

# BEMIDJI

## STATE UNIVERSITY

*A magazine for alumni and friends*  
**SPRING/SUMMER 2016**



***A President Reflects***  
**AND LOOKS AHEAD**



# PRESIDENT R. HANSON

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am humbled by the kindness and generosity I have received since announcing my retirement last August, though I must say it has been a very long goodbye. Now, here I am on the cover of BSU magazine, the subject of an article that seeks to summarize my 2,190-day presidency in 1,800 words. I realize history is likely to record these past six years in terms of decisions made and objectives achieved. But let me assure you that those things are not what I will remember most about my time at Bemidji State – or, for that matter, all of my years in higher education.

What I will never forget is what I glimpsed one last time on May 6: the beaming faces of our graduates as they stepped onto the commencement stage to be recognized and accept congratulations. Their proud smiles exuded all they had gained from years of study, both a degree of mastery in their chosen fields and a readiness to engage with the world – to make it better while making it their own. Their newfound confidence will forever be a source of satisfaction, for I had the chance to contribute to their success.

As graduates, you surely remember that exhilarating relief when you crossed the stage, shook hands and stepped down at the other end. As parents, we are at once joyful and wistful as we watch our children complete this ritual, signifying as it does both a beginning and an ending in life's journey. I find that retirement has something in common with both experiences. I am both graduate and parent, stepping into a future full of possibility while stepping down from my role in the fortunes of a great university.

Thanks to a capable new president, dedicated employees and loyal friends, Bemidji State University will be in very good hands. I will always carry with me the things we've accomplished together, for our students and for their future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Richard Hanson

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PASSING THE BATON



DR. HENSRUD IS READY



SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

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# BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

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**COVER PHOTO:** President Richard Hanson is pictured in the rear stairwell of newly renovated Memorial Hall, with a view of Lake Bemidji to the east.

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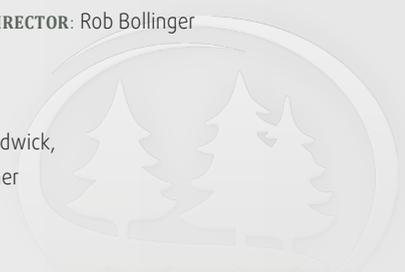
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President Richard Hanson lights a faculty member's candle to begin the Freshman Convocation ceremony on Aug. 24 in the BSU Gymnasium.



Hanson joins Campaign Chair Dave Sorensen '72 (left) and Executive Director for University Advancement Rob Bollinger in a champagne toast to publicly launch the Imagine Tomorrow campaign at the Honors Gala on Sept. 27, 2013.



Hanson congratulates a graduate during the 2013 BSU Commencement.



President Richard Hanson in his Deputy Hall office in 2013.

# Hanson HANDS OFF

By Scott Faust

**D**emolition and construction have redrawn the Bemidji State University map during Dr. Richard Hanson's six years as president. BSU's identity has evolved as well.

At ground level, Sanford and Maple halls are gone. Birch and Decker halls are renovated. New stadium turf is installed. Memorial Hall is transformed. If state bond funding comes through, Hagg-Sauer Hall will be replaced in 2018 with a smaller classroom building in the same location. Beneath the surface, Bemidji State's first comprehensive fundraising campaign has fostered a culture of philanthropy, as Hanson hoped it would. Since he undertook what he called a strategic "recalibration" of institutional priorities in January 2011, which shrunk or eliminated two dozen academic departments, several other majors have been created or expanded.

And along the closely watched continuum between the liberal arts and professional programs, he acknowledges BSU has edged slightly toward the professions during his tenure.

"Change," Hanson is known to say, "is the only constant in higher education." He has experienced a lot of it and foresees as much or more for his successor, Dr. Faith Hensrud, who is leaving the University of Wisconsin-Superior to become BSU's 11th president on July 1.

Hanson's view of change as both inevitable and accelerating explains why he has approached retirement more as a baton

exchange between sprinters than some sort of personal or institutional finish line.

"Just like our culture, presidencies now are kind of in and out," he said. "You've got to run like mad for a relatively short period of time and try to do the best you can. More than ever, the game is in the transition."

Not one to dwell on roads not taken, Hanson has looked determinedly ahead throughout the 42-year educational career he began after a two-season foray into pro football with the New York Giants.

Because he's not inclined to putter over hobbies or home repair, Hanson soon will have a wealth of time to dote on his grandchildren. He also can devote more hours to studying his beloved Kierkegaard while exploring ways to share what he's learned as a college and university president, vice president, dean, director, department chair and faculty member in child development and family science.

Hanson will depart northern Minnesota, joking like a proud North Dakotan that the north woods have "too many trees." He and his wife, Dianne, will settle in Sioux Falls, S.D. close to their three daughters and in surroundings familiar from his decade at Augustana College.

Though he says it will be hard to give up the lofty endeavor, seasonal routine and collegiality of higher ed, Hanson is certain it's time to step away.

*"When I talk about transformation, I am thinking about the students who are literally transformed by their experience at BSU, and that's because they make a connection with these outstanding faculty."*

– PRESIDENT RICHARD HANSON



**President Richard Hanson meets with members of the 2014-15 President's Student Commission in the Upper Hobson Union.**

"I think we've moved the university forward in terms of facilities; I think we've moved the university forward in terms of planning; and I like to think we've moved the university forward in terms of grappling with our future as a comprehensive, residential liberal arts college in a rural area with Division I and Division II sports," he said. Now and in the decades to come, the most indelible imprint of Hanson's presidency at Bemidji State University will be on the BSU campus itself.

The first of several notable improvements completed on his watch was a \$6 million facelift of Birch Hall, a residence hall across Birchmont Drive from Chet Anderson Stadium. Completed in summer 2012, the work included co-ed bathrooms on each floor and new lounges that connect wings on the second and third floor. On the lake side of Birchmont, new artificial turf was installed at the stadium in the summer of 2013. The \$1.3

million project, which included removal of a deteriorated track, was funded in part through a partnership with the Bemidji school district. The Bemidji High School and BSU football and soccer teams compete there, and it's increasingly used for post-season play.

"Before the turf, we did about 11 events on the field a year – BSU and community," Hanson said. "So it wasn't used all that much. And last year, we did 40, so it's worked beautifully."

The most significant campus project he has presided over is the complete interior renovation of the 75-year-old Memorial Hall gymnasium as a new home for the College of Business and its business administration and accountancy programs.

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# Hanson HANDS OFF

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**President Richard Hanson cuts the ribbon on Oct. 2 to officially open the newly renovated Memorial Hall.**

Funded with \$16 million in state bonding money, the work included demolition of adjacent Sanford Hall, which opened in 1920 as a residence hall but was used for student services in recent years; demolition of Maple Hall, a residence hall that opened in 1967 but was no longer needed; and renovation of Decker Hall as a new hub for student services.

Though Sanford was demolished in 2014, a University of Minnesota professor for whom it was named, Maria Sanford, will be remembered with a plaque on the Sanford Quad. This expanse of lawn and sidewalks stretches in front of the Upper Hobson Memorial Union, from A.C. Clark Library on the south to Memorial Hall on the north.

That new open space, facing Birchmont Avenue across from the David Park House, has been an under-recognized dividend of the Memorial Hall project, Hanson said. When Sanford Hall was wedged into that area, he said, "It felt like we didn't have a front door."

**President Richard Hanson joins the BSU football team in a plunge into Lake Bemidji following its Homecoming victory over Concordia College on Oct. 8, 2011.**

The \$18.1 replacement of Hagg-Sauer Hall near the lakeshore will be another massive undertaking if the Legislature OKs bond funding this spring. Demolition of the 46-year-old 82,000-square-foot building, scheduled for next summer, will wipe out \$8 million in deferred maintenance, much of it from basement water seepage.

Downsized to 25,000 square feet to improve overall campus space usage, the planned new Hagg-Sauer Academic Learning Center has an energy-efficient design and a variety of versatile, interactive learning spaces.

Included in the cost is renovation of A.C. Clark Library, Bangsberg Performing Arts Complex, Bensen Hall, Deputy Hall and Sattgast Hall to make room for 110 faculty offices now in Hagg-Sauer and overall redistribution of university faculty into learning communities that encourage their own collaboration and more interaction with students.

Although these campus improvements have not been free of pushback or delay, nothing has matched the challenge that greeted Hanson on day one of his presidency — a two-year, \$5 million budget

deficit. Six months into his new job, he acted decisively by cutting 50 faculty positions and 10 administrative and staff jobs and eliminating men's track and field.

BSU's revered but severely under-enrolled theater department was cut, and the visual arts department was folded into a new department with technology and design. Those moves drew loud protest within the Bemidji-area arts community.

Among programs retained but reduced because of relatively low enrollment were music, philosophy, history, mathematics, physics and economics.

Hanson emphasized in messages to the campus and community that these steps were vital to BSU's long-term financial and academic sustainability, not simply a Band-Aid to staunch red ink from rapidly shrinking state support.

And they weren't all cuts. He added faculty positions to business administration, mass communication, Native American studies (now called indigenous native nations) and Ojibwe language. His charge for an





**President Richard Hanson and Bemidji community leaders meet with Minnesota State Chancellor Steven Rosenstone (left) at BSU's American Indian Resource Center on Oct. 1, 2014.**

academic initiative in leadership and ethics bore fruit last year with a new minor and certificate program in leadership. Hanson also put greater focus on environmental sustainability and underscored the need to recruit and retain more underserved students, especially American Indians from the three tribal nations surrounding Bemidji.

In the years since the budget recalibration, BSU has added an undergraduate major in wildlife biology; new emphasis areas in art and design, criminal justice and environmental studies; and online master's degrees in business administration and teaching. Among other initiatives, it has launched off-campus bachelor's degree-completion programs in biology at North Hennepin Community College and

business administration at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and expanded its baccalaureate nursing program to four two-year colleges.

Despite the angst over recalibration, the fine arts have remained a vibrant part of BSU's academic and student life. The Department of Music has begun staging an opera every other year, and the visual arts program is strong, even though it no longer stands alone. At Hanson's request, the BSU Foundation board allocated \$500,000 to ongoing lease expenses for a BSU gallery within the new Watermark Art Center in downtown Bemidji and \$160,000 to support travel by BSU student choir and instrumental groups.

A parallel chapter in Hanson's presidency began in July 2011. Six months after the uproar over program cuts and reductions, he and the BSU Foundation Board launched the quiet phase of the five-year Imagine Tomorrow fundraising campaign.

The campaign will coincidentally conclude on Hanson's last day as president. Many considered its \$35 million goal overly optimistic, but the effort already has exceeded its goal by a million dollars, more than doubling the university's endowment and scholarships awarded.

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## Dr. Richard A. Hanson

### ADMINISTRATION

**2010-16** — President, Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College.

**2009-10** — Interim president, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

**2005-09** — President, Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa.

**1995-2005** — Vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**1982-95** — Interim vice president for academic affairs (1995) and interim dean of the College of University Studies (1994-95). Associate vice president for academic affairs (1992-95), associate director of human development and extension service (1991-92), department chair, child development and family science, (1983-87), director, Family Studies Institute (1984-87), North Dakota State University.

**1979-80** — Department chair, home economics, California State University, Chico, Calif.

### TEACHING

**2006-10** — Waldorf College

**1997-2005** — North Dakota State University

**1974-80** — California State University, Chico

### EDUCATION

- Doctorate in applied behavioral science, University of California, Davis, 1980.
- Master of science in child development and family relations, North Dakota State University, 1974.
- Bachelor of science in sociology, with a second major in child development and family relations, North Dakota State University, 1971.

### SCHOLARSHIP

Authored more than 25 competitive grant awards, 19 refereed journal articles, 12 other publications, five books and monographs and more than 30 professional conference/association presentations.

### PERSONAL

Dr. Hanson and his wife, Dianne, have three daughters and three grandchildren. They plan to retire in Sioux Falls, S.D.



This list excludes several presidents who served briefly in acting roles:

**Manfred W. Deputy, 1919-1938**

Manfred W. Deputy was president when Bemidji Normal School opened in 1919 and when it became Bemidji Teachers College in 1921. He helped students who were struggling financially by giving them money out of his own pocket.

**C.R. Sattgast, 1938-1964**

Dr. Charles R. Sattgast enlisted in World War II during his presidency and became one of the so-called Monuments Men who saved monuments and other historical treasures from destruction.

**Harry F. Bangsberg, 1964-1967**

Dr. Harry F. Bangsberg became president as the Vietnam War began to escalate. In 1967, he was killed in a plane crash in South Vietnam while on a trip with seven other U.S. educators to help develop the country's higher education system.

**R.D. Decker, 1968-1980**

During Dr. Robert David Decker's presidency, eight new campus buildings were built, three existing buildings were renovated, enrollment hit an all-time high of 5,787 students and the school was renamed Bemidji State University in 1975.

**Rebecca Stafford, 1980-1981**

Dr. Rebecca Stafford received her master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Harvard University. After resigning from BSU, she accepted the position of executive vice president of Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

**Lowell R. Gillett, 1982-1990**

Dr. Lowell R. "Ted" Gillett's presidency was highlighted by student-centered construction and renovation projects, including the Gillett Recreation-Fitness Center.

**Leslie C. Duly, 1990-1993**

Dr. Leslie C. Duly was known for walking around campus and interacting with students. A fatal heart attack cut short his productive tenure.

**M. James Bensen, 1994-2001**

Dr. M. James Bensen is the only Bemidji State alum to hold the presidency. The 1959 graduate in industrial arts has remained active in Bemidji economic development efforts and as an inspiring public speaker since his retirement.

**Jon E. Quistgaard, 2001-2010**

Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard's tenure brought major changes in technology, enrollment, funding and diversity. The university became aligned with Northwest Technical College in 2008.

# Hanson HANDS OFF

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Hanson said he's been moved by the generosity of alums and other donors who've stepped up with gifts and pledges of all sizes, including several totaling millions of dollars.

"We have a collection of alums and supporters that I've gotten to know through the campaign who are brilliant in the sense that they have a vision for the future," Hanson said. "I will tell the new president, 'You have some people here who care deeply about sustaining BSU as a relevant institution — not necessarily as it was when they graduated.'"

Likewise, he credits the difference that faculty members have made in the lives of students, an impact that often leads directly to alumni giving decades later.

"We have some fabulous individuals who do amazing work with kids," Hanson said. "When I talk about transformation, I am thinking about the students who are literally transformed by their experience at BSU, and that's because they make a connection with these outstanding faculty."

He said it is those students — the challenges they overcome and the way they blossom — that makes the university a distinctive place that he will miss dearly, trees or no trees.

Looking at BSU from the perspective of a parent, Hanson noted the relative lack of high-end or even late-model cars in student parking lots. He said the university is decidedly non-elitist in socioeconomic terms, despite providing students with top-notch facilities and excellent academic programs.

"If you sort through everything that comes at you, what kind of environment do you really want your child to be immersed in?" he said. "We're special because of this unique place and the fact that we will ground you in both the liberal arts and the professions.

"We offer a very practical but very, very enlightened kind of education, and I wouldn't have it any other way."

**President Richard Hanson responds to a question during a 2013 news conference at Northwest Technical College.**



**President Richard Hanson and his wife, Dianne, ride in the Oct. 3 Homecoming Parade through downtown Bemidji.**



# HENSRUD PREPARES TO LEAD



**D**r. Faith Hensrud will join the Bemidji community as president of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College on July 1.

Succeeding Dr. Richard Hanson, she becomes Bemidji State's 11th president and the second woman to serve in the role. Hensrud has spent more than 20 years at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, serving as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2012.

Dr. Steven Rosenstone, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, nominated her from among three semifinalists chosen by a search advisory committee with a nationwide scope. The MnSCU Board of Trustees unanimously approved her appointment.

During his formal remarks at the board's April 20 meeting, Rosenstone called Hensrud "a tested leader with a unique range of experiences."

"She has the support of students, faculty and staff at Bemidji State and NTC," he said. "She has the support of stakeholders in the community."

As provost at UW-Superior, Hensrud has been the university's chief academic officer, managing a \$13 million budget and working with 130 faculty in 12 academic departments. She also has overseen the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Lake Superior Research Institute and the Transportation and Logistics Research Center and Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute.

Previously, Hensrud was the school's interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of faculties from 2010 to 2012; associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and outreach from 2006-10; leader of distance education and continuing education programs and activities from 2002-06; and an associate professor since 2006. She started at UW-S in 1995 as a lecturer in the Department of Business and Economics.

Rosenstone highlighted the fact that Hensrud previously taught at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, also in Superior.

"Someone with both university experience and experience teaching in a technical college is a rare gem indeed," he said.

Hensrud is also a U.S. Army veteran. She served on active duty with the 24th Transportation Battalion at Ft. Eustis, Va., from 1986-89 and as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve from 1989-2000 before retiring with the rank of captain.

While in the Army, she met her future husband, Neil Hensrud, who recently retired from UW-S as an associate professor of business. The couple has two grown children.

