For Tyler Radniecki, environmental engineering is the place to be.

Engineering SOLUTIONS for Our Environment
Tyler Radniecki is the William E. Leonhard, Jr., endowed chair in San Diego State University’s Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. Radniecki won an academic achievement award or outstanding student award during each of his four years at Bemidji State. He is now leading teams of researchers looking for solutions to complex environmental issues.
FROM PRESIDENT R. HANSON

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It has been another banner year for the BSU Foundation. The foundation’s annual report, featured in this issue of Horizons, shows $3.9 million in revenue for the past year, an all-time high of more than $6 million in total assets, and a record 500 endowments.

The remarkable level of support is becoming increasingly important to the vitality of Bemidji State University. Like many higher education institutions, BSU is seeking ways to manage declining levels of state support while at the same time keeping tuition affordable for our students. The generous support of our donors and friends allows us to keep a quality education more affordable and accessible to a broader range of students. This year’s annual report shows how scholarships help current students pursue their dreams and how the passionate support of donors provides the bedrock upon which students will build their futures.

The support of our donors and friends has played an important role in another strong fall for enrollment at BSU. For the third consecutive year, Bemidji State welcomed more than 8,000 new freshmen to campus, for the third time in the last seven years total enrollment topped 8,000 students.

The role Bemidji State University can play in the lives of these students, as they shape the world around them is illustrated in this issue of Horizons. BSU supports its students as they put their exceptional talents to work in the classroom and in the community. BSU also helped provide the foundation for the remarkable careers of alumni who are taking on complex environmental issues, creating works of art that enrich our lives, and designing awe-inspiring installations to showcase the products of others.

These stories illustrate the value of higher education, and the vital role Bemidji State University plays in providing that education to students in Minnesota and throughout the world.

R. Hanson

1. Patricia named chief development officer at BSU Foundation. As part of a strategic effort to increase the effectiveness of its fundraising efforts, the BSU Foundation named Maria Patricia to the newly created position of chief development officer. Patricia, who had been BSU’s director of alumni relations since 2000, will direct and oversee the foundation’s fundraising efforts, manage its development and annual fund directors, and oversee its budget.

2. Attendance records set at Community Appreciation Day. Bemidji State’s sixth Community Appreciation Day, held in August, was its largest ever with an estimated crowd of more than 7,000 enjoying games, activities, and free food. The BSU Foundation, which plans and organizes the event each year, estimated that more than 6,500 servings of food were served. The event also helped BSU’s football team set an all-time attendance record of 4,714 for its game against Minot State that evening.

3. BSU waives admission fees in November. From Nov. 14-18, Bemidji State participated in Minnesota College Application Week, a concentrated effort by Minnesota’s high schools, colleges, and universities to inform students across the state about the college application process. In recognition of the effort to encourage high school students to complete a college application, BSU waived its usual $30 application fee for that week. BSU received more than 1,000 applications during College Application Week. During a typical fall week, the admissions office receives around 500 applications.

Fall enrollment tops 5,000 for third consecutive year. For the sixth time in the last seven years, fall enrollment at BSU has topped 5,000 students. Total headcount on the 30th day of classes was 5,768, down four students from 2010. Even with the slight decline, it is the University’s third-highest fall enrollment since 1990. BSU also welcomed 862 new freshmen to campus this fall, its third consecutive 800-member freshman class. Since 2000, BSU’s enrollment has grown by nearly 1,000 students.

4. Nielson named interim dean for business, technology, and communication. For the second time, Carol Nielson will serve as interim dean of BSU’s College of Business, Technology, and Communication. She was named interim dean in August to replace James Maxwell. Nielson previously served as interim dean of the college from 2004-09. She has been on the faculty at BSU since 1985.

5. Jazz Band tours with noted trumpeter. In November, members of Bemidji State’s Jazz Band toured Minnesota with noted trumpeter Alvin Collins. Collins, who has played with Beyoncé and Michael Bolton, played with BSU’s Jazz Band in Pequot Lakes, Staples, Brainerd, and Grand Rapids before a Nov. 19 concert in Bemidji.

6. University News & World Report ranks BSU as one of region’s top 150. For the fourth year in a row, Bemidji State has earned a place among U.S. News and World Report’s top 100 colleges and universities in the Midwest region. The magazine’s “America’s Best Colleges” rankings had BSU tied with four other institutions for 83rd among all colleges and universities in the region, and 74th among public universities.

7. BSU nurses at Anoka-Ramsey to receive 25 scholarships. Thanks to a gift from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce Investment Act and the Anoka-Ramsey Community College, BSU nurses at Anoka-Ramsey will receive $1,000 scholarships for spring 2012 tuition. The community college is part of Minnesota’s Healthcare Alliance, a partnership of school districts, higher education institutions, health care providers, and workforce development centers. The grants are part of an effort by the alliance to increase the number of nurses in east central Minnesota.

8. Treuer named to state arts board. In August, BSU Professor of Languages and Ethnic Studies Dr. Anton Treuer was one of four new members appointed by Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton to the Minnesota State Arts Board. The board is a state agency with 13 citizen members appointed by the governor. The board’s mission is to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Minnesota.

9. BSU makes G.I. Jobs “Military Friendly” list. After an exhaustive review of more than 3,500 schools nationwide, the publication G.I. Jobs has recognized Bemidji State as a military-friendly school. The recognition is given to the top 10 percent of the nation’s colleges and universities doing the most to support and embrace America’s military veterans as students. Selection criteria include efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students and percentage of military and veteran students enrolled.

10. BSU hosts solar energy forum. BSU’s Sustainability Office hosted a solar energy forum in September featuring the Pine River-based Rural Renewable Energy Alliance. The alliance delivers solar as heat to low-income families as energy assistance as a lasting solution to fuel poverty. The forum featured Dr. Pat Nielsen, BSU professor of economics and environmental studies, who discussed the relationship between water quality and mercury emissions from fossil fuel consumption.

FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Bemidji State’s fall theatre production, “Proof,” opened for live shows in November. The play received multiple Tony Award nominations and won the 2011 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play.

