Insuring SUCCESS

A BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION HAS HELPED AL CLARK BECOME STATE FARM INSURANCE'S TOP AGENT
Eagles near campus

Eagles were once a near campus in mid-Atlantic, a type of spring in Bermud. When eagle’s一枚 stay in the area for the winter, it is known as the winter birthing season. In the nearby Chippewa National Forest is home to one of the most famous gatherings of hawks in the lower 48 states.

Tubock named Provost,

Dr. Martin Tubock has been named Bermudia State’s Provost and Vice President for academic affairs.

Tubock’s tenure as Provost and Vice President for academic affairs at Northeastern State University in Alva, Okla. He served as Provost and Senior Vice President from August through December 2012. Tubock also has worked at the University of Wisconsin-Parkville, Utah State University, California State University, Monterey Bay and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Mr. Henry Henry is a professor of educational leadership and administrationShipping and Leadership from Arizona Union in Oxford, Ohio.

New signs display campus tobacco-free

When students, faculty and staff arrive back on campus as spring arrives, they notice new signs strategically placed near building entrances and walkways across the campus. Each sign highlights the university’s tobacco-free policy.

First Speakers’ Emmy on display at ABC

The Midwestern Regional Emmy Award was won by the Twin Cities Public Television production “First Speakers: Restoring the Oglala Language.” It was on display at a ceremony held at the Olympic Center.

BSU named to Princeton Review list of green schools

For the second consecutive year, Bermuda State has been named one of America’s greenest colleges and universities by the Princeton Review.

Scott Faust in April joined the California State University and Northwestern Technical College as their joint director of promotions and marketing. He will lead the efforts of these two institutions in the Bermuda region, the Bermuda Islands.

New ideas in Division of Advancement

Bermuda State’s Division of Advancement in April announced a pair of new hires. Holly Alden has been named assistant director of the Alumni Association.

Glass Scholars’ House dedicated

On April 10, Bermuda State officially unveiled the Glass Scholars’ House, former home of John and Ely Glass and their sons John, Daniel, Robert and Richard. TheGlass family were leaders in Bermuda for decades, and John Glass spent 30 years at BSU in a variety of leadership and administrative roles. He was assistant to the president and vice president for academic affairs and, from 1987-88, served as the University’s acting president. BSU’s John S. Glass, Hallmark, the name of Beverly Housley from 1997-2004, was named in his honor in 1979. Ely Glass donated the home to the University after moving closer to his sons. BSU will plan the home into a facility that will house students.

BSU hosts regional science fair

About 125 high school students from a 9-county region around Bermuda were on campus in Feb. 17-18 for the 8th Annual Minnesota Regional Science Fair.

Students submitted a variety of projects across a large range of subjects and disciplines. The top 31 projects advanced to the Minnesota Science and Engineering Fair, held March 17-19 in St. Paul. The top 31 will travel to the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Pittsburgh.
ATHLETICS NEWS

NSIC Coach of the Year Bowen Leads Hoops to NCAA Tournament

Men’s basketball coach Matt Bowen was named NSIC Coach of the Year after guiding the Beavers to one of their most successful seasons. After BSU was seeded seventh in the NSIC pre-season coaches’ poll, Bowen led the squad to a school-record 27 wins, an outright NSIC regular season championship, and the second NCAA tournament berth in school history. Under his guidance, the Beavers received their first votes in the national poll and were ranked as high as third in the NCAA Central Regional.

Ellisor Named Daktronics National Player of the Year

James Ellisor, a senior forward from Glen Dell, A.C., in March became the most-quoted player in BSU men’s basketball history when he was named Daktronics National Player of the Year. The award highlighted a busy award season for Ellisor, who also was named NSIC Player of the Year, Daktronics Central Region Player of the Year, National Association of Basketball Coaches First Team All-Central District, NCAA All-America and Division II (NABC) All-America. Ellisor is BSU’s first three-time All-America honoree.

Men’s Hockey Players Sign Professional Contracts

Three BSU men’s hockey players signed professional contracts shortly after the season. Brad Hunt, from Ridge Meadows, B.C., and Jamie MacQuarrie, from St. Thomas, Ont., both signed with minor-league affiliates in the American Hockey League. Harris signed with the Vancouver Canucks-affiliated Chicago Wolves, while MacQuarrie signed with the Lake Erie Monsters, affiliated with the Colorado Avalanche. Shea Walters, from Nipigon, signed with the East Coast Hockey League’s South Carolina Stingrays, a minor-league affiliate of the Washington Capitals.

Tomcikova is BSU’s First Women’s Hockey All-American

Guardian Zazana Tomcikova’s record-shattering four-year hockey career came to a close in award-winning fashion, as she became the first Beaver to earn All-America accolades. BSU’s all-time leader in every major goaltending category, including wins (120) and shutouts (46), earned Second-Team All-America honors from CCHA. She also earned First-Team All-WCHA honors, becoming the first BSU player to win a spot on the all-conference first team. Tomcikova finished her career with 3,018 saves, second-most in WCHA history and third-most in NCAA history.

Tomcikova, who garnered international accolades for her play for Slovakia during the 2006 Winter Olympics, again represented her home country at the 2009 IHF Women’s World Championships, held in April in Burlington, VT.