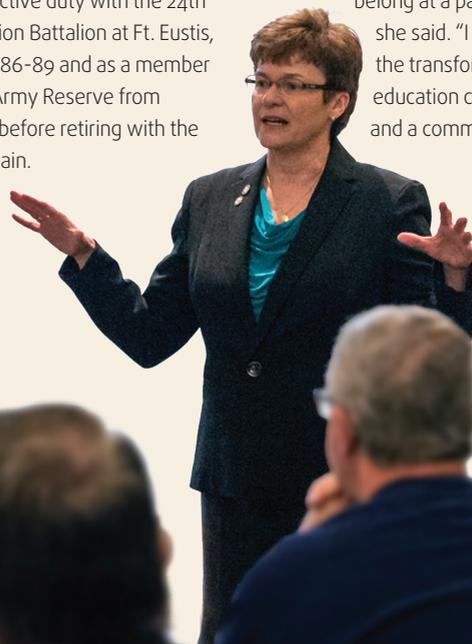
She holds a bachelor's degree in human adaptability from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a master's degree in management from the College of St. Scholastica and a doctorate in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.

*"I understand the challenges our students face as they consider whether or not they belong at a particular college or university. I also understand firsthand the transformative role that higher education can play in the life of a student and a community."*

— DR. FAITH HENSRUD

As a first-generation college student who grew up on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Upper Michigan, Hensrud said she is deeply committed to providing an affordable, welcoming learning environment where students of all backgrounds can succeed.

"I understand the challenges our students face as they consider whether or not they belong at a particular college or university," she said. "I also understand firsthand the transformative role that higher education can play in the life of a student and a community."



**Dr. Faith Hensrud discusses her experience with community members during a March 23 visit to Bemidji.**



# IMAGINE TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

# FINAL PUSH TO THE FINISH

By Scott Faust



Ron '56 and Nancy '57 Gladen of Bemidji, pictured here with Advancement Officer Kathleen McKinstra (center), have supported Imagine Tomorrow with a planned gift and annual giving. They joined other annual donors at a March 1 luncheon at Sparkling Waters restaurant in Bemidji.

When Bemidji State University celebrates its five-year Imagine Tomorrow fundraising effort at the Homecoming Honors Gala in October, anticipation will inevitably center on the grand total.

Gifts and pledges already have topped an initial goal of \$35 million, set in early 2011 when BSU embarked on its first-ever comprehensive campaign. As of April 12, the total was \$35.9 million — and rising.

Another statistic likely to get attention is how many people have joined in the campaign. So far, that number is about 5,575, including nearly 1,400 individuals or couples who also have made their first donation to BSU.

Weeks before the campaign concludes on June 30, time remains for all three of these indicators to grow substantially as the university's alumni and friends step up to be part of this historic success.

In fact, a matching gift will double the impact of any new donation as long as it is unrestricted, meaning it can be directed toward what the university considers its highest priorities.

"There's still an opportunity to be part of history," said Rob Bollinger, executive director of university advancement.

"Thanks to everyone who's gotten involved so far, we have more than doubled the number and amount of scholarships the university is able to award to students, from about

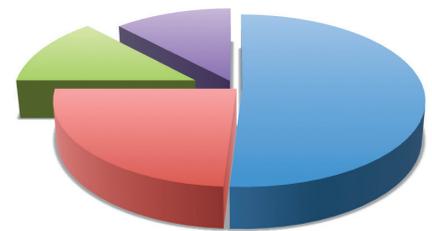
\$700,000 during the 2010-11 academic year to \$1.45 million this year."

"BSU's total endowment has also doubled, to \$22.85 million, and we're not done yet."

With the door wide open to make the campaign's impact on student success as significant as possible, staff and volunteers at the BSU Foundation have been busy in recent months wrapping up pending gifts and reaching out to individuals, Bollinger said.

Often joined by President Richard Hanson, they have met with donors and prospective donors in Arizona, California, Florida, Boston and Chicago, both to ensure a strong finish and build for the future.

In March, a pilot online giving program called March to the Finish allowed donors to place their gifts and photos on a Giving Grid, which they could also use to encourage friends to participate via social media. Luis '87 and Angela '87 Ojeda placed a \$1,000 gift on the grid to celebrate their 30 years of marriage after meeting at BSU in 1985. They added the university's tagline, "Best Decision ever!"



#### BREAKDOWN OF GIVING

Designations by category for \$35.9 million received or pledged to the Imagine Tomorrow campaign as of April 12, 2016:

- Scholarships - 49%
- Lakeside Fund and all other - 31%
- Academic support - 11%
- Gifts awaiting designation - 9%

*"The needs of the university and its students won't end on June 30, 2016, and neither will the positive impact that donors can make."*

— DAVE SORENSEN '72



**BSU faculty and staff who have helped raise more than \$800,000 for the Imagine Tomorrow campaign enjoy a thank you reception in their honor on March 31.**

Also, on March 31, the BSU Alumni & Foundation hosted an after-work reception for university faculty and staff who had taken part in the campaign, with gifts and pledges totaling more than \$800,000 since 2011.

Dave Sorensen '72, chair of the Imagine Tomorrow Steering Committee, said that wherever the campaign tallies end up, the effort already has accomplished an important long-term objective, with no dollar sign attached.

"This campaign has brought the university to a new level and a new reality in fundraising," Sorensen said. "We have no intention of going back to where we once were. But maintaining this energy will depend on people continuing to give after the campaign is finished.

"The needs of the university and its students won't end on June 30, 2016, and neither will the positive impact that donors can make."

Bollinger echoed that point, encouraging alums in particular to consider making a

five-year pledge of anything from \$100 a year to \$1,000 a year — or more — with the total compounding along with its impact, year after year.

"We hope people will keep it going because they understand the importance of giving to the institution and to students," he said.

Everyone connected to the university, whether they have donated to Imagine Tomorrow or not, will be welcome to join in the gala on Oct. 14.

The first part of the evening will continue the traditions of alumni and donor recognition, followed by the much-anticipated reveal of how much Imagine Tomorrow has raised.

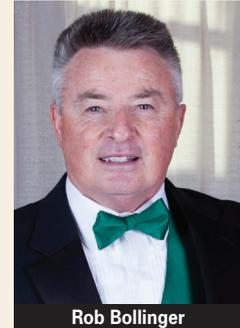
After a champagne toast, the event will kick into party mode, with dancing to a 12-piece, Fargo-based horn band called Post-Traumatic Funk Syndrome.

Said Bollinger, "It truly will be a celebration of this historic accomplishment."

## **BOLLINGER GOES OUT ON HIGH NOTE AT BSU**

Bemidji State University is conducting a national search to replace its top development official, Robert "Rob" Bollinger, whose retirement on June 30 will coincide with the conclusion of the Imagine Tomorrow campaign.

Leadership of the campaign, the first of its kind for Bemidji State, has been a capstone to Bollinger's decade of service as BSU's executive director for university advancement. He will continue his career in education fundraising — and return to the game of football — at Cretin-Derham Hall, a private Catholic school in St. Paul.



**Rob Bollinger**

Bollinger will be the school's development officer and serve as an assistant football coach, joining his son Brooks Bollinger, who in December was named head football coach.

President Richard Hanson, who also will retire at the end of June, said both the BSU Foundation and Alumni Association have grown significantly under Bollinger's guidance in the engagement, cultivation and stewardship of donors and all alums.

"Not only have his enthusiasm and diligence been crucial to our success with Imagine Tomorrow," Hanson said, "he also has made enormous strides in building and strengthening relationships with our alumni and friends."

Bollinger has been the catalyst for many initiatives and special events that have become fixtures for the university and the community at large. Among them are Community Appreciation Day, which attracts hundreds of Bemidji-area residents to campus for information, food and entertainment; the Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast, which honors scholarship recipients and donors; the Alumni B-Club, which promotes affinity and fundraising among BSU's alumni athletes; and the biannual Green & White Dinner and Auction for BSU Athletics.

"I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding staff, the university administration and faculty, the Bemidji community and many alumni, donors, volunteers and friends of the university," Bollinger said. "The Imagine Tomorrow campaign has been especially rewarding, and it has been successful due to the leadership of the Foundation Board of Directors, President Hanson and many committed volunteers and loyal and generous donors."

Prior to joining BSU, Bollinger worked from 1996 to 2006 in athletics development for the University of North Dakota and the University of North Dakota Foundation. From 1986 to 1995, he culminated a 20-year high school and college football-coaching career as offensive coordinator for the UND program.



# STEPPING UP TO GIVE

*Donors inspired to give*

As the Imagine Tomorrow campaign enters its final weeks, we share these examples of recent donors to illustrate how and why they got involved and what it means to them:

## Muriel Copp '57 Red Wing **ENDOWMENT**

What finer posthumous tribute could anyone receive than a friend's out-loud laughter at your memory 60 years later — a friend who, upon receiving your unexpected bequest, decides to endow a scholarship in your name at your shared alma mater?

The surviving friend in this case is Muriel Copp. Her departed friend is Jennifer Eddy, who passed in 2014 without survivors after a lengthy teaching career, primarily at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo. Their alma mater: Bemidji State.

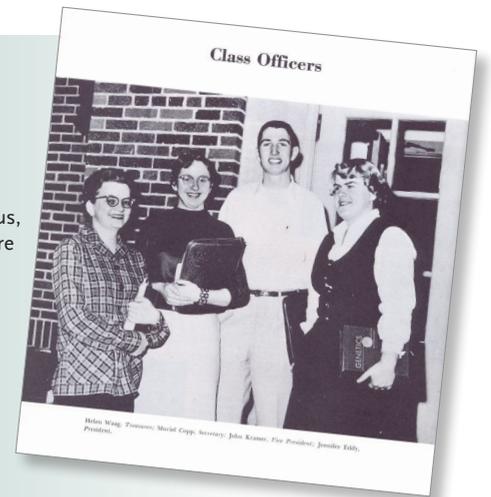
Copp, a retired teacher who grew up in Thief River Falls, made sure Eddy lives on through promising BSU students who receive the Jennifer Jane Eddy Chemistry Scholarship.

"I just thought there should be something in her name at Bemidji State because she did all of her undergraduate work there, as well as graduate," she said.

Copp's memories of Eddy come fast and furious, recalling the outrageous fun and high adventure they shared as fellow students and teachers.

"We met on the first day at Bemidji State in a registration line," Copp said of Eddy, who was from Park Rapids. "She was kind of a wonderment to me because she was standing there in a buckskin jacket made out of a deer she had shot."

Copp said that after allergies thwarted Eddy's original goal of research, she became a dedicated and demanding teacher who helped many grateful students.



Muriel Copp (second from left) with Jennifer Eddy (right) in a BSU yearbook photo of class officers.

## Duane '66 and Celeste (Jacobson) '65 Sperl Puyallup, Wash. **PLANNED GIVING**



Duane and Celeste Sperl, who will celebrate 50 years of marriage in August, cherish the years at BSU where they found each other and received an outstanding education.

Having made "sporadic" gifts to Bemidji State in the past, the Sperls recently made unrestricted planned gifts and are considering a recurring annual gift as well, drawing on retirement fund disbursements.

Celeste, from Greenbush, and Duane, from New Ulm, briefly taught in St. Cloud-area

Duane '66 and Celeste '65 Sperl speak during BSU's 50-year Alumni Reunion in 2015.

junior highs before the Army draft took them to Germany. They subsequently made Washington State their home, both earning master's degrees from Pacific Lutheran University. Duane has worked in insurance, and Celeste became a school counselor. They have a son and daughter.

The couple recalls several outstanding teachers, including biology professor Dr. Evan Hazard, who Celeste said regularly invited students to supper at his home, and history professor Eugene Mammenga, whom Duane recalls as an "incredible, incredible instructor," adding, "I'll remember him forever and ever."

## Sue and Steve Engel Bemidji

# ATHLETIC ENDOWMENT

**B**ecoming hockey season ticket holders was what first hooked Sue and Steve Engel to Bemidji State after they moved to Bemidji 38 years ago. She is a Granite Falls native who graduated from Minnesota State Moorhead, and he is from Nicollet and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College.

“The year we started going was the year they went 31-0, so that helped us get on the bandwagon,” Sue said, referring to the team’s winning streak in 1968-69.

The Engels’ appreciation for all things BSU has only grown through the years.

They decided to endow men’s hockey scholarships out of loyalty to a program that’s given them years of enjoyment, Sue said, and because they appreciate the extra demands placed on student-athletes.

“They have a pretty hard road in front of them,” she said. “They’re trying to keep their grades and working to graduate.”

Sue, who is sales and marketing director for First National Bank in Bemidji, is a past board member for the Beaver Pride athletic boosters group. She was a 2014 John S. Glas Honorary Letter recipient in 2014 and has twice chaired the gift committee for the Green & White dinner and auction.



Sue and Steve Engel pose with Bucky at a BSU Athletic Hall of Fame gathering in 2014.

## ANNUAL GIVING

### Fred Baker '61 Bismarck, N.D.

**W**hen Fred Baker graduated from high school on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, he thought the Air Force would help him decide what to do in life.

Vehemently opposed, his father sought advice from the local school superintendent, who happened to be a proud Bemidji State graduate. The men agreed that’s where Baker belonged.



The superintendent used his BSU connections to find a spot for Baker '61, who'd barely been out of the county.

“I was on a tractor cutting hay when my father came over the hill and said, ‘You’re going to Bemidji State and that’s a good school,’” he recalled from his home in Bismarck. “I sat back down on my tractor wondering where in the hell Bemidji was and what it was.”

Baker thrived at Bemidji State, becoming captain of the brand new cross-country team, joining the band and glee club and serving as associate editor of the Northern Student newspaper.

He now makes annual gifts to BSU, grateful for how it prepared him for to succeed in public health and health care administration.

“It didn’t have a lot of frills; it didn’t have all kinds of majors and that kind of thing,” he said, “but what they had I think they provided with outstanding quality. I got a really good education.”

## ENDOWMENT

### Julie (Hartman) Becker '77 North Oaks

**J**ulie Becker chose Bemidji State for the reasons downstate students always have—a strong program in her desired major and a location far enough from home to establish her independence.

“I got a job that first fall after I graduated,” she said. “I felt like it was very good preparation.”



The Austin native carried her elementary education degree into a 22-year teaching career before stepping back during her three children’s busy teen years. She’s back helping with the Reading Buddies program in Mounds View and volunteers at the Ronald McDonald classroom in Minneapolis.

Returning to BSU last fall to participate in Alumni Leaders in the Classroom motivated Becker '77 to do something she’d long intended: contribute financially to the university and its students.

She and her husband endowed the Scott and Julie Becker Education Scholarship.

“I always wanted to become more involved and give something back to the university,” Becker said. “I was just grateful for the education I received, and I hope it will help somebody else.”



# DONATIONS MAKE AN IMPACT

*Investing in students and facilities*

The Imagine Tomorrow campaign has more than doubled the scholarships awarded by Bemidji State University since 2011, and it also is making possible dramatic advances in the learning environment for students in mass communications.



**Stacey Kaslon**  
MAJOR: mass communications  
HOMETOWN: Holdrege, Neb.

**Stacey Kaslon** figured she'd go to college in her native Nebraska — or perhaps in Iowa. Either way, it would be on her dime, with help from scholarships.

Minnesota wasn't in the picture before a Bemidji State brochure came in the mail and kept drawing her in, she said. While living at home and working in retail for a year after high school, Kaslon checked out BSU.

She discovered the university doesn't charge out-of-state tuition. Furthermore, its generous merit scholarships would reward her high school success with \$2,000 in annual, renewable scholarships.

Kaslon's test scores, GPA and class rank were strong, though not off the charts. BSU valued them, and that's why she's at BSU today.

"I was up there (in rank), but I wasn't the elite," she said, "so it was nice to know I could get some benefit from my hard work."

BSU's mass communication department suited Kaslon's demands for well-rounded training. But her two academic scholarships — funded through the Imagine Tomorrow campaign — are what made the difference, she said.

This summer, Kaslon hopes to publish freelance writing in Nebraska Land magazine and earn money shooting senior photos. As a sophomore in the fall, she will be co-editor of the student magazine, Northern Exposure, and work as a community assistant in Pine Hall.



**Davis Mills '16**  
MAJOR: nursing  
HOMETOWN: Stephens

Nursing was supposed to be a means to an end — medical school — when **Davis Mills** transferred to Bemidji State from Northland Community and Technical College.

He graduated in May as planned with a baccalaureate in nursing and a minor in psychology.

But instead of seeking a medical degree, Mills is preparing to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner. He was accepted into an online graduate program at St. Scholastica University in Duluth that will include hands-on experience at the Stadter Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

"I ended up really falling in love with nursing," he said.

Along the way, in addition to being BSU's 2015 Homecoming King, Mills has received a BSU alumni scholarship (his dad and an aunt are BSU grads), an academic scholarship, a departmental scholarship in nursing and a David & Kathryn Sorensen Leadership Scholarship.

With additional money earned officiating and coaching high school athletics, he said he can pay his own way, as his parents did before him.

"I really made it an issue to make sure I paid for my own college just like they did," Mills said. "I pay everything out of pocket and have no student loans."

Receiving scholarship support "makes you want to cry because of how hard you work," he said. "It really makes you feel good about yourself."