THE FUTURE OF BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

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“These stories illustrate the value of higher education, and the vital role Bemidji State University plays in providing that education to students in Minnesota and throughout the world,” said R. Hanson, president. (Image: Bemidji State University)
**Athletics News**

**Three Beavers named Academic All-District**
Three BSU student-athletes earned spots on the Capitol One/College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District I or II list. The Academic All-District or All-Region honorees must be starters or important reserves with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.30.
- Football: Brody Scheff, senior, safety, Waconia, First Team All-NSIC Region 3
- Football: Brian Leonardt, junior, tight end, Blaine, First Team All-NSIC Region 3.

**Scheff named NSIC Defensive Player of the Year**
Senior safety Brody Scheff, from Waconia, the NSIC Defensive Player of the Year, headlined a group of 12 Beaver football players to earn All-NSIC honors this fall. Scheff was paneld on the All-NSIC first team by Gary Immennarz, Brian Leonardt, Matthew Shaver, and Jesse Sundby. Scheff is only the third Beaver to win NSIC Defensive Player of the Year honors, and the first since 2007. Bemidji State finished 4-7 this year and tied for fourth in the NSIC with a 7-3 league record.

**New coaches hired**
The athletic department hired new head coaches for women’s golf and softball this fall: Mark Bagasson, a 26-year coaching veteran who spent the last 19 years teaching and coaching in the Clearbrook-Gonvick public school system, joined the department in August as head women’s golf coach and assistant women’s basketball coach. Rick Supinski was named head softball coach in November. He spent the previous three years as an assistant coach at Bates College in Lewiston, ME.

**Women’s hockey off to best start ever**
Fifth-year head coach Steve Serich has directed the BSU women’s hockey team to its best start ever. The Beavers posted a 6-2-0 record in their first 12 games, which included four wins over Top 10 opponents and featured a road win at No. 2 Minnesota. The impressive start helped the Beavers make their first-ever appearance in the Top 10 of both national polls. Goaltender Zuzana Tomcikova, a senior from Slovakia, set a school record with her 34th career victory in a 4-3 win at Minnesota in November. He spent the previous three years as an assistant coach at Bates College in Lewiston, ME.

**Men’s hockey opens season with win over No. 1**
The BSU men’s hockey team opened its 2011-12 season with a 5-3 win over No. 1-ranked Miami (Ohio) in early October. The Beavers played eight of their first 10 games on the road, and each of their first 12 games came against opponents who were nationally ranked or receiving votes in the polls.

**Basketball teams play Gophers in exhibition tilts**
BSU’s men’s and women’s basketball teams each opened their 2011-12 seasons with an exhibition game against Minnesota at historic Williams Arena. Lakeville sophomore David Berthene scored a game-high 21 points to lead the men’s team in a 71-58 loss to Tubby Smith’s Gophers. The women held an early 4-0 lead in their Nov. 6 contest, but fell to Minnesota, 92-50.

**Fall Sports RECAPS**

**CROSS COUNTRY** finished ninth at the NSIC Cross Country Championships in October and 20th at the NCAA Central Regional Championships in November. Senior Kirsten Maras of Atoka paced the Beavers in five of six events this year with one Top 10 finish. MENT’S GOLF won two team titles and is currently sixth after two rounds of the 2011-12 NSIC Championship. Casey Hill, a senior from Virginia, led the team in scoring average and posted three Top-10 finishes. Under first-year head coach Mark Bagasson, WOMEN’S GOLF competed in four events this fall, including a team win and individual medalist honors for Golfer of the Year wishes Maria Sloan at the BSU Invitational in September. SOCCE finished 8-8-8 overall and tied for sixth in the NSIC with a 6-4-2 conference mark. Kirsten Erickson, a senior from Coon Rapids, was named Second-Team All-NSIC, while senior Kathryn Borge of Prior Lake earned an All-NSIC Honorable Mention nod. VOLLEYBALL finished 8-22 overall, 3-17 against the NSIC, playing a schedule featuring six nationally-ranked foes.
They need to treat this water, so we’ve come up with a landscaping solution that involves wetlands. My research is about finding a way to design these wetlands so that nature will clean the water.

“Out in the Cold” was a fundraiser, but more of an awareness campaign for the homeless population in the Bemidji area,” he says. “Every February, we’d spend a week outside in the middle of the quad. Every member of the fraternity would take a turn so that we’d have someone there 24/7 for a week; basically living in cardboard boxes. We had a 95-gallon drum that was used to dump scrap two-by-fours. People passing by always wanted to know what was going on, and we usually got local news coverage. You’d go into class reeking of wood smoke, and the whole classroom would smell like burned wood.”

Radniecki credits BSU for giving him the opportunities he needed to stand out in the crowd. “Getting the National Science Foundation grant at Yale was an honor, and my work as an undergraduate at BSU helped me win the award,” he says. “All of my fellow students had impressive credentials, but having my senior research project at BSU published as an undergraduate put me over the top. Many of my first-year classmates at Yale didn’t have that.”

That opportunity to publish was just part of a strong educational foundation. Radniecki says he received during his years at Bemidji State.

“BSU is a high-quality education,” Radniecki says. “It’s an environment for people to learn and grow. That’s what I think about when I think of Bemidji State.”
Don’t have to win, but I’m not going to lose,” says Richard “Dick” Werner. “The fear of losing inspires me more than the fanfare of winning.”

This temperament has served Werner well. His accomplishments as a multi-sport athlete in high school and college earned him entry into athletic halls of fame at both the Fergus Falls High School and at Bemidji State University. The work ethic he developed in competition helped propel him into the sporting goods world and, eventually, into business for himself as the founder of two highly successful companies, R. Werner Sales and Tag Up.

There have been setbacks along the way, but Werner has a knack for turning the tables on misfortune. A traumatic experience in his childhood taught him a life-changing lesson about battling against the barriers to success. At age seven he was infected by the polio virus and sent to the Sister Kenny Rehabilitation Institute in Minneapolis, where a nurse helped him to rise out of a slump and fight for his recovery. This nurse told him, “You can do whatever you desire, but the most important thing—and don’t ever forget this—is you really have to want to.”