13 Named to Winter Academic All-NSIC Team

Thirteen student-athletes were named to the 2009 Winter Academic All-NSIC Team, including five from men’s basketball, four from women’s basketball and three from track and field. In addition, seven BSU student athletes were awarded NSIC Myles Brandt Academic with Distinction honors. Named for the late NCAA president Dr. Myles Brandt, the award is given to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and are completing their undergraduate careers. BSU’s honorees were Courtney Anderson (softball, Virginia), Megan Baud (softball, Kowbelt), Kelli Christiansen (tennis, Bemidji), Brianna Duff (soccer, Ramsey), Brittany Grewe (tennis, Bemidji), Allison Hugen (basketball and track, Bemidji), and Jeana Beth McClean (volleyball,Brandon, Main).
At age 12, Clark overheard his brother-in-law talking about a course he was taking at Bemidji State University. “They were studying mutual funds, and the man was saying all about them, and his interest brought me in,” says Clark, 69, who spent his boyhood summers 15 miles south of Bemidji selling angleworms to fishermen on Kabekona Creek. “I took $20 of my angleworms money and bought some mutual funds. My father had to sign.”

That was his first investment in mutual funds, and he hasn’t stopped.

“I’ve always been an investor; I’ve always been a saver,” Clark says. “That was something that got instilled early. I guess some of it was ingrained early in my life.”

His knowledge of investing, combined with lessons in hard work during years in his family’s grocery store, gave him the tools he would need to succeed as an entrepreneur.

“I always felt at some point I was going to have my own business,” Clark says.

Today, he runs that business he dreamed of in his youth. He is the No. 1 multi-line agent among more than 15,000 State Farm insurance agents in the United States and Canada.

Though owning his own business was never far from his mind, Clark knew education would be the first key to his future success. The youngest of five children, he followed his siblings to the education field at Bemidji State.

“I had four brothers and sisters who preceded me to Bemidji,” he recalls. “It was a natural thing to do. My oldest sister was the one who led the parade. She taught elementary school in Cass Lake, then she became a librarian. My next sister ended up being a principal in the Nashville system, then she became an administrator. My sister Dorothy was a kindergarten teacher, her husband graduated from Bemidji and taught at a junior college. My other brother-in-law was a professor at Vanderbiit. And, my brother taught physical education, high school football.”

Clark spent four years at Bemidji State, earning a degree in business education in 1964. As a non-traditional student, he was focused on the task at hand and worked all the time to advance his education.

After graduation, Clark hoped to combine his dual passions for business and teaching. His wave of applications for business education teaching positions led to his first job in Koo River. That job would set him on the course that eventually led to his owning his own business.

“Koo River was looking for someone to continue the vocational education program. They knew I had lots of business experience because I worked in the family business,” he says. “They said, ‘We’re looking for someone to fill this position. This job will be an interesting experience. It will be very difficult for us to spend seven to eight hours in a classroom.’”

Instead, Clark was able to teach a couple of classes during the day and spend the rest of his time supervising and handling up student placement services.

Over the next 15 years, he went on to head up vocational education programs in St. Paul. He also earned master’s and doctorate degrees in education and business from the University of Minnesota.

Education to Business

Like many others, Clark reached a major turning point in his career when he was offered a promotion. He found his path to success by declining the opportunity and striking out in a different direction.

“I was offered a job to be in charge of the vocational schools’ post-secondary programs in St. Paul,” he says. “I turned it down because I really had a desire to have my own business.”

From there, Clark began to research the type of business that would best fit his skills, passions and experience. He decided on insurance, a field he had helped many of his students break into over the years. In 1979, Clark moved to Arlington, Texas, and opened his own State Farm agency. He used the knowledge gained in his years as an educator to hire a staff, attract clients and begin meeting their insurance needs.

“Insurance is teaching people to understand their policies, so there’s an education process there,” he says. “I also had all this exposure running on-the-job training programs, helping students with their career paths, helping them write business plans, becoming my own student.”

While Clark is still using his skills as an educator, he also has never stopped learning. In the years since opening his agency, he has earned a charter financial degree and become a certified life insurance underwriter.

“I do a tremendous amount of reading, and I always try to achieve the best in whatever I do,” Clark says. “School has never been out for me.”

He isn’t just one of many successful insurance agents. For the past 10 years, he has run the most successful and highest-earning agency in State Farm’s North American network. As for the secret to his success, Clark credits good old-fashioned hard work and a drive to succeed. Those are traits he learned early, both as a young angleworm salesman and growing up in the family grocery store.

“I was waiting on customers and helping my father when I was probably 6, 7, 8 years old,” Clark recalls. “I spent all my time in the store helping. Business has been in my genes my entire life.”

He has also drawn from his past career in education and his own schooling.

“I’ve used my marketing skills and things I’ve studied,” he says. “They joke and call me the marketing genius.”

While the title may be in good fun, Clark’s focus on marketing his start-up agency has paid tremendous dividends for State Farm. Over the past 32 years, he has allotted more than 75,000 accounts that include auto, homeowners, life, health, mutual funds and bank loan policies.

“Insurance is teaching people to understand their policies, so there’s an education process there. I also had all this exposure on the job training programs, helping students with their career paths, helping them write business plans, became my own student.”
Insuring Success

I was able to grow an agency during those first 20 years in a way that had never been done before,” he says.

In addition to hard work and ambition, Clark attributes his success to hiring and training excellent employees who share his passion. “There, too, he’s excelled, staffing his office with more than 20 employees—five times as many as most State Farm agencies.

“Some people have been with me for 20 years, five have been with me more than 30 years, and still I have my original first employee,” says Clark. The key is to hire dedicated employees, then give them the opportunity to succeed in a positive environment. “I try to provide my employees the opportunity to have a career instead of just a job. That care and concern for his employees is something he observed back in his undergraduate days at Bemidji State.

“I felt professors were interested in me and interested in my progress,” Clark recalls. “I was really impressed that I would get the kind of support and education I needed. I was more than just trying to get an education; it was the whole package that I think was the key that Bemidji State offered.”

