



**ABOVE :** More than 3,000 people attended Bemidji State's sixth annual Community Appreciation Day on Thursday, Aug. 25, which led into a BSU-record crowd of 4,711 for the home football opener against Minot State that same evening.

## Liberal Education at BSU: Where Things Stand

by Andy Bartlett  
Office of Communications and Marketing

The potential revamp of Bemidji State's liberal education curriculum has been a hot topic around campus for years. Efforts continue to find ways to explore changes in how the University delivers liberal education. For the 2011-12 academic year, the overall topic of liberal education reform will likely take a back seat to two more pressing issues - the Higher Learning Commission's charge that the University strengthen its assessment of its liberal education program, and the need to find ways to adequately deliver courses in the People in the Environment emphasis area.

In June, **Dr. Debra Peterson**, professor of sociology, was tabbed for her second stint as director of liberal education at BSU and says she's looking forward to guiding the university's lib ed programs through the challenges it faces in the upcoming academic year.

"One of the issues that certainly the [liberal education] committee and the campus as a whole has to deal with this year is assessment of the liberal education

program," Peterson said. "Up until this point, we haven't asked faculty to assess the performance of students on those competencies. We have assumed faculty are doing those things, but we haven't developed a formal way for them to report.

"Colleges across the nation are struggling with assessment as part of their accreditation process," Peterson said. "At one point it was merely enough to have an assessment plan in place. Then they wanted you to not just have the plan, but to collect information. Now, it's taking the information you receive and making changes."

**Dr. Colleen Greer**, professor of sociology and director of women's studies who headed the liberal education task force for more than three years, says one issue to be resolved regarding assessment is the fact that it has proven difficult to know when to reassess students during their collegiate careers.

"You can get them at the front end if you go into a First-Year Experience class," Greer said, "But how to you get them at

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BSU Insider is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Bemidji State University. Andy Bartlett, editor.

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### Record Attendance for Community Appreciation Day

*More than 3,000 attend; 6,400 meals served; BSU football attendance record falls*

#### • Community Appreciation Day a Hit

Bemidji State's Sixth Annual Community Appreciation Day was its biggest ever, with an estimated attendance of more than 3,000 gathering on the grounds surrounding the Bridgeman pergola for games, activities and free food.

The BSU Foundation, which plans and organizes the Community Appreciation Day each year, estimated that more than 6,500 meals were served at the event. Several of the food vendors shut down before the crowd began making its way to the football game because they had run out of food.

#### • Football defeats Minot State, 27-0

Providing a strong finish to an impressive 2011 Community Appreciation Day, the BSU football team defeated Minot State, 27-0, in its season opener in front of a school-record 4,711 fans at Chet Anderson Stadium. BSU posted its first shutout since 2007, and its first home-field shutout since 2002, while improving to 12-1 all-time in its "Beaver Bash" series with Minot State. After the third quarter, President Hanson presented a check to Minot State University representatives, raised during Community Appreciation Day, to help flood relief efforts in that community.

### BSU Starts 2011-12 With Two Interim VPs

*Bob Griggs and Mary Ward move into interim appointments*

► Complete story available at BSU Today: Bob Griggs: <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/06/14/griggs-interim-avp>

► Complete story available at BSU Today: Mary Ward: <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/07/21/ward-interim-vp>

#### • Bob Griggs

Bob Griggs, who has been with Bemidji State since 2000 as dean of distance learning and summer session, interim associate vice president for extended learning and information technology and, since 2008, as associate vice president for extended learning and library services, was named interim vice president for academic affairs on June 14.

Griggs earned bachelor's and juris doctorate degrees at the University of North Dakota. Griggs was appointed after the end of an interim appointment for Dr. Nancy Erickson, who is returning to the faculty.

#### • Mary Ward

Mary Ward was named interim vice president for student development and enrollment on July 21. She had been with Bemidji State since 2008 as director of the University's Advising Success Center, and since 2009 has also been an instructor in BSU's First-Year Experience courses. She replaced Dr. Lisa Erwin, who departed for a vice chancellor position at Minn.-Duluth.

Ward earned an associate's degree at Brainerd Community College and a bachelor's degree from Bemidji State. She earned her master's degree at Southwest Minnesota State and doctorate from North Dakota.