“I don’t have to win, but I’m not going to lose. The fear of losing inspires me more than the fanfare of winning.”

After his recovery, one of Werner’s desires was to play sports. He threw himself into athletics at Fergus Falls High School, lettering in football, hockey, wrestling, track, and baseball. He graduated at a 95-time varsity letter winner, a school record that still stands today. Werner enrolled at Bemidji State in the fall of 1960 and continued to build the athletic resume he started in high school. He played tackle and lettered four consecutive years for Chet Anderson’s Beaver football teams, and also earned varsity letters in track, hockey, and baseball.

Werner was an art major at BSU and expected to seek employment as an art teacher. First, he had to test the waters in one other profession—football. Werner had a chance to make a dream come true, receiving an invitation to a tryout camp for Vince Lombard’s Green Bay Packers. Even though he did not make the cut, “I’d go get beat up again for two weeks just to be around Vince Lombardi,” Werner says. “He was a motivator. It was an incredible experience.”

After another unsuccessful football tryout, this time with the Houston Oilers, Werner flew to Fargo and arranged to meet with Bob Fritz, the owner of a sporting goods store. “At that time, they needed a road salesman and it was too late in the year for me to get a teaching job,” Werner says. “So, all of a sudden, I’m in the sporting goods business.”

Werner has been in the field ever since. From Fargo, he took a sales position with Aich Billmeyer, a company in Los Angeles that represented sporting goods manufacturers throughout half of the United States and parts of Canada. “I eventually decided that I wanted to run my own sporting goods manufacturers’ representative company,” Werner says. This realization led Werner to create R. Werner Sales. At its height, R. Werner Sales represented multiple product lines from several major sporting goods manufacturers, such as New Balance shoes and CCM hockey equipment, and had salesmen across the entire Midwest.

A combination of events in the mid-1990s pushed Werner to take his talents in a different direction. “One of our major manufacturers went bankrupt and the domino rolled back on me,” he says. “Around the same time, the growth of big-box stores created a change in the entire sporting goods industry. Manufacturers started taking those accounts as house accounts.”

Fortunately, Werner had already started pursuing a new business idea—creating personalized items for each member of a sports team. The first thought was to make individual personalized bag tags, but production costs initially made that seem impossible. However, the timing of Werner’s new venture was exquisite. He was perfectly positioned to ride a new wave of digital printing technology, and these new methods led to dramatically reduced production costs.

Today, his company, Tag Up sells products to a broad assortment of college and professional teams. “Our customers include a majority of the Major League Baseball teams, the Super Bowl, the NBA All-Star Game, and many college and universities, including BSU,” says Werner. BSU, for example, buys helmet decals, bag tags, locker nameplates, picture plaques, and banners. “Everything is printed here in our plant in Fergus Falls.”

Visually striking designs are a hallmark of Tag Up products, and Werner credits his art education at BSU for developing his design skills. “Some of my real successes have come from design ideas,” he says. “I learned one thing with my art education, it’s that I learned to see and understand what I’m looking at.”

Werner also expresses his artistic talents through painted wooden carvings. He began by building large, remote-controlled models of sailboats and gliders. When his grandchildren were born, he set out to make a rocking horse for them. From there, he branched out to painted wooden carvings of a carousel horse, a life-sized Santa Claus, and famous athletes, including George Hales, Curry Lambert, Jim Thorpe, Ernie Nevers, and Bronko Nagurski with Red Grange. His current project is a carving of the feared Boston Braves pitching duo, Warren Spahn and Johnny Sain.

Werner remembers his days at BSU fondly, in part because of the bride he met his wife, Judy. He worked in the cafeteria and would say “Hi” to her when he saw her. Finally she said, “Is that all you can say?” As he was walking back to his dorm that night, he overheard another fellow say about Judy, “That gal is really good-looking.” That was all he needed. “When I got to my dorm,” Werner says, “I called her and said, ‘Hey, do you want to have a Coke?’ That was the start of it. We got married in the summer of 1965, so we were married my senior year.”

BSU left a lasting mark on Werner. He praises the dedication of his professors and coaches, making special mention of art professor Keith Mahlquist, history professors Gene Mammenga and Art Lee, and football coach Chet Anderson. He has stayed connected over the years and has lifelong friendships with some of the people he met in college. “I stay associated with BSU as my way of paying back,” Werner says. “I’m very proud of my association with Bemidji State.”

www.BemidjiState.edu
bsu students to watch

Bemidji State is helping stellar individuals prepare for the future — here are three destined to do great things.

Hougen initially planned to be an elementary school teacher, but found her math courses particularly enjoyable. “I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, and math has always come easy,” she says.

What she has learned from her parents, she says, is to encourage young people to be confident in their abilities. Like her dad, she says she helps to improve her students’ and athletic skills. “I can’t wait to get started.”

“I’d like to teach younger grades, like the middle school, and coach middle school track, or become a school counselor or athletic director,” says Hougen, noting that a master’s degree and doctorate are possibilities. “We’ll see what life brings.”

John Andringa helps bring Bemidji State University hockey’s biggest plays to the Sanford Center’s big screen. After running a camera last year, he has moved into the production suite where he helps thousands of fans instantly re-live a game’s most exciting moments. The Crookston native will graduate in May with a degree in mass communication and a minor in computer science. He specializes in video production, a field that has long captured his imagination.

Andringa got his start with video by filming his buddies at the skate park using a camera his mom gave him for his 16th birthday. He later graduated to weekly news programs at Crookston High School.

Despite his love for video, he had planned to major in design technology at computer science until a mass media course refocused his goals.

“That was an eye-opening class for me,” says Andringa. “The class required a lot of critical thinking, and most of the things that we covered, I thought, ‘Wow, I never would have thought about if I took this way.’

Early on, Andringa joined student-run KBSU-TV and covered BSU football, hockey, and basketball games and Student Senate meetings. “It was so much fun to have a crew together and cover an event, so I started doing extra hours,” he says. His experience led to other opportunities, including camera work at a Miss North Dakota pageant earlier this year.