“The experience of being around people with a caring attitude has returned many benefits such as long-time career employees, loyal clients and respect in the community where I live. I think that belief will make a difference.”

Clarkthrives on giving back.

The experience of being around people with a caring attitude has returned many benefits such as long-time career employees, loyal clients and respect in the community where I live. It has built into my passion to do things that I believe will make a difference.”

“I have a good day when I can help someone,” he says. “I always felt when you’re in a business, and you’re doing business in a community, you need to give back to your community.”

In part, Clark has lived out this principle through his involvement in the Aristotle Rotary Foundation. The foundation provides elementary school students incentive to focus on their own studies by paying four years of college tuition for every sixth-grade student who goes on to graduate from high school.

“I’m head of the foundation for that program,” he says. “We now have 93 kids in college. With that, I personally sponsor five kids every year.”

Clark has also been generous in his donations to his alma mater, offering incoming freshmen and students some support and financial assistance to attend Bemidji State.

“I think education is the key to our lives,” he says. “That’s where I’ve chosen to give back.”

BE MIDJII

School of Nursing

A recent report by the Institute of Medicine found that the most highly educated nurses tend to deliver the best nursing care. Beginning this fall Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College will continue the efforts to deliver that high-quality nursing care, organizing under one umbrella the Bemidji School of Nursing.

This new structure will benefit nursing students like Megan Richer, who started at NTC and wants to complete her four-year degree at BSU.

Richer, who graduated in 2007 from Cass Lake High School, has always wanted to be a nurse. But it was not until after starting a nursing program in Nebraska. She moved back to Bemidji after a year, found work in a group home and enrolled in the licensed practical nursing program at NTC.

“It was a nice transition back into school, and I ended up loving it,” says Richer, who will complete her associate degree in May and enroll in the BSU baccalaureate program this fall. “I know now that this is what I want to be doing. This is what I’m passionate about.”

Richer, who plans to go into public health, looks forward to her transition to BSU. “I really like the idea of having access to the resources of both institutions,” she says. “It will create even more opportunities for me to get involved with the faculty and other nursing students and make the transition a little less stressful.”

Dr. Jennifer Gangeness, founding dean of the Bemidji School of Nursing and former chair of the BSU Department of Nursing, says part of the impetus behind the new organization is to make that transition seamless as possible.

“We want to encourage nursing students to pursue the highest level of education that’s best for them,” Gangeness says.

At full enrollment capacity, the two institutions have a combined total of 750 students. Under the new organization, both schools will continue to provide the same programs they have traditionally provided. NTC will provide practical nursing and associate registered nursing programs, while BSU will provide the four-year baccalaureate nursing program.

Shared efforts will include student advising services and a joint committee on accreditation. The BSU program already is nationally accredited, while NTC is working on accreditation. Under the leadership of a single dean, the school will also negotiate single contracts with health care agencies where students complete practicum training. BSU has about 80 such contracts, and NTC has nearly as many.

“Nursing expertise is vital to our patients, our nurses and our community, and that’s the guiding principle that ties our partnership with NTC and BSU,” says Shirley Heinze, chief of nursing for Sanford Health in Bemidji, one of the contracted agencies. She notes that the school will be especially beneficial for working students who sometimes need more support to step into a four-year program.
BSU Students TO WATCH

As these extraordinary students prepare for the future, the sky is the limit.

Zuzana Tomcikova grew up playing street hockey with her older brother, Martin, in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. Whenever Martin and his buddies went, Tomcikova followed. “We played street hockey with a baseball glove, made-up equipment and a tennis ball,” she recalls. “They always wanted me to play, and I liked it. My brother did not go easy on me.”

Tomcikova will graduate from Bemidji State University in May with a degree in mass communication, a minor in psychology and a place in the hearts of Bemidji hockey fans. A star goalie for four years, she will leave BSU as the program’s all-time leader, with 16 shutouts and 3.148 saves. Her career save total is ranked second in Western Collegiate Hockey Association history and third-highest in the history of NCAA Division II women’s hockey.

Jini Block counts becoming involved in fifth-grade band as one of the experiences that has had the greatest impact on her life. She chose to play the flute and knew almost immediately that music would be a lifelong passion.

“It was probably the biggest thing that I was interested in,” she recalls. Block will graduate from Bemidji State University in May with a degree in instrumental music education. She hopes the degree will help her pursue her dream of becoming a band instructor. Her journey toward that dream began after she worked with younger children at a summer band program in her hometown of Northfield.

Block says her instructors are her favorite students. “You’re never seeing to see kids light up like they do when they hear their first sounds,” she says. The flute has been Block’s main instrument, but she also enjoys the trombone and percussion. At Bemidji State, she has played in the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble and the Red Line Swingers and also has performed with the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra.

On campus, Block served as president of Bemidji State’s chapter of the National Association for Music Education. She also helped organize the zero International Trumpet Guild Convention, which BSU’s Department of Music co-hosted in Aitkin.

In addition, she has been president of the Phoenix, Bemidji State’s chapter of the Gay and Straight Alliance. The Phoenix works to educate and engage people about the challenges facing gay and lesbian students.

“Those kids really need support,” Block says. “They lose friends, they lose family. The Phoenix has done a lot, and I’ve seen such improvements on campus and in the community.”

Black, who had been accepted at two private colleges, applied to BSU when a friend learned her Soo for the application fee. It was an offer she could not refuse. She says Bemidji State has been a good fit for her and her husband, David, a BSU mathematics student who met her married in July.