### University to host Respect Awareness Project events

*Project will feature a workshop and a presentation by Jamie Nabozny*

► Complete story available at BSU Today: <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday/news-updates/2011/08/26/respect-awareness-sept>

Later this month, the Center for Health and Counseling will partner with the University's Phoenix Gay/Straight Student Organization to present a diversity workshop and presentation by reknowned speaker Jamie Nabozny.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the awareness project's major events get underway with "Creating a Respectful and Inclusive Wellness Community," a six-hour workshop designed to increase knowledge, understanding and ability to successfully work with and serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and adults. The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

in BSU's American Indian Resource Center.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, BSU will host a presentation by noted speaker Jamie Nabozny, "A Student, A School and a Case That Made History," at 7 p.m. in Hagg-Sauer 100. Nabozny, who is featured in the Southern Poverty Law Center's short documentary, "Bullied," will speak of his experiences as a young gay man who took a stand against the bullying he experienced in school.

After realizing other youths suffered similar fates, he decided to fight back. Nabozny won a landmark lawsuit in federal court establishing that all young people deserve a safe educational experience.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### College of Arts and Sciences

► **Larry Swain**, assistant professor of English, was named chair of the Department of English in July.

### College of Business, Technology and Communication

► **Karen White**, director of the 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering Center of Excellence, participated in a presentation on 360°'s online eTECH programs at the National Science Foundation's HI-TEC conference, July 25-28, in San Francisco. White was joined by **Vince Vohnout**, associate professor of technological studies, Bruce Hemstad from Northwest Technical College, Bryan Hasnsen from Verso Paper and Andrew Dahlen from Northland Community and Technical College.

► **Sandra Kranz**, chair of the Department of Accounting, participated at the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting, Aug. 6-10, in Denver, Colo.

### Division of Academic Affairs

► **Dr. Debra Peterson**, professor of sociology, was named director of liberal education at BSU in June.

### Division of Finance and Administration

► **Erika Bailey-Johnson**, university sustainability coordinator, was one of 35 campus leaders nationally selected for an invitation-only workshop entitled "Sustainability Across Curriculum Leadership Workshop," held July 7-8 in San Diego, Calif. Held by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the workshop focused on intense study of Northern Arizona University's Ponderosa Project, an interdisciplinary faculty group working to incorporate environmental sustainability issues into courses at that university.

### Division of Student Development and Enrollment

► **Randall Ludeman**, university conduct officer and associate director of residential life, wrote a chapter in the book, "Masculinities in Higher Education: Theoretical and Practical Considerations." Ludeman's chapter is called "Successful Judicial Intervention with Men." The book was published in April 2011 by Routledge and edited by Jason Laker and Tracy Davis.

### Office of the President

► **Brad Folkestad**, director of athletic media relations, and **Dax Larson**, assistant director of athletic media relations, attended the Sports Video Group's College Sports Video Summit 2011, held June 7-8 in Atlanta, Ga.

## COVER STORY – LIBERAL EDUCATION AT BSU

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the back end? What we really need to do is develop a better strategy for getting more students in the room [to take the followup test] so we have a better sample."

### Content Area 10: People in the Environment

BSU is also seeking improvements in the way it delivers liberal education courses, with a special emphasis on content area 10, People and the Environment. Currently, the courses in this content area are near capacity, with significant additional capacity needed to service all of BSU's students who need required courses in this area.

"Liberal education classes are rather full," Greer said. "Even this fall, we were encouraged to provide greater capacity for students on campus. It's a challenge."

"We don't have enough sections to meet even half of the incoming freshmen," Peterson said. "The way we deliver these courses takes a lot of coordination and with recalibration there are fewer faculty available. I think we need to decide if we're committed to the way it's being offered. If so, that's great -- but we need to somehow find more faculty to teach in that goal area."

### Moving forward

With those challenges in mind, what will liberal education look like at Bemidji State moving forward?

"I think the immediate priority is to accomplish the Higher Learning Commission objectives," said **Dr. Troy Gilbertson**, professor of criminal justice and president of the BSUFA. "Then, in a parallel track, the lib ed departments probably need to look hard internally about whether they're still going to be able to offer lib ed or whether they need to focus on their major. People in the Environment is probably the next priority we need to accomplish this year.

"It's a challenge," Gilbertson said. "There's a curse about living in interesting times; I think that's where we are."

