURNING NFL FRANCHISE TO GREATNESS

When Trent Baalke entered Bemidji State's football program in 1982, the Beavers had been on one of the longest losing streaks in the country. By the time he graduated in 1986, the team, under head coach John Peterson, started winning again. During Baalke's four-year collegiate career, the Beavers finished with a 21-20-1 record and placed as high as third in the Northern Intercollegiate Conference. His contributions on the team also were notable, racking up 169 career

Baalke served as defensive line as well as strength and conditioning coach for five years, developing athletes who would become successful NFL players.

"On a personal level, winning the national championship in 1990 with the Bison and the success we had at SDSU were very rewarding," he says. "It's taking a program that was a little bit down and building it into a consistent winner."

In his current role as 49ers general manager, Baalke hopes to do the same with the storied NFL franchise that has failed to reach the level of success it had nearly two decades ago. In 1994, San Francisco

became the first NFL franchise to win five Super Bowl titles when it defeated Miami, 49-26. Since then, the 49ers have won only four playoff games.

"The ultimate goal is to win championships, that's what it's all about," says Baalke. "Anything short of that is a disappointment. That's just the reality of the business."

Setting the Agenda for Success

One of Baalke's first steps toward success as GM has been putting together a stellar team by acquiring Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh and filling the rest of the coaching positions. "Getting the head coach on board was extremely important," he notes. "Both Jim and I feel very strongly that we have a very good group of assistant coaches put together, from the coordinator level on through the quality control positions."

Baalke looks to fill the remainder of his staff positions and team roster with "quality people who have a similar passion for the game, love and respect the game, want to come to work every day, and be a part of a team, not a part of an individual agenda."

Baalke certainly remembers such attributes from his days as a Beaver player. "One thing that stands out about the team in that era is how much the guys loved to play the game of football," he says. "It's a great university,



TRENT BAALKE COURTESY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

and just another sign you can be successful regardless of what university you go to. I know this: I would not be where I'm at today had I not taken that path early in life."

Looking Forward

While GM is a new position for Baalke, 2011 marks his 14th season with the NFL. He started as a scout with the New York Jets in 1998 and later served as college scouting coordinator for the Washington Redskins. He joined the 49ers in 2005 as western regional scout, advancing through the ranks to eventually become vice president of player personnel and then GM. "I'm blessed to be able to accomplish what I have, but I'm far from done."

Baalke is aware of the outside pressures – from fans, coaches, and owners – inherent with his new title. But his motivation to succeed comes from within. "No one's going to put more pressure on myself than I am," he says. "We have a strong fan base, we have great ownership, and we have tremendous tradition and history with the 49ers organization. So pressure, yeah, it's certainly there. But it's more to be the best you can for the people who rewarded you with the position."

For Baalke, bringing his best to his role as GM means eyeing another championship for the 49ers. "We're certainly going to work every day with that in mind," he promises. "It's important for me to be successful, important for me to bring the team back to where it belongs." ■

GOAL

tackles and being named to the All-Northern Intercollegiate Conference team in 1985.

The seasoned football professional now oversees an entire NFL franchise as general manager (GM) of the San Francisco 49ers, a position he assumed in January. Yet, he still counts his years at BSU among his proudest career moments.

"Getting that first victory at Bemidji after an extended losing streak, that was number one. I still remember the last four plays of that game, so obviously that has stayed with me," he says, recounting highlights of his collegiate career.

Baalke, who graduated with a double major in health and physical education, hasn't lost his drive for success. Since his first season with BSU, he has made a career of ushering football programs into the winner's circle.

A Winning Start

After leaving BSU, Baalke earned a master's degree in secondary education and sports administration at North Dakota State University. He also gained valuable coaching experience as a graduate assistant with the Bison, who finished 14-0 and won a national championship during his time in Fargo, ND. Moving to South Dakota State (SDSU),

Outdoor enthusiast **Levy Bergstrom** chose to attend Bemidji State University, in part, so he would never be far from a stretch of wilderness.

While growing up in Cook, Bergstrom learned to hunt, fish, and trap along the Little Fork River as well as preserve everything from garden vegetables to venison. He enjoys camping with his family and learning traditional skills such as starting a fire with flint. He's fished sockeye salmon in Alaska, backpacked in Montana, volunteered as a forest firefighter in Minnesota, and enjoyed annual fishing trips to Canada.

"The way I grew up, I learned that it is a privilege to be out in the wilderness," Bergstrom says. "I like to be outdoors and to get to places where no one else has been – places where I can sink in my thoughts and soak in the wilderness."

Bergstrom graduates this spring with a double major in biology and geography. Passionate about wetland preservation, he developed a poster presentation this spring for the 2011 BSU Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference. The presentation illustrated the westward shift of Minnesota's waterfowl populations as the state's wetlands shrink.

"Wetland preservation is something that's dear to me," Bergstrom explains. "I'm an avid waterfowl hunter and a member of Ducks Unlimited. I want to preserve wetlands for generations to come so people can continue to experience our amazing waterfowl. It's just crazy how many wetlands we've lost in the last 50 years."

Encouraged by Dr. Charles Parson, now a BSU professor emeritus of geography, Bergstrom decided to pursue his two majors. He found geography particularly helpful in tracking, analyzing, and understanding the changes occurring in nature.

"Levy is a great student with a great outlook on life," notes Dr. Jeff Ueland, BSU assistant professor of geography. "He knows how to

live off the land, and he's very active in the community."

While at BSU, Bergstrom has used his geography skills to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and to study vegetation at BSU's Hobson Forest. He's also enjoyed hunting and fishing north of Bemidji, and curling through the winter, a Bergstrom family tradition.

With plans to pursue a career in wilderness management, Bergstrom believes his BSU experiences – both in the classrooms and the great outdoors – have prepared him well to help retain the areas that mean so much to him.

Twenty-some years ago, **Kelly Stouffer** enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Barron County in Rice Lake, transferring a year later to Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji. After graduating with an associate degree in biblical studies, she married and started a family. When her marriage ended in 2006, Stouffer, who had been a stay-at-home mom for 16 years, decided to return to school.

"I don't regret being home with my kids for one minute, but it was time to start a new chapter in my life," Stouffer reflects. "It was time for Mom to do something for Mom – develop my interests, things that I've always been good at and had a passion for."

Stouffer graduates from Bemidji State University next year with an accounting degree. She's the recipient of a Madalyn Wick scholarship awarded to part-time students who excel academically while working their way through school. Since 2006, Stouffer has been employed by KBA Peterson Associates, a Bemidji accounting firm. She enrolled at BSU three years later.



LEVY BERGSTROM



KELLY STOUFFER

"In class, I often understand what's being talked about because I'm already doing it," says Stouffer, who plans to become a certified public accountant. She relishes the rigors of accounting and her BSU studies.

"I've always been very academic," she acknowledges. "When I was at the University of Wisconsin, a lot of professors said, 'You're

BSU is helping stellar individuals prepare for the future – here are three destined to do great things.

BRIGHT FUTURES



NEIL DOLAN

BSU STUDENTS TO WATCH

selling yourself short, Kelly; you need to do more.” At Bemidji State, Stouffer has learned that it’s never too late to exceed expectations.

“Kelly is incredibly intelligent,” says David Massaglia, BSU assistant professor of accounting. “Things just come to her very naturally. Even an A isn’t good enough for her; she wants a top A.”

Stouffer is aiming not only to be a top student, but also a great mom to her four children, ages 10-18. With her busy schedule, she values the flexibility found at BSU to help keep life sane. She typically carries six to 12 credits per semester, enrolling in

summer sessions and online classes as well. She also appreciates her scholarship funding, something that is often difficult for part-time students to obtain.

“I’m so blessed,” says Stouffer. “I’ve been able to do well as a student, as an employee, and as a parent, all at the same time. It’s not always easy, but it is possible.”

After **Neil Dolan** graduated from Wayzata High School in 2006, he enrolled at the University of Arizona, Tucson with plans of becoming a high school science teacher. However, he found new career aspirations while working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in a Tucson hospital.

Dolan worked in the emergency room for two years and often met law enforcement

officials arriving from accident or crime scenes. He accompanied several officers on ride-alongs and eventually landed an internship in a Tucson jail. He liked the work and interacting with people from different walks of life.

“I think there’s always been a part of me that’s wanted to be a cop,” Dolan explains. “I like the idea of being available when something goes wrong, when someone doesn’t know what to do, and they’re in need of help.”

Dolan transferred to Bemidji State University in the spring of 2009 and graduates this spring with a criminal justice degree. A native of the state, he knew he wanted to live in Minnesota. He also liked the Bemidji area where he has spent six summers working at a Boy Scout camp, including two summers as camp director.

At Bemidji State, Dolan has been a resident assistant for two years. Off campus, he works west of Bemidji as a part-time EMT with the Clearwater County Ambulance Service. In addition, he earned a special license allowing him to hold a part-time deputy sheriff position with the Clearwater County Sheriff’s Office. He is also president of the BSU Criminal Justice Club and volunteers for community service projects.

“What makes Neil rise to the top is his willingness to get involved,” says Dr. Michael Herbert, chair of the BSU Department of Criminal Justice. “He’s a leader and an organizer, the kind of guy who people get along with well.”