Black especially appreciates her music instructors. “They care so much. They’re passionate, and they’re experts in their field,” she says.

Black taught this spring and looks forward to having her own classroom, or maybe a band room. “Music can do something for everyone,” she says.

Her mission is to bring music into people’s lives and, she says, “help kids become whatever it is they want to become.”

Jini is an excellent student and will be an excellent teacher,” Nelson says. “Sometimes I wonder if she knows what a good musician she is.”

Leah Palmer always wanted to be a teacher, but she could never choose between her passions of music and physical education.

“It thought I would do one or the other, but I got to my senior year and I still hadn’t chosen. So I did both,” says Palmer, who graduated from Bemidji State University in December with a double major in music education and physical education. This spring, she had student teaching assignments in both specialties and says she would gladly teach both subjects if the opportunity presented itself.

The Bismarck, N.D., native recently won a Ruth Abenheim Presidential Scholarship from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She is one of only three undergraduates nationwide to receive the award.

“Leah is well deserving,” says Dr. Donna Palencar, professor of physical education at Bemidji State. “She is a diverse, enthusiastic and energetic young woman who has accomplished a great deal during her time at BSU.”

For Palmer, music and sports balance each other. As a high school trumpet player, she attended an international music camp and toured Europe with Bemidji State’s Band. As a BSU student, she took up the French horn and kept the trunk of her car full of sports gear – skis, skates, frisbees, discs and kickballs. “Whenever I go, I’m ready for action,” she says.

At BSU, Palmer joined the Red Line Swingers, the Rock Climbing Club and the Physical Education Club. She also was captain of the school’s ultimate Frisbee club team. Through BSU’s Outdoor Program Center, she learned to sail on Lake Bemidji and once hiked through the Grand Canyon.

Her campus involvement did not stop at music and physical activities. Palmer was a peer minister and church campus center, a member of the Student Senate and Academic Student Advisory Council, president of the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee and state board member of the Penny Program scholarship fund. In the summer, she worked as a firefighter for the North Dakota Forest Service and has fought fires in Arizona, California, Georgia and North Dakota.

Those diverse experiences have given Palmer a great deal to draw on as she seeks ways to reach the lives of her students.

“Teaching is about sharing your talents to others can learn,” she says.
Building a Business One Drill Bit at a Time

Made in America

As an undergraduate at Bemidji State University in 1969, Terry Bergum took his first ever ride in an airplane. And he jumped out.

That adventurous spirit, nurtured during his days on the BSU campus, served Bergum well many years later when he joined a group of investors to organize a company on Minnesota’s Iron Range that was on the verge of shutting down.

“Terry has an innate knack for putting together deals,” says Bergum, a 1972 BSU graduate who now serves as vice president of marketing and sales for Twist Drill in Cloquet. “It was a big gamble, but I knew it was going to work. I just never thought it would work to this scale.”

Eighteen years ago, 20 manufacturers piled their wares across the U.S. market. The number today stands at four, including Twist Drill, which primarily supplies private-label drill bits to large brand-name holders. Bergum and three working co-owners rescued Twist Drill in 2003 and grew the company in 2009 by purchasing Triumph Drills, its first brand-name product.

“We had always told our customers we don’t compete against them with a brand in the market,” Bergum recalls of the risky acquisition. “The notion was still in recession, and the bulk of Triumph’s sales were in housing and construction. Owning a brand name allowed us to control our own destiny and expand.”

Bergum’s brand became a good move. Twist Drill now has sales in Canada and Mexico, with plans to start selling in England and New Zealand this year. In 2011, the company hit $25 million in sales, $8 million more than when it came under the new ownership. The workforce grew from 45 to 135 employees, and they have received nearly $300,000 in profit sharing over the past two years. The plant produces 10,000 drill bits each day, up from 3,000 just 10 years ago, with capacity to turn out 140,000.

Creating jobs on Minnesota’s Iron Range is important to Bergum, who together with his wife, Ged, raised two children there and now enjoy two grandchildren. “Keeping manufacturing jobs in America and being able to stamp our drills ‘Made in America’ is on the top of my satisfaction list,” he says.

In 2008, the company received the LakeWoods Emerging Entrepreneur Award from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. In his 2009 State of the State address, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty cited the company for its job creation. Recently, the company’s CEO met with President Barack Obama’s economic advisers to share best practices for job creation and business development.

Bergum attributes the company’s success in part to a lack of corporate overhead, the company’s hands on ownership and its trusted and committed employees. “Our customers love doing business with a private company,” he says. “They can call me up and talk with me. A lot of them are friends as much as customers.”

A builder and a Fixer

Bergum learned his way around a toolbox early in life. He grew up in East Grand Forks, where his mother’s family farmed and he helped fix machines. His father’s family worked in carpentry and construction. In this environment, he became handy and learned to build. Bergum planned to pursue an engineering degree at the University of North Dakota after high school.

These plans were sidetracked in 1968 after he accompanied a neighbor on his first visit to Bemidji. It was a life-changing encounter. “I remember thinking, ‘Wow, this is kind of nice,’” Bergum says. “You get on campus in the summer, and you can’t but fall in love with the place.” In one day, he enrolled at BSU, where he would earn a degree in industrial engineering technology.

“The program was relatively new, but it was amazing because all of my instructors had doctoral degrees,” he says. “This education was well suited for me, and I’ve used what I learned in my personal and professional life. When I got into sales, I could speak the lingo for just about anything.”

Bergum notes that his network of friends is one of the most valuable assets of his BSU experience. “College teaches you how to network,” he explains. “It’s the social part that people sometimes lack for granted, but today I have lifelong friends from BSU.”