**Tammy Shoots**  
 MAJOR: indigenous native nations  
 HOMETOWN: Keewatin

**Tammy Shoots receives an academic achievement award from Bill Blackwell, director of the BSU American Indian Resource Center, at the American Indian Student Recognition Banquet on April 14.**

A 44-year-old mother of three who has worked many years providing care to foster children with special needs, **Tammy Shoots** has discovered her future at Bemidji State by exploring her past as an Ojibwe Indian.

Shoots plans to complete a minor, as yet undetermined, that complements her degree in indigenous native nations and will seek a job with a tribal nation, possibly out of state.

Before coming to Bemidji State, she completed her associate of arts degree at Hibbing Community College. Her grades at BSU have put her on the Dean's List every semester, and her 4.0 last spring landed her on the President's List.

Even better, the BSU Financial Aid office informed her last fall that her success as a non-traditional student had earned her a scholarship endowed by Jack and Delphine Jacobsen of Bemidji.

"It was a shock they would just call and offer it to me," Shoots said. "I've used the money to pay for my books, which helped me a lot."

In April, she was recognized by the university's American Indian Resource Center for all the hard work reflected in her cumulative GPA of 3.76.

With a year to go, Shoots plans to continue commuting to Keewatin on weekends, working as a care assistant and at McDonald's and somehow making time for her kids.

"I'm ready for a career change," she said.

## Mass Communications Reinvention

Deputy Hall

Infusion of \$250,000 from an unrestricted gift to the Imagine Tomorrow campaign is taking new facilities for Bemidji State's Department of Mass Communications from Chevrolet to Cadillac.

Combining those funds with \$750,000 from the university will enable creation of a fully integrated multimedia learning environment on the second floor of Deputy Hall, transforming the student experience.

Work is scheduled for completion this fall on the new space that combines a former student production space with studios vacated last year by Lakeland Public Television, said department chair Dr. Virgil Bakken.

"It's an integrated multimedia space for students in radio, print and TV all in the same



**Workers in April begin renovation of space in Deputy Hall as the new home for mass communications.**

area, sharing electronic resources and working together," Bakken said. "It's a big deal."

Two new interactive classrooms will greatly expand multimedia learning, and new technology will facilitate broadcast of BSU events from the Sanford Center and campus locations, he said.

Guidance on the project and curriculum came from Dr. Michael Bugeja of Iowa State University's Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication.



# IMAGINE TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

## Let us double your gift

If you make an unrestricted donation or pledge of cash or securities to Bemidji State University's Imagine Tomorrow campaign by June 30, 2016, a matching gift will double your contribution and its impact. It also will apply to the first year of a multi-year gift. Here is more information about how you can participate:

**CASH:** Cash gifts are an easy way to give. Gifts of any size make an immediate impact on the Imagine Tomorrow priority area of your choice.

**SECURITIES:** Gifts of stocks, bonds, treasuries and mutual funds that have increased in value are a win-win opportunity for you under current tax laws. They provide an immediate benefit to the university and a current income tax savings for you.

**PROPERTY:** Property and real estate includes homes, cabins, commercial buildings, farmland and other property, such as works of art and other items of value.

**PLANNED GIFTS:** These involve giving to the university in the future. Typical types of planned gifts would be a bequest, life income gift, charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, life insurance or a gift of residence with a life interest. **The Bemidji State University Legacy Society** is a unique organization whose members have provided for Bemidji State University through a planned gift. Members receive special invitations and other benefits.

**VOLUNTEER:** One of the most important gifts you can give to BSU is to tell others why the university is vital to you and the community. Attend campus events. Volunteer for committees and events that interest you. You make a difference!

## Potential benefits of giving

- Make an immediate or future impact on Bemidji State.
- Help the department, college or area of your choice.
- Potentially increase the impact of your gift with a matching gift.
- Make a large gift with a small cash investment.
- Save on income tax.
- Reduce estate tax.
- Avoid capital gains tax.
- Generate lifetime income.

**CONTACT** the BSU Foundation at (218) 755-2762, email to [foundation@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:foundation@bemidjistate.edu) or visit [www.bsuumaginetomorrow.org](http://www.bsuumaginetomorrow.org).



## KRISTJAN THORLACIUS

**F**or Kristjan Thorlacius of Hallock, the road to Bemidji State University was paved with mixed blessings. Since then, he's made the most of every opportunity.

A 2007 car accident landed Thorlacius on life support in a Fargo hospital. It took him 16 weeks to regain the ability to walk unassisted and a year to fully recover. Then the 2008 financial crisis hit, and Thorlacius left his sophomore year of studies at Minnesota State University-Moorhead to work full-time.

He eventually joined Digi-Key in Thief River Falls, worked his way into purchasing operations, met his wife — also employed at Digi-Key — and decided he wanted to finish his degree.

"We resigned, cut our finances in half, moved, married and found jobs in Bemidji," Thorlacius said. "It was a big gamble, but it's been paying off. My classes are great, my professors are great and my family has been supportive."

In addition to his studies, Thorlacius joined the BSU Student Senate, Policy Committee, the President's Student Commission and the Human Resources Management Club, where he served as vice president.

He also discovered a passion for civic engagement, spurred in part by an incident on his skateboard, called a long board. While skating (skateboarding) to campus

one day, he nearly got a citation. It turns out the city of Bemidji had an ordinance that prohibited skating in its downtown. The university, too, had a policy that prohibited skating on campus.

"Just because things are the way they are, doesn't mean they should be," Thorlacius said. "I got the city to change its ordinance to allow skating downtown and BSU to change its policy so you can skate on campus."

This year, he gained valuable experience as an intern with the Small Business Development Center. He also works with a Northwest Minnesota Foundation task force to gain better insights about how to address unemployment in the region. Eventually, he plans to pursue graduate studies.

"Kristjan is an excellent student with diverse interests, a lot of ideas and a good sense of humor," said Doug Leif, professor of business administration. "He's taken advantage of every opportunity that comes along."

Thorlacius wouldn't have it any other way. Inspired by his experiences at Bemidji State, he plans to stay involved in community development, advocating for civil rights, social action and economic empowerment.

Being involved is "good for business and the health of the community. It's important and worth my time," he said.

**L**Lynda LaFond, a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and native of Akeley, enlisted with the military when she was 17, hoping to see the world.

She spent her first three years stationed in Okinawa, Japan, before a deployment to Turkey and later Iraq. She excelled working with weaponry for F-15 and F-16 fighter planes. In 2004, she received the John Levitow Award for outstanding leadership and scholastic qualities, the highest recognition presented at Airman Leadership School.

Although proud of her service, LaFond eventually realized she wanted a different future. "I always loved biology," said LaFond, who inherited a passion for land and wildlife management from her family. "I grew up hunting and looking for chokecherries to make jam, and now wild leeks, morel mushrooms, spearmint and wild bergamot."

When she returned home, she enrolled at Bemidji State University, where she met biology professor Dr. Elizabeth Rave, who inspired her interest in conservation management and helped her find a project on a military base.

Much to her pleasure, LaFond spent two summers at the Grand Forks (N.D.) Air Force Base, studying the effects of various land management initiatives on populations of small mammals living in and around the base's restored tallgrass prairie.



"I spent about 20 days a month trapping mice, looking at plants and getting my hands dirty," she said. "Military lands can be great places to study protected ecosystems."

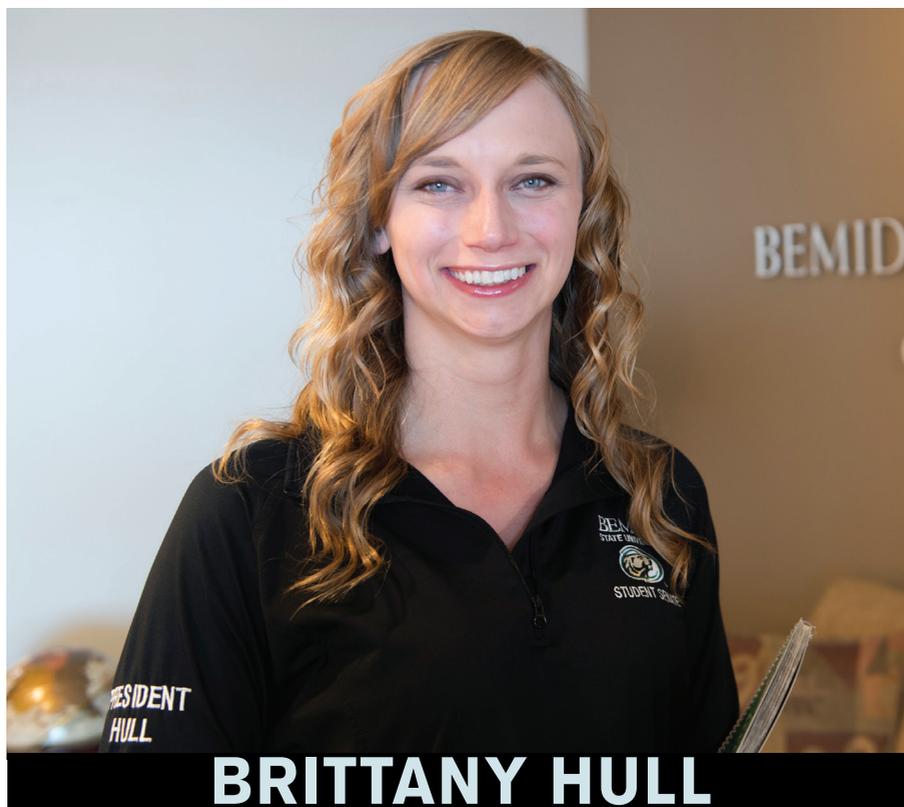
Lafond received her bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Bemidji State in 2014. Along with a BSU master's degree in biology, she has nearly completed a second degree in environmental studies with a minor in toxicology and plans to pursue a doctorate.

In February, LaFond received The Wildlife Society's 2015 Student Conservation Award, given to a Minnesota student who shows high scholastic achievement and promise as a future wildlife professional. She is a founding member of The Wildlife Society's BSU chapter and has served as its president and vice president.

"She's smart, she's talented and she has ambition," said Rave, who nominated her for the award. "She's passionate about the outdoors, and she takes the initiative to get things done. I know she will go far."

Inspired by her BSU experience, LaFond aspires to manage military lands — perhaps returning to Japan — and then teach in the field of biology.

"I really couldn't have asked for a better place than Bemidji State to study biology," she said. "I'm surrounded by all these passionate people who push me and support me."



**B**rittany Hull, a first-generation student from Litchfield, always wanted to earn a college degree and become a nurse. In pursuit of that dream, she also became a standout student leader.

"School has always been a big thing for me," said Hull, who watched how hard her mom worked without the advantage of a high school diploma. "I knew I didn't want to live paycheck-to-paycheck. And I wanted to be a good influence on my younger siblings."

In April, she received the Presidents' Student Leadership Award from Minnesota Campus Compact, an association that promotes civic engagement and democratic renewal within its 37-member colleges. The award was presented at a St. Paul banquet with her mom in attendance.

"My mom cried," Hull said.

She graduated in May with a nursing degree and a minor in Spanish.

Hull served on the BSU Student Senate, her senior year as president. She has been a member of the Minnesota State University Student Association, vice president of the BSU Lifestyle Educators and public relations chair of the Students Nurses' Association.

During her Senate tenure, she helped pass several bills, including one to improve BSU's grading system and another to provide students with access to a 24-hour computer

lab. She also lobbied lawmakers in Washington, D.C., on issues related to higher education.

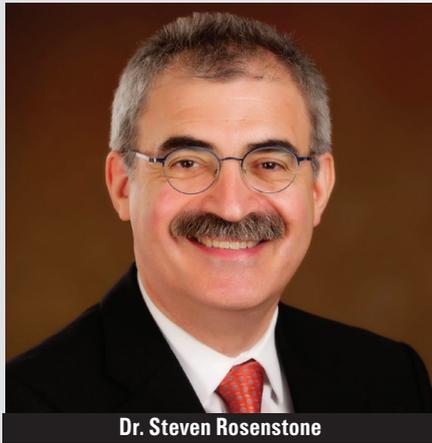
And beginning last year, when one of her fellow nursing students died of hypothermia after getting lost on her way home from a party, Hull did everything in her power to make sure something like that never happens again.

She helped create two videos to address the negative impact of risky behaviors related to drug and alcohol use among college students. And she was a driving force behind a campus-wide campaign, handing out wristbands to encourage students to be safe and look out for one another.

"Brittany has done a remarkable job," said Dr. Mary Ward, BSU dean of students, who nominated Hull for the leadership award. "I cannot say enough about her effort and the passion she has for BSU and our students."

Hull figures it's all good experience for nursing, a profession she that said needs "good leaders and advocates."

For her, the best measure of success is the positive influence her BSU experience has had on her 10-year-old sister and 15-year-old brother, who also plan to attend college. Plus, she admits it feels good to have "a very proud mom."



**Dr. Steven Rosenstone**

## Rosenstone to retire as MnSCU chancellor next July

**M**innesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor Steven Rosenstone in April announced he will retire upon completion of his current contract in July 2017. Dr. Rosenstone, who will be nearly 66 years old when he completes his current contract, has led the system of seven state universities and 30 community and technical colleges since 2011.

During his tenure, Rosenstone has presided over a period of important system evolution, driving innovation and collaboration at a time of unprecedented budget cuts. His leadership has resulted in a fuller realization of the power of the system – that the colleges and universities are stronger together than any individual college or university could be on its own.

With a strong commitment to better reflecting the increasing diversity of Minnesota, Rosenstone has recruited the current presidents at 22 of the 30 current Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Almost a third of all system presidents now come from communities of color, and nearly half are women.

## Students make successful push for plus-minus grading option

Following a recommendation from the Student Senate, Bemidji State faculty this fall will be able to use plus and minus options when determining students' course grades.

Before voting in December to request the change, a Student Senate poll of 200 random students found support for a change in traditional A-B-C grading. Students, administrators and faculty agree that the new, optional system will allow instructors greater flexibility in assessing student performance.



## Retired educators share recognition as Distinguished Minnesotans for 2016

Dr. Darby and Geri Nelson, retired educators and philanthropists from Champlin, Minn., received Bemidji State's 34th Distinguished Minnesotan award and delivered a keynote address at BSU's 97th Commencement on May 6.

In March 2015, the Nelsons created Bemidji State's Helping Hands (Naadamaageng) Student Assistance Fund for American Indian students. The fund provides cash awards of \$100-750 to help native students overcome an immediate financial obstacle that might otherwise thwart their academic progress.

Darby Nelson, who taught biology at Anoka-Ramsey Community College for 35 years, has received multiple statewide teaching awards and is the author of "For the Love of Lakes," which highlights the threat to lakes from human use. He served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Geri Nelson taught physical and research science for 25 years, mostly at Champlin Park High School. She is a former director of the Minnesota Academy of Science State Science Fair and a former president of the League of Women Voters of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area. Both are active in environmental conservation.

The BSU Distinguished Minnesotan Award, first presented in 1981, 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.



**Dr. Darby and Geri Nelson**

## Hanson pledges BSU and NTC participation in nationwide civic engagement initiative

President Richard Hanson has committed Bemidji State and Northwest Technical College to participate in a nationwide civic engagement initiative for higher education.

In March, Hanson was among more than 350 Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors who signed the Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement, which commits campuses to deepen their external engagement for the benefit of students, communities and the broader public.

As Campus Compact signatories, Bemidji State and NTC have pledged to create publicly shared Campus Civic Action Plans.

### New online MBA offerings offer quality, affordability and flexibility

Bemidji State's College of Business is enrolling students in a newly streamlined and highly affordable online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, which will launch this fall.

BSU's online MBA will cost just \$17,000 for all students, less than any comparable program, and financial aid is available for those who qualify. The flexible program can be completed in as little as a year or at a student's own pace.

Also, a version of the program called the Accelerated MBA will allow students in BSU's business and accounting programs to begin working on an MBA as undergraduates. They can complete both a bachelor's degree and an MBA in just five years, reducing the commitments of money and time required to earn the degrees. For information on the MBA program, visit [bemidjistate.edu](http://bemidjistate.edu) and search for MBA.



Renovated Memorial Hall is home to the newly renamed College of Business.

### College of Business and two of its departments are renamed to sharpen focus

Bemidji State's College of Business, Technology and Communication has been renamed the College of Business, and its departments of accounting and technology, art & design will all have new names beginning this summer.

The Department of Accounting becomes the Department of Accountancy. Accounting refers to the process of keeping or maintaining financial records, while accountancy refers to the duties or profession of an accountant.

The Department of Technology, Art & Design, which includes applied engineering, graphic design, exhibit design and visual art majors, becomes the School of Technology, Art & Design, also to be known as the TAD School.

### Annual student scholarship day celebrates in-depth learning

Nearly 250 students representing a broad range of academic disciplines shared their academic research and in-depth work during Bemidji State's 17th annual Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference on April 6.

About 80 students gave in-person presentations throughout the day, exploring topics such as use of artificial waterfowl nesting structures in Beltrami County, American Indian students and their transitions into college, a study of workplace civility at BSU and a debate on nationalism.