“John is just a natural with a hand-held camera,” says Bob Risborough, Sanford Center video display coordinator and director. “He’s pretty talented for an undergraduate and has a natural feel for how to shoot. Plus, you can slot him into any position.”

Andringa is involved with nearly every type of media in Bemidji. He works at Lakeside, a retail bangup shopper and an award-winning retailer. He also covered the fall mudman dance and this past summer taught a children’s skateboarding class.

Despite being his second choice for college, Bemidji State has turned out to be the best place for Andringa to develop his talents.

“I’ve had a good time at BSU,” he says. “It’s been a good education for someone like me who learns by doing. If it’s lucky, Andringa intends to stay in Bemidji after graduation. He plans to job hunt in Bemidji and possibly pursue a business degree to broaden his credentials.

If there’s a science to shopping, Cheree Johnson wants to use what she’s learned at Bemidji State to master the chemistry.

“I’ve always been interested in people watching and trying to understand why people do what they do,” she says. “I like to shop and my parents always told me that I was a creative thinker. I’m a total bargain hunter and like style and all that fun stuff.”

Her dream first job would be an executive team lead for Target, a retailer that she says “gets the upscale side of bargain shopping.”

Johnson’s love of shopping grew into a fascination with people and how they respond to everything from advertising to floor displays in a retail environment, leading her to pursue a degree in marketing communication with a minor in psychology. She transferred to BSU specifically for marketing communication, a degree she says isn’t offered at many other schools. She says it “combines the best classes” from multiple disciplines, including business and mass communication.

An avid Minnesota Twins fan, Johnson researched the promotion of Target Stadium for her senior thesis. She has been a member of BSU’s Business Club, secretary for Students in Free Enterprise, and a student worker in the business department. She also placed second in a statewide advertising competition and had an ad run on a Twin Cities radio station. Last summer, she helped the YAKA in Andover update its image and marketing strategy as part of an internship.

Johnson noted that much of her BSU coursework has helped develop her critical thinking skills. “In one of her favorite BSU courses, she evaluated the effectiveness of various advertisements on target audiences. ‘It was one of the most interesting classes ever,’” says Johnson.

“Cheree is beyond her years professionally, always ready to fit the ground running,” says Douglas Lewis, chair of the business department. “Without a doubt, she’d be a leader in her future endeavors.”

Johnson’s original plan for college called for a school closer to her Brooklyn Park home. But as she looked ahead to graduation in December, she says her experience has made the four-hour trip to Bemidji State worth every minute. “I don’t think I could be any happier with my education,” Johnson says. “I’ve met a lot of excellent people who have prepared me well for the real world.”
Aric Furfaro describes his first big job interview as a whirlwind romance, one that could not have been scripted better than how it actually turned out.

A Bemidji native, Furfaro graduated from Bemidji State University in May 2009, with a degree in design technology and an emphasis in exhibit design. Barely two months later, BSU faculty informed him that Indianapolis-based Hamilton Exhibits needed a designer and asked if he would be interested in applying for the position.

“It was the most surprising opportunity ever,” says Furfaro, who admired the firm’s entrepreneurial spirit and saw that by working with the industry and creating exhibit design courses, we could have something unique that other universities didn’t have.”

Furfaro moved to Indianapolis two weeks later, and his first big project became a signature piece for Hamilton. He designed a 50-by-100 foot, two-story custom exhibit for Cummins Inc., a global leader in engine design and manufacture. The client was so impressed with Furfaro’s work that it insisted on sending him to Las Vegas to see its debut.

“When I was exposed to the display floor and seeing it was like, ‘Holy cow, it’s real!’” says Furfaro. “I’m doing exactly what I went to college for.”

Bemidji State is the only four-year institution in the country offering a specialization in exhibit design. As part of BSU’s design technology program, exhibit design students learn to develop concepts from thumbnail sketches to 3D designs and floor-ready exhibits. The program works closely with the industry, so students are well-networked throughout their academic experience, says Dr. Bonnie Higgins, associate professor of design technology. "We have a strong history and tradition in exhibit design. Those early professors had an entrepreneurial spirit and saw that we could have something unique that other universities didn’t have.”

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BSU grads excel in exhibit design.

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Dr. Bonnie Higgins

Job Ready

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Dr. Bonnie Higgins

Furfaro, too, is happy with his work. “I love my job,” he says. “When I was going to school, I wondered how having a job would be, and it’s exactly as I envisioned. I’m doing exactly what I went to college for.”

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Trent Baalke ’87

In January 2011, Trent Baalke was named general manager of the NFL’s San Francisco 49ers after spending five years in the organization as a regional scout, director of player personnel, and vice president of personnel.

Baalke, a 1987 Bemidji State graduate with a degree in health and physical education, played football for the Beavers from 1982-86, and helped the program get back on a winning track. He recorded 169 tackles during his four-year career and was named Northern Intercollegiate Conference in 1985, and helped the Beavers finish as high as third in the conference.

After leaving BSU, he was a graduate assistant for the North Dakota State football program that finished 14-0 and won a national championship in 1990. He taught physical education and health in Illinois until 1998, when he moved to California to become its U.S. chief investment officer in 2006. In 2010, he was named president and chief investment officer and currently oversees a team that manages assets from more than 50 countries.

Baalke has been involved in a number of philanthropic efforts and ministries. In 1997, he coordinated flood relief for Grand Forks, ND, and helped raise more than $5,000,000 to help that community’s rebuilding efforts. He recently joined the BSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Baalke lives in Loveland, CO, with his wife, Tracy. They have two daughters, Kristen and Katie.

Michael Roberge ’90

Since graduating from Bemidji State in 1990 with degrees in accounting and business administration, Michael Roberge has risen through the ranks of the financial investing world. Today, he manages a global firm with assets worth more than $200 billion.

Roberge is a senior bond analyst and portfolio manager. A year later, he joined MFS as an analyst and has been with the company ever since. He started as a manager of fixed-income portfolios and quickly became its U.S. chief investment officer in 2006. In 2010, he was named president and chief investment officer and currently oversees a team that manages assets from more than 50 countries.