Between his upbringing and his education, Bergum feels he was well prepared for his job in manufacturing and later in sales. At Bemidji State, Bergum took courses in everything from plastics and heat transfer to electronics and welding, all pursued with spirit—a scrab diving, downhill skiing and other activities that fostered personal growth through risk-taking—like jumping out of airplanes.

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One of the most valuable lessons
Cary Bates learned at Bemidji State
University started with six dots

While working toward a degree in computer science, Cary Bates took a class on Pascal programming from Dave Miller. During the course, Miller encouraged students to design a computer game. The one Bates developed was simple, involving six dots on a screen. The player would draw a line between two dots before the computer added a third. The fit competitor to create a triangle would win.

"It was interesting to watch people’s reactions and how they attributed intelligence to this stupid little game," Bates says. "That project helped me to be more careful about making assumptions, to have an open mind. I don’t think Dave Miller intended it to be that, but it’s one of the lessons that I took away."

To this day, whether he’s working on his daily job as a senior software engineer for IBM, or adding to more than 30 inventions carrying his U.S. patent, Bates combines lessons he learned at BSU with years of experience to identify problems and quickly solve them.

"We all try to keep an open mind and not just see things in the way you’re expected to see them," he says. "When you’re purposefully trying to innovate, all of a sudden you realize you want to look at this thing as objectively as possible and find something that’s going to solve this problem better than just looking at the way everyone else has done it."

Problem Solving
Bates filed his first invention with the U.S. Patent Office in the early 1990s while working on a master’s degree in computer science from the University of Minnesota. He and another Bemidji State alum were developing a computer text editor allowing two parties to simultaneously work in the same document. On a bus trip home from campus, an idea popped into his mind.

"The problem was, if you have a large document, the screen didn’t scroll in real time," Bates recalls. "So if you move the slider and set it down on the scroll bar you never end up where you want to be. What we said was, ‘We’re going to make this slider remember where you’ve been.’"

His current patents encompass both digital and physical realms. Some are as complex as debugger software, while others are seemingly as elementary as a phone ringing in a tone dependent on the user’s location.

The variable tone bell is a testimonial to his ability to see a problem and work it through to a unique solution. He feels this critical component all his success as an inventor hinges on seeing the problem individual on a patent application.

"I’ve always been kind of patient with people. Part of it was maybe my upbringing, my dad probably moved every two or three years on average," Bates said. "(When you’re continually on the road, you learn to listen to whoever will talk to you in that situation, whoever will be your friend.)"

Bates believes that relating to people from different backgrounds enhances the creative and critical-thinking processes. Listening to divergent thoughts and following where they lead sometimes show the inventor an atypical solution, he says.

In fact, Bates quickly dispels the impression that the best inventors are solitary figures who come up with ideas solely through the power of their own imaginations.

"Edison and a lot of the great American inventors would perpetuate a myth they were off in their office or their laboratory developing all this stuff from scratch with no input, and that’s not true. It doesn’t work that way," he contends.

"The vast majority of the inventions I’ve had come from mixing with groups of people in a meeting where we’ve gotten together for the explicit purpose of inventing something.”

Bates’ father was also an inventor who held a number of patents, so exploration runs through his blood. But for him, innovation takes more than singular flashes of brilliance. The process requires straight-forward problem solving, something he views as attainable for almost anyone who puts his or her mind to it.

"I’ve worked with lots of people over the years, and there are a few that you can’t teach to go through the intricate process once they understand it," Bates says. "Being an inventor is just looking at problems differently. There’s a way things have always been done and people keep following the pattern and what they’re used to.

"Sometimes if you look at something a little differently, analyze the pieces, you can come up with something new."
After graduating from Bemidji State University with a degree in graphic design in 1996, Laurie Daudt got her career off to a solid, inside-the-box start at a global information services company, Wolters Kluwer. There, she used her design skills to develop printed material and forms.

A decade later, her brother, Kevin Daudt, came to her with an idea that changed Daudt’s life. Daudt was a metal engraver in Little Falls whose research showed that laser cutting had unutilized potential on many surfaces. He convinced his sister to join him in a new engraving company, making products for a general market.

“A desire to create something truly unique motivated me to take the risk,” Daudt remembers of her 2006 decision to form D&D Custom Laser Designs. At first, she continued full-time as a desktop publisher at Wolters Kluwer while handling marketing part-time at D&D. Daudt was in charge of development and production.

The company started small, making wildlife and nature designs on pens for light switches and outlet sockets. Daudt, who lives in Frazee, persistently contacted possible buyers of their newly-singular merchandise. She eventually convinced Cabalo’s, the world’s largest mail-order, retail and internet provider of outdoor merchandise, to carry D&D’s goods in 2008.

“Cabalo’s was our first big account,” Daudt says. “It gave us a lot of confidence in our product and business and led us to pursue other ideas.”

A client’s suggestion allowed the fledgling entrepreneurs to begin focusing their efforts on the company full-time in 2009. Unsatisfied with a bow-like cottage board bearing the outline of a bike on its top, the client wanted a better product for his store. D&D came up with a shorter, more riveted cottage board engraved with contour lines, depths, markers, and lake features. Then came cottage boards with wildlife themes, as well as state maps, complete with highways, towns and points of interest. A line of customizable products made of wood, marble, granite, metal and many other materials followed.

D&D has doubled its sales every year and are projected to triple in 2023. Cottage boards now comprise 85 percent of D&D’s business, and it has designs for more than 400 lakes, 20 states and 15 wildlife species. D&D’s product line still includes the switch and socket platters that helped launch the company, but now also includes wall art, picture frames, coasters, rustic wood toilet seats, leather knife cases, acrylic plaques, marble tiles, champagne glasses, gun stocks and anything else the siblings can fit into their engraving machines—from deer antlers to personalize a successful hunt.