Dolan hopes to eventually work as a school liaison officer so he can work with youth, a goal that connects with his earlier education interest. No matter what the future brings, he appreciates the professional opportunities he’s found at BSU as well as the mentors he’s met in the classroom and on the job.

“I really liked going to a smaller school,” Dolan notes. “It’s really a community here. It’s hard for me to go anywhere on campus where I don’t know someone, and I like that.” ■

A Master of SOCIAL NETWORKING

HOLDER OF ENDOWED CHAIR CLEARS PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE

Dr. Leah Carpenter doesn't Twitter. She's never set up a MySpace account, and her Facebook page hasn't been opened in months. Yet, she's masterful at social networking – the face-to-face kind, that is. Holder of the Native American 3M Endowed Chair of Accounting and assistant professor at BSU, she knows the importance of meeting people in person, especially when it comes to helping Native American students pursue college degrees.

"Indian people need community," says Carpenter, who began teaching at Bemidji State in 2009 after serving as president of Leech Lake Tribal College for over five years.

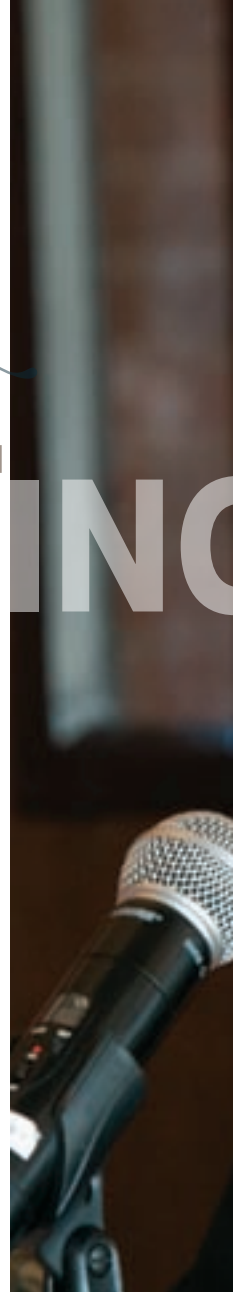
"Most of our young people need family support to succeed in college."

A first-generation college graduate, Carpenter understands the influence community and family have on students. As a 13-year-old, Carpenter didn't have a father around when her mother died. Her older sisters, mentors, and role models stepped in and kept her on an educational path that led to an undergraduate degree from Bemidji State in 1985, a law degree from the University of Wisconsin four years later, and a doctorate from the University of Arizona in 2008.

Carpenter draws on these personal and professional experiences when fulfilling the multiple roles of her position as holder of a BSU endowed academic chair. In her first year on campus, she focused primarily on teaching within the accounting area. This year, she began reaching out to assist Native American students in realizing their educational goals, whether they wanted to enroll immediately at a four-year university or transition first to a tribal college.

"Students today face the same fears I did when I started in the 1980s," Carpenter acknowledges. "A lot of our Indian students have been told they are not college material, so you have to plant that seed. 'Yes, you can go to college. Yes, it will be hard, and you will be challenged. But yes, you can do it.' I promote the idea of going to college first and foremost. They have to believe."

Dr. Sandra Kranz, chair of the accounting department, sees that philosophy as a perfect fit with the role Carpenter fills as the 3M Chair. "As a former president at a tribal college, she understands all the academic requirements. She also has connections all across the area, and one of the purposes of the position is to connect with the young people in these tribes to encourage them to get a degree."





DR. LEAH CARPENTER

For Carpenter, that first step doesn't necessarily mean Bemidji State. Some students start their journey at one of the colleges run by the local tribes on their own reservations. These two-year institutions are often more comfortable for students, offering them small class sizes, increased faculty attention, and stronger family ties. Eventually, Carpenter encourages tribal college graduates to take that next step toward a bachelor's degree, hopefully at Bemidji State and perhaps in accounting or business.

"One of the beautiful things about Bemidji State is that it is close to home," she says. "Even though it is a short distance, there are a lot of psychological miles to travel. That's where the network really helps. The ceremonies, social gatherings, and

family all make it easier to go to college a few miles down the road."

Carpenter does feel students have more role models to follow now than when she first stepped onto the Bemidji State campus. As undergraduates, they know uncles, aunts, tribal leaders, community members, and peers who have earned undergraduate or advanced degrees. They also see them holding responsible positions, running businesses, and working to make life better for youth and elders. She frequently talks to students about the 500 BSU American Indian alumni.

"She is an excellent role model," says Dr. Don Day, a BSU alumnus who directs the American Indian Resource Center on campus. "She is honest and intelligent, and has integrity and a strong work ethic."

Carpenter will draw upon her traits and talents as she moves into the next component of her BSU position in the coming years. With her teaching progressing smoothly and recruitment efforts beginning to increase, she will start reaching out to the tribes about other education-related topics. Currently a board member of the Bemidji Area Indian Center, she will be having discussions with government, economic development, and planning leaders from the reservations to see how BSU might help them with their staffing or employee training needs.

"The tribes all have their own educational agendas and community goals," Carpenter explains. "I want to find out what these are and position BSU to help the tribes achieve those goals in whatever way we can."

She's sustaining a personalized social network that reaches far beyond the campus community. ■

"The ceremonies, social gatherings, and family all make it easier to go to college a few miles down the road."

DR. LEAH CARPENTER



THE LAKESIDE FUND

AIMING FOR A BIG SPLASH

From beach parties and picnics to boating and fishing, Lake Bemidji has played an important role in the BSU student experience for generations. So when a BSU Foundation committee decided the annual fund needed a name of its own, the Lakeside Fund emerged as a fitting tribute to the illustrious lake and to the more than 2,000 alumni, campus, and community contributors.

"We're not creating a new fund; we're just creating a name that people can identify with," says Lisa Hofstad, director of annual giving for the BSU Foundation. "The annual fund is the base of all of our giving. We wanted it to have a substantial name, something that would resonate with contributors."

Annual fund donors give for a variety of reasons, with their gifts supporting academic scholarships as well as other University initiatives. "Those who give are appreciative and proud of their BSU experiences and see this fund as a way to show their support," Hofstad notes. "The fund supports scholarships for one generation of students who eventually give to the next generation. Their contributions create such an amazing ripple effect."

Scholarships help BSU recruit and retain top students. "Each year, more than 30 percent of all entering freshmen receive scholarships," Hofstad explains. "Donations to the annual fund help make many of those scholarships possible."

Donations are raised through a phonathon conducted annually by BSU students; direct mail; a campus drive for BSU faculty and staff; and a spring event, now called the Lakeside Luncheon. Although the annual fund's purpose isn't changing, Hofstad sees the name change as the beginning of a bigger effort to share the University story and help donors connect with the BSU community. For instance, the phonathon has been a successful way for donors to talk with students. The yearly lunch, started last spring, offers donors an opportunity to connect with one another and learn how their gifts touch people's lives.

"Making an annual gift to the Lakeside Fund, no matter the amount, is one of the highest forms of giving," says Hofstad. "That's because annual fund gifts are entrusted to the University without restrictions, so we can use them in ways that most benefit BSU students."

Alumni and others have been supporting the annual fund for more than 40 years. With a name that now reflects that generosity and its significance, the Lakeside Fund is bound to continue making a big splash in reaching others. ■





PAMELA FLADELAND RODRIGUEZ

“**T**he side of social work that really resonates with me is the side that focuses on systems intervention, on advocacy, on change and public policy. The fit with TASC is just so perfect with who I am and how I’m oriented. I have always been a pretty strategic thinker, and, as I have grown in my career and my job, I have gotten to apply that strategy and strategic thinking to broader and broader issues.”

PAMELA FLADELAND RODRIGUEZ

{ story on next page } ►

TASC President Pamela Fladeland Rodriguez speaks at state commission meeting on racial disproportionality in the justice system (below left) and to guests at the agency's annual Leadership Awards luncheon (below right).



{ continued from page 15 }

For nearly 30 years, Pamela Fladeland Rodriguez has worked with and advocated for those who are often overlooked, cast aside, or forgotten.

"I love working with the hardest to serve; I love working with people who other folks have not wanted to treat," says Rodriguez, who earned a social work degree in 1976 from Bemidji State and a master's in social services administration from the University of Chicago in 1982. "I was blessed with lots of resources and opportunities that other folks don't always get. I've always felt compelled to use those blessings, gifts, and talents to help people who don't have the same opportunities and access as I have had."

With an advanced degree in hand, the Minnesota native began working with Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC). The non-profit organization based in Chicago provides support and services for Illinois' justice system population who are struggling with substance use and mental health issues.

"We improve public safety, reducing arrests by 72 percent among the TASC population," she says. "We create opportunities for people to be restored to their families, to their communities, as taxpayers and parents."

In addition to helping people, TASC saves the state significant costs by focusing on alternative treatments to incarceration and keeping between 4,000 and 5,000 people out of the prison system each year.

A Circle of Influence

In 2009, Rodriguez was named president of the \$20 million state agency where she oversees the organization's development, operations, and public policy arm. She appreciates TASC's role as direct caregiver and policy-change champion for society's underserved.

"We've got this wonderful circle of influence between policy, research, and service delivery, and each part of that circle informs the others," she notes. "We're able to be really effective advocates on national and

state levels as well as effective partners on service delivery."

