



## Professor on the hunt

PEHS professor Eric Forsyth living lifelong dream as a successful bear hunter

Earlier this month, lottery applications for this fall's bear hunting season in Minnesota were closed. When lottery winners are announced in June, Eric Forsyth, professor of physical education, health and sport, hopes to once again count himself among the more than 7,000 hunters seeking black bears in the Minnesota wilds.

Hunting has been an integral part of Forsyth's life since his father first took him into the fields and mountains at age 12. A surveyor by trade, the elder Forsyth often took his son with him to parcels of land he was working.

"He would drive me to a site, drop me off and say, 'OK, you walk over that ravine there, then go over the top of that mountain and I'll meet you on the other side.'" Forsyth recalled. "I'd get to the top of the mountain, and sure enough I could see my dad in the truck driving to pick me up."

The trips into the field gave Forsyth invaluable experience learning how to read the land -- how different features of the terrain worked together and how wildlife moved through them.

"My dad would tell me I'd see deer if I looked in certain places on our walks, and he was always right," Forsyth said. "I just loved being out there with my dad. Mostly he tried to teach me to be quiet, which was hard to do as a little kid. I just wanted to stay out there and do everything he did. Being a kid, I really had no idea what to do; I just tried to copy what my dad did."

Inevitable entry into the adult world and school in California and New Mexico forced him into a 16-year break from hunting. But Forsyth's love affair with the sport was rekindled when he moved to Bemidji and could reconnect with the outdoors.

"It took me awhile to get used to the Minnesota style of hunting," Forsyth said. "In Wyoming, everything was walking, going from a car to the bluffs to find game. In Minnesota, it's all about sitting in tree stands."

While his childhood experiences were memorable more as time spent with his father than as successful hunts, Forsyth took quickly to tree stands and managed to become a successful hunter.

Despite the success he found as a deer hunter in Minnesota, he still felt something was missing. He longed for the challenge of hunting larger, more difficult game, and kept reflecting on a childhood dream of someday hunting bears.

"I always had this desire to hunt bears," Forsyth said. "I had a friend in Wyoming whose dad hunted

***"After I harvested the bear, I just looked up at the sky and said 'thank you' for making my 30-year dream come true."***

***--Eric Forsyth***

bears, and for 30 years it was just always something I really wanted to do."

Forsyth happened to be working a part-time job at Buck Tracks in Wilton, Minn., and discovered the owner, Steve Burford, not only had private hunting property but also was a bear hunter. Forsyth eventually gathered the courage to ask if he could tag along on a hunt, and his friend agreed.

"That first year, Steve did everything for me, from showing me where and how to place bait, providing me with a stand and showing me where to position it, bringing along food, everything," Forsyth said. "All I had to do, really, was show up with my gun."

Fortunes smiled quickly on the neophyte bear hunter, as Forsyth was able to take his first-ever bear on his second night out on the hunt.

"After I harvested the bear, I just looked up at the sky and said 'thank you' for making my 30-year dream come true," Forsyth said. "Afterwards, Steve looked at me and said, 'You're on your own now.' You learn best by doing things yourself."

With success rates for bear hunters in some state hunting zones dipping as low as 10 percent, Forsyth has learned well and assembled a noteworthy streak of four consecutive successful hunts heading into the 2011 season.

"Am I lucky? Did I have a good teacher?" he asked. "It's a combination of these things, I think, and I'm fortunate to have a job where I have the ability to go out every single day until I get a bear."

In addition to the luxury of time, Forsyth also has meticulous preparation on his side. Not willing to simply jump into his truck, head to a hunt site and take his chances, he carefully manages each aspect of his hunts.

"I take the steps to be successful," he said. "There's a thought among some hunters that they'll just go out into the field, find a place to sit and wait for a bear to come to them. But it's not that easy.

"You have to be aware of your scent, of your scent trail, of the wind," he said. "Different bears have different tastes."

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## Bemidji State University Singers on European tour

### Choir to perform at least six concerts on 12-day, four-country trip

► Complete story available at BSU Today:  
<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/05/09/choir-europe-tour>

For 12 days in May, the Bemidji State University Singers will embark on a tour of Europe and perform at least a half-dozen concerts at famed churches, cathedrals and other historic landmarks across four nations.

The choir departed Minneapolis on May 10, and over the next two weeks will visit Germany, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic.

Monika Lawrence, adjunct instructor in photography, will be sending photos back from the concert tour. New photos will be posted daily at BSU Today.

#### CONCERT SCHEDULE

- 5/12: St. Thomas Church; Leipzig, Germany.
- 5/14: St. Nicholas Church; Prague, Czech Republic.
- 5/15: Annakirche; Vienna, Austria.
- 5/16: St. Stephen's Cathedral; Vienna.
- 5/17: Ruze baroque library; Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic.
- 5/18: possible concert in Dresden, Germany.
- 5/20: Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche; Berlin, Germany.

## Faculty art show now open in Talley Gallery

### Work on display through Sept. 14

► Complete story available at BSU Today:  
<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/05/04/talley-gallery-faculty-show-opens-friday>

Faculty in Bemidji State University's Department of Visual Arts will have work on display in the University's Talley Gallery as part of the department's annual faculty show.

The show is open now and continues through Sept. 14. A reception for the artists featured in the exhibition will be held at the gallery on Aug. 24 from noon-3 p.m, with a gallery talk by the featured artists beginning at noon.

The Department of Visual Arts faculty at Bemidji State not only have long and impressive histories in their chosen media, showing

work nationally and internationally, but also maintain active roles in the Bemidji community through shows, giving workshops and volunteering their time and work for charitable organizations and other events.

Faculty featured in this year's show include Butch Holden, professor of visual arts, ceramics; Natalia Himmirska, assistant professor of visual arts, painting; Jason Clark, assistant professor of visual arts, printmaking; Dennis Peterson, adjunct faculty in visual arts, silverpoint; and Steve Sundahl, associate professor of visual arts, sculpture.

## Marvin named 2011 Distinguished Minnesotan

### CEO of Marvin Windows & Doors joins father among list of 31 honorees

► Complete story available at BSU Today:  
<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/04/29/2011-distinguished-mn>

Susan Marvin, president of Warroad, Minn.-based Marvin Windows and Doors, received Bemidji State's 2011 Distinguished Minnesotan Award during commencement ceremonies this year.

First presented by BSU in 1981, the Distinguished Minnesotan Award acknowledges the contributions of current or former residents of the state who have performed exemplary service to the people of Minnesota or the United States. The Distinguished Minnesotan award was presented annually from 1981-2009, and was not awarded in 2010.

As president of Marvin Windows and Doors, Marvin oversees the window and door business of the Marvin Companies including the Marvin, Integrity and Infinity brands. Prior to joining the family business in 1981, she worked for American Hoist and Derrick Company.

Marvin is a 1979 graduate of the University of Minnesota where she earned an undergraduate degree in journalism.

Marvin's father, William S. Marvin, was the winner of the Distinguished Minnesotan award in 1990.



## Campus Notes

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

### Academic Affairs

• **David Smith**, assistant professor of business administration, will serve as the director of the 2012 Eurospring study abroad program, BSU's longest-running study abroad opportunity.

### College of Arts and Sciences

• **Natalia Himmirska**, assistant professor of visual arts, exhibited paintings and the MacRostie Gallery in Park Rapids in February. Her exhibition included oil, acrylic, watercolor and encaustic painting.

• **Susan Scrivner**, professor of English, presented a paper at the College English Association Conference at St. Petersburg, Fla. Her paper, entitled "You're What's Wrong with Me!: Class in Two Contemporary British Films," examined two recent British films focusing on adolescent girls, "An Education" and "Fish Tank." While both films place the young women in similar situations, the outcome of that situation is different for each, with social class being the major determinant.

### College of Business, Technology and Communication

• **Leah Carpenter**, assistant professor of accounting, and **Sandra Kranz**, professor of accounting, supervised Tax II student volunteers who prepared approximately 750 free income tax returns as part of this year's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. E-filing federal and state returns was also free for all except those who were required by the IRS to paper file.

Clients included BSU students who are US citizens, international students from various countries, international teachers from Concordia Language Village and low income persons from the surrounding area who are uncomfortable or unfamiliar with the preparation of tax returns. The student volunteers also traveled to Blackduck on a Saturday mid-March to provide service to those who were unable to travel to Bemidji to take advantage of the program.

• **Leah Carpenter** provided the keynote address at the 2011 American Indian Student Awards Recognition Banquet at BSU on April 14. Carpenter, also an American Indian alumni of BSU, urged students to continue their hard work after graduation by making a commitment to improve not only tribal communities, but all of society.

Carpenter's doctoral dissertation, "Tracking the Land: Ojibwe Land Tenure and Acquisition at Grand Portage and Leech Lake" will be published by LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, based in Saarbrücken, Germany. The book is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

### College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology

• **Marsha Driscoll**, associate professor of psychology, has had a paper accepted for publication in the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Driscoll's paper, "National Survey of College and University Honors Program Assessment Protocols," surveyed 38 honors program leaders to determine methods used to assess an honors program and how assessment programs might benefit from standardization.

• **Angela Fournier**, assistant professor of psychology, has had a pair of articles published in "Women & Criminal Justice" and "Environment & Behavior." The "Women & Criminal Justice" piece is an investigation into the needs of women in prison, and the relationship between trauma and violent crime in women. Her "Environment & Behavior" article surveyed 48 fast-food restaurant and coffee shop restrooms for factors that influenced hygiene and the spread of diseases using a naturalistic-observation approach.

• **Jim Mastro**, professor of professional education, attended the Mobility International USA conference held in Manama, Bahrain in February. The conference was held in cooperation with the Bahrain Disabled Sports Foundation, bringing together eight professionals from the U.S. in fields related to inclusive sports and recreation.

• **Pat Rogers**, dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology, completed Higher Education Resource Services Institutes for Women in Higher Education held at Wellesley College in March. The institutes offer women faculty and administrators an opportunity to participate in an intensive program that prepares them for leadership positions in higher education.

Rogers also had a paper accepted for the 24th annual CHER conference held at the School of Education at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik from June 23-25. The conference will focus on issues facing higher education in the 21st century and seek ideas and policies that can be derived from ethical, theoretical and empirical research.

• **Krissi Super**, head women's golf coach and assistant women's basketball coach in the Department of Athletics, published the children's book "Munki Tales: Animal Rescue Stories Filled with Peace, Love and Compassion." Illustrated by BSU art student Eli Balbach, "Munki Tales" features stories of real-life animal rescues told through the eyes of Super's cat, Valli Girl. The book is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

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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



## Personnel News

### New faces and old friends in new places

- **Michelle Frenzel** named university registrar with the Office of Records and Registration, effective March 2.
- **John Olson** named director of development for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, effective March 30.
- **Koji Fujiwara** named research analyst with Institutional Research, effective Feb. 16.
- **Angela Schmidt** named customer service specialist - senior in Career Services, effective April 27.

## PEHS professor looking ahead to fall bear hunt

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"What works when you're establishing one bait site might not work at a different site," he said.

Each bear is different. A bear's nose is second to none, and they're very cautious. If they smell a human, they'll hide and not come out until after dark, and you'll never see them."

Forsyth also noted the need to sit still for hours on end, as the slightest movement or sound can alert a bear to a hunter's presence and frighten it away.

"The big bears don't get big by accident," he added. "They are really smart."

Forsyth's first two bears in 2005 and 2007 were small, ranging from around 90-150 pounds, but as he has gained experience he has shifted his focus to larger animals. In 2008, he took a bear estimated at approximately 360 pounds; that animal's 18-inch skull was large enough to make it into the Minnesota state recordbooks. In 2009 and 2010, his bears were in the 225-230 pound range.

"I'm hooked on this now," Forsyth said of bear hunting. "I've hunted antelope, elk and deer, but bear hunting is my favorite because it requires the most patience. When you're out there, you have time to just think and reflect on anything, to think about your family, your kids, your job, just about life in general.

"And, I'm addicted to the rush," he said. "There will be times that game will be within 10 yards of you, and they have no idea you're there. I've been hunting for awhile now, but my heart always beats 1,000 miles an hour when it comes time to take the shot. That feeling of excitement and preparation is such a rush."

In addition to the thrill of the hunt, spending hours pursuing game through the wild has given Forsyth a complete appreciation for the forces of nature surrounding him.

"You see things in nature that you could never see just sitting in a classroom or your living room," he said. "A squirrel will come up and sit on your shoulder and look you right in the eye. A bird will swoop down and land on the barrel of your gun. You can watch a hawk dive out of the sky onto a meal.

"I just enjoy being out there, seeing the wildlife, how the animals act, how they move," he said. "It's pretty awesome." Minnesota's 2011 bear hunting season begins on Sept. 1.

### Spreading the Word

Eric Forsyth has worked to spread his love of hunting, and of bear hunting in particular, to others by writing magazine articles for "Bear Hunting: The Bear Hunting Authority" and "Whitetales," the official magazine of the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association. He had one article published in the spring 2010 edition of "Whitetales" and has been published three times in "Bear Hunting," with the most recent story printed in the magazine's May/June issue this year.

His articles recount his bear hunting experience, providing details of his 2007 hunt and his record-book-making hunt in 2008, and pass along tips and tricks he has learned in his six-year career as a fledgeling "do it yourself" bear hunter.

"I would hope that I could encourage just one more person to give it a try," he said.



Have a great story of your life outside of work, or have a suggestion for someone we should feature here? Contact Andy Bartlett in the Office of Communications and Marketing at 755-2041 or jbartlett@bemidjistate.edu.



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