Poster presentations by more than 160 students covered such topics as the relationship between diabetes and poverty, revenue forecasts for e-commerce giant Amazon and the effects of stress on a college student's alcohol consumption.



Sociology student Kenneth Bentley presents during the Student Scholarship & Creative Achievement Conference on April 6 in Hagg-Sauer Hall.

### University hits first target for greenhouse gas reductions

Wide-ranging efforts to improve energy efficiency have enabled Bemidji State to exceed the first objective in its 60-year commitment to combat global climate change, reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 3 percent since 2010.

Having surpassed the initial reduction target of 2 percent, BSU will now aim for a 10 percent net reduction by 2020 and zero net emissions of carbon dioxide by 2050.

Efforts so far include new energy-efficient LED lighting across campus, installation of a solar-powered air collector on the Lower Hobson Union in 2013, reduction in building space through demolition of Sanford and Maple halls and energy-efficient design and materials in the renovation of Memorial Hall.

President Jon Quistgaard signed the American Colleges & University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2008.

### Neilson Foundation to fund internships across Bemidji area this summer

Seventeen Bemidji-area employers will host more than two dozen Bemidji State students for paid internships this summer as part of the university's continuing internship partnership with the George W. Neilson Foundation.

Support from the foundation provides up to 50 percent of an intern's funding, as much as \$2,500, and participating business contribute the remaining 50 percent.

The internship partnership launched in the summer of 2012 to promote academic development and to encourage employers to provide local, paid internship opportunities for BSU students. Originally planned to launch with 10 internships, high employer demand led to 13 positions being created at 12 businesses. Since its inception, the program has funded nearly 70 internships.

### Dillemath appointed to lead information technology

Jim Dillemath in February was named chief information officer for both Bemidji State and Northwest Technical College after holding the position in an interim role since August.

Dillemath has more than two decades of experience managing information technology in higher education, all within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Most recently, he was chief information officer at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Dr. Randy Westhoff, assistant vice president for academic affairs and chair of the CIO search committee, praised Dillemath's "understanding of the relationship between the university and the MnSCU system, and his strong vision for our future."

Dillemath has a master's degree in curriculum and instructional systems and a bachelor's degree in accounting, both from the University of Minnesota.



Jim Dillemath

## Partnership with NCTC offers direct path to BSU

Bemidji State and Northland Community & Technical College in Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks introduced a dual admissions program called NorthernConnect that allows students who complete associate's degrees at the college to smoothly transfer into BSU.

NCTC students who complete associate of arts, associate of science or associate of applied science degrees will automatically be admitted into BSU. Students must also meet other minimum requirements such as transferrable hours completed and a minimum GPA to be eligible.

The program is beginning with transfer pathways in business, criminal justice and nursing. Participants will not be charged an application fee at BSU, and they will receive a BSU student ID card that allows them to participate in many BSU student-life activities while enrolled at NCTC.

## Students present research work at events that showcase scholarly endeavors

Groups of Bemidji State students visited St. Paul and Winona to present their research at a pair of state-level events. Nine groups presented March 17 during the third annual Minnesota Undergraduate Scholars presentation in the Minnesota State Capitol, and 11 groups of students attended the statewide Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference at Winona State University on April 4.

The annual "Posters in St. Paul" event, which requires a competitive application process, showcases work from students in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and provides those students with an outlet to share the results of their scholarly activity with legislators and other government officials. The conference at Winona State features undergraduate research from students at each of Minnesota's seven state universities.

## Scholarship program launched to attract transfer students from 11 two-year colleges

As part of a new scholarship program begun this spring, students who transfer to Bemidji State from one of 11 Minnesota two-year colleges are eligible to pursue scholarships of up to \$4,000.

Scholarships of \$1,000 per semester, renewable for four semesters, are available to qualifying students who transfer from one of the eligible two-year colleges in Minnesota and major in one of 10 participating academic programs at Bemidji State. A total of 50 scholarships are available, five in each participating program.

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade-point average and live on campus at BSU to be eligible for the scholarships.



BSU President Richard Hanson and Provost Martin Tadlock (right) sign the NorthernConnect agreement at Northland Community Technical College with NCTC administrators on Jan. 19.

## New academic majors to be added this fall will align with emerging opportunities

Several of BSU's academic departments and programs are preparing to launch significant curricular changes and additional course and program offerings beginning this fall. Among them are:

- The Center for Environmental, Economic, Earth & Space Studies is adding two emphasis areas to its environmental studies major, in environmental health & toxicology and in industrial ecology, and also adding a minor in sustainability.
- The Department of Criminal Justice is significantly overhauling its curriculum. The program's previous tracks in law enforcement, corrections and criminal justice are being phased out, and four new emphasis areas — law enforcement, corrections, victimology and tribal justice — will take their place. The department is also adding a criminal justice minor and reducing the credits required for a major in criminal justice, from 66 to 48, to encourage students to pursue minors in other programs.
- The School of Technology, Art & Design is adding nearly two dozen new courses in subjects ranging from printmaking and leadership to computer-controlled machining to model and project prototyping. The TAD School is also adding an engineering technology minor and changing the name of its art and design majors to design, while adding a graphic design major.

## Online accounting and social work programs earn accolades from national ranking websites

Bemidji State's online degree programs in accountancy and social work have been recognized for value and quality in rankings released by the websites College Values Online and TheBestSchools.org.

College Values Online ranked BSU's online accountancy degree program 19th on its 30-school list, "Online Accounting Degree: More Top Values '16," while TheBestSchools.org placed BSU's social work program on its list of the 10 best online bachelor of social work programs in the country.

# BSU FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Erika Bailey-Johnson**, sustainability coordinator, has been named to the Midwest Energy News "40 under 40" list of emerging leaders, highlighting their work to accelerate the United States' transition to a clean energy economy. She also is featured in the Clean Energy Resource Teams' Women in Energy series.

**Linda Erceg**, adjunct instructor of nursing, received the American Camp Association's Distinguished Service Award at the association's national conference in Atlanta on Feb. 11. Erceg was nominated for her contributions to improving the health of campers and staff.

**Dr. Joann Fredrickson**, professor of business administration, has earned Quality Matters certification for a pair of courses – BUAD 3771 Financial Management and BUAD 3520 Business Ethics. Quality Matters is a faculty-centered peer review process designed to certify the quality of online and blended-delivery courses.



**Dr. Debbie Guelda**, professor of biology, will direct BSU's Center for Professional Development beginning this fall. The center, established in 1986 to support outstanding teaching and learning, also directs BSU's Undergraduate Teaching Associate Program, which offers gifted juniors and seniors the opportunity to experience college teaching by working closely with faculty as they prepare and teach their classes.



**Scott Guidry**, assistant professor of music and director of bands, in April presented "Music Diplomacy" as part of Bemidji's Adventures in Lifelong Learning series. He discussed his 20 years as a U.S. Air Force band officer and conductor, which included service in Washington, D.C., and trips to 31 countries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.



**Dr. Andrew Hafs**, assistant professor of aquatic biology, co-authored a paper, "Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis: A New Tool for Assessing Fish Conditions," that was published in the December issue of Fisheries, a publication of the American Fisheries Society.



**Dr. Janice Haworth**, professor of music, co-presented "Experiencing the Cultural Tradition of Indonesia through Shadow Puppetry and Music" Feb. 12 at the Minnesota Music Educators Association conference in Minneapolis.



**Dr. Michael Murray**, associate professor of economics and chair of environmental studies and economics, has been named co-editor of the American Review of Political Economy. The review is a double blind, peer-reviewed, open-access online journal. Murray was asked to revive the journal after it had been on hiatus for several years.

**Dr. Carla Norris-Raynbird**, associate professor of sociology and women's studies gender studies, was principle investigator on a study, "An Assessment of Nice Ride and 'Bike-ability' in Bemidji," completed in December for BlueCross BlueShield Minnesota. Co-principle investigators were **Dr. Laurie Desiderato**, professor of psychology, and research associate **Erika Bailey-Johnson**, sustainability coordinator.



**Dr. Donna Palivec**, professor of human performance, sport and health, received the Lou Keller Collegiate Award at the Minnesota Society of Health and Physical Educators Fall Conference, held Nov. 13 in Plymouth. The award recognizes outstanding service or contributions in the fields of health, physical education, recreation or dance.



**Dr. Katie Peterson**, assistant professor of chemistry, presented a guest lecture on imaging oxidative stress at the Department of Chemistry, Geoscience and Physics at Edgewood College in Madison, Wis., on Feb. 15. Peterson's research concerns detection of oxidative stress, which is related to such maladies as diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and arthritis.



**Cory Renbarger**, assistant professor of music, performed the title role in "Gianni Schicchi" with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera on April 8 and 10.

**Dr. Mike Urban**, associate professor of professional education, has received Quality Matters certification for his course, ED 6447 Seminar in Online Teaching. Quality Matters is a faculty-centered peer review process designed to certify the quality of online and blended-delivery courses.

**Dr. James White**, associate professor of human performance, sport and health, in January was elected into a three-year officer rotation of the Northland Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine. In 2017, he will serve as president of the chapter, which encompasses Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.



**Dr. Marty Wolf**, professor of mathematics and computer science, co-authored two papers published in Computing and Philosophy: Selected Papers from IACAP 2014 (International Association for Computing And Philosophy). "My Liver is Broken. Can You Print Me a New One?" explored the ethics of 3D printing human tissue, and "Robots, Ethics and Software – FOSS vs. Proprietary Licenses" examined the impact of license type on robot ethics.





# BSUSPORTS

## Recaps and Outlooks

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** Under the direction of first-year coach **Chelsea DeVille**, the BSU women's basketball team finished 2015-16 with a 7-20 overall record and a 3-19 mark in league play. The Beavers reached the NSIC Tournament but fell to No. 8 Winona State University in the quarterfinal, 74-64, after leading for most of the first half. DeVille lost just one player to graduation and retains the services of **Aimee Pelzer**, **Tatum Sheley** and **Sierra Senske**, who each averaged over 12.5 points per game this season. DeVille also has six incoming freshman signed to National Letters of Intent for 2016-17: **Sydney Arrington**, **Allyson Dahl**, **Erica Gartner**, **BriAnna Karg**, **Shaice Marx** and **McKayla Scheuer** ... **MEN'S BASKETBALL** Led by junior **Ben Best**, who averaged 10.8 points and 5.1 rebounds per game, the BSU men's basketball team posted a 10-17 overall record with a 7-15 mark in league play. An 81-71 first-round defeat in the NSIC Tournament ended their season ... **INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD** The BSU track and field team concluded its 2016 indoor season at the NSIC Championships. First-year coach **Kevin Kean's** Beavers were led by newcomer **Emeline Sevila**, who broke her own pentathlon record to place fifth at the championship event. The junior transfer from Nimes, France, recorded a score of 3,517, establishing personal bests in all five events, including runner-up marks in the shot put (35.03.75) and long jump (18-01.50) ... **TENNIS** The Bemidji State tennis team finished the regular season with a program-best record of 11-5 and a 6-5 mark in league play. BSU's 11th win surpassed a 10-win campaign in 1999, the Beavers' last NSIC championship season. The Bemidji State tennis team made its first NSIC tournament appearance since 2009, a bid cut short by Upper Iowa University in a quarterfinal match. The Beavers finished 11-6 overall, tallying a school record for wins in Coach **Mark Fodness'** fourth season. Newcomers **Zoe Lindgren** and **Morgan Opp** paced the Beavers with 13-2 and 12-3 singles records, respectively ... **FOOTBALL** The defending NSIC North Division Co-Champion BSU Football team has released its 2016 schedule. The 11-game slate opens at home Sept. 1 against Upper Iowa University in conjunction with BSU's annual Community Appreciation Day. A six-game home season at Chet Anderson Stadium includes Minot State University for Homecoming on Oct. 15. Head Coach **Jeff Tesch**, in his 21st year at the Beaver Football helm, announced the addition of 25 high school seniors and four transfers for the 2016 season ... **SOFTBALL** The Beavers set a program record with 33 wins and earned their first berth in the NSIC Tournament since 2008. They beat Northern State and Minnesota Duluth before falling to Upper Iowa and Southwest Minnesota State ... **SOCCER** On the heels of an 11-7-1 season and seventh straight NSIC Tournament berth, Coach **Jim Stone's** soccer team continued to build for the future. Stone has signed 12 recruits for 2016.



Chelsea DeVille



Ben Best



Kevin Kean



Kevin Ulmer



Sarah Stram



Andrew Benson



Emeline Sevila

### Ulmer is new volleyball coach

BSU Athletic Director **Tracy Dill** announced **Kevin Ulmer** as BSU's new head volleyball coach. The 14th head coach in the program's 46-year history, Ulmer previously was head volleyball coach at Bethel College (Ind.). In four seasons, he led the Pilots to an overall record of 88-65, a 47-27 mark in Crossroads League play, a regular-season championship and a pair of conference tournament runner-up finishes. A 2006 graduate of Northwestern College (Iowa), Ulmer has a bachelor's degree in physical education and health education and a master's in biomechanics and exercise physiology from the University of Kentucky.

### Stram and Benson named 2015-16 Athletes of the Year at banquet

Soccer captain **Sarah Stram** and men's golfer **Andrew Benson** were named BSU's 2015-16 Female and Male Student-Athletes of the Year at the Beaver Nation Celebration athletic appreciation banquet on April 28.

**Emeline Sevila** of the track and field team and football standout **Gunner Olszewski** were chosen as the Female and Male Newcomers of the Year. **Emily Backes** and **Emma Terres**, as well as **Brendan Harms** and **Reid Mimmack** picked up Female and Male Scholar Athlete of the Year honors.

Stram, a junior from Elk Grove Village, Ill., appeared in all 19 contests for BSU in 2015. She was the team's lead scorer and ranked sixth in the league with 10 total goals. She earned First-Team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and National Soccer Coaches' Association of America All-Central Region accolades. Also an academic standout, Stram became the second player in BSU soccer history to earn Academic All-America honors, carrying a 3.97 cumulative GPA.

Benson, a senior golfer from Eden Prairie, Minn., was a First Team All-NSIC selection in the spring of 2015. He posted a 74.7 stroke average to lead the Beavers in 2014-15 and place himself among the league's best golfers. During his collegiate career, Benson recorded five top-five finishes, including winning the 2013 Husky Invite.

### Nine Beavers make NSIC honors list

Bemidji State landed 39 student-athletes on the 2015 Fall and 2015-16 Winter Academic All-NSIC Teams. To be eligible for the Academic All-NSIC Team, student-athletes must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.2, be a member of a varsity traveling team and have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at their school. The BSU women's soccer team led the fall contingent of 23, with nine student-athletes recognized for academic accomplishment. BSU also had seven volleyball players honored, six from its football team and one from cross country. The Beavers' track and field team, which had nine student-athletes recognized for academic excellence, led BSU's 16-person winter contingent. Four members of BSU's women's and men's basketball teams received the 2015-16 academic honor.

### Seven Beavers receive Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award

A school-record seven student-athletes were selected for the seventh annual NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award. Bemidji State's recipients are: **Nicole Anderson** and **Chloe Miller** (track and field), **Ashley Kiecker** (volleyball), **Nathan Heisick** (baseball), **Emily Olson** (soccer), **Anthony Peterson** (football) and **Shaylin Prout** (tennis). The award, named in honor of the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility and are on track to graduate.

### 22 Beaver hockey players honored as 2015-16 WCHA Scholar-Athletes

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association recognized a league-best 22 BSU women's and men's hockey players as recipients of the league's 11th annual Scholar-Athlete Awards. BSU players recognized as 2015-16 WCHA Scholar-Athletes are: **Nate Arentz**; **Kyle Bauman**; **Michael Bitzer**; **Mackenzie Bruch**; **Carley Esse**; **Reilly Fawcett**; **Brendan Harms**; **Madison Hutchinson**; **Alexis Joyce**; **Megan Lushanko**; **Graeme McCormack**; **Lauren Miller**; **Reid Mimmack**; **Hanna Moher**; **Brittni Mowat**; **Charlie O'Connor**; **Ruslan Pedan**; **Emma Terres**; **Summer Thibodeau**; **Kaitlyn Tougas**; **Jesse Wilkins** and **Whitney Wivoda**.



**T**he second Green & White Dinner & Auction for BSU Athletics was bigger and better than the first, held in 2014. More than 450 Beaver fans mingled with student-athletes, bid electronically on silent auction items and competed for unique live auction items. The April 16 event in Bemidji's Sanford Center arena raised more than \$180,000 to support Bemidji State University teams and fund athletic scholarships. Community volunteers and staff worked for months to make sure it was a success. Now go mark your calendar for the third Green & White — on April 14, 2018.

1. Jean Baer & Sheila Johnson 2. Tim & Susan Dondelinger 3. Lindsay Daniels '11 & Randy Syverson '96 4. Tiffany & Bob Paine 5. Rob Bollinger & President Richard Hanson with football jerseys they received in recognition of their contributions to BSU Athletics. 6. Nick Beckman '95, John Freise '74, Ken Howe '87, Robin Anderson '84 and Randy Bowen '73 are among the finalists in the Bucky Heads and Tails game. 7. Kevin '92 and Shelly '93 Geerdes. Some photos courtesy of Design Angler, Inc.





# BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2016



Post-Traumatic Funk Syndrome



## FRIDAY, OCT. 14

### Come to the gala and dance

Friday night's Honors Gala is gonna be a party! On Oct. 14 in the Sanford Center, the Alumni & Foundation will honor alumni award winners, recognize its most generous donors and celebrate the university's historic Imagine Tomorrow campaign. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is such a special occasion, the evening will continue with dancing to Fargo's hottest classic rock horn band, the 12-piece band Post-Traumatic Funk Syndrome. Tickets are \$50.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 15

### Parade in downtown Bemidji

The cross country team will warm up the route at 11 a.m. by running the Beaver Mile on Beltrami Avenue from Second Street to 15th Street. All are welcome to enter a float, musical unit, student organization or community group – and especially to come downtown to watch. The parade also will feature distinguished alumni, BSU's new president Dr. Faith Hensrud and Grand Marshal Willie Stittsworth. A 1953 graduate, Stittsworth taught at BSU for 22 years (1967-89) in the professional education and health/physical education departments.

### Before, during and after football

Another Homecoming tradition is tailgating in Diamond Point Park. Bring your favorite food and beverages or enjoy what is provided with a free-will offering. (Must be 21 to consume alcohol.) Following the Beavers' 2 p.m. game against Minot State in Chet Anderson Stadium, watch BSU's new president join with coaches and players to take the Lake Bemidji plunge (if they win!). A post-game football alumni reunion will take place in the Beaux Arts Ballroom in the Upper Union, followed by a traditional Football Alumni Social at the Elks Club downtown. Other alumni athletes should check with program coaches to determine if gatherings are scheduled.

### Street Dance with The Front Fenders

Barricades will close Beltrami Avenue between Third and Fourth streets for the Ninth Annual Beaver Block Party/Street Dance. The Bemidji Area Alumni Chapter is bringing The Front Fenders back to keep the street wide awake from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Alumni are encouraged to get involved with planning and executing this popular event that keeps the Saturday celebration going. (Must be 21 or older to attend.)

## SUNDAY, OCT. 16

### Carl O. Thompson Concert

A perfect way to wrap up the weekend, this 3 p.m. concert in Bangsberg Recital Hall will feature the university's performing ensembles and special guests, as well as the instrumental and vocal Carl O. Thompson Scholarship winners, Lynnea Iverson (oboe) and Leandra Craigmile (soprano).

### HOMECOMING 2016 INFORMATION

(218)755-3989 or (877)278-2586  
alumni@bemidjistate.edu  
www.bsualumni.org/alumni

# ALUMNINEWS

## Alumni, Foundation Board merger extends and deepens partnership

In January, the separate Alumni Association Board and BSU Foundation Board merged to become a combined board for the Bemidji State University Alumni & Foundation. The two organizations have shared staff, offices and goals for several years despite being two separate 501(c)(3) organizations. The change to one governing body was made to increase operational efficiency.

Discussions regarding this change began among staff and board members. Both boards approved the proposed change, and a legal review determined that approval was needed by foundation members, who are donors of more than \$100 in the past 12 months. The required 20 percent of members voting was achieved with more than 95 percent supporting the merger, which became effective Feb. 1.

## \$1,000 Alumni Relative Scholarships go to 45 out of 110 who applied

Adding the alumni relative scholarship in the 2016 Admissions Department Scholarship Application this year increased the number of applications for this competitive award. The Alumni Relative Scholarship Committee reviewed the 110 essays and applications from eligible candidates and awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 20 incoming freshmen and 25 returning/transfer students.

The application deadline is Feb. 1 of each year. To be eligible, an applicant must be a relative of a contributing alumnus (\$50/year). That contribution makes a student eligible for consideration. It does not guarantee an award.

## 50-year Reunion in July will welcome BSU classes of '65-67

Members of the class of 1966 ('65 and '67, too) are invited to the 50-year reunion July 29-30 on the BSU campus. It will be a fun-filled weekend of catching up with old friends and reflecting on the past 50 years. Friday night, attendees will enjoy a fish fry at the David Park House. Saturday will include a campus tour in the morning and a dinner in the evening.



2016 inductees to the BSU Professional Education Hall of Fame are (from left) Daryle McCannell '73 of Brandon, Man., Jean (Fulton) Weyer '81 of Menahga and Richard "Dick" Anderson '78, '75, '86 of Solway.

## Three inducted into BSU Professional Education Hall of Fame

Bemidji State University's Department of Professional Education and Alumni & Foundation inducted Richard "Dick" Anderson '68 '75 '86 of Solway, Daryle McCannell '73 '79 of Brandon, Man., and Jean (Fulton) Weyer '81 of Menahga into BSU's Professional Education Hall of Fame at an April 8 dinner in their honor. They were recognized for excellence in teaching students or managing schools. Inductions are held in even years.

Anderson earned his bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from BSU — all education-related. He was an elementary and lead teacher at Solway School for more than 20 years before becoming principal of Lincoln Elementary School. He was named principal of Bemidji High School in 2002 and held that position until retiring in 2009.

McCannell earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1973 and a master's degree in physical education and health in 1979, both from Bemidji State. Since 1987, he has been a physical education professor at Brandon University. In 2010, McCannell was named chair of the Physical Education Department. He received the 2012 Manitoba Physical Education Teachers Association "Innovator Award."

Weyer obtained a bachelor of science in elementary education with a coaching certificate from BSU in 1991. She earned a master of science in educational leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2000. She spent 33 years in elementary education as a teacher and administrator. She is now a literacy education consultant and coach for NJPA Education Solutions. The former BSU field hockey and basketball player received many awards, including 2006 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

## Distinguished Alumni named for honors at 2016 gala in October

The three Outstanding Alumni for 2016 are Dr. Bruce Sutor '86 of Rochester, Tracie Curb-Crowser '90 of Hanover and Mark Ploen (1980-84) of Mound. Dr. Abby (Stritesky) Meyer '01 of Brooklyn Park is the recipient of the Young Alumni Award. Sutor is chief resident in the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. Curb-Crowser is founder

and partner in Curb-Crowser a Twin Cities-based creative agency. Ploen is majority owner and vice president of QualiTech Environmental in Chaska. A former BSU volleyball and softball player, Meyer is a board-certified otolaryngologist with Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. The Distinguished Alumni will be recognized at the annual Honors Gala on Oct. 14 at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.

# HANSON FOLLOWS LESSONS TO SUSTAIN SUCCESS



Hanson Silo Co. CEO Gregg Hanson '70 (second from right) is joined by his wife, Linda, and their sons, Matthew (far right), the company's president, and Michael, who is director of business development, marketing and sales.

By Cindy Serratore

*"I hired the right people and got them going in the right direction. And now, we're a fourth-generation company still operating where it all started."*

— GREGG HANSON '70

Gregg Hanson '70 started working on an assembly line in his family business southeast of Willmar when he was 9 years old.

"I got paid 50 cents a day, and knew I had to hide if an insurance agent came to inspect," said Hanson, who was too young to be on the payroll in 1957 but not too young to learn the family trade at the Hanson Silo Company, where he is now CEO.

By the time he graduated from high school, Hanson knew how to manufacture concrete silo staves and steel domed roofs, work in fabrication and weld. So he was fairly skilled when he enrolled in industrial technology at Bemidji State University in 1966.

"There were things that I could show the teachers how to do, especially with machine design and tooling," Hanson said. "What was pivotal for me at BSU was learning how to design new products, improve manufacturing processes and organize a shop floor to improve efficiency and quality."

Hanson's grandfather, Emil Hanson, father of nine, founded the company in 1916 on his Lake Lillian farm. To supplement his farm income, he sold silos for a Willmar company, but the concrete staves, made with dirty aggregate, didn't hold up well. Emil revolutionized concrete production when he realized he could use clean sand from lakeshore property he owned to make the material more durable.



Gregg Hanson '70 and his sons Michael (foreground, left) and Matthew are pictured with many of the Hanson Silo Co.'s 85 employees.

With sand hauled by horse and wagon, the elder Hanson began building staves, at first to sell and then to build his own silos. He often traded for horses and livestock when customers lacked cash. As troops came home from World War I in 1918, farming boomed, and he built a small village — including mess hall, clothing store, shoe repair and drug store — on the farm to house his laborers.

“By 1937, my grandmother fed 100 people a day, six days a week, in that mess hall,” said Gregg Hanson, noting that the locals called the place “Hansonville.”

He grew up watching his father, Willard, and his Uncle Newell build on the innovations of his grandfather. They developed and patented the first domed silo roof in 1938, a self-propelled frozen silage chopper in 1949 and an automatic silage unloader in 1962. The company, which incorporated in 1962, expanded to four plants and at its peak employed 350 people and produced 1,100 silos a year.

In 1932 the Hanson brothers began deer hunting west of Bemidji, which is what attracted Hanson to Bemidji State. His BSU education proved valuable, especially what he gained from two of his industrial technology instructors. One of them, Dr. Richard Haugo, eventually served as interim BSU president.

“They were sharp guys who’d been involved in manufacturing in World War II,” Hanson said. “They knew what was required to transform a manufacturing floor — from making Studebakers to Army tanks — and how to get it done quickly. I’d take classes from those guys today if I could.”

When he returned from BSU, he used what he learned to start reinventing the company. He

was barely 30 years old when he built a new manufacturing factory, consolidated four plants into one and found efficiencies. Those improvements later helped the company survive the 1980s agricultural crisis when many competitors went out of business.

Just out of college, Hanson met his wife, Linda, while digging a silo foundation on her father’s farm. She served lunch to his crew, and he managed to linger. They married in 1973 and raised three children — Matthew, Mary Kay and Michael.

### 100 years and thriving

Hanson Silo Company, still located on Emil’s farm site, will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. The Hansons plan to honor the occasion with an open house from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 16 at the Lake Lillian site.

Hanson runs the fourth-generation company with his sons, Matthew, president, and Michael, director of business development, marketing and sales. The sons credit their father for the company’s longevity.

“Sustainability over three generations is hard,” Michael said. “But if I had to narrow it to one top innovation for my dad, it would be his decision 21 years ago to start making flat-storage bunker walls. That’s had the most impact on the business.”

Diversification has been important to Hanson. It’s a

lesson learned from his grandfather, who operated his dairy farm well into the 1960s, even while his silo business flourished.

Today, the company has 85 employees and specializes in livestock feed storage systems and handling equipment, grain storage and precast concrete products, including concrete insulated buildings and modular commodity storage walls. Two large powder-coat paint production lines also run two shifts a day to meet the demand for a quality coating.

“It’s been a fun challenge,” Hanson said. “I hired the right people and got them going in the right direction. And now, we’re a fourth-generation company still operating where it all started.”

While the company is steeped in history, Hanson has kept his eye on the future. He used what he learned at Bemidji State to build a more efficient and sustainable company, one well positioned for the next generation.



A crew of Hanson Silo employees gather in this undated photo. The company was founded in 1916.



Jane Berman '85 enjoys a getaway to the Maine coast from her home in Boston.

# ADVENTURES

## OF AN ENGLISH MAJOR

*Berman saw and seized opportunities*

By Maryhelen Chadwick

**W**hat can you do with an English degree from Bemidji State?

You can oversee the design, manufacture and licensing of international products. You can travel the world on business. You can start an online company, and you can manage a book launch.

The question ought to be, what *can't* you do with an English degree from BSU? Just ask Jane (Van Den Heuvel) Berman '85.

Born and raised 90 minutes from Bemidji in Grand Rapids, Berman decided to attend Bemidji State University because her mother, Doris Van Den Heuvel '72,

had a positive experience as a BSU student and one of her closest classmates, Patty (Synhorst) Miller already was enrolled. Berman remembers taking tough classes and making lifelong friends. "It felt like family," she said.

Her personal interactions with advisors helped her select the right classes. Although she didn't know what she wanted to do, she knew what she didn't want to do, and they always kept her on the right track.

When Berman returned to the Bemidji State last October to serve on the Marketing Alumni Leaders in the Classroom panel during Homecoming Weekend, she found herself disoriented by growth and changes on campus. But other things hadn't changed.

*"I'm always open to new experiences,  
I didn't have any money, but I thought I'd take a chance."*

— JANE (VAN DEN HEUVEL) BERMAN '85

"The people were still as nice, friendly and welcoming as they were when I was a student," she said.

Berman began her career doing promotional and fundraising work for the March of Dimes in Rochester but a contact she made while working as an East Coast nanny during summer break led to a job opportunity with Schmid Giftware in Boston.

"I'm always open to new experiences," she said, "I didn't have any money, but I thought I'd take a chance."

That spirit of adventure and sense of confidence have proven inspiring for a niece, Lauren Van Den Heuvel, who graduated from Bemidji State in May with a degree in marketing and communications.

"She showed me that you can go to BSU, move anywhere and do great things," said the newest alumna in the Van Den Heuvel family.

As a product manager, Berman quickly learned the ins and outs of licensing, contracts and negotiations while she was responsible for the success of collectibles such as Madame Alexander Dolls, Disney merchandise and Hummel figurines. Timelines and travel shaped her life for the years she worked for Schmid. Regular trips to the Far East for six weeks at a time went from being exciting to exhausting, so Berman decided to launch her own design and marketing firm in New York City.

Her start-up, Acel Inc., specialized in licensed children's products. She worked with major toy manufacturing companies, becoming a trusted licensing expert for companies such as Coleman Outdoor Products, Marvel Comics, Nickelodeon, Magna Bikes and Hasbro.

Berman attributes her firm's success to her mother's artistic talent and influence, as well as her own ability to hire talented designers and be an effective negotiator.

Berman added giftware design and stationery to the company's offerings, and as Internet business opportunities emerged, she transitioned it into J. Berman Design and janestyle.com. She said she made the shift

because she was curious about online business. She learned a great deal, but called it a "baptism by fire."

Berman says studying Shakespeare and T.S. Eliot at Bemidji State prepared her for such adventures.

"I had to write lively, clear copy to drive searches to the site," She said, "I also had to know how to collect and organize information."

When Berman first ventured to New York searching for the next step in her career, she also met her future husband, Jerry Berman. How they met is a charming tale of a time before handheld technology.

She boarded a bus from the airport into the New York City and promptly realized she was lost. In a fateful decision, she asked Berman for directions. He was a Milwaukee native doing business in New York. He said he could tell she was a naïve young woman from the Midwest. He gave her directions. They went to lunch and have been together ever since. Jerry's business was based in Boston, so they eventually settled there, where they raised daughters, Brigitte and Margot.

*"Jane showed me that you can go to BSU, move anywhere and do great things."*

**– LAUREN VAN DEN HEUVEL '16**

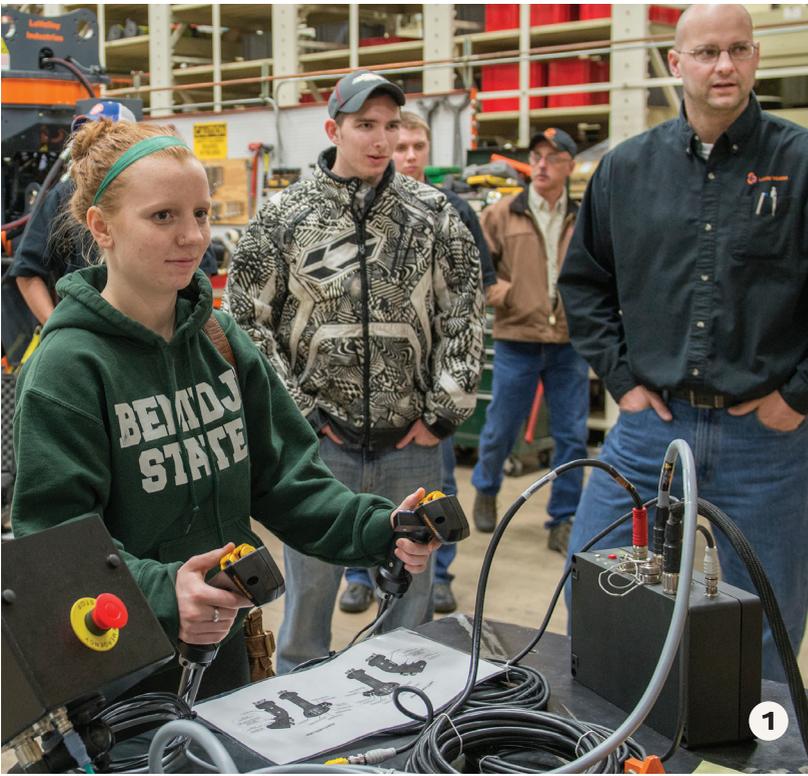
Berman's next venture and adventure combined family and business. In 2007, she launched a publishing company, Jade LLC, and published "Dorie Witt's Guide to Surviving Bullies," authored by Brigitte. The book became an instant success and is used within school districts across the United States to begin discussions about how children can discourage bullying.