Throughout her tenure at TASC, Rodriguez has seen her advocacy efforts spur action statewide. The organization helped create policy to develop the largest prison-based, substance-abuse treatment program in the country. The new program also includes funding for an array of community-based services to support reentry into society.

In addition to shaping policy, Rodriguez works to broaden TASC's reach and affect change within the communities where discharged offenders or recovering addicts will return.

"Punishment isn't necessarily making us safer," she explains. "Saddling people with prison records without investing in both their reentry and their recovery, and in the communities where so many people are cycling through the prison system, won't impact that vicious cycling."



POST A COMMENT
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To this end, TASC seeks resources to successfully reintegrate former offenders into the community and works to develop community coalitions to address substance abuse problems, focusing on prevention as well as recovery.

"It's not just about individuals who need support; it's also about making the communities they return to stable enough to support and sustain them, to be places that are safe to have jobs and all of that," she says. "The investment in those communities is slow to come, but I think people are realizing the need."

Emerging Concerns

Despite TASC's strong ties with Illinois state legislators and the work the organization does in the communities it serves, state budget challenges may put TASC at risk of losing a portion of its funding. If backing for TASC is reduced, Rodriguez estimates the substance-abuse treatment network developed over the last 30 years will shrink

dramatically, shuffling 5,800 clients into the prison system rather than into treatment for addiction.

"That's a net cost increase of \$20,000 per individual if they are incarcerated rather than treated in the community," says Rodriguez, who has already begun lobbying against budget cuts. "I mobilized a legislative team and an advocate team to educate the legislators about what a terrible mistake it would be to cut substance-abuse treatment in the state of Illinois."

The Right Fit

Attributing many of her skills to her BSU studies, Rodriguez points to the knowledge of systems and systems theory as one of the greatest lessons learned as an undergraduate. "I base

just about everything I think, know, and do in my personal and professional life on my understanding of systems – family systems, court systems, treatment systems, organizational systems," she says. "BSU was a perfect fit for me, that grounding and the teaching and learning regarding systems." Understanding systems within the world of social work has served her well. "The side of social work that really resonates with me is the side that focuses on systems intervention, on advocacy, on change and public policy," she says. "The fit with TASC is just so perfect with who I am and how I'm oriented. I have always been a pretty strategic thinker, and, as I have grown in my career and my job, I have gotten to apply that strategy and strategic thinking to broader and broader issues."

While the work Rodriguez does with TASC isn't always easy, she views her role as advocate for an overlooked population as a series of challenges to be met head on. "If you're the right person in the right place, I don't think it feels overwhelming; it's more like you feel challenged, and it pushes you to use all your best skills." ■

"We create opportunities for people to be restored to their families, to their communities, as taxpayers and parents."

PAMELA FLADELAND RODRIGUEZ

artistic EDGE

DONOR'S
CREATIONS
REFLECT
PRINTMAKING
PROCESS



DALZOTTO PRINT

During his career, he studied at the Ecole D'art Modern in Paris and at the University of Leiden in Holland, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. A graduate of Indiana University, he earned a master's in fine arts from the University of Iowa.

His artistic interests varied from painting to assemblage, a three-dimensional method where found objects are combined to create the artwork. He later narrowed his focus to printmaking, especially the art of etching and engraving.

The difficult process, as described by BSU assistant professor Jason Clark during a campus opening of a retrospective exhibit of Dalzotto's work last year, involves using hand tools to gouge and remove metal, usually copper. The intricate and physically demanding metal-carving technique produces a printmaking plate.

Self Portrait, the donated work hanging in the student union, consists of the copper plate and four prints showing the evolution of a completed print. A master printmaker who had a complete facility in his home to produce etchings, Dalzotto finished the self portrait in 1990.

For the retrospective exhibit, Bemidji artist Marlon Davidson wrote that Dalzotto chose subject matter from his own experiences, ranging from his stint in the Army where he served in Europe during WWII to his life in Bemidji.

A dedicated teacher as well as accomplished artist, Dalzotto is considered one of the BSU art program's founders and served as department chair for several years. He endowed the Dalzotto Award, an honorarium helping students prepare for their undergraduate senior exhibitions. ■

Anyone entering Hobson Memorial Union's North Conference Room will notice a unique compilation of black-and-white art adorning one wall. The Eugene Dalzotto estate donated the four prints and the original copper plate used to create them. The display honors the artist and highlights the intaglio printmaking process he used.

A BSU faculty member from 1958 to 1984, Dalzotto died in the fall of 2009, leaving his art in the collections of several museums, public buildings, and private individuals.



THE ORIGINAL COPPER PLATE AND FOUR EUGENE DALZOTTO PRINTS



KELSEY JOHNSON

Life-Saving STEPS

NURSING STUDENT RESUSCITATES STEPDAD

Usually nursing students experience medical emergencies in a simulated lab setting before they encounter them in real life. For Kelsey Johnson, it happened the other way around.

Johnson, a fourth-year nursing student at Bemidji State University, was at home in Rochester, when her stepfather, Chris Shomenta, went into cardiac arrest. It was the morning after Christmas, and Johnson was still sleeping when her sister woke her for help. She sprang into action while her mother, Julia Gallagher, called 911.

"He was breathing and moaning, but completely unresponsive," explains Johnson, who found her stepfather lying on the couch. "He turned red, blue, and then white, and that's when I hugged this very big man and put him on the floor. The 911 responder on the phone was directing me how to do CPR, but I was already way ahead of him."

Johnson administered chest compressions to keep Shomenta alive until responders arrived with a defibrillator. "If I hadn't been there, he probably wouldn't be here," Johnson reflects.

"He turned red, blue, and then white, and that's when I hugged this very big man and put him on the floor. The 911 responder on the phone was directing me how to do CPR, but I was already way ahead of him."

Believing that her BSU nursing studies and CPR training helped save Shomenta's life, Johnson advocates CPR training for everyone. "You could save someone's life, and you'll feel a lot more comfortable with it if you've had the training," she notes.

Johnson had the chance later to relive her stepfather's cardiac arrest in BSU's simulation lab. She had experienced various medical scenarios before, but this time her computerized mannequin followed the same course she had experienced with Shomenta. "It was like replaying everything, except that I could see on the monitor what was happening to his body," Johnson says. "It was really a good learning experience."

This spring, Johnson will be among the first students to graduate from BSU's new four-year baccalaureate program in nursing. Sometime in her career, she hopes to work in an African AIDS clinic or someplace else where medical resources are lean. "Here you have everything at your disposal to help your patients," Johnson observes. "I'd like to see a different side of medicine."

For Johnson, her stepfather's recovery is bittersweet. Before Christmas, Shomenta began treatment for stage-IV colon cancer. Seeing him battle that disease and his heart attack have changed Johnson's outlook on life. "You have to cherish every moment," she says.

"For us, it's important to be with him even if it's just going to the grocery store with him."

When Shomenta and Gallagher celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in April, Johnson felt grateful that her nursing experience had helped make the milestone possible. ■

KELSEY JOHNSON



an alluring DISCOVERY

PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH
SPAWNS NEW LURES FOR
MANUFACTURER



Dr. Don Cloutman's experiment had gone nowhere for months, and it was time to shut it down. But just as the laboratory light was being turned off, a bulb clicked on in Cloutman's mind, and frustration quickly turned to jubilation.

An aquatic biology professor at Bemidji State, Cloutman was working with Bemidji-based Northland Tackle to test attractants that could be imbedded into lures, enticing largemouth bass and other species to hold

lures longer, thus increasing an angler's catch rate. Northland provided six recipes using different ingredients for flavor, and none had produced the desired test results.

"I was literally about to turn out the lights in the

lab and walk out the door," recalls Cloutman, a 13-year member of the BSU faculty. "A lot of experiments in science don't work, and we had one that we thought would, and it didn't. That's why we test. But if you look at the characteristics of a scientist, curiosity is probably the number one factor. I figured it would take just a few seconds to try one recipe I had changed and was curious to see what would happen."

He prepared what he thought would be the final experiment, first soaking a testing substance with the ingredient before dropping it into a tank with a bass. The fish grabbed and swallowed it. Still curious, he tested it on another fish. Then another. Five in a row gulped it down. All lights were switched back on, and further testing began.

"I'm guessing the recipes were sort of like mixing mustard with ice cream," Cloutman says. "Mustard might work well on a hotdog, but you're certainly not going to eat a mustard milk shake. For some reason, putting these things together just didn't work."

"The bad news about the recipes was initially frustrating," notes Chris Morgal, assistant brand manager at the lure company. "We had some hypotheses, developed through research, that turned out to be completely wrong. Then we got lucky and found a trend that held."

Northland considers itself a multi-species manufacturer with baits for everything from small panfish to monster muskies. Recognizable in bold yellow packaging, the popular products are distributed regionally. The company was started in 1975 by fisherman John Peterson. A group of investors purchased Northland in 2009.

"It was tough economic times, but we specialize in consumables that were not highly expensive," Morgal explains of their product line, which has a high-end cost

"... if you look at the characteristics of a scientist, curiosity is probably the number one factor. I figured it would take just a few seconds to try one recipe I had changed and was curious to see what would happen."

DR. DON CLOUTMAN





CHRIS MORGAL (LEFT) AND DR. DON CLOUTMAN AT NORTHLAND TACKLE

around \$5. "We figured with high unemployment, people would have more time to fish." Their figuring proved correct. The company grew to a record 147 employees last summer and started looking for ways to sustain growth.