“It was scary starting a business with some big investments, but it was also intense leaving a job that I had been at for 15 years to do the business full-time,” Daudt says. “Both were really big risks. But Kevin and I have a lot in common. We don’t always agree on everything, but we complement each other well.”

Ten years older than her brother, Daudt’s expanded role in the company now includes customer relations, website management, accounting and an occasional design project.

D&D continues to manage the manufacturing of the end of the business, which has added six part-time employees.

“She doesn’t treat me like a little brother,” Daudt says. “There are a lot of things I see and do well and other things she sees and does well. Most of our conversations are back-and-forth, disagreeing on issues and agreeing on others. But I knew it would work out well because the work overall we got from our parents makes the whole business go.”

The sibling partners are hustling to keep up with demand as more custom engraving requests are coming in a regular basis. Daudt admits D&D Custom Laser Designs didn’t have a business plan for its early stages, but one exists now to guide growth, time management and organization, while always remembering to see beyond apparent limitations.

“A passion makes us keep thinking outside the box and creating things no one else is offering,” Daudt says. “The sky is our limit.”
An unconventional career path provides a unique perspective on the world.

Over the course of her career, Melanie (Malhotra) Teens has been a teacher, a restaurant owner and caterer, and a champion for the Chesapeake Bay. New retiree, she focuses on volunteering for organizations that work to uphold the integrity of the bay and improve the quality of life for Bay-area residents.

“Melanie is guided by her passion for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, the history and heritage of the area, and for the arts,” says Jeff Holland, executive director of the Annapolis Maritime Museum, and a friend of Teens. “Her career shows that all of those elements are inextricably, elegantly intertwined.”

While Teens began her work with the Chesapeake Bay Trust more than 20 years ago, the importance of water in her life goes back much further.

“When you grow up in Md neurological, you’re never far from a lake,” says Teens, who was raised on a small farm outside of Severn. “When I visited my parents after I left home, one of the first things I always did was walk down to the lavender and touch the pond. I probably thought I was checking to see if everything was OK. Of course, I realize now it probably was a mental exercise in checking to see if I was OK, too. Water always has that effect.”

And from her days living in Birch Tide, walking along Lake Irem, to her work to preserve the Chesapeake Bay, Teens’ career has been bookended by water, but the path she followed between those points was anything but direct.

“Some people have a career and they just continue upward,” she says, “I guess my career has some sharp curves and maybe some 90 degree angles in it.”

Early Education

Teens, who graduated from the High School, chose the State University because it was close, comfortable and had a strong education department. From the beginning, though, the aspiring teacher had her eyes on what lay ahead: after graduation.

“We always heard from our parents that it’s a big world, and we should go out there and see it,” she says.

Anxious to explore, Teens entered the State when she was 21 and graduated three years later with degrees in biology and English. Though she was younger than her classmates, Teens learned the importance of hard work while at OSU.

“I became an adult while I was in college,” she says. “I learned to confront the tasks that I had to do and confront them, and then go on to the more interesting aspects of my studies, or of my other tasks.”

This served her well when she entered the teaching profession at just 22. She also took to heart a piece of advice given to her by her advisor, biology professor Dr. Harvey Levine.

“When I left to go to teach, he said to me, ‘Be real suits and don’t smile very much,’” she says. “Because he knew my kids would probably be close to my age.”

The next five years as a junior high science and English teacher took Teens to Minne- sota, Maryland and Chicago before she started to realize there was more to her destiny than teaching.

“I loved teaching, but I felt like I was a little confined in the classroom. I wanted to get out and see what the rest of the world was like,” she says.

Career Curves Ahead

Not only did Teens want to see the world; she also wanted to expand her personal horizons and experience different walks of life, people and career paths.

“My parents encouraged me not to be afraid to do something different, or to see how other people live or how other organizations work,” she says. “I don’t think I’ve ever had a flood of moving or doing other things. I’ve always looked at it as an adventure and something that would open my eyes a little bit more to something I haven’t seen.”

After leaving education, Teens moved to Atlanta, where she tried her hand in the restaurant business and ended up owning a restaurant and catering company.

“I enjoyed the creativity of the restaurant business,” she says. “It’s a very time-consuming involvement when you’re in that business. I had other interests, too.”

Some people have a career and they just continue upward. I guess my career has some sharp curves and maybe some 90 degree angles in it.”

One of those turned out to be Michael Teens, who worked at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. In 1980, she married Michael, and they moved to Maryland, where her life and career took another unexpected turn.

“Michael and I had a home built in the Annapolis area, and after moving and settling in, I wanted to meet people in the area,” she says.

Teens learned the Chesapeake Bay Trust, an organization established by the Maryland Legislature to receive public contributions to help restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay, was looking for a temporary administrator to help with a new fundraising initiative.

“I wasn’t looking for a new career, but this sounded interesting to me,” she says. “It was soon obvious if it was a good fit for both of us, and I became a full-time employee.”

Teens worked with the Trust for the next 17 years. She served for 12 years as its assistant director, and two years as its associate director for finance and administration.

She was able to draw on her experience growing up on a farm and her background in education to teach bay-area adults and children the importance of preserving water habitats.

“It’s just an incredible experience to see people having a first-time awareness of the value of the water,” Teens says. “I like to think that because of the hands-on projects that the Trust has funded in Maryland schools, kids understand that temperature, pH and general water quality affect living things.”