She believes her analysis, writing, speaking and negotiating abilities all developed from the education she received at Bemidji State. The challenges she overcame as a student taught her to persevere and always move forward.

"An English degree was the best degree to have," Berman said, "That's what set me apart."



**Jane Berman '85 and her niece Lauren Van Den Heuvel '16 attend an Oct. 2 reception at the David Park House during Homecoming 2015.**



# CAMP HAPP





# US ENINGS

## Exploration, Discovery, Service and Achievement

**1** The BSU Business Club tours LaValley Industries in Bemidji on March 9. **2** Professor Tim Kroeger and students prepare to launch a high-altitude balloon in Ada, Minn., on April 4. **3** Professor Natalia Himmirska discusses work by Bulgarian illustrator Stefan Markov during a Feb. 18 exhibition opening in the Talley Gallery. **4** A BSU student assists a middle school student in the chemistry lab during the Dec. 9 Share the Future event. **5** Students and community members wait to vote in the March 1 Democrat Farm Labor Party presidential caucus in the Lower Hobson Union. **6** International students participate in the Festival of Nations on April 13 in the Beaux Arts Ballroom. **7** Students in Professor Laurie Desiderato's social psychology class use group problem solving to evaluate her dog's learning potential on Dec. 4. **8** Native students in the Class of 2016 pose with honor stoles they received during the April 14 American Indian Students Award Recognition Banquet in the American Indian Resource Center. **9** Performers in BSU Opera Theatre's production of "The Magic Flute" hold a dress rehearsal in the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex on March 2.



# CLASS NOTES

Towns are in Minnesota unless noted. Alumni names appear in bold. Send information to [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu) or call toll free: (877)278-2586.

'15 **Alex Miller** is working in the Office of Sustainability at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Miller, who lives in Waite Park, attended the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, also known as COP21. Attendees participated in sessions



Kristi Reid

aimed at achieving a legally binding and universal agreement on climate and global warming ... **Kristi Reid** is teaching math to sixth-grade students at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Elementary School. She lives in Long Prairie, where she also teaches dance classes with the Just for Kix Program ...



Nick Jasmer

**Nicholas Jasmer** of Bertha is teaching kindergarten at Menahga Elementary School ... **Billy Benso** is the high-risk care manager for the Sanford Bemidji region. A former U.S. Marine who worked several years at the Bemidji VA Clinic, he helped establish a combat veterans' support group to help individuals adjust while returning to civilian life. He and his wife, Alissa, live in Turtle River ...



Monica Miller

**Monica Miller** is working at Support Within Reach to provide training and services to exploited youth in 15 counties across northwest Minnesota. She recently participated in a panel in Crookston to raise awareness of human trafficking. A single mom, she lives in Bemidji with her two children ... **Zach Manka** of Warren has been hired as an officer at the Roseau Police Department ... **James Bettin** is teaching math, multimedia production, computers and marketing in the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District. He lives in Bemidji ... **Brandon Van Santen** is teaching second grade at the elementary school in Warroad.

'14 **Zach Kummet** teaches physics, biology, earth science and physical science at Nay Ah Shing High School in Onamia. He lives in Little Falls with his wife, Brittany (**Trettel**, '13), who is a personal banker at Farmers and Merchants



Tyler Brown

State Bank in Pierz. Their family grew by one on Valentine's Day with the birth of their first child ... **Tyler Brown** of Elk River has been hired as a police officer in Coon Rapids ... **Jessica Williams** teaches fifth grade at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Elementary School in Ellendale. She and her husband, Clint, live in Geneva with their three children, age 4 to 14 ...



Jessica Williams



Stephanie Challes

**Aaron Ostlund** is a patrol officer for the West Fargo, N.D., Police Department after working in the Clay County Jail in Moorhead ... **Anna Hamann** is teaching English at Bemidji High School ... **Lisa Berglund** was hired as a third-grade teacher at Prairie Elementary School in Worthington ... **Veronica Soine** of Paynesville is a new sixth-grade teacher at Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City Elementary School in Atwater... **Stephanie Challes** is a graphic designer and paginator at the Sun Tribune Newspaper in Morris, where she lives. She works on four area publications and updates the Sun Tribune website ...

**Charlie Stier** is teaching music in the Eagle Valley K-12 school in Clarissa. He directs the district's choir and band programs and has assisted in one school play as well as the one-act competition, in which the school advanced to

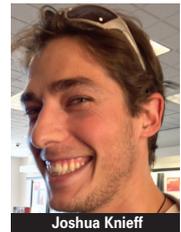


Charlie Stier

state and earned a star rating. He and his wife, Laura, live in Wadena ... **Jessyca Bardzel** has been named program director at Grace House of Itasca County, which has the mission of decreasing homelessness in the area. She and her son live in Grand Rapids, where Grace House is located.

'13 **Joshua Knieff**

was recognized for his achievements in human services as a Professional of the Year by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Publication. Knieff assists clients with their daily living skills in the Crow's Nest Program, a group home in Maple Lake that ensures adult foster care services for mentally disabled and ill individuals. He lives in Annandale ... **Josh Farm** has begun a job as an underwriter at the House of Insurance Agency in Montgomery. A resident of LeCenter, he has experience in personal and commercial insurance ... **Nick Lorenson** of Karlstad is a special education teacher at Red Lake County Central Elementary in Plummer ... **Ally Thortsen** is regional manager of the Altru Clinic in Warroad, where she lives with her husband, Tony, and a son. She focuses on every aspect of a patient's experience at the clinic, which serves the city and surrounding communities ... **Katrina (Schnackenberg) Stewart** teaches grade five through high school music in Clearbrook-Gonvick schools, where she also directs the band and choir programs. She and her husband, John, live in Bemidji.



Joshua Knieff



'12 **Gina Zubke** brings experience as an LPN, RN and nurse manager to her new assignment as clinical services director for May Creek Senior Living in Walker. She lives in Laporte with her husband, Chad, and two young children ... **Christine Malm** has been employed by the Bemidji school district to teach social studies at the middle school and coach volleyball. She lives in Clearbrook.



Christine Malm

**Sara Dalton** of St. Cloud is teaching K-5 physical education at Pleasantville Elementary in Sauk Rapids. She has taken time off from coaching to pursue a master's degree but remains involved with the HyTek timing system at swimming and track meets ... **Tyler Baker** brought four years of classroom experience to his job as a new industrial technology teacher in Pine Island public schools last fall. He also has coaching assignments in the district's football and basketball programs. He, his wife, Brittany, and one child live in Pine Island ... **Kailee (Jaeger) Matejcek** is teaching physical education at Lincoln Elementary School in Bemidji, where she resides ... **Kandace Norby** teaches kindergarten in the Ashby school. She also serves as head softball coach in the district. She lives in Ashby with her husband, Tim, and five children ... **Jennifer Bartsch** accepted an assignment last fall to teach kindergarten in Floodwood after teaching early elementary grades in schools in the Twin Ports area. She lives with her husband and four children in Duluth.



Sara Dalton

'09 **P.J. McIntee** has been named assistant baseball coach at Minnesota State University Mankato, where he will work with players on their hitting and infield skills. He will also assist in recruiting. He previously served as assistant coach at Morehead State in Kentucky and Southeastern Community College in Iowa, where he helped lead the team to the 2014 Junior College Athletic Association World Series. He lives in Mankato ... **Ariana Sorenson** is a new third-grade teacher at the elementary school in Cannon Falls. She has previously taught in Litchfield, Farmington and West St. Paul. She plans to relocate to the Cannon Falls area from her Burnsville residence.



P.J. McIntee

'11 **Samantha Ross** of Stillwater is a partner in a new Next Level Fitness gym and center in Apple Valley. The facility includes a cardio section, a large turf area with giant tires and kettlebells and space for outdoor workouts or boot camps. She had prior experience as a strength and conditioning coach, personal trainer and exercise leader ... **Mary Jo Wolter** and her husband, **Doug ('85)**, are the new owners of Lakes Area Powersports north of Walker. The business sells and services ATVs, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws and garden equipment, as well as accessories and apparel. The couple lives in Walker and has two children, one teenager and one young adult ...



Samantha Ross

'10 **Emily Carlson** of Milaca was among 13 new teachers hired at Ogilvie schools for the 2015-16 academic year. Carlson is teaching fourth-grade in the district's elementary school ... **Tiffany Bergem** was named Teacher of the Year in the Pine River-Backus school system. Bergem has taught special education for four years in the district after teaching two years each in Remer and Crosby-Ironton. She and her husband, Kyle, make a home in Pequot Lakes for their two elementary-age children.



Kandace Norby

'08 **Kate (Beaver) Eitenmiller** has joined the law firm of Harder, Wells, Baron & Manning in Eugene, Ore., where she will focus her practice on federal disability appeals. She served as a judicial clerk in Lane County Circuit Court. Her husband, **Bill**, works in management and sales at Roofline Supply. The couple has one young child and resides in Eugene ... **Angie Baker** is teaching fifth grade at Bertha-Hewitt schools after teaching in Ashby for six years. She and her husband, Brad, live in Evansville with their



Kathleen Moore

two teenage children ... **Kathleen Moore** is the new kindergarten teacher at South Elementary School in Kensington in the West Central Area School District. Her previous experience encompassed six years in Alexandria as a learning resource educator and second-grade teacher. She, her husband, Kirk, and their two teenagers reside in Glenwood ... **Clinton Cornell** has joined the commercial lending department at Deerwood Bank in Bemidji, where he lives ... **Nathan Wozniak** teaches technology education and industrial technology at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo public schools. He also prepares students for the Ford/AAA auto skills competition. He, his wife, Amy, and a young child live in Warren.



Doug and Mary Jo Wolter

{ continued on next page }

# CLASS NOTES



Sadie Lundquist '13 (right) and brother Sever Lundquist.

## ICE CONTINUES TO BE GOOD TO LUNDQUIST

When Bemidji State women's hockey forward **Sadie Lundquist** changed majors from elementary ed to sports management and business marketing, she could not have imagined a better fit than the Minnesota Wild.

Outside of her work for the NHL team, Lundquist has followed in the skates of her older brother Sever to become a serious competitor on the Red Bull Crashed Ice tour. She compares the sport known as ice cross downhill to "skating on a rollercoaster."

The 2013 graduate from Cloquet is part of the Wild's 11-person fan relations team. She manages 700 season ticket accounts, ranging from families to companies who invest thousands of dollars to entertain clients.

"We like to joke about 'other duties as assigned' because we wear a lot of different hats," Lundquist said. "I work in sales and service, but we do a lot of marketing and PR. We really dip our toes in everything depending on what account we're working with."

After first interviewing with the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves at a career fair, she discovered an opening with the Wild on a professional sports jobs website.

Lundquist quickly moved from her single-season starting role onto the permanent sales staff. She's worked in fan relations for the past year.

"It's perfect, it really is," Lundquist said. "I get paid to talk a lot of hockey."

The Crashed Ice tour remains a lark, but Wild management encourage her participation, and she clearly loves it. As a top-five U.S. women's competitor, Lundquist traveled to Quebec City and Munich this past winter, and she has her eye on more international competition during the 2016-17 season.

So far, neither she nor her brother has any big-name sponsors. They proudly wear the logo of a restaurant her grandparents Gordon and Marilyn Lundquist opened in Cloquet 56 years ago — Gordy's Hi-Hat.

## '07 Carly Melin

has announced she will not seek re-election for another term representing District 6B in the Minnesota House of Representatives. An attorney in the Prebich law firm, she lives in Hibbing with her husband, **Zeb Norenberg ('11)**, who is a residential program supervisor at Mapleview Group Home. The couple has a toddler.



Carly Melin

A math teacher at the high school, he previously was the team's defensive coordinator. He lives in Frazee with his wife, Jennifer, and a young child ...

**Katherine Ballard-Ryan** has joined the faculty at the Headwaters School of Music & the Arts in Bemidji, where she recently taught a life-drawing class. Active in the local art scene, she serves on the board for the Bemidji Sculpture Walk, had a show of her paintings and sculptures in Bemidji, and appeared in a play at the Mask and Rose Theater. She lives in Bemidji with her husband, Ryan. The couple has a blended family of six children.



Katherine Ballard-Ryan

## '06 Toby Palmiscno

last fall won the men's division championship of the 2015 Vandersluis Memorial Golf Tournament at the Bemidji Town & Country Club. Palmiscno is equipment manager for the men's and women's Bemidji State University hockey teams. He lives in Bemidji with his wife, Jenna ...



Toby Palmiscno

**Joe Miller** is assigned to the intelligence division of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, where he specializes in gang violence prevention. A resident of Maplewood, he previously served the office as a deputy, community service officer, correctional officer and investigative assistant ...



Jim Jacobson

**Jim Jacobson** finished his first year as head football coach at Frazee High School with a 4-6 record.

## '05 Ben Hughes

of Gonvick is the new physical education teacher at Bemidji's Central Elementary School, where he also helps coordinate the 21st Century After School Program. He had served the district as a paraprofessional since 2012 ... **Sean McDermott** was promoted to communications manager for the Washington National Primate Research Center at the University of Washington in Seattle. In his new position, he is responsible for press information, newsletters, web development and outreach efforts. His wife, biologist **Monica Ponce-McDermott ('03)**, works with the city of Bainbridge Island on monitoring water quality issues and volunteers at the Seattle Aquarium as a life sciences interpreter and laboratory technician. They live in Seattle.



Monica Ponce-McDermott and Sean McDermott



## '04 Brent Utech

received a 2015 Materials Resource Division Central Technology Excellence and Innovation Award from 3M. A senior analytical chemist at the company, he developed spectroscopy methods for all adhesives made in the division, which eliminated testing steps and allowed for monitoring of production in real time, thus maximizing efficiencies in their various processes. The award program is in its 33rd year at 3M and honors individuals as well as teams worldwide for their outstanding technical contributions to the company. He lives in Woodbury with his



Brent Utech

wife, Emily, and three young children ... **Kelly Hallberg** is the guidance counselor at Lincoln High School in Lake City, where she now lives. Her previous experience included teaching and counseling at schools in Minnesota and Texas ... **Cheri Howe** has been named the 2015 Coleen Yatcoske Middle Level Educator of the Year by the Minnesota Middle School Association. Howe teaches science in grades seven and eight at the Math and Science Academy, a charter school for grades six through 12 in Woodbury. She lives in White Bear Lake with her husband, Scott, and two sons ... **Janeen "Bobbie" Kleffman** has joined the staff of Ma-



Kelly Hallberg



Cheri Howe



Janeen Kleffman

ven Perspectives, a Grand Rapids small business providing workforce development programs and other creative programming for individuals, organizations and communities. Kleffman brings a broad spectrum of work experience to her new job, including business owner, manager, teacher, grant writer and American Sign Language interpreter. Her husband, **John Bauer ('80)**, works as development director and an on-air personality at KAXE Radio in Grand Rapids. He also developed "What's Left," an exhibit raising awareness about suicide that has been displayed in Grand Rapids, Rochester and Coleraine. The couple lives in Grand Rapids and



Scott and Jaimee Meyer

raised two adult children ... **Jaimee (Sebo) Meyer** has been named development director for Cass County and will lead efforts to foster activities that provide for quality job creation and sustainable employment. She previously held positions at the Bemidji Area Small Business Development Center and a BSU office that promoted recruitment strategies for careers in manufacturing. Her husband, **Scott ('03)**, owns Exhibit Lawn, a business that specializes in care, maintenance and growth of healthy landscapes. He previously worked at the Bemidji Town & Country Club. The couple lives in Bemidji and has three children, ranging in age from 15 months to 11 years.

'03 **Ryan Welle** was selected to chair the board of the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce for 2015-16. An investment and commercial loan officer with First National Bank, he and his wife, Bryn, live in Bemidji with their two young children ... **Jennifer (Frank) Setter** owns her own accounting practice in Babbitt, where she resides with her husband, Chris ... **Carri Jones** was recognized by the Minnesota Indian Education Association as the Tribal Official Leader of the Year. Jones is the tribal chair of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. She makes a home for her two young children in Cass Lake ... **Shane Graham** has been teaching physics, chemistry and physical science for 18 years, as well as college physics for seven years at Park Rapids High School. He lives in Dorset with his wife, Taylor, and three children ...



Shane Graham

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## MURRAY'S MUSIC GIVES VOICE TO HER JOURNEY

In 2004, armed with a music degree from Bemidji State, **Shannon Murray** enrolled in grad school to hone her skills on the clarinet. Within a year, she was musically lost and personally unhappy. A heart-to-heart dialogue with one of her teachers changed the direction of her life.

"I was asked who I was, and why was I taking these classes," Murray recalled. "The professor said I didn't have to follow this path, so I made a decisive break from classical music."

She packed away the clarinet, grabbed a guitar, took her life savings of \$30 and headed west in search of her musical self. In the past decade, she has overcome obstacles, poverty, broken bones and loneliness to find her style, family support and personal satisfaction.

Murray refers to her music as folk-punk, which allows her to tell a story using music as the medium. She plays with unabashed energy, usually breaking a guitar string or two on stage, and has found her voice in the "Riot Grrrrl" genre of feminism and social justice. A single mom living in Bemidji with two adopted children, she performs at schools, libraries, basements and concert halls.