Roberge has been involved in a number of philanthropic efforts and ministries. In 1997, he coordinated flood relief for Grand Forks, ND, and helped raise more than $5,000,000 to help that community’s rebuilding efforts. He recently joined the BSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Roberge lives in Wayland, MA, with his wife, Tracy. They have two daughters, Hannah and Emily.

Austin Wallesløe ’70

Austin Wallesløe, winner of the first BSU Alumni Service Award, was an all-American performer on BSU’s men’s hockey team from 1966-69. He helped guide the Beavers to NCAA national championships in 1968 and 1969 before graduating in 1970. He taught, played professional and university in Illinois until 1998, when he moved to California to become its U.S. chief investment officer in 2006. In 2010, he was named president and chief investment officer and currently oversees a team that manages assets from more than 50 countries.

Wallesløe has been involved in a number of philanthropic efforts and ministries. In 1997, he coordinated flood relief for Grand Forks, ND, and helped raise more than $5,000,000 to help that community’s rebuilding efforts. He recently joined the BSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Wallesløe lives in Bemidji with his wife Paula. They have three grown children, Mary, Mike, and Amanda.

Nate Sannes ’05

Former Bemidji State quarterback Nathan Sannes is the requirement of BSU’s traditional Young Alumni Award. Sannes, who graduated magna cum laude after leaving BSU.

Sannes has won a dozen awards from Federated during his brief time with the company, including four Chairman’s Council Awards, the company’s highest honor.

Sannes lives in Alexandria with his wife Abby. They have one daughter, Emma, and a newborn son, Riley.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The BSU Athletic Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed upon individuals who have made significant contributions to the athletics program. The hall of fame is open to faculty, staff, and members of the Bemidji State University community.

The Athletic Hall of Fame includes former athletes, former coaches, and current or former employees who have made significant contributions to the athletics program.

This year’s inductees include the following:

- Trent Baalke ’87
- Michael Roberge ’90
- Austin Wallesløe ’70
- Nate Sannes ’05

Contact the Alumni Office to register or for more information:

218-755-3889 or 1-877-278-3586 (toll-free)
alumni@bemidjistate.edu
www.bsu alumni.org

WINTER 2011 IN MEMORIAM

Joe Bowman ’62, Limingh, MN
Glora A. (Bergland) Danielson ’51, Granlack, MN
Vanda (Moe) Drotar ’60, Portland, OR
Dr. Lowell “Tom” Gillett (President Emeritus), Bemidji, MN
Beulah F. Gregoire ’40, Hudson, WI
Larry D. Groom ’75, St. Paul, MN
H. J. (Jergensen) Hall ’71, Grand Rapids, MN
June L. (Nasvik) Johnson ’49, San Diego, CA
Margaret E. (Anderson) Lindholm ’67, Roseau, MN
David R. Nebby ’76, Duluth, MN
William R. Pridget ’62, Birtle, MN
Ann K. (Wick) Primmerberger ’36, Fargo, ND
Fran R. Ramiller 1946-49, Mt. Morris, MI
Barbara A. Rietl ’78, Bemidji, MN
David W. Stone ’75, Haverock, MN
Wanda (Melby) Dishman ’60, Portland, OR
Eileen G. Zierman ’70, Minneapolis, MN

Claire Rendahl

or call toll free:
in Minnesota unless
Bemidji State University
Minnesota District 3B House seat. Gould lives
the district’s seventh- and eighth-grade girls’
River Falls teaches third- and fourth-grade social
at Kingsland Elementary School in Spring Valley.
is a kindergarten teacher
Bartz enjoys creating 2D and 3D art, and lately
with three chosen to exhibit their work at the
in the Grand Forks, ND, and East Grand Forks
Seth Schmitz
Hockey League and the Lake Erie Monsters of
ates of the Colorado Avalanche of the National
McClenahan
environmental engineering firm with offices
in Minnesota and North Dakota. McClenahan
in the West Fargo, ND, office
... of classes that motivate clients to meet their
goals. She is a GIS technician in the West Fargo, ND, office
... .

Cheryl Middendorf

Cheryl Middendorf (’11) has a passion for
endeavor is .

Cheryl Middendorf

Chad Doocy

Chad Doocy is a rotor pilot Flight
in Grand Meadow. The business is based
on a variety of classes that motivate clients
to meet their fitness goals. He partners in the
in Minneapolis.

Katelyn Bartz

Katelyn Bartz was selected for the Grand
City Arts Fest emerging artist program
in the Grand Forks, ND, and East Grand Forks areas
who previously taught with three chosen to exhibit their work at
the Art Fest and to receive mentoring to assist in marketing their work.
A resident of Bemidji, Bartz enjoys creating 2D and
art, and lately
has focused on several painting live.
His website (Katelynbartz.com) includes his
computer and hardwired elements in a college
style. Jill Thalman is a kindergarten
at Elim Elementary School in
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in Spring Valley. Nick Frantell of Thrall
River Falls teaches third- and fourth-grade
in Grand Meadow. Brandon Kitchun of
is a social studies teacher in
the Ninth Grade. He loves teaching English
at Rainy River Community
College in
the community.

Andrew Miller

Andrew Miller is the founder and artistic
director of From Age to Age.

Andrew Miller

Mark Doocy

Mark Doocy is an exercise physiologist in the

Mark Doocy

Jenny Brant

Jenny Brant has been hired as a

Jenny Brant

Jenny Brant

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Heather (Hoffman, ’04) won the Fox
The College at Columbia University,

Heather (Hoffman, ’04)

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Bryan Brown started his new role as principal this fall. His background includes 15 years as a teacher, with six years incarcerated at the facility. Anselmo and his wife, Liz, live in Barron, WI. He also has teaching experience at five school districts in Minnesota and served on the faculty at Northland Community and Technical College in Fon du Lac, WI. He lives in Fairview Township with his wife, Sandy, and in Big Fork.

Gerry Cook has been teaching health and physical education classes at Aitkin Area High School, which has campuses in Cambridge and Crosslake. He and his wife, Dyan, have two children and six grandchildren.