"I wish I had a crystal ball to tell you how everything is going to work," he said. "We have a lot of challenges, but we have a lot of dedicated people. We'll get it done."

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## NEW FACES AND FRIENDS IN NEW PLACES

► **Mark Bagaason** named head women's golf coach and assistant women's basketball coach in the Department of Athletics, effective Aug. 16, 2011.

► **Brett Bahr** named admissions representative in the Office of Admissions, effective Aug. 12, 2011.

► **Tim Bellew** named assistant director of athletic facilities, effective July 1, 2011.

► **Jacqueline Carroll** named office and administrative specialist, principal, in the Office of the President, effective June 2, 2011.

► **Crystal Clevon** moved from the Office of Admissions to TRiO/Student Support Services as an instructor, effective Aug. 16, 2011.

► **Anthony Cole** joined theatre program as a student worker paraprofessional, effective Aug. 29, 2011.

► **Tamara Day** joined the Office of Admissions as a customer service specialist - intermediate, effective June 27, 2011.

► **Justin Enfield**, formerly hockey rink ice maker, is now a general maintenance worker, effective May 25, 2011.

► **Nancy Erickson**, formerly interim vice president for academic affairs, returns to faculty as a professor of language and ethnic studies, effective July 1, 2011.

► **Amber Fryklund** named assistant women's ice hockey coach, effective Aug. 23, 2011.

► **Tim Gilsrud** named interim chief information officer, effective Aug. 30, 2011.

► **Bob Griggs** named interim vice president for academic affairs, effective July 1, 2011.

► **Cheris Hagen-Swanson** named director of the International Program Center, effective Aug. 1, 2011.

► **Beverly Hodgson** moved to the Records Office as an assistant registrar, effective July 15, 2011.

► **Laura Holm** named office and administrative specialist, intermediate, in Residential and Student Life, effective Aug. 22, 2011.

► **Dianne Illies** was named state university management officer in Business Services, effective Aug. 8, 2011.

► **Lynn Johnson** named interim director of distance learning in the Center for Extended Learning, effective July 1, 2011.

► **Zachary Johnson** named interim director of the Advising Success Center, effective Aug. 15, 2011.

► **Tracey Klefsas** named Upward Bound academic coordinator in TRiO/Student Support Services, effective June 1, 2011.

► **Rachel Knutson** named office and administrative specialist, senior, for the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 25, 2011.

► **Janne Lillestol** was promoted from fixed term to probationary assistant professor in professional education, effective Aug. 16, 2011.

► **Robyn McBrady** named admissions representative in the Office of Admissions, effective Aug. 17, 2011.

► **Francois Neville** named assistant professor of computer science, effective Aug. 15, 2011.

► **Chinwuba Okafor** named assistant director of student life, effective July 1, 2011.

► **Anna Riedel** named customer service specialist in Residential and Student Life, effective July 20, 2011.

► **Aaron Stodgell** joined Business Services as an accounting officer, effective Aug. 9, 2011.

► **Janine Wahl** named assistant professor of professional education, effective Sept. 14, 2011.

► **Mary Ward** named interim vice president for student development and enrollment, effective Aug. 15, 2011.

## 2011-12 PROMOTIONS AND TENURES

### Assistant to Associate Professor

Dr. Benjamin Burgess – Indian Studies  
Dr. Patrick Carriere – Theatre  
Dr. Carla Norris-Raynbird – Sociology  
Dr. David Smith – Business Administration  
Dr. Jeffrey Ueland – Geography

### Associate to Full Professor

Dr. Joann Fredrickson – Business Administration  
Dr. Jeanine Gangeness – Nursing  
Dr. Troy Gilbertson – Criminal Justice  
Dr. Michael Herbert – Criminal Justice  
Dr. Mark Lawrence - Geography

Five members of the University's faculty have been granted tenure beginning with the fall semester of this year.

- Dr. Benjamin Burgess, associate professor of Indian studies; College of Arts & Sciences.
- Ms. Dianne Narum, assistant professor of library and library services; Center for Extended Learning.
- Dr. Carla Norris-Raynbird, associate professor of sociology; College of Arts & Sciences.
- Dr. Jeffrey Ueland, associate professor of geography; College of Arts & Sciences.
- Dr. James White, associate professor of physical education, health & sport; College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology.