An underlying message of the Nov. 6 budget forums was that uncertain financial times continue when it comes to projecting the University’s budget for the next few years. That uncertainty arises, in large part, from the state’s budget deficit, our state system’s tuition cap and whether it will be maintained, and the national economic downturn.

The good news is that, because of the progress made in reaching our 2007 budget restructuring goals, we are better positioned to address the emerging budget challenges than we would have been without the restructuring directives.

In February 2007, we began implementing a $5 million budget restructuring plan to reduce our budget, realign programs and services, and create new avenues for investing in the future. This restructuring plan included $4 million in operating reductions and $1 million in investments to strengthen revenue streams.

Every area of the University has been affected by the budget plan, with $3.25 million in restructuring already implemented in the academic, physical plant, and student services areas. As part of the plan, the athletic department also was asked to restructure its annual budget by $750,000. A fund raising campaign for the hockey program has raised $500,000 per year for the next five years and helps the athletic department progress toward its restructuring goals.

The department’s recent reorganization proposal, including its call to eliminate men’s track and field, continues its response to the 2007 restructuring directive. The proposal enables the athletic department to restructure its programs and reallocate an estimated $60,000 to expand its women’s programs in cross-country and in track and field.

While addressing gender equity, the department’s proposal extends beyond those guidelines and addresses the long-term competitiveness of its programs. The Department of Athletics restructuring better positions it to more fully support the remaining sports and provide our student athletes with a well-rounded experience.

The strength of the department’s proposal is that it addresses all three areas of the University’s 2007 budget directive – budget restructuring, realignment of offerings, and investments for the future. Proposals that address these three areas offer the most viable solutions over the long term.

Currently, the Department of Athletics, along with the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, is obtaining feedback on the proposal. Final recommendations will be forwarded to me, and I will make a decision by the end of the semester.

Like most higher education institutions across the nation, we must consider and make decisions that are responsive to the times. I remain confident that together we will continue to move forward and, along the way, we will choose the best of the available options.
**BSU to sign Presidents Climate Commitment**

Bemidji State to join hundreds in pledge to seek carbon neutrality

►Complete story available on the Web:


On Monday, Nov. 17, President Quistgaard will sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, adding Bemidji State to a growing roster of nearly 600 colleges and universities nationwide who have signed the commitment to become carbon neutral.

The signing will take place during a 7 p.m. ceremony at the AIRC. The event is open to the public, and light local appetizers will be available. Environmental leaders from campus and the Bemidji community will be on-hand to share their knowledge regarding climate change initiatives.

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate.

Building on the growing momentum for action on climate change, the commitment provides a framework and support for colleges and universities to go climate neutral.

**Bemidji State hosted Russian nursing delegation**

Russian educators visited this week to explore baccalaureate program

►Complete story available on the Web:


On Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, Bemidji State hosted a group of nursing educators from Russia for an exchange program meant to showcase the University’s baccalaureate nursing education program.

The visit was made possible by Open World, a program designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and Eurasian and Baltic nations.

Bemidji hosted a group of five Russian nursing educators, a facilitator and a translator. The visiting educators are Inna Bespaoava and Zoya Silich from Tomsk and Natalya Biryukova, Svetlana Melanich and Aleksander Ovsyannikov from Balakovo. The facilitator will be Tatyana Reva, who teaches English at Kursk State University.

The delegates arrived in Bemidji on Nov. 9 and will be involved in a variety of activities in the community. Their first visit to the Bemidji State campus was Monday, Nov. 10 for a tour of the BSU nursing program and a reception for the faculty at the David Park House. The group returned for a more-comprehensive campus tour on Nov. 13.

**Resident students to hold energy savings contest**

"Do It In the Dark" campaign will pit halls against each other in November

►Complete story available on the Web:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2008/11/06/res-hall-energy-competition

Students for the Environment will be holding an energy consumption competition for both on-campus and off-campus students throughout the month of November. Residence halls will be involved in direct competition with one another to reduce per-capita energy consumption.