She retired from the Trust in 2010, but her legacy lives on through an annual award established in her name and given to exemplary projects that benefit the health of the bay.

A New Chapter

Now in retirement, Teens is not content to settle down. Most days, her calendar is filled by volunteering. From sitting on boards for the Arts Council and County Heritage to working with a women’s giving group, donating her time and resources has become a way of life.

And her husband is no world traveler. They’ve amassed a list of destinations that includes China, South America, Croatia, Greece and Russia. This year, the couple plans to take a wine-tasting tour of northern Spain.

The path Teens has taken from Hermann to the Chesapeake Bay, with all of its twists and turns, has given her a unique perspective on the world, one that informs how she chooses to live her life.

“Melanie is one of those amazing women who knows how the world works and quietly uses that knowledge to change it for the better,” Holland says. “There are countless numbers of people out there doing good work in the environment, heritage tourism, and the arts because of what we’ve learned from her.”
A CALLING TO teach

Shadows makes an emotional connection with students

“When Dr. Linda (Christoffersen) Shadows marched at commencement as a graduate of Hibbing Community College in 1965, she carried her grandmother’s handkerchief to dry the tears she knew would come as she crossed the stage to receive her degree. It had been just a few short years since she faced an uncertain future after graduating from Hibbing High School. The region’s iron ore industry was struggling, and the nation’s ongoing conflict in Vietnam was raising political unrest. The oldest of two children, she saw only uncertainty as she wondered how she would finance her future education.

Her grandmother, who taught in mining and lumber communities across northern Minnesota, provided an emotional kinship that led to her tears in Hibbing’s dark auditorium.

Shadows repeated the outgoing virtually every year since, including her 1969 graduation from Bemidji State University with degrees in English and speech/theater; the ceremonies for her master’s and doctoral degree; and the countless times since then she has watched undergraduate or graduate students walk across stages to receive diplomas.

Over a career in education encompassing more than 40 years, Shadows shed her tears of joy during each and every culminating exercise of the learning process. In those ceremonies, she sees not the end of a journey, but the beginning of great futures.

“Commencement is a time to reminisce, but also a time to look at new horizons for every graduate,” says Shadows, who spent many years in a professor and administrator in the education program at Northern Arizona University before turning her attention to faculty development. But her emotional ties to students of pedagogy run particularly deep.

“To be a teacher of teachers carries an exponential responsibility,” she says, “because we, as educators, hold the academic success of tomorrow’s professors.”

And the more she has taught, the more she has wanted to do more. A decade before Shadows met her husband, she left the North to attend graduate school at Arizona State University. She joined Northern Arizona’s faculty in 1995. She started as an associate dean in the Center for Excellence in Education, which encompassed all teacher training. Five years later, she followed her heart and returned to the classroom.

“College was a time when I told me there were two kinds of creativity: There are the singers and dancers and those with the unique gift of singing and dancing,” she explains. “I chose to work with students so we could choose to do one or the other.”

Over her years in the classroom, Shadows used each semester to develop a relationship where the faculty member, students and content created a community.

Each participant invested in the community, and for many — particularly for students who become teachers — the relationship continued throughout their educational careers.

The emotional connection Shadows conveyed through her teaching style was widely recognized. The recipient of both Faculty Scholar of the Year and Administrator of the Year awards, she was named one of Northern Arizona’s Centennial Class of 100 representing the university’s first century.

In 2005, students selected her to present that year’s commencement address. The author of more than 50 professional works and an active presenter at conferences, she was among American scholars invited to deliver papers at a Cuban-American education conference in Havana. She also led a workshop on educational policy development at Oxford University.

A book now in manuscript form with the proposed title of “What Our Stories Teach Us: A Guide to Critical Reflection for College Faculty” is scheduled for release in spring 2013. The monograph reflects her current interest in faculty development, which receives her undivided attention at Northern Arizona as its full-time director. It is also a natural extension of her passion for education.

“My career has progressed on two levels,” Shadows says. “Early in my career I was a teacher of teachers, and now I’m a resource for university teachers. My current efforts help faculty strengthen their work with university students. The faculty members here have the subject matter so much they want to teach it. That’s where the joy, passion and hope come in.”

Her latest professional undertaking also creates a whole new population to cherish for having commencements, something which undoubtedly will lead to more tears of joy flowing into her grandmother’s handkerchief.”
38 Mark Thompson will review as a visitor and lecturer for Kiishida County following an appointment of the current county director of the school district. He will also be the director of the neighboring high school in the county. His wife, Colleen (Soroson), ’83, is the superin- tendent of the Arkona School District in Arkona, Ontario. They have two grown daughters.

39 Ed Neubig has published the book and is an advisor to the Maxon School’s Master of Criminal Sanction Associates. A director in the Los Angeles (CA) Sheriff’s Department, Neubig specializes in computer investigations. He is also the author of the book "Computer Forensics: The Law Enforcement Officer’s View of the World of the International Association of Computer Forensics. His book has been translated into five languages. His wife, Laura, has had three of their four children since they moved to Berkeley.

40 Brenda Hernandez was named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year by the State Board of Education and is the first woman to receive this honor. Prior to her appointment, she was the principal of a high school in California. She is the mother of two daughters.

41 Lawrence Reynolds has joined the Feinberg-Hawken-McCord school district. Reynolds is a retired school social worker who has taught for 30 years in the public schools of Chicago, Illinois. He is currently a visiting professor at the University of Illinois and is a consultant to several school districts.

42 Lee (Cameron) O’Connor is an attorney and registered nurse who is also a mother of two young children. She has been a nurse for more than 10 years and has spent time working as a nurse in a large hospital system.

43 John E. Leff has been named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year in the state of New York. Prior to his appointment, he was the principal of a high school in the state of New York. He is the father of two children.

44 Jeff Oestreicher has presented a workshop at the University of North Dakota on the topic of "The Art of Leadership." He has been a professor of literature at the University of California, Berkeley, for over 20 years. He is also the author of several books on leadership and management.

45 Bob Delatore was selected by the Rhode Island State Police as the police officer of the year. Delatore has served as a police officer for over 15 years and is known for his dedication to the community.

46 Ashley (Johnson) Shute is a Minnesota high school principal. She has been in the education field for over 20 years and is known for her dedication to student success.

47 Jerry Tullio is a director of the St. Paul, Minnesota, school district. He has been with the district for over 15 years and is known for his commitment to student success.

48 Dean Steinberg has been named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year in the state of Connecticut. He has been a teacher for over 20 years and is known for his dedication to student success.

49 Steve Swanstrom is the state superintendent of education for South Dakota. He has been in the education field for over 20 years and is known for his dedication to student success.

50 John L. Smallwood has been named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year in the state of New York. He has been a teacher for over 20 years and is known for his dedication to student success.

51 Charles Whitecotton has been selected as the Executive Director of the National Association of School Administrators. He has been in the education field for over 20 years and is known for his dedication to student success.
SAVE the DATE

For more information on each event, contact the Alumni Office at 807-742-1506 (toll free). 218-755-3919 (local) or visit the Alumni Association’s website at www.bsualumni.org.

2012
☐ BSU Night with the Twins vs. Milwaukee Brewers
  Target Field – Friday, June 15
☐ Gertie Sauer Memorial Golf Tournament
  Bemidji Town and Country Club – Friday, June 15
☐ Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament
  Bemidji Town and Country Club – Friday, July 15
☐ Men’s Basketball Golf Tournament
  Blueberry Pines Golf Club, Menahga – Friday, July 20
☐ Jeff “Bird” McBride Memorial Golf Tournament
  Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale – Saturday, July 21
☐ Ed Sauer Memorial Golf Tournament
  Tiana Country Club, Walker – Saturday, August 25
☐ BSU Community Appreciation Day
  BSU Campus – Tuesday, August 28
☐ Alumni & Foundation Honors Gala
  Sanford Center Ballroom – Friday, September 28

☐ Homecoming 2012
  Saturday, September 29 (events planned as of April 2012)
  • BSU/NTC School of Nursing Launch
  • Football Tailgate Party
  • Homecoming Football vs. USD M. Crookston
  • Lutheran Campus Ministry Open House and Appreciation Dinner
  • Football Alumni Banquet
  • Alpha Nu Alumni Dinner
  • Homecoming Street Dance

2013
☐ Athletic Hall of Fame
  February 2
☐ Men’s Hockey Alumni Reunion
  February 1-2

ALUMNI B-CLUB

MAKES CONNECTIONS

During February’s Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Bemidji State University announced formation of the Alumni B-Club, an inclusive organization helping former Bemidji State student-athletes stay in touch with one another and their alma mater. All ex-athletes are automatically members of the B-Club.

“Our mission is to communicate, engage and support,” signs club President John (Campbell) Anderson (’79), who both competed and coached for BSU. “We will be the link to the campus for all the former student-athletes that we represent. This group is long overdue, and I’m glad to help connect everyone again.”

A volunteer committee of 16 individuals representing various areas will coordinate activities. In addition to Anderson, committee members are Randy Bowen (’77) vice president; Austin Wallestedt (’79), secretary; Brian Weir (’79); Dave Thomas (’90); Sherry Hill (’83); Bob Detmer (’79); Rich (Buckingham) Balauck (’66); Lynn Olson (’79); Becky (Robich) Kuiu (’78); Bill Olson (’86); Lois (Weiners) Muehberg (’89); Sue Muehberg (’66); Erin Foss (’87); Bruce Mollin (’64); and Ray Sauer (’75).

The committee will plan alumni gatherings and other special events; recommend selections for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame awards, as well as assists with the selection of the John S. Glas Honorary Letter Winner award given to a former Bemidji State athlete who has made significant contributions to Beaver athletics.

The group will also establish and facilitate alumni committees with players from different decades to support the University’s varsity teams. For example, Nate Sieh (’03) will chair the football national alumni committee, which includes 20 former players. He sees the B-Club as a way for student-athletes to network with their teammates.

“You graduate and you have your good buddies, you go to weddings, babies are born, and then you get wrappled up in your life and you lose connections,” Sieh says.

Jon Olson, Bemidji State’s director of development for intercollegiate athletics, believes the B-Club will strengthen the University’s support for its 900 Beaver competitors every year.

“Our student-athletes are such an important part of the fabric of our University,” Olson says. “They provide an identity to the campus and share a special bond with their teammates and with Bemidji State.”

Updates, news and video clips of alumni events will be available on the B-Club’s official Facebook or Twitter pages, as well as on a website scheduled to launch later this year.
2012 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

John P. Noga ’84

Linda L. (Kirchhe) Pomeroy ’73

John S. Glas Honorary Lifetime Coach Award

Donald “Don” V. Niskanen 1999-2010

Leland "Les" E. Patten ’74

BSU COACHES HALL OF FAME

ALUMNI COACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TEAM HALL OF FAME

1982 Baseball Team

4-year championships

1964-65 conference

1962-63 conference

1961-62 conference

1960-61 conference

1959-60 conference
WINNING SEASON

Senior forward James Ellisor, named BSU Athletics’ 2011-2012 male student-athlete of the year, helped lead the team to a school-record 22 wins.