The culmination of Murray's search so far is a seventh album, due out this summer. Titled "Collecting Anchors," it relays experiences from numerous journeys down the Mississippi as well as other musical explorations. "It is a metaphor for the trauma as well as the positive things in my life," she said. "Anchors can be hard things that hold you down, but they can also be stable influences that held me in place."

Murray plans on continually trying out both kinds of anchors as she refines her music and lives her life.

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# CLASS NOTES



Matt Nohner

**Matt Nohner** and his wife, Grace, welcomed their second child into their Delano home last September. Nohner teaches math at Delano High School, where he is as an assistant track coach. He was also selected by Project Lead the Way to teach a class in digital electronics as part of the state's STEM initiative ... **Jake Cook** is a licensed, independent financial advisor in Fari-bault, where he lives with his wife, Dana, and three daughters ... **Molly Zupon** of Bloomington has been hired as a drama specialist at Sheridan Elementary, an arts magnet/Spanish immersion school in northeast Minneapolis. Zupon also performs professionally across



Jake Cook



Molly Zupon

the Twin Cities, most notably in a comedy-improvisation band, The Dregs, where she plays violin, sings and writes original material. The group appears regularly at the Renaissance Festival.

'02 **Travis Okerlund** is an assistant principal at North Junior High School in St. Cloud, where he previously served as principal of Madison Elementary School. His background includes classroom assignments in Minnesota and Nevada. An avid outdoorsman, he has climbed a 14,000-foot mountain, met a shark while kayaking and hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. He and his wife live in St. Augusta with their two children ...



Travis Okerlund

**Margarette Rue** last fall began her first year of teaching Spanish at Fosston High School. She had previously taught the language for 12 years and also provides online courses through Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. She and her hus-

band, Randy, make a home for their four young children in Fosston ... **Alison (McFarlane) Fish** is teaching early childhood family education to 5-year-olds in the Warroad School District. She accepted the full-time position after substituting in area schools for 10 years. She lives in Warroad with her husband, **Dale**, who is an officer for Customs and Border Protection. They have four children ranging from 7 to 12 years old ...



Tanya Mattson



Dr. Meghan Baruth

**Tanya (Flikka) Mattson** teaches welding, manufacturing, computer-aided drafting, woodworking and robotics at Fertile-Beltrami High School and has added a new industrial arts class for seventh- and eighth-graders. Mattson previously taught at schools in Minnesota and North Dakota, where she received the 2005 North Dakota Technology Education Teacher of the Year and the 2007 North Dakota Young Technology Educator of the Year awards. She is a single mom living in

Beltrami with her two children ... **Dr. Meghan (Stritesky) Baruth** is researching behavioral intervention programs aimed at improving the diet and exercise program of pregnant women. An assistant professor of health sciences at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, she received research support grants that will fund her work for the next three years. Baruth, who earned a doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina, lives in Saginaw with her husband, Randy, and one young child.



Norm and Mandy Gallant

'01 **Loren Dryburgh** switched schools last fall, moving from Bagley High School after 13 years to Fosston, where he works with students in grades seven through nine involved with the individualized education area of the special education program. His wife, **Sarah**, is a specific learning disability teacher at Magelsson Elementary School in Fosston and has been varsity volleyball coach for nine years. They live in Fosston with their three children.



Loren Dryburgh



Sarah Dryburgh

'00 **Renae Bakke** has returned to teach special education in the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District, where she taught for 13 years before moving for one year to handle a classroom at the Mahanomen Elementary School. She now works with K-12 developmental cognitive disability students. She and her husband, David, raised three adult children and live in Gonvick ... **John Babineau** started teaching physical education this academic year at East Central Elementary School, located between Sandstone and Askov. His wife, **Bekki (Vodden, '02)** is a development associate at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The couple lives in Cloquet with children ages nine and 17.



John Babineau



Bekki Babineau

'99 **Dana (McGeary) Flint** teaches 7-12 vocal music at West Central Area Secondary School in Barrett, where she also directs the junior and senior high choirs as well as a newly formed show choir. She and her husband, Mike, live in Elbow Lake with their two children ... **Mandy (Johnson) Gallant** has taught 17 years at Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary School, the last 10 in a kindergarten classroom. Her husband, **Norm**, is the activities director and dean



of students at WDC, where he also coaches wrestling. The couple lives in Wadena with their two children ... **Tammy Radtke-Looker** is teaching second grade at in the Hancock School District after spending 14 years in Northome school classrooms. She and her husband, Joby, are relocating to the Morris area with their two young children.

**'98 Kevin Johnson** teaches life science and biology in Warren-Alvarado-Oslo schools. He also is the biology instructor of the college in the classroom program in the district. He and his wife, Nicky, live in Warren. They have three children ranging in age from 10 to 24 ... **Dr. Mark Ulven** received a doctorate degree from Capella University specializing in management and leadership. Ulven is co-owner and president of Excel Education Systems in Plymouth. The organization operates an online high school and online business college, both regionally accredited. He and his wife, **Jennifer (Schmidtke, '97)**, live in Big Lake with their two children.

**'97 Joshua Stevenson** has been appointed the land commissioner of Cass County, where he also serves as human resource director. He first joined the county in 2005 as forest resource manager. He lives in Backus with his wife, Stephanie, and three children ... **David Witt** is a full-time artist whose work has appeared as posters for bands, album covers, comic books and in many other forms. His client list includes 3M, Nike, City Pages Magazine and the Zombie Pub Crawl. He lives in St. Paul with his wife and a young child.

**'96 Karen (Gomall) Groth** is teaching kindergarten at Ulen-Hitterdal public schools after previously teaching in Ogema, where she lives with her husband, Ryan, and four children ... **Stephanie Ramsrud** and her husband, Bryan, were selected to participate in the year-long Emerging Leaders Program because of their contributions to their community and involvement with agriculture. The couple lives in rural Bagley, where they raise beef cattle and Bryan owns a painting and dry wall business. They raised four children ... **Grant Nellis** has joined Greencore USA, a manufacturer of convenience foods, as the head of product innovation for frozen foods. He previously worked at E.A.

Sween for 20 years. His wife, **Maria (Strand, '93)**, teaches third grade in Orono. The couple has three children between the ages of 10 and 17 ... **Eric Gorghuber** was named the information technology senior director at American Solutions for Business in Glenwood. He joined the firm in 2011 after working as a software developer for a healthcare group in the Twin Cities for 11 years. He lives in Garfield.



Maria Nellis

**'95 Kristin Dahlberg** and **Jonathan McCollum ('93)** were married in 2015. Kristin is a social worker with adult protection for Stearns County Human Services, while Jonathan is an area claims supervisor for Pro Ag Management, a crop insurance company. The live in Clear Lake with their blended family of four teenagers ... **Michael Carr** is sheriff of Wadena County and has 20 years of law enforcement experience, with 15 of those in the department of 40 employees he supervises. He lives in Verndale.



Michael Carr

**'93 Lezlie Grubich** has been promoted from assistant director to executive director of Paul Bunyan Transit in Bemidji, where she lives. The company has a fleet of 25 buses and offers its services in Beltrami, Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties.

**'91 Brian Weierke** was selected to serve as the top police officer in Fridley last fall when he was named the city's director of public safety. Weierke has 20 years of service in Fridley and will now supervise both the police and fire departments. He and his wife, Birgitta, live in New Brighton and are raising three teenagers.



Brian Weierke

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## GRAMBART FINDS GOLD IN COPPER FOR HOMES

Fresh out of Bemidji State and with \$5,000 to invest, **Ryan Grambart** bought a used van, rented a roll-form gutter machine, placed ads on Craigslist and started installing copper gutter systems around the Twin Cities.

Grambart's success with copper gutters led to opportunities in copper home products, including sinks, stove hoods, bathtubs, tables and lighting.

As CEO, he manages CopperSmith Companies from a headquarters in Golden Valley, appears regularly on the syndicated PBS series "Hometime" and is a prolific blogger on copper metallurgy, home construction and design.

He seeks talented metal smiths around the world to execute his designs for upscale copper kitchen and bathroom wares.

Grambart '10, who grew up in Maple Lake, attended BSU after graduating from Annandale High School in 2004, earning a bachelor's degree in business management and entrepreneurship. He lives in Rogers.

In the beginning, Grambart worked as a seamless gutter installer, eventually buying his own seamless gutter machine.

"I had worked for a farmer and most of my jobs dealt with working with my hands," he said.

Then an uncle suggested he consider getting into copper gutters. One phone call sparked the enterprise that became his future.

Grambart got his foot in the door with high-end contractors whose customers valued the aesthetic of copper, as well as its strength and durability.

Now he find artisans in places like Mexico, China and Algeria who can construct copper items to his specifications and deliver them directly to customer — a kind of just-in-time delivery of luxury home fixtures.

Still ahead is a plan to develop a line of copper cookware and open a showroom in Golden Valley this fall.

"Think big and have big goals," Grambart said. "It's amazing what you can achieve."

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# CLASS NOTES



## LAUDERBAUGH HELPS HOMELESS FIND HOPE

**Angie Lauderbaugh** and her colleagues keep their eyes open and instincts sharp when patrolling Bemidji public schools. They're not looking for troublemakers or bullies, who typically are well known, but instead for the students who often go unseen.

Lauderbaugh is one of the caring professionals within the Bemidji school district and the community who watch for sneakers with too many holes. They notice the child who keeps wearing the same ill-fitting clothes or a light jacket when temperatures fall. They recognize empty eyes that often signal hunger.

Then Lauderbaugh goes to work, helping children for whom just getting to school can be a struggle.

Named Bemidji Teacher of the Year for 2015, Lauderbaugh strives as the district's homeless liaison to protect the dignity of students and families who are going through troubled times. The 1995 Bemidji State graduate has been in the role since 2008 after previously serving the district as a social worker and the Safe and Drug-Free facilitator.

"The main goal of this program is to support students and families and offer services to help students be successful in school by removing barriers," she said. Obstacles often include transportation, meals and items that may help students feel more comfortable in school, such as clothing or personal hygiene products.

Lauderbaugh's work, funded federally and with Title I resources, officially encompasses 280 students, but the estimate of homeless youngsters in the district approaches 350.

"It is difficult to sometimes identify students because many fall under the radar," she said, noting that some homeless families seek the shadows to avoid the stigma that comes with that label. But Lauderbaugh understands that "homeless" does not mean "hopeless." She seeks them out.

'90 **Lisa (Holland) Olson** was named a Teacher of the Year in the Prior Lake-Savage school system. Olson is a reading intervention



Lisa Olson

teacher in Grainwood Elementary School, where she is a member of the problem-solving and the positive behavioral intervention and support teams. She lives in Prior Lake with her husband, Andy, and their three children ... **Kevin**



Kevin Abrahamson

**Abrahamson** of Cook will serve as interim superintendent of the Ely School District until June. He retired last December as curriculum coordinator for Virginia schools before accepting his current assignment.

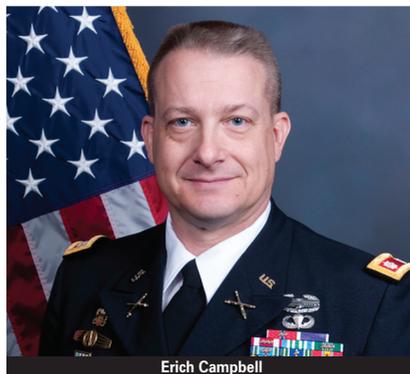


Dave Cox

He previously had served as a principal, assessment director and technology coordinator in districts across the Arrowhead Region ... **David Cox** of Brainerd was named the fire marshal and deputy chief of the Brainerd Fire Department. The 2002 Brainerd Firefighter of the

Year, he joined the department in 1998 and had been serving as a battalion chief prior to his promotion.

'88 **Erich Campbell** has been named the magistrate judge of the Second Kansas Judicial Court in Pottawatomie County, Kan. In his new position, he will oversee non-felony cases going to court. Campbell just retired after 29 years in military service, most recently as a staff officer for the commander general of the Kansas National Guard. He and his wife, Roline, have four children and live in Onega, Kan.



Erich Campbell

'87 **Laurie Villwock** is a media specialist at the elementary school in Dassel. She previously taught at Goodridge and International Falls.

'86 **Mike Korpi** stays active in retirement by running marathons and has completed 68 since he left the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Police as a sergeant. His appearance at the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth this summer will be his 37th running of that race. He also has competed in 26 Twin City Marathons, three Boston Marathons and a New York City Marathon. He lives in Soudan ... **Karen (Tester) Graham** is the aquatics and recreation director of the Fosston Civic Center. Her job also includes running the town's softball complex and hockey rink, as well as the programs in those facilities. She and her husband, Jeffrey, live in Bagley.

'85 **Jean Musgjerd** of Rochester was among the first class of inductees in the Hall of Fame for Kenyon and Wanamingo schools. A three-sport athlete in high school, she was a four-year starter in volleyball at BSU and was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. She is athletic director at Rochester Community and Technical College and also is serving as a search and rescue volunteer by working with her dogs to help find lost or missing persons in Wisconsin and Minnesota.



Jean Musgjerd

'83 **Randy McIntire** was honored as the Tracy Area High School 2015 Teacher of the Year. He taught two years in Edgerton following graduation before joining the Tracy faculty in 1985 to teach high school art. During his tenure, he also coached girls' and boys' basketball, track, football and golf. He and his wife, Robin, have two adult children ... **Rick Rivard** and his wife **Mary (Vanderah)** recently celebrated the 33rd anniversary of their meeting at BSU by enjoying their 31st anniversary of marriage. Rick is the work experience coordinator in special education at Harding High School, where he also coaches junior varsity girls' soccer. Mary is an employment counselor for Hire, Inc., a company that provides job skills training and employment assistance to dislocated workers, low-income adults and unemployed individuals transitioning to work. The couple has two young adult children and lives in White Bear Lake.



'82 **Judy (Mulcahy) Brekken** decided to shake up her educational experience when she left a 25-year career as a Lake Park-Audubon English teacher to accept a similar post at Frazee High School, where she will work with eighth- and 12th-grade students. She also has experience coaching volleyball and directing non-musical drama productions. She lives in Audubon with her husband, Russ. They have three adult children ...

**Mark Dickinson** has been elected as a trustee to the George W. Neilson Foundation, which supports Bemidji-area community development projects that improve the lives of children, adults and senior citizens.



Mark Dickinson

Dickinson is owner of Century 21 Dickinson Realty in Bemidji, where he lives with his wife, **Wanda ('81)** and two children ... **Dale Davies** has taught 24 years at the Mille Lacs Academy in Onamia, a residential program offering treatment to males from 10-19 years old with mental health or behavioral issues. He also served this year as an assistant boys' basketball coach in Aitkin, where he lives.



Charlie Johnson

'80 **Denis Carter** has been a private practice chemical dependency counselor in the Winona area since the 1990s, when he began serving clients with a holistic approach that emphasizes healing through the connection of mind, body and spirit. He lives in Winona ...

**Charlie Johnson** has retired after teaching 35 years in the Ulen-Hitterdal School District, primarily sixth grade. He also coached junior high football and basketball. He and his wife, Valerie, raised three adult children and live in Hitterdal.

'79 **John LaForge** of Luck, Wis., is co-editor of "Nuclear Heartland, Revised: A Guide to the 450 Land-Based Missile Silos of the United States," published by the Progressive Foundation. LaForge is a staff member for Nukewatch, a Wisconsin-based environmental and peace action group dedicated to the abolition of nuclear power, weapons and radioactive waste production ...



John LaForge

**Dr. Jim Tuorila** was among 25 state veterans honored with the 2015 Veteran's Voices Award from the Minnesota Humanities Center. Tuorila is a retired VA clinical psychologist and U.S. Army veteran. He founded the Freedom Flight, an educational, non-profit corporation that promotes awareness of American POW/MIA issues through use



Jim Tuorila

of hot air balloons. He is a former director of the St. Cloud Honor Flight, which helped 1,000 central Minnesota veterans and their guardians get to the national monuments

in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Diane, have an adult child and live in St. Cloud ...

**Karen (Brandli) Pederson** has retired after a 36-year career as a CPA in the firm of Czeh, Pederson & Wilson, where she became a partner in 2005. During her career, she served clients in Roseau and Warroad, where she lives with her husband, Wesley.



## WOLD BREAKS THE MOLD FOR LIFELIKE TAXIDERMISTRY

**Larry Wold** has applied lessons learned in and out of BSU classrooms to become one of the premier taxidermists on the North American continent. But that education came with some adversity.

The captain of a state championship hockey team in Alaska, he wanted to play for the Beavers. He arrived overconfident, ill-prepared for the collegiate level and without adequate training. He was cut.

"It was a very good life lesson," Wold said. "It helped me grow as a young adult and prepare for life."

He graduated in 1988 with a degree as a model maker and worked 15 years for companies from coast to coast until changing his professional direction to pursue a career as a taxidermist. Always around taxidermy, he was an avid hobbyist when he opened a studio full-time in Armour, S.D., where he lives and raised three children with his wife, Ann.