Each residence hall is individually metered, and a per-resident energy usage total for October has been established as a baseline. The halls will compete to see which one can reduce its per-resident energy usage the most by the end of November.

Students who live off campus can participate in a separate competition to reduce consumption. Students who sign up for the competition can bring in their October utility bills and have their usage totals recorded, then return in November to show their reduction. The grand prize in the off-campus competition is a one-month rent subsidy worth up to $300.

An award ceremony for the on-campus competition will be held in early December, with the winning residence hall to be presented with a custom trophy.
College Arts & Sciences

- Dr. Rosalie Weaver was named interim chairperson for the Department of English, effective Oct. 14.

College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology

- Dr. Siri Anderson, assistant professor of professional education, was the chief author of a presentation entitled "Beginning with the End in Mind: Using Evaluation Rubrics Tied to State Standards and the eFolio in Wikis a and Google Docs" at the eighth annual Still Blazing the Trail and Meeting New Challenges in the Digital Age conference, Aug. 7-10, in Minneapolis. The conference was sponsored by Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching.

Student Affairs

- Dr. Donald Day, executive director of the American Indian Resource Center and an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, was selected as the 2008 Outstanding American Indian Administrator of the Year at the 24th Annual Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference, Oct. 8-9, 2008.

- Dr. Lisa Erwin, vice president for student development and enrollment, and Mary Tosch, interim director of the Hobson Memorial Union, presented "Strategic Planning in Student Affairs: Sowing Seeds for the Future" at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Regional IV East Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 2-4, 2008.

- Chinwuba Okafor, interim associate director of Hobson Memorial Union, along with colleagues from other Midwest institutions, facilitated a presentation entitled "Reaping Your Harvest: A Planned Approach to Competencies for Graduate Students" at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Regional IV East Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 2-4, 2008.

- Dr. Randy Ludeman, University conduct officer, was contributed an article to the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Violence/Sexual Violence Justice Institute’s Fall 2008 publication, SMART SOURCE. The article titled, “Bemidji State University Sexual Assault Protocols: A Victim-Centered Approach,” described BSU’s effort in developing victim-centered protocols for dealing with reports of sexual assault on campus.

LEFT

(L to R) Barbara Bridges, Lorraine Boyle and Siri Anderson presented "Beginning with the End in Mind: Using Evaluation Rubrics Tied to State Standards and the eFolio in Wikis a and Google Docs" at the eighth annual Still Blazing the Trail and Meeting New Challenges in the Digital Age conference, Aug. 7-10, in Minneapolis.
Personnel News

New faces and old friends in new places

• Aaron Reini named communication specialist for the 360° Center of Excellence, effective Nov. 3.

Things to Do on Campus

Upcoming Events at Bemidji State University

¬ Complete University events calendar on the Web: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/calendar

Intercollegiate Athletics

Tuesday, November 18
7:00 p.m.  Men’s Basketball: Jamestown (N.D.)
BSU Gymnasium

Tuesday, November 25
7:00 p.m.  Women’s Basketball: Mayville (N.D.) St.
BSU Gymnasium

Lectures & Presentations

Monday, November 17
11:30 a.m. Steven Dwine
Northern Minnesota Safety Council
“Making Sure You Have an Organizational Floata-
tion Device;” CRI; free

3:00 p.m. Dr. Sherry Shaw
Natural Resources Consortium
“Bovine Tuberculosis in Minnesota and nationally”
CR; $25

7:00 p.m. Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard
American College & University Presidents Cli-
mate Commitment signing ceremony
AIRC; free

Tuesday, November 18
7:00 p.m. Virgil Bakken
Honors Council Lecture Series
“Documenting Ourselves: How Direct Cinema
Made Celebrities of Us All”
Hagg-Sauer 112; free

Music, Theater & Art

Nov. 3 through Dec. 5
Tailey Gallery - Bob Mondro
“Beneath the Matter”

Saturday, Nov. 22
7:30 p.m.  Opera Scenes
Bangsberg Main Theater
tickets: free