

BSU Insider

An Extraordinary Beginning

Community Appreciation Day highlights an exciting start to Bemidji State's 91st year

What a beginning to the fall semester!

From the hubbub of move-in day to the warmth of the welcome picnic and family farewell brunch to the stateliness of the Sunday night convocation, our entering freshmen know that expectations are high and avenues for success are many.

Then last Thursday, the campus welcomed some 3,000 area residents to the Fourth Annual Community Appreciation Day. On the walkways and emerald green lawns of our lakeside campus, they mingled with the university community in a festival of music, program displays and food booths. I'm told that the local Bemidji State alumni chapter served over 1,000 hot dogs in less than an hour!

A perfect day was capped when one of the largest crowds ever to attend a Beaver football game filled the Chet Anderson Stadium. They witnessed the team reign victorious over Minot State at this year's Beaver Bash. The celebration concluded with a thunderous explosion of light and sound at the evening fireworks. Even the weather cooperated for the most part.

The stage is set for the University to experience another extraordinary year. We're celebrating the largest the freshman class in decades, residential halls are bursting at the seams, and Sattgast Hall is sporting remodeled space and a new wing with high-tech laboratories, classrooms and office space.

Spirits are high. Yet, we have little time to pause for important work is calling our attention.

The draft of our Higher Learning Commission self-study will be ready for campus review this fall. Each of us has a responsibility to read the document and provide feedback to the HLC steering committee. Beyond reviewing the document, however, each of us must also ensure that we fully understand the University's mission, vision and strategic initiatives. That understanding will be important as the Higher Learning Commission's site team visits campus March 22-24. The team's assessment will center on the University's progress in fulfilling its mission and advancing its vision. They will be talking with individuals and campus groups as they evaluate our readiness for re-accreditation.

Besides reaccreditation, important work is also underway to ensure that the revised liberal education curriculum is ready by fall 2010. The aim of the revised curriculum is to make certain our students have the critical thinking and communication skills they need to shape the worlds in which they will live and work. An exciting new freshman seminar on critical thinking is part of the revised curriculum. Some faculty members have already undertaken additional professional development preparation in this area; others will participate in critical thinking workshop sessions this fall.

The BSU Foundation is exploring the feasibility of launching a campaign to raise funds for leadership scholarships. These scholarships would be used to recruit and retain students committed to further developing their leadership skills. I envision that eventually the University will establish leadership programs where students learn from recognized leaders; gain leadership skills through residential learning communities, involve themselves more fully in expanded internship and travel abroad experiences; and stretch their critical thinking abilities through extended undergraduate research opportunities.

It's anticipated that the University will continue facing budget challenges in the future. What has served us well in the past, however, will continue to serve us well as we respond to whatever those challenges might be. We will remain focused on our strategic plan, using it to frame our thinking and guide our decisions.

In coming issues of *Insider*, I will share more thoughts on other priority areas. In the meantime, make certain to pause for a moment or two and celebrate the successes we have already experienced this semester. I think you'll agree that we have had an extraordinary beginning to the new academic year.



what'sinside

- Bemidji State again ranked among top tier of schools in Midwest by U.S. News and World Report.
- TRiO receives \$250k U.S. Department of Education grant for veteran's programs.
- BSU named a "Military Friendly School" by GIJobs.com
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BSU remains in USNWR's top Midwest tier

University ranked amongst Midwest's top schools for second straight year

► Complete story available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2009/08/24/bsu-usnwr-rankings>

For the second consecutive year, Bemidji State has been ranked in the upper tier among Midwest-region master's institutions in U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges 2010 survey.

Bemidji State is No. 71 in the overall regional ranking, tied with three other institutions.

Among public master's institutions, Bemidji State tied for 18th in the Midwest regional rankings with two other institutions.

"Bemidji State University's position among the top master's institutions in the Midwest for the second consecutive year helps confirm that the University's strategic initiatives are having an impact," President Quistgaard said.

"It has been the University's goal to be recognized as the Midwest's premier student-centered

state university, and our entire campus community has worked tirelessly in pursuit of this goal. This continued recognition of our efforts is the result of a worthy and rewarding journey."

Master's universities are defined in the U.S. News and World Report rankings as institutions which offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's programs, but few doctoral programs.

The rankings split 572 master's universities into four regions, ranking schools in the North, South, Midwest and West.

Bemidji State was one of eight schools in Minnesota that appeared in the Midwest regional lineup.

TRiO receives \$250k grant for veteran's programs

Department of Education grant to help vets prepare for higher education

► Complete story available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2009/08/26/upward-bound-vet-grant>

Beginning this month, U.S. military veterans will be able to prepare themselves for a program of post-secondary education through a Veterans Upward Bound program at Bemidji State.

The grant, which will fund the program at Bemidji State from Sept. 2009 through Aug. 2010, will be in the amount of \$250,000. The U.S. Department of Education anticipates the grant will be for a total of four years, with additional funding coming to the Bemidji State program each fall through 2012.