Northland recognized an opportunity to strengthen its market share and potentially enter new areas by increasing its presence in bass fishing. Minnesota anglers covet walleyes most highly, but fishermen from other states see largemouth bass as the prized freshwater catch. Fueled by products like Gulp!, PowerBait, Smelly Jelly, Attraxx, and Hot Sauce, bass fishermen are familiar with attractants that appeal to the fish's smelling instincts or flavors stimulating the fish to swallow the bait.

To compete, Northland took a scientific approach in developing its attractant, which it calls Impulse. Better understanding what fish are looking for, what triggers a reaction, why they consume bait, and what compels them to hold lures longer were important in developing the Impulse series. "We know we can market a product, and, if it doesn't work, we can sell it once," Morgal explains. "To ensure longevity of a product, it has to work time and time again."

Northland believes it has a superior product for anglers. Cloutman tested

Impulse against the leading competitor in a lab setting, and Impulse proved to increase the time a fish held the testing substance by 143 percent. Northland field tested Impulse on panfish last year, and found its effect carried over to crappies, sunfish, and perch as well. In September, it will introduce an Impulse line of lures for fishing panfish through the ice. The bass line of lures will be introduced in the summer of 2012.

"If this goes to where we want it to go, our company could grow by 10 percent right away," Morgal projects. "You really don't know where it's going to take you, but it has the potential of being a big market."

A fisherman, Cloutman undertook the project for Northland because the company appeared truly interested in using the scientific method to test the product before putting it on the market. Not all products available in bait shops have been exposed to such rigorous scientific scrutiny.

"That's why I got involved with Northland," says Cloutman. "I saw their integrity. They wanted to test the product before they put it out for fishermen. Being something that could also help the economy and the local job market was an added benefit." ■





FACULTY DIRECTOR STRIKES THE RIGHT CHORD

Long before her bands play a single note of a composition, Dr. Erika Svanoe plumbs the depths of the musical score until the piece comes to life in her mind. She enjoys delivering more than standard fare, preferring concert events that make her students feel special.

This fall, Svanoe, in her second year as director of bands at Bemidji State University, led the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band in the premiere of “Twilight of the Gods,” a multimedia composition that tells a doomsday story of Norse mythology. The

“To feel a story and stir emotions, using two or more senses, especially sight and sound, can be powerful.”

DR. ERIKA SVANOE

piece opens with the “Tree of Life,” a universal symbol of man’s immortality, and leads the audience through an epic struggle of goodness and evil. The performers played to a standing-room-only audience at Bemidji State’s Thompson Recital Hall.

“That was incredibly satisfying for me and my students,” Svanoe recalls. “It was nice to have a piece that I could really promote as an event. I’m hoping to continue to do that and build more interest in the University community and what we do here.”

For Svanoe, the experience was satisfying on a personal level as well. “Twilight of the Gods” is based on a graphic novel, *Gods of Asgard*, written and illustrated by her husband, Erik Evensen, and self-published in 2007. A lover of Norse mythology, Evensen conceived the idea when he was 13 years old.

The mythology also resonated with the couple’s friend, composer Andrew Boysen Jr., a music professor at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), where Svanoe taught from 2003 to 2006 and Evensen graduated in 2001. The three friends are of Norse descent, Danish and Norwegian. In 2009, Boysen suggested using Evensen’s illustrations to create a multimedia band composition.

Boysen wrote the music. Evensen, an illustrator and graphic designer, scanned his hand-drawn illustrations onto the computer and enhanced them with digitized color and lighting to create an animation effect. He also worked with Svanoe’s student musicians to help convey the mythology’s meaning as they prepared the composition.



TWILIGHT OF THE GODS REHEARSAL (FAR LEFT),
PEP BAND (ABOVE), AND A SMILE FOR A
REALLY GOOD PERFORMANCE.

"I knew that I wanted to work with these two people who I'm close to and who do amazing work, and I wanted to perform the piece here at Bemidji State," Svanoe explains. "It was an interesting piece to bring into this community with its strong Scandinavian heritage."

A commissioning consortium soon formed, with BSU and about 30 other schools paying a fee to have exclusive rights to perform the composition. Svanoe hopes that the piece will be published, making it more widely available. "We took the piece on tour to area high schools, and those high school kids loved it," Svanoe says. "I got e-mails from directors hoping they can perform it."

Svanoe first used visual effects last year. She'd like to do other multimedia

compositions and premiere another opus at BSU. "To feel a story and stir emotions, using two or more senses, especially sight and sound, can be powerful," she says.

A clarinetist, Svanoe first realized she wanted to be a musician in high

school. She composed her own pieces, something she would like to do more frequently, and grew into the idea of being a conductor and teacher.

From Svanoe's perspective, a successful conductor must be a good musician first and then a good communicator. "Conducting is like having a conversation with the musicians, being able to communicate non-verbally through facial expression, gesture, and posture," she notes. "When my students see me light up with a smile – and I don't smile unless it's really good – they know it's genuine."

Before earning her doctorate, Svanoe was the athletic band director at UNH, where she

led the marching and pep bands for three years. This year, she directed the pep band at the BSU hockey games. "We added a collegiate atmosphere at the new Sanford Center, and it was a fun venue for our students," says Svanoe, who also teaches a clarinet studio and music education courses.

As she looks to the future, she hopes to focus more on recruiting instrumentalists and sustaining opportunities for music majors and other students interested in music. Even in tight economic times, Svanoe encourages students who love music to pursue their passions. She points to BSU's excellent placement rate for its music education majors as a viable option for program graduates.

"From what I've seen, anyone who works hard and is willing to put in the time is able to make a living in music," Svanoe observes. "I know I've had some thin years, but at the same time, there's nothing else I'd rather do. If making music makes you happy in life, then that's what you should do." ■



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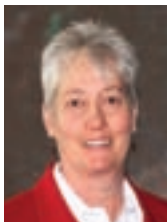
2011 ATHLETIC HALL of FAME



DALE BALDWIN



BILL BRYAND



LORI HUTCHINS



PETER MAUS



AL WOLDEN



JANE REIMER-MORGAN



VANCE BALSTAD

Dale Baldwin. Baldwin graduated in 1980 with a physical education and health degree and holds a master's in education from Indiana University. Recognized on BSU's "50 Legends for 50 Years" men's hockey team, he was a four-year letterwinner for the Beavers from 1976-80. As a senior and team captain, Baldwin earned National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-America honors and guided the Beavers to their second consecutive national championship. Baldwin still holds BSU records for goals in a season (43) and career short-handed goals (13), while ranking fifth in career goals (93) and 12th in career points scored (163 points).

After leaving BSU, Baldwin played professionally for the International Hockey League's Fort Wayne Komets. He was team captain during four of his seven years with the Komets and ranks eighth on the franchise's career list with 528 games played. He also ranks among the franchise's all-time leaders in penalty minutes (1,589) and points scored (452).

He currently works as Pepsi's northern Indiana regional sales manager and resides in Fort Wayne, IN, with his wife, Amy.

Bill Bryand. Bryand graduated in 1985 with a physical education degree. A four-year defensive lineman, he was the team's leader in tackles throughout his collegiate career. His 139 total tackles in 1983 set a team record that remains the University's single-season standard. He recorded 472 career tackles, nearly 100 more than any other BSU player, and ranks fifth all-time at BSU with 146 solo tackles. Additionally, he holds the top two spots on BSU's single-season, assist chart with 94 and 90. As a junior, Bryand was named BSU's defensive and team MVP, an all-conference player, and a *St. Paul Pioneer Press* MVP. As a senior, he was named the NIC Defensive Player of the Year.

Since graduating, he has taught and coached for over two decades. He has spent 21 years in the Minneapolis school system and currently teaches grade K-5 physical education. Bryand, who earned a master's degree and a principal licensure from St. Mary's University, lives in Blaine with his wife, Nancy.

Lori Hutchins. A Duluth resident, Hutchins graduated in 1979 with a physical education and health degree. Honored in 2000 as one of the top 30 female athletes in BSU history, she was a four-sport athlete who excelled in basketball, volleyball, track and field, and swimming. Hutchins led the Beaver basketball team in scoring during each of her four years and led the team in rebounding her last three years. A four-time All-MinnKota Conference player, she earned a spot on the AIAW All-Tournament Team as a junior and was named honorable mention All-America by the National Scouting

Association in 1979. She still holds BSU's single-game rebounding record with 24 and was drafted by the Iowa Cornets of the Women's Professional Basketball League in 1979.

Hutchins also was a four-year letterwinner in track and volleyball, and swam competitively for a year. She anchored the track team's fifth-place finish at the 1977 AIAW Region 6 championships and was a two-time All-MinnKota Conference honoree in volleyball. In her season as a competitive swimmer, she qualified for nationals in the breaststroke and medley relay.

Spending her professional life teaching and coaching, she currently works with special-needs children.

Peter Maus. A 1979 graduate with a mathematics degree, Maus was a four-year letterwinner in baseball. He earned all-conference and all-district honors as a catcher in 1978 and similar honors as a pitcher the next season, when he also hurled a no-hit conference game against Southwest State. An assistant coach at Bemidji State after he graduated, he helped guide the Beavers to their only NAIA College World Series appearance in 1982.

He played semi-pro baseball in Canada for seven years before beginning a 25-year teaching and coaching career at Northfield High School. He has guided Northfield to over 350 victories, five conference championships, three sectional semifinal appearances, and a third-place finish in the state Class A Tournament. Besides earning five Minnesota Conference Coach of the Year awards, he also was named Northfield Coach of the Year in 2000 and the Section 1AAA Coach of the Year in 2002. He helped found the Northfield Youth Baseball Association.

Maus and his wife, Lynda, are Northfield residents.

Al Wolden. Wolden graduated in 1988 with a physical education degree. A four-year letterwinner in football, Wolden led the Beavers with 1,452 yards rushing in 1986; that total broke a 10-year-old school record and remained the single-season standard at BSU until 1998. He is fourth on BSU's career rushing list with 2,822 yards and ranks third on BSU's career charts for rushing attempts (614), rushing touchdowns (29), total touchdowns scored (37), and scoring (224 points). He also ranks fourth in career 100-yard rushing games (13). As a senior, Wolden earned all-conference, NAIA All-District 13, *Bemidji Pioneer* College Athlete of the Year, and a second-team NAIA All-America pick. Competing in the high and long jump, he earned three letters in track and set a school long-jump record that stood for eight years.

Wolden signed a pair of free-agent contracts in the NFL, first with the Chicago Bears and later with the New York Jets, before returning to the Bemidji area to teach and coach. He spent

nine years at Cass Lake-Bena High School as a physical education teacher and coach for football, basketball, and track. He guided three track teams to the state tournament. In 1999, he moved to Red Lake High School, where he teaches physical education.

Wolden and his wife, Jackie, are Bemidji residents.

Jane Reimer-Morgan. Reimer-Morgan, this year's winner of BSU's Alumni Coaching Achievement Award, graduated in 1977 with a physical education and health degree. After transferring to BSU from Brainerd Community College, she competed in basketball and track, where she was team captain.

For the last 34 years, Reimer-Morgan has assembled a remarkable career as a high school coach and educator. She has been at Minnetonka High School since 1985, with previous stops in Brainerd, Staples, Parkers Prairie, and Plymouth (Breck School). A track and field coach for 34 years, Reimer-Morgan has guided seven 4x800 relay teams to state, with her teams earning four state titles and a 2005 state record that still stands. She was selected Section 6AA Coach of the Year five times, the 1982 District 22 Boys Track Coach of the Year, and the 2005 Minnesota Class AA State Track and Field Coach of the Year.

For 19 seasons, Reimer-Morgan also has coached cross country, with her teams making eight consecutive state tournament appearances, winning two state titles, and finishing second twice. She was a three-time Section 6AA Coach of the Year in cross country and was named the 2005 State Championship Coach. She also coached volleyball for 11 seasons. She was inducted into the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Pillager High School Hall of Fame in 2010.

Reimer-Morgan and her husband, Chuck Morgan, live in Deephaven.

Vance Balstad. The inaugural recipient of the John S. Glas Honorary Letterwinner Award, Balstad graduated from Bemidji State in 1973 with an elementary education degree. He accepted a temporary job with BSU athletics in 1974 that led to a 36-year, full-time career with the University as equipment manager and icemaker. In these roles, he served as friend, mentor, disciplinarian, laundryman, doorman, protector, surrogate parent, Zamboni driver, organizer, University ambassador, and greeter for alumni and coaches who returned to Bemidji State. He gained notoriety for often wearing a BSU green tuxedo while driving the Zamboni at Bemidji State hockey games.

Balstad was one of the founders of Bemidji's Fishing Has No Boundaries, an annual event that provides opportunities for people with disabilities to go fishing.

He lives in Bemidji with his wife, Suzie. ■

IN MEMORIAM SPRING 2011

James R. Allen '76, Clarissa, MN
 Richard E. Anderson '63, Clearbrook, MN
 Violet Archibald '78, Bagley, MN
 Lorette A. Bruggeman '67, Crookston, MN
 Gina L. (Pugleasa) Burch '88, Duluth, MN
 Ledyard N. Burhans '48 & '67, Delano, MN
 Martin L. Carter '58 & '63, Park Rapids, MN
 Helma C. Erle '92, Bemidji, MN
 Clarence M. Espeseth '48, Pine City, MN
 Iris (Ayers) Furuseth '42, Thief River Falls, MN
 Linda (Orstad) Gaetke '71, Maple Grove, MN
 Anne D. Glatzmaier '55, Park Rapids, MN
 Gay Grefe '66, Denver, CO
 Kathryn K. Hamm '29, Dallas, TX
 Vera (Olson) Hass '55, Tenstrike, MN
 Larry D. Hawkinson '67, Bovey, MN
 Emma P. Isaacs '68 & '73, Walker, MN
 Howard L. Janesich '68 & '73, Chisholm, MN
 Jack C. Jaspersen '66, Cave Creek, AZ
 Brian C. Johnson '02, Keewatin, MN
 Robert D. Johnson '52, Moorhead, MN
 Fern K. (Crookshank) Kaland '67 & '71, Park Rapids, MN
 Carole A. (Wiley) Kane '75, Doniphan, MO
 William L. Lane '73, Grand Rapids, MN
 Nelda Lee-Gunderson '44, Chehalis, WA
 Sylvania S. (Sollie) Liebl '41, New Ulm, MN
 Dean O. Malmö '48, Torrance, CA
 Thomas L. Manka '74, International Falls, MN
 Richard Marinucci '62, Walker, MN
 Kenneth T. Melby '48, Alexandria, MN
 Mervin M. Mikkola '46, Minneapolis, MN
 Elida M. (Jorgenson) Moran '43, Erskine, MN
 Joan E. (Paulson) Myer '51 & '64, South International Falls, MN
 Rev. Dennis J. Nelson '78, Wadena, MN
 Fern A. (Englund) Nichols '46, Bemidji, MN
 Lee R. Nopola '69, Inver Grove Heights, MN
 Donald C. Rask '60, Isle, MN
 John (Jack) Reynolds (faculty), Bemidji, MN
 Juanita R. (Pacheco) Rodriguez '96, Bemidji, MN
 Harry W. Sartain '48, Pittsburgh, PA
 Rita Seppala '75, Wadena, MN
 Dann P. Siems '80 & '87, Bemidji, MN
 Terry J. Tarvin '92, Bemidji, MN
 George H. Tucker '52, Richfield, MN
 Dr. Daniel P. Vrudny '77, Alpine, TX
 Herbert D. Whiting '35, Bemidji, MN
 Sandra N. Woodford '60, North Mankato, MN
 Larrie Wright '63, Newport, MN
 Frederick W. Yiran '90, Waite Park, MN
 Gary F. Zirbes '71, Sauk Centre, MN

SAVE ^{THE} DATE



UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

BSU Night with the Twins

Minnesota Twins vs. Texas Rangers
 Target Field
 Friday, June 10

Alumni Leaders in the Classroom

Thursday-Friday, October 6-7

Alumni & Foundation Honors Gala

Sanford Center Ballroom
 Friday, October 7

Homecoming 2011

Saturday, October 8
 5K Run / Walk - 9:00 a.m.
 40-Year Reunion, Class of 1971 - 9:00 a.m.
 Tailgate Party - 11:00 a.m.
 Football vs. Concordia, St. Paul - 1:00 p.m.
 Block Party - 8:30 p.m.



Football Alumni Weekend

Friday-Saturday, October 14-15

Men's Hockey Alumni Weekend

Friday-Saturday, December 9-10

Athletic Hall of Fame

Friday-Saturday, February 10-11, 2012



**Contact the Alumni Office to register
for events or for more information:**

218-755-3989 or 1-877-278-2586 (toll free)
 alumni@bemidjistate.edu
 www.bsualumni.org

2011 ATHLETIC HALL of FAME TEAMS



1985-86 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Northern Sun Conference (NSC) Champions
 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) District 13 Champions
 NAIA BI-District VI Championship Game Participant
 25-5 Season Record/11-1 NSC

Front Row (l to r): Lauri Ludeman, Beth Buckingham, Kim Babula, Laurie Peterson, Bridget Longman, Ann Schultz. **Back Row (l to r):** Head Coach Joan Campbell, Assistant Coach Liz Cecich, Lois Weiers, Jennifer Krei, Beth Thompson, Sonia Stehr, Liz Mulvihill, Manager Maria Schuth, Lora Weiers. **Not Pictured:** Trainer Muriel Gilman.



1986-87 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Northern Sun Conference (NSC) Champions
 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) District 13 Champions
 NAIA National Tournament Participants
 25-3 Season Record/12-0 NSC

Front Row (l to r): Sherry Staff, Lauri Ludeman, Beth Buckingham, Kim Babula, Angela Ojeda, Julie Hendrickson, Jane Lundstrom, Joan Huls. **Back Row (l to r):** Assistant Coach Tom Andersen, Liz Mulvihill, Tracy Kulig, Sonia Stehr, Jennifer Krei, Lora Weiers, Lois Weiers, Manager Maria Schuth, Head Coach Sherri Mattson.

CLASS NOTES»

Note: Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted. Alumni names appear in bold.

Send your information to alumni@bemidjistate.edu or call toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM.