Since 2003, Wold has transformed his work to earn master taxidermist status. Twice named the state's Best Overall Taxidermist, he's had three mounts win first-place honors on the national level.

"Having extensive art training as part of my major put me a step above, by far, the average taxidermist," he said of his experience at BSU. "It was not only as an artist, but there were business, management, industrial technology and English comp classes that helped me greatly."

By focusing on the natural elements of an animal and integrating as much detail as possible, Wold creates unique poses that have made him the taxidermist of choice for large and established game preserves, hunting lodges and avid hunters. He now completes about 300 projects each year, with most taking six to 12 months to finish.



Mary (Vanderah) and Rick Rivard

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# CLASS NOTES



## GRAFTON HAS AIMED HIGH AND ACHIEVED HER GOALS

**Susan Grafton** impressed by BSU's small and welcoming campus as she explored potential universities. So she made the trek from the Twin Cities to continue her education. After graduating with business and finance degrees in 1979, a different person returned home.

"My undergraduate experience was transformational," said Grafton, who now lives in Edina with her husband, **Rick ('78)**. "It was during this time that I developed confidence and really understood what I was capable of doing. I purposely used this time and experience to decide who I wanted to be. I think a smaller, more intimate school is a place that makes this much easier."

After obtaining an MBA from the University of Minnesota, Grafton embarked on the successful career path she envisioned. Now the executive vice president and chief financial officer of SuperValu, she was named among Minnesota's top women in finance for 2015 by the newspaper Finance & Commerce. It was her second recognition by the publication, which also gave her its Circle of Excellence Award.

Grafton began her career as a financial analyst at Pillsbury, worked at Pitney Bowes and joined the management team at Best Buy, where she eventually advanced to be senior vice president, controller and chief accounting officer before moving to SuperValu in 2014. At her new company, she oversees financial reporting, accounting, treasury, capital management, corporate finance, financial services, investor relations, tax and indirect procurement.

Reflecting on her experiences and looking ahead, she encourages students to have confidence and courage as they step into a changing technological environment. "Today's graduates have grown up with technology," she said. "But what may be different from what they expect is the amount of data they will encounter and the necessity of technology to handle it."

'78 **Tim Stutelberg** is a customer service representative for Northern State Supply in Willmar and has been a member of the Raymond City Council for eight years. He lives in Raymond with his wife, Joan. The couple raised three children ... **John Persell** will seek another term representing District 5A in the Minnesota House of Representatives. A Democrat who works as a policy analyst, Persell was first elected to the legislature in 2008. He lives in Bemidji with his wife, Teresa. They have eight children.



'76 **Susan Alstrom** of Litchfield retired three years ago after teaching physical education, health and drivers' education, as well as coaching volleyball, track and field, basketball and softball during her lengthy career in Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart schools. Continuing to coach volleyball after retirement, she guided her team to four appearances in the state tournament and was twice named Minnesota Coach of the Year. She also worked with the 24 top high school volleyball players in the country at the Under Armour All-American Program the past six years.



'77 **Jane Reimer-Morgan** was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Hall of Fame last fall. She has been a head coach for 40 years, 31 of those at Minnetonka High School, where her teams won seven state championships in cross country and track and field. She is a member of the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame, the Pillager High School Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame. She retired from teaching in 2012. She and her husband, Charles, have a blended family of five adult children ... **Dr. Randy McGuire** has been installed as the pastor of both Bethel and Zion Lutheran churches in Bagley. He moved back to Bemidji after retiring in 2011 from a 21-year career as an archivist at St. Louis University in Missouri, where he had earned a doctorate in church history. He has taught at Oak Hills Christian College since his return. He has two adult children.



'74 **Kathy Bakken-Dryden** was posthumously inducted into the Crookston High School Hall of Fame. During her 34-year career she taught at several schools in Crookston, where she developed the drama program at Highland Middle School, started the Adult Learning Center and created an after-school program for at-risk girls. In 1989 she received the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Foundation Eddy Award for excellence in education. She died of cancer in 2012 ... **Bob Bird** is teaching history and constitutional studies courses at Kenai Peninsula College in Alaska following a 41-year educational career as a secondary public school teacher. He also coached varsity hockey for 13 years. He remains active by broadcasting high school hockey games and Alaska League baseball games on the radio. A former candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in Alaska, he participates in public forums and recently emceed the 2015 Governor's Ball. Bird and his wife, Rosemary, live in Kenai, Alaska, and raised three children.



'72 **Kathryn Hoffman** of St. Paul retired from teaching after four decades in various high school and college classrooms. Her career included assignments in England, India and Australia, as well as Minnesota, most recently with the Education Department at St. Olaf College



... **Shirley (Michael) Hanson** was selected by her peers as the Herman-Norcross Community School Teacher of the Year. She directs the K-6 vocal music program in the district. She had retired following an educational career that included 25 years in Minnewaska schools in Glenwood. She lives in Hoffman with her husband, **Tyrone ('71)**, who also teaches music in Herman. The couple raised three adult children.

**'71 Les Feia** has served 12 years on the Clara City Council and also serves as the chairman of the Clara City scholarship committee. Les retired in 1976 following 30 years teaching language arts and speech at Clara City High School. During that time he also coached football, basketball and track and field on the junior varsity level. He and his wife, Nancy, raised two daughters in their Clara City home ... **Gary Page** is the chief power plant operator for the city of Thief River Falls, which he has served for 35 years. He and his wife, Sherry, have two children and reside in Thief River Falls.



Gary Page

**'70 Norm Card** was inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame. A three-sport captain in football, basketball and baseball at Grand Rapids High School, Card earned his master's degree at BSU and taught elementary education in Staples and coached football, wrestling and baseball before becoming the activities director in the Staples-Motley system. During his 10 years in that position, 45 district teams participated at state tournaments in various sports. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Federal Dam ... **Pete Hydukovich** co-chaired the Ultra Golf Classic, a fund-raiser for the Milaca Dollars for Scholars scholarship program. Hydukovich taught math in Milaca's elementary, middle and intermediate schools from 1970 until his retirement in 2007. Named Milaca Teacher of the Year in 1989, he also coached basketball, baseball, football and track programs. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Milaca.

**'69 Gail (Hecimovich) Nucech** has been inducted into the Hibbing High School Athletic Hall of Fame. A physical education teacher, she was instrumental in starting the softball, basketball and volleyball programs at the school. Best known for her coaching accomplishments in volleyball, she guided the Bluejackets to 26 conference titles and 23 appearances at the state tournament. Her 884 wins are the most ever compiled by a Minnesota high school coach. She also is a member of the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame, the Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Greenway High School Hall of Fame. Now retired, she stays busy with her husband, Dennis, by helping her daughter, who is a head coach for Virginia High School and runs a Junior Olympic program. The couple lives in Hibbing ... **LeRoy Carriere** is the chair of the Roseau River Watershed District Board, which oversees more than 2,050 square miles in northern Minnesota and Canada. He retired in 2014 from work in the machining department at Marvin Windows and Doors. He lives in Red Lake Falls.



LeRoy Carriere

**'68 Bob Bernier** returned to the classroom by accepting an assignment to teach industrial technology classes at Red Lake County Central High School. Bernier first taught in the district from 1971 to 1977 and later from 1999 to 2008. Interspersed between those stints were a short stop to teach in Plummer and extended periods of work at Bernier's Custom Cabinets, which he owns with his wife, Emily. The couple raised three children from their home in Oklee.

**'67 Dave Gedde** has retired as executive vice president of Northern State Bank in Gonvick, which he had served since 1997. His prior experience was with the state of Minnesota as a bank examiner and at banks in Pierz and Lake City. He and his wife, Ramona, have two adult children and live in Gonvick.

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## TRIBAL COLLEGE LIBRARY IS AITKEN'S NAMESAKE

His Ojibwe name, Bezhigooagahbow, means "the one who stands alone," but **Larry Aitken** truly stands tall among many. A multitude came together in September to honor their tribal historian, elder and spiritual advisor for founding Leech Lake Tribal College. They bestowed his name on the school's new library, Bezhigooagahbow Agindasoowigamig.

Aitken's vision of a higher education institution serving the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe emerged more than 25 years ago. He recognized a need for a facility to train a tribal police force, one he said would have "brown faces in blue uniforms." Because the Leech Lake reservation covers 928 square miles, sheriff deputies frequently found their response times too slow.

Since the college opened in 1990, its curriculum has expanded to encompass associate degrees in law enforcement, business management, early childhood development, indigenous leadership, liberal education, natural science and forest ecology, as well as diploma programs in electricity and carpentry. Enrollment at the nationally accredited institution now tops 350 students, with more than 60 faculty.

"Out of nothing came something good," Aitken said during a naming ceremony for the \$2.7 million facility. "It was a very special honor."

The LLTC library went from a 900-square-foot single room to a contemporary building whose 8,000 square feet houses a collection of books and digital resources, provides homework and research assistance and accommodates student needs for computers, iPad stations and private study areas, as well as group meeting spaces.

Aitken, who graduated from BSU in 1974, teaches Ojibwe at the college near Cass Lake, where he and his wife, Polly, live and raised three children.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Listed in order of class year

Marion E. (Juntunen) Stierna '36, Melbourne, Fla.  
Evangeline E. (Douville) Kleist '37, Riverview, Fla.  
Melbourne C. Hagen '41, Fertile  
Miriam M. (Hokkanen) Payne '41, Grand Rapids  
Barbara J. (Hartness) White '46, Whitewater, Wis.  
Margaret A. (Anderson) Hannem '47, Richfield  
Doris E. Peterson '50, Baudette  
Quintin H. Clark '52, Waseca  
Barbara J. (Stoltman) Bloyer '54, Las Vegas, Nev.  
Margaret L. (Leaders) Bugher '54, Ft. Wayne, Ind.  
John E. Grimley '56, Walker  
Betty A. (Ness) Berg '57, St. Paul  
Janice A. (Gordon) Kittleson '57, Bemidji  
Elaine Steinke '58, Bemidji  
Jenny P. Hansen '59, Elbow Lake  
Thomas M. Holden '59 & '60, Backus  
Robert Treuer '60, Bemidji  
Mirko A. Bogdanovich '61, Calumet  
Duane S. Helmer '61, Grand Rapids  
Mary (Cleary) Unger '61, St. Cloud  
George P. Voorhees '61, Spicer  
H.R. "Bob" Engle '62, Willmar  
Ruth B. Nelson '64, Eugene, Ore.  
Michael J. Smalley '64, Moose Lake  
Michael A. Shaw '65, Jordan  
Wilfrid Bradach '66, Virginia  
Roy A. Butterfield '66, Bovey  
Dennis P. Lundmark '66, Colorado Springs, Co.  
James Oraskovich '66, Pequot Lakes  
Charles B. Johnson '67, Heimdal, N.D.  
Harold L. Salminen '67, Detroit Lakes  
Jean G. (Hanson) Martinson '68, Pine City  
Frank Kerwin '69, St. Paul  
Susan M. (Bromaghin) Klein '69, Stillwater  
Leonard B. Kucera '69, Duluth  
Robert H. Wiebesick '70, Staples  
Sharon Kemper '71, Bemidji  
Mark G. Froehle '73, The Villages, Fla.  
Jeanne E. (Hart) Mattfield '73, Grand Rapids  
Robert W. Redfield, Jr., Remer  
John C. Harju '75, Embarrass  
Angela C. McCluhan '77, Park Rapids  
Katherine (McMartin) Morrow '77, Onamia  
Lee R. (Renier) Bjella '79, Everett, Wash.  
Orvis L. Bergman '80, Grand Forks, N.D.  
Rose Marie Jonson '80, Bismarck, N.D.  
Carol M. Hanson '82, Brainerd  
Andrew Ehrmann '85, Frankfort, Ind.  
Margaret A. (Neft) Seitz '85, Tenstrike  
John W. Martin '88, La Crescent  
Evanne R. Vasey '89, Sebekka  
Larry J. Bachman '90, New Prague  
Jean Stainiger '91, Chisholm  
Ronald L. Sugar '95, Bemidji  
Jesse P. Dahl '08, Bemidji  
Blaine W. Jarvis 2004-08, Gladstone, Man.  
Jennifer C. Nelson '08, Crookston  
Shannon M. Paulsen '08, Hibbing

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# NOTES

'64 **Gerald Manning** of Des Moines, Iowa, has launched a website dedicated to the history of the Northwest Racing Association, which ran car races from 1955 to 1965 in Minnesota and North Dakota. A driver on the circuit when it folded, Manning went on to a teaching career that started at Des Moines Area Community College and finished at Drake University and Simpson College. Following retirement in 1999, he authored a series of five business textbooks.

'63 **Evelyn Adams** celebrated her 100th birthday last fall at Lakewood Pines Senior Housing in Staples, where she resides. An educator who started teaching after attending a Normal School prior to World War II, she taught in a variety of schools across Todd County and at the Army Air Corps base in Rantoul, Ill., before completing her education at BSU. She finished her career with 33 years at elementary schools in Staples. She and her late husband, Elmer, raised one child. **Margaret Laurich** and her husband, Bob, on Feb. 21 hosted a gathering of Florida BSU alumni at her home in Sarasota. Other attendees included **Elwood '65** and **Jean Largis**, Colleen and **Gene Ness '66**, Julia and **Cade Gervais '66**, **Rich Somodi '71** and Connie Lucas.

'62 **Dr. Robert "Bob" Olson**, professor emeritus of Middle East history and politics at the University of Kentucky, in November received a lifetime achievement award from the 3,000-member Middle East Studies Association for his "exceptional contribution to the field of Kurdish studies." Olson, who has authored, co-authored or edited dozens of books and hundreds of scholarly articles and book reviews, was a professor at Kentucky from 1995 until 2001 and was named a distinguished professor in his final year. The Baudette native lives in Lexington, Ky. He is one of nine BSU alumni in his immediate family. ... **Charlotte (Rich) Schullo** of Bemidji was named Exceptional Educator of the Month in the Cass Lake-Bena School District last December. Schullo, who had retired from teaching at Cass Lake in 2001, went back to the classroom a year later as a substitute teacher and part-time administrator. In 2010 she accepted a full-time assignment as high school counselor. **John ('61)**, her husband, retired from a career in the financial aid office at Bemidji State. The couple raised two adult children.

'41 **Mel Hagen** and his wife, Ann, recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary at home in the Fair Meadow Nursing Home in Fertile. After serving in the Army Air Corps in World War II, he taught for three years before the couple moved to Adak in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, where he supervised fuel distribution on a naval base and worked for the civilian personnel office. The couple had three children while in Alaska and returned to Fertile after he retired in 1967.

## OTHER ALUMNI

**Amanda Cassens** of St. Cloud is the new special education teacher at Royalton Elementary School ... **Perry Brown** of Eveleth is the girls' swimming coach at Eveleth-Gilbert High School ... **Dave Pass** of Shakopee was inducted into the Shakopee High School Athletic Hall of Fame ... **Dr. Nicole Cedergren Gietzen** is a pharmacist for Sanford Hospital in Fargo, where she lives with her husband, Austin, and two young children. Gietzen has earned two doctorate degrees in pharmacy, one in children's inpatient care and another in dialysis and kidney transplants.



Dr. Robert Olson

Towns are in Minnesota unless noted. Alumni names appear in bold. Send CLASS NOTES information and photos to [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu) or call toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM.

# 2016 CALENDAR

## JUNE

**17 39th Annual Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament**  
7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Bemidji Town & Country Club

**BSU Night at Target Field (Twins vs. Yankees)**  
5 p.m., pre-game social at Brother's Bar & Grill, Minneapolis.

7:10 p.m., Target Field, Minneapolis.  
Ticket deadline is June 1.

**20 Go Green at Green Haven (Twin Cities Golf Tournament)**  
11:30 a.m., Green Haven Golf Course, Anoka

## JULY

**15 19th Annual Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament**  
7:35 a.m. and 12:35 p.m., Bemidji Town & Country Club

**23 5th Annual Jeff "Bird" McBride Memorial Golf Tournament**  
Noon, Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale

**25 8th Annual Men's Basketball Alumni & Friends Golf Outing**  
Noon, Blueberry Pines Golf Club, Menahga

**29-30 50-Year Reunion (Classes of 1965-1967)**  
Bemidji State University campus



A player in the 2015 Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament has a gallery for his putt at the Bemidji Town & Country Club.

## AUGUST

**27 9th Annual Ed Sauer Golf Tournament**  
noon, Tianna Country Club, Walker



Members of the Bemidji Area Alumni Chapter serve free hot dogs at the 2015 Community Appreciation Day.

## SEPTEMBER

**1 11th Annual BSU Community Appreciation Day**  
4:30 p.m., BSU campus – in conjunction with football season opener vs. Upper Iowa

**17 4th Annual Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast**  
8:30 a.m., BSU Gymnasium

**SAVE THE DATES** Oct. 14-16  
**BSU HOMECOMING 2016**  
(Details on p. 24)

### ALUMNI EVENT INFORMATION

(218) 755-3989 or (877) 278-2586 (toll free)  
alumni@bemidjistate.edu  
www.bsualumni.org/alumni



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