The program, which will join the TRiO family of services at Bemidji State, includes a broad array of services to help veterans prepare for a program of higher education. In addition to intensive basic skills development and short-term remedial or re-

freshen courses, other available services would include assistance in securing support services from other relevant local agencies, core curriculum instruction, personal and academic counseling, tutoring services, academic assistance in secondary school course selection, exposure to cultural events, academic programs and other educational activities, and individual mentoring programs.

Any military veteran, regardless of age, can participate in the program if he or she meets the eligibility requirements. Participants must be potential first-generation college students or low-income individuals who have a determined need for academic support.

Bemidji State named a Military Friendly School

G.IJobs.com tabs BSU amongst nation's top 15% for military-friendliness

► Complete story available at BSU Today:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2009/08/19/bsu-military-friendly>

G.I. Jobs has named Bemidji State among the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the nation for doing the most to embrace America's military veterans as students.

The list was compiled through exhaustive research during which G.I. Jobs polled more than 7,000 schools nation wide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an academic advisory committee consisting of educators and administrators from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Toledo, Duquesne University, Coastline Community College and Lincoln Technical Institute.

Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students and academic accreditations.

"I'm really proud that Bemidji State University has been named a military-friendly school," Dr. Lisa Erwin, vice president for student development and enrollment, said. "We've done a lot of things here at BSU to support our veteran students."

BSU was one of 12 schools in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to make the list.



Campus Notes

Updates on the activities and achievements of our friends in the campus community

Academic Affairs

- **Dr. Patrick Guilfoile**, assistant vice president for academic affairs, had a book entitled "Diphtheria" published by Chelsea House/Infobase publishing as part of the 47-volume "Deadly Diseases and Epidemics" series. The book was published in March of 2009. More info: <http://bit.ly/IYzIv>
- **Dr. Debra Peterson**, professor of sociology, has accepted a two-year appointment as director of liberal education beginning in the fall of 2009.

Office of the President

- **Brad Folkestad**, director of athletic media relations, attended the inaugural MNSIDA conference of athletic media relations directors from across the state of Minnesota in July.

Student Development and Enrollment

- The American Indian Resource Center undergo approximately \$100,000 of infrastructure and technology improvements with funding through a 2002 Housing and Urban Development earmark that was originally intended to help construct the center but was not needed for that purpose.

Arts and Sciences

- **Dr. Dave Bahr** has been elected as chair of the Department of Physics. Bahr's term runs from fall of 2009 through the summer session of 2012.

Arts and Sciences (cont'd)

- **Dr. Satish Davgun** has been re-elected to a third term as chair of the Department of Geography and Political Science. Davgun's term runs from fall of 2009 through the summer session of 2012.
- **Dr. Kathleen Meyer** has been elected as chair of the Department of Languages and Ethnic Studies. Meyer's term runs from fall of 2009 through the summer session of 2012.

College of Health Science and Human Ecology

- **Dr. Michael Herbert** has been re-elected to a second term as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice. Herbert's term runs from fall of 2009 through the summer session of 2012.
- **Dr. Lorraine Boyle**, associate professor of professional education, presented "Razzle Dazzle. Group Think: Small Group Discussions Promote Community, Participation, Accountability" at the Fusion Desire2Learn Conference: The Art of Learning, July 13 in St. Paul.
- The Department of Nursing's university portal program to offer a four-year nursing degree on the campus of Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus has reached its full capacity of 40 students for the fall of 2009. Interest in the program was so high that the department had to turn away interested students.

Business, Technology and Communication

- **Dr. Virgil Bakken** has been named interim chair of the Department of Mass Communication for the fall of 2009.
- **Dr. Sanjeev Phukan**, professor of business administration, served as a visiting professor of operations management at Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam, in May. He also served as keynote speaker at the HELP University College Convocation Symposium and Graduation in April.
- **Dr. Doug Leif** has been re-elected to a third term as chair of the Department of Business Administration. Leif's term runs from fall of 2009 through the summer session of 2012.
- **Dr. Bill Scheela**, professor of business administration, will spend the fall semester as a visiting professor at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila, Philippines. He will be developing and teaching an MBA course on entrepreneurship and venture capital.

Scheela also co-authored a forthcoming journal publication, "Business Angel Investing in an Emerging Asian Economy" with Edmundo Isidro, president of the Philippine Venture Capital Group. The article will be published in the fall 2009 edition of "Journal of Private Equity."

- **Drs. Barry Stephens and Sandra Kranz**, professors of accounting, were asked by the American College Testing Program to submit 20 questions each for consideration in future Uniform Certified Public Accounting Examinations. This spring, Kranz learned that 18 of her questions had officially been accepted for use on future exams by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Stephens had 13 questions accepted.

Tenures and Promotions

The following members of the faculty have been promoted or granted tenure beginning in the fall of 2009.