‘10 Ashley Fisher of Bemidji recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL. During the eight-week program, the new Navy seaman completed classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and ship-board as well as aircraft safety ... **Tyler Lehrke** of Park Rapids signed a contract to play professional hockey for the Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees based in Hidalgo, TX. A forward, Lehrke was a three-time All-CHA Academic selection who finished his collegiate career with 18 goals and 28 assists for the Beavers. The Killer Bees compete in the Southern Conference of the Central Hockey League, a mid-level professional minor hockey organization with 18 teams in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arizona, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado, Ohio, Missouri, and Kansas ... **Susan Roering** has been hired as a student support services adviser for the TRIO/Upward Bound Program at Central Lakes College, which operates campuses in Brainerd and Staples. In her new position, she will work with students on career advising, provide financial aid information, deliver academic support, and assist in cultural and educational enrichment activities. A Baxter resident, she provided tutoring and mentoring services to students in the program since 2008 ... **Seth Haake** is playing professional basketball as a member of the München Basket in Germany. Haake is the only American on the team, which competes in a third-tier league against other teams in Germany. He is originally from Eden Prairie ... **Deborah Heltzer** married Howard Walstein last January in Bemidji. The bride works three days a week teaching temps in the Twin Cities and travels to Bemidji two days each week to teach special education online through Edvisions, based out of Henderson. The groom owns a disc jockey business in St. Louis Park, where the couple resides.

‘09 Anna Fournier recently accepted a job as a committee legislative assistant for the property and local tax division of the Minnesota State House of Representative's Republican Caucus. Fournier, who lives in New Brighton, also serves as the legislative assistant for two state representatives ... **Stacy Swor** and **Benjamin Sosniecki** were married last fall in Duluth, where they reside ... **Susan Kachel** of Falcon Heights is teaching third and fourth

grade at Parkview Center School in Roseville ...

Josh Voller and Renee Cassady were married in Nowthen last December. Both work at Rippleside Elementary School in Aitkin where they reside. He is a paraprofessional, and she is a teacher. Josh was also an assistant football coach this past season ... **James Surdy** joined the staff of Davis, Thoen, Kramer & Associates, a financial advisory practice in Austin, where he makes his home. Surdy holds licenses in securities, state insurance, and paraplanning ... **Zach Stich** has joined the Fergus Falls *Daily Journal* as a sports writer and also served as the football offensive line coach at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, which has campuses in four Minnesota cities. He and his wife, Claire, live in Fergus Falls ... **Chris Citowicki** is the new head soccer coach at St. Catherine University in the Twin Cities. Citowicki played professionally for several years in Australia before pursuing advanced studies in the United States, including a master's in sport studies, which he earned from BSU. He lives in St. Louis Park with his wife, Arlyn.

‘08 Becky Johnson is teaching Title I, helping fifth graders in the Bagley school system become proficient in reading and math. Johnson previously worked as a paraprofessional in the school district for 13 years. She and her husband, Dwight, have three adult sons and live in Shevlin ... **Brian Petersen** is a second-grade teacher at the elementary school in Onamia.

‘07 Glen Schmidt has been hired as the education director for the Minnesota Farmers Union, a nonprofit that works to protect and enhance the economic interests, as well as quality of life, for family farmers and ranchers. Schmidt, who was involved with the organization's education program for more than 10 years, had served as a public affairs research assistant and counselor at the group's leadership camp. He lives in Little Canada ... **Erin Foss** was inducted into the BSU Soccer Hall of Fame. She currently works in the social services field and lives in Minneapolis ... **Jacy Desotell** is a first grade teacher at Sacred Heart Area School in Staples. She previously taught three years at Christ the King school in Browerville, where she lives.

‘06 Kalie Gray is a Title I teacher for second, third, and fourth grades in the Bagley school system. She and her husband, Kyle, have one son and live in Bemidji ... **Amy Christenson** of Thief River Falls has been named Teacher of the Year for Grygla School. She is a third-grade teacher and also serves as the assistant volleyball coach for the Goodridge-Grygla school district ... **Melissa Friberg** of Breezy Point is an online school teacher with the Minnesota Virtual Academy and has 32 students in kindergarten through fifth grade from various parts of Minnesota. Friberg, who graduated from

BSU's distance learning program in education, had previous experience teaching in Nisswa and directing the Sylvan Learning Center in Baxter ... **Carly Swenson** collaborated with **Ben Westlie** to release the publication *Seven Social Sins*, based on the writings of Gandhi. The book contains a series of 21 original works, including initial sketches, photographs, and image commentary by Swenson to accompany Westlie's poetry. Swenson currently lives in Suffolk, England, and works as a professional artist and freelance writer. Westlie is from St. Cloud.

'05 **Tonia Blumer** was selected as Head Start Teacher of the Year for her work at the McKnight Center, a school serving homeless children currently living in five Minneapolis family shelters. She teaches pre-schoolers between the ages of three and five. Blumer is in her fifth year of teaching under the auspices of Parents in Community Action, a non-profit agency designated by the federal government to operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Hennepin County. Now living in Minneapolis, Blumer had previously received a Classroom of Excellence Award for her work as part of a team of teachers at the McKnight Center.

'04 **Jason Swanson** has been named administrator of the Prairie View Healthcare Center in Tracy. He previously held administrative positions at the Valley View Manor in Lamberton and Country View Assisted Living in Walnut Grove. Swanson and his wife, Devon, have two young children and live on a rural Revere farmstead ... **Char Maki** has retired from her management position in urgent care and the emergency department at Fairview University Medical Center-Mesabi in Hibbing, where she lives. Maki spent 40 years in nursing, the last 30 in Hibbing. For retirement, Char will navigate and her husband captain a 40-foot trawler across the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Keys ... **Jeremy Dickson** has been promoted to an expeditor position at the U.S. Steel Minntac facility in Mt. Iron. He is vice president of the U.S. Steelworker Union, Local 9115, and lives in Forbes.

'03 **Dannon Kietzman** is teaching students with autism spectrum disorders in kindergarten through sixth grade for the Bagley school system. She and her husband, Andy, reside in Bagley with their two daughters ... **Andy Bronczyk** recently received a master's degree in the management of technology from the University of Minnesota. Bronczyk works as a design engineer for Emerson Process Management in Chanhassen, where he lives with his wife, **Lindsey (Bromenshenkel, '05)**, and young son. Lindsey is a technical project analyst at Emerson Process Management ... **Matt Nohner** has been named an assistant track coach at Delano High School, where he is in his third year of teaching math. Nohner coached sprinters and pole vaulters for the boys' and girls' teams this

spring. His wife, Grace, is an English teacher in Orono. The couple resides in Delano.

'02 **Grant Foss** has purchased the King Koin Laundrette in Blackduck, where he lives. Foss, who has worked as an electrical instructor at Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, also owns the Chicago Laundromat in International Falls.

'01 **Chad Falk** is a lead analyst and programmer in information technology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. A recent master's graduate in business administration and technology management at the University of Phoenix, he currently leads a team of programmers in developing software for electronic medical records. His wife, Kate, is a nurse at the Mayo Clinic. The couple has one young son and makes their home in Rochester.

'00 **Vince Varpness** is the new head football coach at St. Louis Park High School. An insurance agent, Varpness had previous coaching experience at the University of Minnesota, Burnsville High School, St. Olaf College, and Minnesota West Community College. He lives in Richfield.

'99 **Brook Mallak** has joined the newly-formed law firm Gammello, Qualley, Pearson & Mallak in Baxter. Mallak will continue her criminal defense and family law practice while also litigating real estate and business law. Mallak previously owned and operated her own law office and was a public defender in both Crow Wing and Aitkin counties ... **Marti Waller** was selected Teacher of the Year for the Northome school system. Waller has taught special education in five different categories across the district for 11 years. She and her husband, **Dustin**, live in Northome ... **Dr. Heidi Hansen** is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Bemidji State after completing her doctorate in mathematics education in five different categories across the district for 11 years. She and her husband, **Dustin**, live in Northome ... **Dr. Heidi Hansen** is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Bemidji State after completing her doctorate in mathematics education in five different categories across the district for 11 years. She and her husband, **Dustin**, live in Northome ... **Dr. Heidi Hansen** is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Bemidji State after completing her doctorate in mathematics education in five different categories across the district for 11 years. She and her husband, **Dustin**, live in Northome ...

'98 **Nathan O'Brien** has published his second collection of short stories entitled *Back Off Dude. I Didn't Know She Had a Boyfriend*. An artist, photographer, and freelance writer, he also has been training for a record-breaking fourth title in a light heavyweight division of international Jui Jitsu competition this spring in Osaka, Japan ... **Leo Alberti** is currently in his ninth year of teaching K-5 art at Horace May Elementary in Bemidji. Alberti also instructs online graduate classes through the University of Nebraska, where he earned a master's of art education. He resides in Bemidji ... **Torrey Westrom** of Elbow Lake was elected to serve his eighth term in the Minnesota House of Representatives. The Republican lawmaker is a lawyer and small business owner when not representing his constituents in House District 2A.

'96 **Kyle Nemeth** completed classes and participated in commencement exercises at the Graduate School of Banking of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The school, sponsored by 18 state banker associations, provides advanced studies and research opportunities in banking, economics, and leadership with a focus on the management of strategic issues faced by banking executives and financial services professionals. Nemeth is a financial institutions program director with the Minnesota Department of Commerce in St. Paul ... **Ryan Saulsbury** was named Pillager Teacher of the Year for 2010-11. Saulsbury, who teaches science to middle and high school students, is best known for developing a high school forensics curriculum. He has taught for 13 years, the past nine at Pillager, and is currently enrolled in an online master's biology program through the University of Nebraska-Kearney. His wife, **Trisha ('98)**, is a long-term substitute teacher in Pillager. The couple has two children and makes their home in Staples ... **Troy Mills** and his wife, Denise, announced the birth of a boy last September. Troy is currently employed as a utilization management specialist by PrimeWest Health in Alexandria, while Denise is a network technician for Verizon. The couple lives in Garfield with their newborn son and young daughter ... **Melonee Ruhl** recently joined the gastroenterology medical staff at Essentia Health St. Joseph's Brainerd Clinic as a nurse practitioner. She has worked at St. Joseph's Medical Center since 2000. She lives in Pillager with her husband, Vincent ... **Kathleen Arola** of Casa Grande, AZ, received the 2010 Arizona State Art Educator of the Year Award. She teaches art at Sonoran Sky Elementary School in Scottsdale, AZ.

'95 **Jennifer Koski** recently graduated from the Vermont College of Fine Arts with a master's of fine arts in creative writing. She lives in Rochester with her husband, **Jay**, who has been an art director at the Mayo Clinic for the past 11 years. Jennifer works as a writer, editor, and writing instructor in the area ... **Russell Clark** has been teaching English in rural Alaska for the past 14 years and partnered with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to offer advanced placement English classes via video conferencing. He is looking forward to pursuing a career in administration after receiving a graduate certificate in education leadership from the University of Alaska-Anchorage this spring. A resident of Mountain Village, AK, Russell and his wife, Angela, have three young children.

'92 **Cory Aukes** is serving as Hubbard County Sheriff after being elected to that post in November. Aukes began working in the department, which is based in Park Rapids, as a road deputy in 1990 and was a sergeant prior to the election. He and his wife, **Molly**

{ continued on next page } ►

CLASS NOTES»

{ continued from page 27 }

(‘97) live in Park Rapids with their daughter and son ... **Michelle Misner** is the event coordinator for Citizens for Backus/AB, which owns and operates the Backus Community Center. Her new responsibilities for the non-profit organization includes scheduling rentals for events, directing volunteers, coordinating food and beverage needs of clients, and conducting an annual volunteer activity. She and her husband, Bob, live in International Falls with their three children

... **Ben Hoffman** was named manager of the Northwest Regional office for Data Transfer Solutions, LLC. The company provides asset management, graphic information systems (GIS), transportation planning and engineering, web design, database and software applications, and multimedia production services to local, state, and regional agencies. Hoffman brings 15 years experience in GIS project management, software development, and remote sensing. The office is based in Portland, OR, where Hoffman lives with his wife, Tracey ... **Pam Lundstrom** celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband, Rodney, last September. A nurse, Pam retired in 2001 after working for several nursing homes, while Rodney retired in 1998 from a job with Erie Mining. The couple welcomes their son and four granddaughters to their home in Tower.

‘91 Dr. Annette Drewes is serving as the watershed educator for the Red River basin with the University of Minnesota Extension Service based in Crookston. The position resulted from a partnership between the extension agencies of North Dakota and Minnesota as well as the International Water Institute, which focuses on flood research and watershed education in the Red River Valley. Her previous work experience includes assignments with the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Bemidji State University, where she taught biology for more than eight years. She received her doctorate in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison ... **Mary Schommer** has become a licensed insurance agent in Minnesota. She has 18 years of experience in corporate accounting and owns Schommer Insurance with her husband, Brian. Both their home and business are located in Hastings.

‘89 Kate Mohler is a writer and community college English instructor living in Chandler, AZ. She has taught English composition and creative writing for 16 years at Mesa (AZ)

Community College and also runs a book club there. Posts from her blog, www.hotdishing.com, are regularly published on several websites and her short story, "How to Remain Single and Childless," is scheduled for publication in the international literary journal *Quiddity* ... **Gina Rochell** has been named Teacher of the Year of Henry County schools in Georgia. A 21-year veteran in education, Rochell is a fourth-grade teacher at Hickory Flat Elementary and has been with Henry County Schools for the past 10 years. She and her husband, Steve, have two teenage sons and live in McDonough, GA.

‘88 Andrea Hovila is a new Title I teacher at Bigfork School. Hovila had been a substitute teacher in the district for several years and has 12 years experience at an elementary school in Palmdale, CA. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Bigfork with their two children.

‘86 Camilla Lejon started a new job as director of international affairs at the East Sweden Chamber of Commerce based in Norrköping, Sweden. Her previous job experience included working as a marketing manager for private enterprises and as regional manager for the Swedish Trade Council. She lives in Linköping, Sweden, with her husband, Hakan, and three children ... **Lynn (Rauker) and Duane Wolfe (‘84)** of Kensington have put the master's degrees in education they both earned in 1999 to good use. Lynn is a teacher at Sauk Centre Elementary School while Duane has been an instructor in the law enforcement program at Alexandria Technical and Community College. He also works part time for the Parkers Prairie Police Department, is a columnist for *PoliceOne.com*, and has had numerous articles published in law enforcement magazines.

‘85 Chuck and Mari (Smith) Harguth live in Broomfield, CO, and have three adult children. Chuck recently completed work on the Hubble Space Telescope. In his 15 years in the program, he worked on all the science instruments now installed on the Hubble. Mari completed a master's degree in special education and now is working as a special education instructor for an online school ... **Sara Olson** is the Roseau Teacher of the Year. Olson is the fourth-grade teacher at Roseau Elementary School and has been a member of the district staff since 1989. Prior to moving north, she taught three years in New London-Spicer schools. Her husband, Jeff, is the science teacher at the high school in Roseau, where they live.

‘83 Col. Kevin Wilson is the new commander of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS. He began his military career with the 65th Combat Engineer Battalion and had other assignments with the 589th Engineer Battalion and 249th Engineer Battalion Command. Previously he also served as the commandant

of the U.S. Army Prime Power School, military assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and as commander of the USACE Afghanistan Engineer District-South. After graduating from BSU, Wilson earned advanced degrees in civil engineering from Cornell University and strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is married to **Jacqueline (‘83)**

... **Robin Allebach** is currently serving as a voice instructor at Valley City State University in North Dakota. Allebach, who lives in Fargo with her husband, **Erich Knapp (‘01)**, is the founder and artistic director of the Fargo Moorhead Festival of Singing. She remains an active vocalist, appearing with various large and small ensembles in Chicago as well as with musicians in Israel, Switzerland, and Zaire. She also was selected to sing in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's recording of the *Bach B Minor Mass*, which won a Grammy Award.

‘79 Cindy Johnson is in her second year as a Fulbright Scholar teaching at a college of natural resources in Mweka, Tanzania. Johnson is on leave from her position as a biology professor at Gustavus Adolphus College. She and her husband, **Brian**, have a home in St. Peter ... **Scott Eastman** was elected to serve on the Pillager school board. He was previously on the board from 1988 to 1994. His wife, Cynthia, is a nurse for a group home in Baxter. They make their home in Pillager and have five children ... **Mary Johnson** was chosen as Lake of the Woods Teacher of the Year. An educator for 31 years, Johnson teaches first grade and is active in her church, community, and the local education association. She lives in Baudette with her husband, Mark.

‘77 Jane Reimer-Morgan was inducted into the Pillager School Hall of Fame. Reimer-Morgan has taught and coached in Brainerd, Staples, Parkers Prairie, Plymouth, and Minnetonka, where she resides. She is recognized statewide for her accomplishments in coaching cross country, and track and field. She was inducted this winter into Bemidji State University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

‘76 Becky Kornell has retired after teaching math for 35 years, all in the Princeton school district. During her tenure, she initiated a computer programming course that evolved from data punch cards, through tape and floppy disks, to personal computers with hard drives. She is married to Dave, also a long-time employee of the public schools in Princeton, where they reside.

‘75 Charlie Scanlon coached his Apple Valley boys' soccer team to its second consecutive undefeated season and second straight Minnesota High School League championship. Scanlon holds the state and national records for the most wins by a high school boys' soccer coach. He and his wife, **Barbara (‘74)**, live in St. Paul.

'74 Jack Almos will retire as superintendent of the Hinckley-Finlayson school district at the end of the current school year. After teaching at schools in Minnesota and North Dakota, he accepted the principal position at Hinckley 30 years ago. In 1993 he was named superintendent. He resides in Hinckley with his wife **Pat ('75)**, who retired last year. Both plan on spending more time with their two grandchildren.

'73 Michael Aakhus has been named dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. Aakhus has been a member of the art faculty at the university since 1977 and served as associate dean for five years and interim dean for one year before assuming the post on a permanent basis. Aakhus is known as a scholar of ancient Mexican art and a Maya expert. His own art, represented in public and private art collections throughout the United States and abroad, has been displayed at invitational and juried exhibitions since 1975. He was named the 2009 Artist of the Year by the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. He lives in Evansville.

'71 Darrell Barnack has been named the mental health clinical director for the Brainerd office of Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota. As director, he will oversee mental health services, treatment foster care, Minnesota services to veterans, and employee assistance programs for businesses as well as organizations. A licensed therapist, he will also lead a team of mental health professionals who provide individual, couple, and family counseling. He previously directed LSS offices in Wisconsin and Michigan. And his wife, **Candace**, have a home in Nisswa.

'70 Roger Schmidt has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in franchise law. Schmidt is senior vice president and chief general counsel of Curves International, based in Woodway, TX. Schmidt is an expert in franchise law and has worked for Curves since 2001. His responsibilities include supervising the legal department for the fitness franchise and overseeing all litigation, infringements, and contracts. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Baylor Law School in Waco, TX. He previously was the general counsel for The Olajuwon Group, a franchisee in the food industry, and maintained a private practice in Houston, TX. Married to Lana, he lives in McGregor, TX ... **Steve Whitcomb** has retired as the State Farm agent in Paynesville, an agency he started in 1975 after working four years in the company's corporate office in Bloomington, IL. He also maintained a State Farm office in Belgrade for 13 years. He and his wife, Karen, hope to spend some time away from their Paynesville home with their eight grandchildren ... **Mary Hexem** has retired after 40 years in the classrooms of the elementary school in Hendricks. She taught first, second,

and third grade during her tenure in the district. She lives in Hendricks with her husband, David ... **Don Cavalier** was named district governor nominee and will become the 2012-2013 district governor for Rotary International District 5580, which encompasses clubs in North Dakota, northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada. Cavalier is the director of the career and counseling department at the University of Minnesota Crookston, where he has worked for the past 35 years. He became an active member of Rotary in 1978 after participating in a group study exchange to the Philippine Islands. He was the Rotarian of the Year in 2003-04 and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife, Mary, live in Crookston and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

'68 Gary Halek was inducted into the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. The head baseball coach at Sauk Rapids High School, Halek compiled 324 wins against 264 losses during his 30-year coaching career. His win total ranks 42nd all-time among Minnesota high school coaches. He also coached numerous all-state players, including several who eventually played professional baseball. He spends his winters in Florida where he can keep track of the Twins during spring training.

'67 Lowell Searcy has been elected to the Pillager School Hall of Fame. Searcy began a teaching and coaching career with a three-year stint in Verndale before moving to Brainerd, where he finished 27 years as an educator and coach. His baseball teams won 72 percent of their games, 41 different championships, and two state titles. More than 150 of his players advanced to compete on college diamonds, 29 played in state All-Star games, and nine continued playing professionally. He and his wife, Diane, make Brainerd their home.

'66 Barbara and Roger ('59) Nornes celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Christmas day. The couple was married on that holiday in 1953 in Erskine. Both retiring in 1994, Barbara taught kindergarten and Roger industrial technology in the Ortonville Schools. The couple remains active in retirement, with Roger still refereeing junior high basketball games and both volunteering at the PGA tour stop in Phoenix for the past 12 years. They call Ortonville their home, and have a grown daughter and son.

'63 Noel Bailey was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Service Award. Bailey began coaching the sport in 1963 at Sauk Rapids High School. He eventually moved to Aitkin where he guided the

Gobbler matmen for 23 years, compiling a 263-145-5 record in dual meets. He is a member of the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame. Bailey and his wife of 18 years, Alma, reside in Aitkin.

'62 John Salls has published the novel *First Year*, which chronicles the main character's first year of high school teaching in the fictional town of Blue Lake. An English teacher for 38 years, Salls began his career in Minnesota and Wisconsin before spending the final 19 years as an educator in Hawaii. His wife, Lila, taught for 34 years before the couple retired in 2000 and moved to Ortonville.

'61 Jerry Brekke recently co-authored the book *Understanding Missouri's Constitutional Government*, published by the University of Missouri Press. A professor emeritus of political science at Northwest Missouri State University, Brekke wrote the book with Richard Fulton, a professor of political science at the same school. The work explains the role state government plays in the federal system and presents a case study in the foundation of state governments. The Maryville, MO, resident has also authored *Understanding the Missouri Constitution ... Doug Dahl* has been inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Dahl built a wrestling powerhouse at Greenbush High School, where he coached for 31 years. While earning five regional Coach of the Year honors, he guided his teams to a 332-99-4 varsity record and coached four individual state champions. He is a member of the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

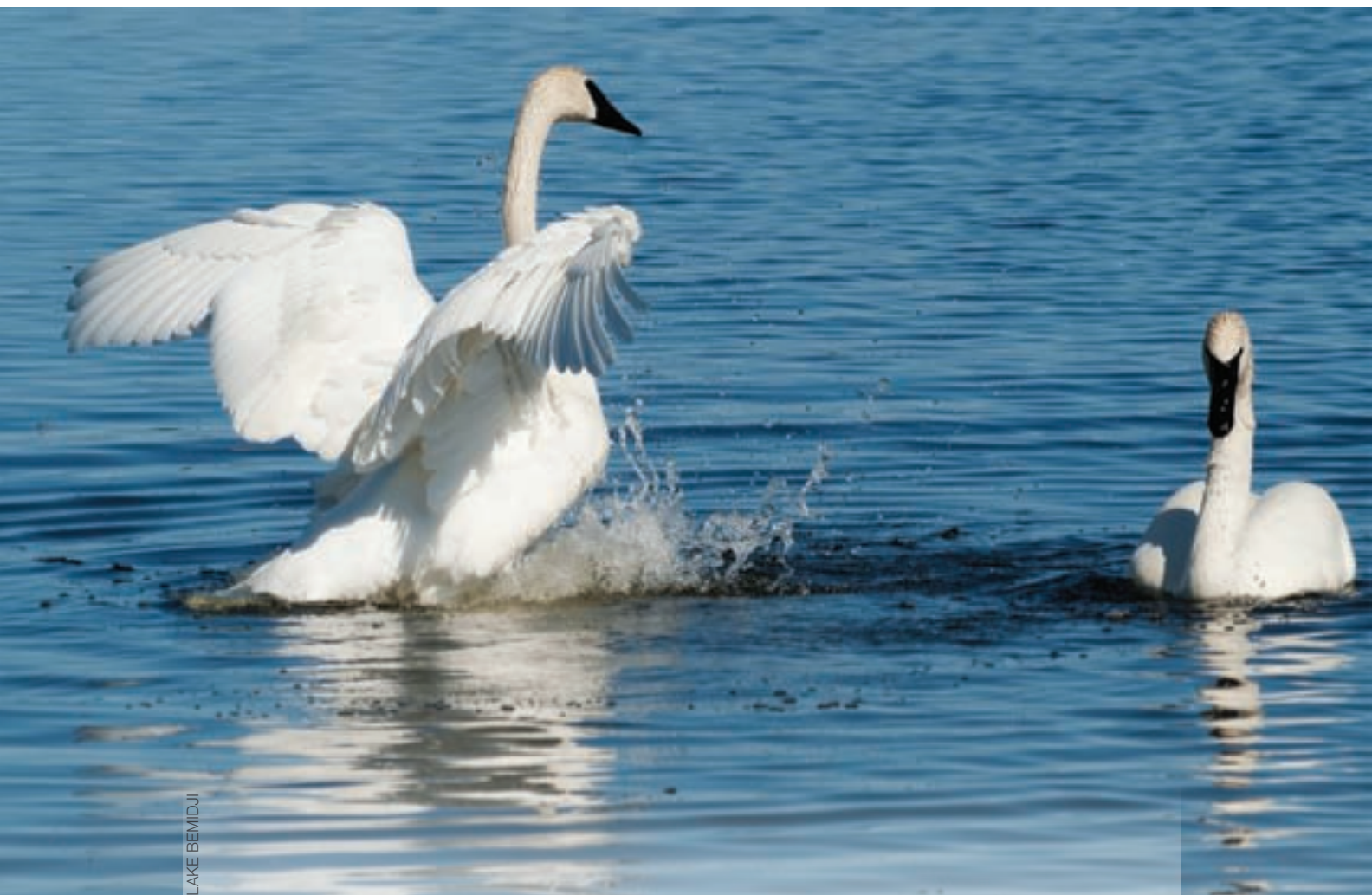
'46 Vesta Kerns celebrated her 99th birthday during a party at Birch Haven Villages, where she resides in Bemidji. A teacher in Bagley when she retired from teaching science in 1973, Kerns travelled widely when younger with trips to Norway, Sweden, England, Switzerland, France, and Yugoslavia. She remains active knitting caps for babies. The caps are donated to hospitals and agencies in the Bemidji area.

Other Alumni John Seamans was inducted into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the game. He has been involved in the sport for 41 years. He lives in Shorewood with his wife, Mary. ■



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699



SWANS MAKE THEIR SPRING RETURN TO LAKE BEMIDJI

CAMPUS CALENDAR

May Session	May 11-May 27
Summer Session	May 31-July 29
Fall Semester	Begins August 22
Community Appreciation Day	August 25
Homecoming Weekend	October 7-8



ADMISSIONS

Summer Sampler

Monday, June 27
Saturday, July 9
Friday, July 22
Friday, August 5
Friday, August 12

Academic Advising & Registration

<i>Freshmen</i>	<i>Transfer</i>
Friday, June 17	Monday, May 9
Friday, July 15	Friday, June 10
	Friday, July 15

CHECK OUT SUMMER CLASSES AND CAMPS @  www.bemidjistate.edu