Mary Beth Hayes retired after a 39-year teaching career at Bagley Elementary School during her tenure at the school, she taught at least two classes in each grade through fifth, although most of her time was spent with fourth graders. Today, she and her wife, Sherri, have three children and seven grandchildren.

Richard and Jumma (Tibbette) Mikkelsen have been members of the Minnesota Retired Educators Association for 43 years. Mikkelsen is a former representative to the National Education Association in Washington, D.C., and has served on the board of the Minnesota Retired Educators Association. They have spent summers ministering in native communities and completing survey work in remote locations.

Lance Northey is the new principal at Waconia Area High School. He was previously a middle school principal in St. Louis Park. He and his wife, Eve, have two adult children. Kevin Gish was named lead administrator for the Great Lakes Health Care Network, and also serves as manager for Essentia Health Operating System. He has 35 years of experience in the healthcare industry, most recently at Garfield Health of Bemidji. He and his wife, Mary, still make their home in Bemidji.

Roy Bentzel has been inducted into the Philadelphia School Hall of Fame. The author of more than 30 short stories, he has published over 25 stage plays that have been performed at the Park Playhouse in Wayzata. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in Minnetonka, and operate Roy’s Park Playhouse in Wayzata.

Shel Ruttler is the new principal at Early Childhood Education Center School in Elk River. A 24-year veteran of the St. Cloud school district, she began her career at Overview and also was an assistant principal at Discovery School and North Junior High School in the St. Cloud School District. She and her husband have two children, and live in Sartell. Jeff Wade was named the Bemidji Education Association Teacher of the Year. Wade teaches fifth grade at North Elementary, where he chairs the climate committee, is active in anti-bullying efforts, and assists with Kindness Week. He leads the math masters program for fifth-graders and a high-ability club where students come together, sweeping, fly-fishing, and archery. A coach in the girls’ basketball program, he also leads the Bemidji High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a member of All Pro Dad, a group advocating a father’s involvement with their children. He and his wife, Christine, live in Laporte.

Nancy (Etch) Voskuil recently spoke on a panel at the University of Minnesota for a program presented by Women Voters in Park Rapids. Voskuil is the president and chief executive officer of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. A member of the founding board of the Foundation, she chairs the board’s Community Relations Committee, where she works to promote a new vision of community development and to mobilize the philanthropic resources of the region. In 2010, she was a key person in the development of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation’s first major plan, the Northwest Minnesota Regional Development Plan. She is the Foundation’s executive director. Voskuil has been a leader in the community development field for two decades, and is the Foundation’s longest-serving staff member. Voskuil is the author of a book on the best practices of public philanthropy, “The New Era of Philanthropy.” She is also the author of a book on the history of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, “A New Era of Philanthropy.”

Dan Saulnier teaches art at grades K-3 at Dough Ann Elementary School in Owatonna. He is also in his 28th year of coaching football for the Owatonna football team. Saulnier is the head coach of the Owatonna Owatonna Blue Ox Wrestling team. He has been the varsity coach at Owatonna High School for 21 years, and has been the head coach at Owatonna High School for 21 years.

Dr. Rodney Capistran teaches math at Fargo North High School. Capistran, who received a second master’s degree in mathematics from Minnesota State University, is also in his 12th year singing baritone in the Fargo-Moorhead Chamberchoir. He is on faculty at Moorhead State University, where he is in his fourth year teaching. His research interests include the importance of mathematics to society, as its usefulness. He and his wife, Jane (“Lind”, ’79), live in Fargo.

Dr. Steve Howe is the director for labor market information at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Howe, who earned his doctorate at Washington State, heads the section that provides detailed data on the state’s labor market, wages, job growth, economic trends, workforce, labor market, and education. He resides in St. Paul. Judy Comstock has returned to the Cass Lake-Bena middle school as a counselor after spending 15 years as a counselor at the Governor’s vacation. She started her educational career in 1982 in the public school system and serves on the faculty at Northland Community and Technical College in Fon du Lac, WI. She lives in Fairview Township, which is adjacent to the area she serves. She and her husband, Michael, live in Hibbing, and operate Roy’s Park Playhouse in Wayzata.

Jim Jamnick is a teacher with North Junior High School. He leads the math masters program for fifth-graders and a high-ability club where students come together, sweeping, fly-fishing, and archery. A coach in the girls’ basketball program, he also leads the Bemidji High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a member of All Pro Dad, a group advocating a father’s involvement with their children. He and his wife, Christine, live in Laporte.

Kevin Gish was hired to work with special education for boys, and a chemical dependency operation for girls. Anselmo and his wife, Liz, live in Barron, WI. He also has teaching experience at five school districts in Minnesota and served on the faculty at Northland Community and Technical College in Fon du Lac, WI. He lives in Fairview Township with his wife, Sandy, and in Big Fork.

John Ott has been hired to work as a counselor at Bemidji High School. Ott grew up in Bemidji, and served on the faculty at Northland Community and Technical College in Fon du Lac, WI. He also has teaching experience at five school districts in Minnesota and served on the faculty at Northland Community and Technical College in Fon du Lac, WI. He lives in Fairview Township with his wife, Sandy, and in Big Fork.

Michelle Hill, FL ...
Moving Forward

It has been another banner year for the BSU Foundation. Thanks to the private donors who have invested in Bemidji State University’s future, total assets at the BSU Foundation in fiscal year 2011 reached an all-time high of $26,236,477. Those assets include a total of 303 endowments, the most ever at the University. Annual revenues have reached a near-record $2,962,665, and the rate of return on the foundation’s investments for the past year exceeded 14 percent.

This year the foundation provided $706,996 in scholarships to Bemidji State University students. Scholarship support from our donors ensures that BSU will remain accessible to our students and plays a crucial role in reducing student debt when they leave the University. President Richard Hanson recently reminded the campus that 89 percent of BSU students graduate with some debt, and the average debt load for a BSU graduate is $26,800. Reducing this debt load for our students is one of the president’s overall goals for the future of the University. Your support will assist us in achieving this goal for our students and will positively impact their futures.

One of the highlights of the foundation’s stellar year was an endowment to fund the Myra Heenon Johnson Scholarship. The Heenon Scholarship began after the BSU Foundation received a bequest of $454,290, its largest gift ever for a single scholarship endowment.

Also this past year, the Lakeside Fund was launched as a coordinated effort between the BSU Foundation and the Alumni Association. The Lakeside Fund exists to engage alumni, faculty, staff members, and friends of the University in BSU’s advancement through annual fundraising support. Unrestricted Lakeside Fund scholarships will be used for recruitment and retention scholarships, both of which are critical to the University’s success.

It has been an eventful and exciting year for BSU students, faculty and our alumni. I am looking forward to another great year on campus and in the foundation. I hope to see you on campus or at one of our many regional or national alumni events during the coming year. Thank you for your commitment to BSU and your investment in our current and future students!
Almost 25 years ago, Bemidji State University alumna Ruth Ouverson was instrumental in establishing Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) programs at Rockford schools in Minnesota’s Wright County. In 2007, the 58-year-old Ouverson’s life was tragically cut short during a robbery at her home. The eventual capture and conviction of her killer did little to ease the loss felt by her friends, family, and peers, so they sought a way to keep her memory alive.

Knowing Ouverson’s love for her time at Rockford schools in Minnesota’s Wright County, Ouverson helped organize Early Childhood Students of this year’s Ouverson Scholarship. She will use the funds to raise the funds. "We were driven to create a way for Ruth’s memory to live on." Ouverson coordinated ECFE and its school readiness program for Rockford-area schools and worked with parents and their children from birth to the age of five. As one of ECFE’s early innovators, she built her passion for early childhood education after first earning a bachelor’s degree in design technology in 2008.

"Early childhood education is one of my passions," LaPierre says. "Toddlerhood is so much fun and pre-schoolers are just starting to learn things and expand their horizons beyond the front door. And you get to be right there when they’re learning about their colors and letters. Little kids are so creative and their imaginations are vast."

LaPierre worked as a mediator in Massachusetts and Connecticut before returning to BSU. Since her mother ran a home daycare for 17 years, she was comfortable in her decision to change her career path. Still, returning to school came "tough," LaPierre says. "Ruth’s life was to take care of her family, the children in the schools, and those who worked with them," Shaffer says. "Helping staff grow and develop was an important core value for her. She was constantly challenging them.

"We wanted to make sure we were preparing a legacy for younger teachers," LaPierre says, "to come into the profession," LaPierre says. "It was sad, but fun," Shaffer says of the effort to raise the funds. "We were driven to create a way for Ruth’s memory to live on."

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Looking back, Shaffer says, she will miss Ouverson’s periodic phone calls, her laughter, the gleam in her eye, and her voice as an advocate for young children.

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A named Lakeside Scholarship can be established for a minimum of $1,000 and is a discretionary award with no specific selection criteria. This differs greatly from an endowed scholarship, which requires a minimum balance of $25,000 and produces an annual award for interest-bearing accounts. They are awarded based on criteria assigned by the donor.

Lakeside Scholarship recipients are selected by the admissions office, which can offer the awards to maximize enrollment and enhance the quality of an incoming first-year class. “This will allow admissions staff the flexibility to use the scholarships as they see fit,” says Lisa Hofstad, director of annual giving for the BSU Foundation. “They often know which students are on the fence and what it will take to get them here.”

Interim admissions director Mary (Garcia) Chropich echoes those sentiments. “BSU’s needs for recruitment change every year,” she explains. She notes that admissions could offer the awards to high-achieving students, to increase under-represented populations, or to satisfy financial need.

“These scholarships may be the determining factor for a student’s attendance at BSU, or for attending college entirely,” she says. “This program gave us a vested interest in the scholarship.” Campbell says of the motivation behind establishing the Gwen and Madeline Campbell Scholarship: “We’ve always contributed, but this time it became much more personal. We wanted to do as much as we could to get it off the fence and what it will take to get them here.”

“I’m looking forward to knowing the names of the students we’re helping,” Campbell says. “I hope they get as much out of BSU as Gwen did during her time on campus.”

HONORING A LIFE’S MISSION

Gwen (Ranzau) and Madeline Campbell Scholarship

Bemidji State alumna Gwen (Ranzau) and Madeline Campbell embraced a mission in life to help middle school students overcome fear of mathematics. After graduating from Bemidji State in 1986, she spent 15 years making that mission a reality in Minnesota classrooms.

Sadly, it was a mission that would end well before its time. In July of 2003, Campbell and her newborn daughter, Madeline, both died during complications in Madeline’s birth. Her newborn daughter, Madeline, both died.

Mary’s affection for her late daughter-in-law and granddaughter fueled memories of Gwen’s mission and brought to light an opportunity that could help BSU and a new generation of students.

For the first time, donors can honor loved ones through donations to the University’s annual fund, now known as the Lakeside Scholarship Program. Scholarships will be given as long as the donor continues to fund the award.

Mary Campbell and Lou Buron, her managing partner at Paul Bunyan Broadcasting of Bemidji, used this recently created opportunity to fund six scholarships in Gwen and Madeline’s name. One $5,500 award and five $1,000 awards will be given to freshmen next fall.

“Both Mary and I feel very strongly about BSU, which is a real jewel in town,” Buron says. “The new program gives you some choices in what you can do and how you can handle it. We were both approached about the same time we were thinking about Gwen. She went to school here, loved it, and talked a lot about Bemidji. That sealed the deal.”

The Bemidji Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a deferred or planned gift to the BSU Foundation. The society has grown from 43 charter members in 2002 to 186 members today.

Statement of Position

June 30, 2011

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents $ 15,349
Investments 14,832,401
Accounts Receivable 10,095
Contributions Receivable 592,843
Prepaid Expenses 4,182
Total Current Assets 16,043,687
Property and Equipment 318,890
Other Assets

Contributions Receivable 333,844
Rundred Interest in Real Estate 111,074
Cash Surrender Value Life Insurance 33,859
Total Other Assets 478,777
Total Assets 16,221,467

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable $ 52,472
Annually Payable, Current Portion 16,594
Accrued Interest Payable 2,644
Other Accruals 1,162
Total Current Liabilities 72,874

Long-term Liabilities

Annually Payable, Long Term Portion 117,119
Note Payable, Long Term Portion 732,250
Total Long Term Liabilities 849,369
Total Liabilities 922,243

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets University Fund & Quasi-Endowment Fund $346,380
Alliance/House Acquisition 94,000
Plant Fund 308,890
Total Unrestricted Net Assets 959,270
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 2,554,791
Permanently Restricted Net Assets 121,705
Total Net Assets 25,331,767

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 16,221,467
“Our players were not afraid to face adversity,” Montebello says. “They just wanted to play.” We didn’t have the best facilities or location, but this made them stronger, on the field and later in life.”

Montebello understood the life of a non-scholarship college athlete walk-on at Ohio State, he settled into a role as a third baseman and back-up catcher. He continued to play amateur baseball after graduation as he continued his education, eventually earning a doctorate from Columbia University in New York. He came to BSU as a health and physical education faculty member and coach in 1958, where he taught a variety of classes and served as chair of the health department for a number of years before his retirement in 1987.

A member of both the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame, Montebello amassed a BSU-record 290 wins during his career in the dugout. In 1982, he was named NAIA district and regional Coach of the Year after leading Bill Beavers to their only national tournament appearance. In his 29 years on the diamond, he mentored numerous all-conference and all-distric performers, all of whom were non-scholarship, walk-on players. *They wanted to be students first and athletes second, which made me proud of what we produced and what we accomplished with our teams,” Montebello says. “Our student players had a love for baseball and worked their tails off to make the team and raise money by working concession stands and selling program ads. We had a slim budget, but we managed to put a competitive team on the field.”

His players found success after graduating, entering education, coaching, business, or other professions. One year at the Minnesota state high school tournament, six of the final eight teams had coaches who played the game on the BSU diamond or had completed Montebello’s coaching class. “Coach Montebello provided me an opportunity to enjoy baseball at the collegiate level,” says Michael Gerbich, a former player who recently retired to Scottsdale, AZ, following a career overseas as an educator and businessman. “He was a mentor who insured you not only played, but accepted the responsibilities of getting a proper education.”

The dedicated baseball alumni who played for Montebello have continued to support the program with funds for an electronic scoreboard, uniforms, equipment, and other necessities. The coach and his former players are now strengthening their connection to Bemidji State baseball by endowing the Dr. Bob Montebello Scholarship Fund. Fundraising for the award began in 2007, and a total of 39 donors have contributed between $25 and $5,000 to fully endow the scholarship. It will be presented for the first time this spring.

Current BSU baseball coach Tim Bellew welcomes the scholarship and understands what it means to players. “Bob was a very dedicated and prominent factor in the lives of many student-athletes both on and off the field at Bemidji State,” the BSU skipper says of Montebello. “This scholarship will be a huge factor for our program, not only for the monetary amount but also as an honor to the young man selected.”
Scholarship Promotes Cultural Interchange

Sullivan International Student Scholarship

During their years working with international students at Bemidji State University, Lorna and Maury Sullivan watched students from other countries become active on campus and in the community. It was an eye-opening experience for everyone, as the students settled into their new home and the community took advantage of opportunities to explore new cultures and ideas.

“International students brought another cultural experience into our community, and we learned a great deal,” says Lorna, the former director of Bemidji State University’s international student office.

“In the 1980s when [international] enrollment grew to more than 200 students, it really changed campus,” says Maury, former director of conference and guest housing on campus. “They were motivated, so class-room activities became competitive and it made all students try harder.”

While watching these students interact with the campus, the Sullivans noted that, like many college students, they sometimes struggled to make ends meet. While most international students received substantial financial support from their families, many needed more aid than their families could offer. In addition to the daily expenses of college life, international students could be impacted by political and economic upheavals in their home countries, reducing or eliminating their support networks.

For most of these students, working on campus was the only way to help cover expenses.

“There was little available, because students had to be citizens or residents of this country to qualify for financial aid or loans,” Lorna says. “When Maury and I retired, we wanted to do something about this at the University.”

For the last 15 years, the couple has been providing support for international students through the Sullivan International Scholarship.

Following a competitive process each year, a committee awards the scholarship based on identifiable need, leadership skills, and involvement in campus and community activities. Since its inception, more than 60 individuals have donated to help the Sullivans endow the award.

Ernest Ang, a first-generation college student from Malaysia, is this year’s recipient of the Sullivan Award. A leader even during his early undergraduate days at Malaysia’s HELP University, Ang traveled to small towns and stressed the importance of education to children. He also was instrumental in starting a Chinese club on campus.

Ang came to BSU to complete a psychology degree, but encountered the model building program after arriving on campus. “I didn’t expect it that much,” he explains. “Wherever you go, people smile and are so friendly.”

“My parents didn’t expect to sponsor me for so many years in college, so with this scholarship I don’t have to rely entirely on them,” says Ang, who is in his seventh semester at BSU and his sixth year in college overall. He recognizes that the value of his scholarship goes far beyond the expenses it helps to pay. “I work hard and involve myself to obtain leadership skills. This scholarship affirms my time here with my parents.”

The scholarship is an eye opener to Ang’s parents, much like his time in Bemidji has been for him. “Wherever you go, people smile and are so friendly,” he explains. “I didn’t expect it that much.”
CAMPUS PREVIEWS:
January 20, February 10, February 20, March 12

SATURDAY SAMPLERS
February 4, March 3, April 21, May 5

ACADEMIC ADVISING & REGISTRATION
FRESHMAN:
Fridays - March 16, March 23, April 13, April 27, June 15

TRANSFER:
Mondays - May 7, June 4, July 16

CAMPUS CALENDAR
Spring Semester Begins Jan. 9
For University events and news visit www.bemidjistate.edu
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FIRST SNOW OF THE 2011-12 SEASON