Tenures

- Ms. Tammy Bobrowsky, Library and Library Services
- Dr. Timothy Brockman, technological studies; Business, Technology and Communication
- Dr. Troy Gilbertson, criminal justice; Health Sciences and Human Ecology
- Dr. Michael Herbert, criminal justice; Health Sciences and Human Ecology
- Dr. Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Spanish; Arts and Sciences
- Dr. David Smith, business administration; Business, Technology and Communication
- Dr. Kathleen Sonsteng, professional education; Health Sciences & Human Ecology

Promotions: assistant to associate professor

- Dr. Timothy Brockman, technological studies; Business, Technology and Communication
- Dr. Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Spanish; Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Kathleen Sonsteng, professional education; Health Sciences & Human Ecology
- Dr. Jennifer Swanson, vocal music; Arts and Sciences

Promotions: associate to full professor

- Dr. Colleen Greer, sociology; Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Debbie Guelda, biology; Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Richard Koch, biology; Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Debra Peterson, sociology; Arts and Science

Entries for campus notes are compiled by reporters in each college, school or administrative area and submitted to the Office of Communications and Marketing for inclusion in BSU Insider. Photos used in Campus Notes are submitted. Photos for use in Campus Notes can be e-mailed in high-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG format to: jbartlett@bemidjistate.edu



Thursday, September 3, 2009

Personnel News

New faces and old friends in new places

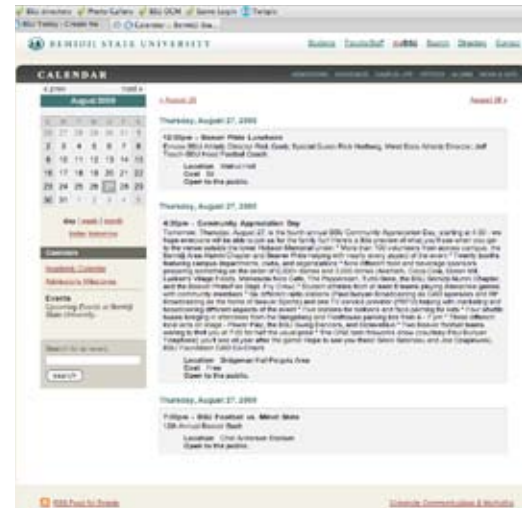
- Mary Carlson joined the International Program Center as office and administrative specialist-intermediate, effective July 1, 2009.
• Leah Carpenter joined the Department of Accounting as an assistant professor and 3M Chair effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Jie Cheng joined the Department of Computer Sciences as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Cheryl Christleib joined Business Services effective Aug. 10, 2009.
• Susan Dalager joined Information Technology Services as an ITS 2, effective July 8, 2009.
• Adam Dander joined Residential Life as a residence hall director, effective July 1, 2009.
• Mary Fairbanks joined the Department of Nursing as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Patrick Guilfoile was named associate vice president for academic affairs effective July 1, 2009.
• Stephanie Hendricks moved to the American Indian Resource Center as office and administrative specialist-intermediate, effective July 1, 2009.
• Tiffany Hommes joined the Department of Nursing as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Carrie Ketel joined the Department of Biology as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Dax Larson joined the Office of Communications and Marketing as assistant director of athletic media relations, effective Aug. 10, 2009.
• Judy Larson joined Career Services effective Aug. 10, 2009.
• Emily Lindell joined the Center for Research and Innovation as an office specialist effective July 22, 2009.
• Brian Ludlow joined the Department of Professional Education as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• James Maxwell was named dean of the College of Business, Technology and Communication, effective July 1, 2009.
• Sharon Olson moved to the A.C. Clark Library as library technician, effective July 1, 2009.
• Richard Opsal joined the Department of Computer Science as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Noreen Reding joined the Department of Nursing as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Lois Rydeen joined the Department of Nursing as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Mehdi Sagheb-Tehrani joined the Department of Business Administration as an associate professor, effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Larry Skillin joined the Department of History as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Erika Svanoe joined the Department of Music as an assistant professor and director of bands effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Julie Urban joined the Department of Computer Science as an assistant professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.
• Michael Urban joined the Department of Economics as an associate professor effective Aug. 18, 2009.

Upcoming Events at Bemidji State University

Or, how I stopped caring and learned to love the events calendar

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

One of the big changes coming to the new and improved BSU faculty and staff newsletter will be the elimination of the "Upcoming Events" information that used to occupy this space. Everything here was taken from the University's official events calendar on the Web site, and we want to encourage you to use this calendar frequently, not only to see what is going on around campus but also as a vehicle for promoting the events and activities in your particular area. There are several ways you can access the calendar; directly at http://www.bemidjistate.edu/calendar or by clicking the "Events Calendar" link in the footer of any page on the Bemidji State Web site that uses the content management system.



Submitting Messages For the Bemidji Ave. Marquee

Bemidji State University's lighted marquee on Bemidji Ave. exists to promote the University within the Bemidji community and to support community activities as part of the University's outreach efforts. The University has the ability to schedule multiple messages over a period of several days.

Requests to include messages on the marquee may be submitted by mail or e-mail. To reduce the possibility of errors, requests are not accepted over the phone. Information can be sent to Valerie Mason at the Communications and Marketing Office, Deputy Hall room 325, Box 2; e-mail, vmason@bemidjistate.edu.