



BEMIDJI

STATE UNIVERSITY

A magazine for alumni and friends
FALL 2020





PRESIDENT FAITH C. HENSRUD

Welcome to the first-ever entirely digital edition of Bemidji State University magazine. Since our last issue was released, the world has changed in many ways. Our institution, our nation and the world continue to respond to the coronavirus, we endured national turmoil in response to the killing of George Floyd and we are still resolving a crucial election to select the next president of the United States.

In this era of uncertainty, I will assure you that Bemidji State endures. I can share with you one basic, unwavering truth which guides our actions at Bemidji State University every single day: regardless of the situation, the safety, security and well-being of our students is our highest priority.

The actions we took during the spring semester in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, which you'll read about in this issue of our magazine; the actions we take now to combat racism; the actions we have taken as we welcomed students back to our campus for the fall semester, are all guided by this one unwavering truth.

I said in an early June message to our BSU and Northwest Technical College campus communities that our goal continues to be to forge an environment where all people are safe, welcomed and validated. In order for this to happen, students and employees must feel safe, secure and supported on our campuses and in our classrooms. They must feel valued and validated.

To achieve this, we must strive to find ways to communicate with each other, to hear each other and truly listen. My expectation is that between the time I have written this note and the time you receive it, we will have taken a step in that direction.

Please continue to keep yourselves and your families, friends and loved ones safe, healthy and well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Faith C. Hensrud

Features

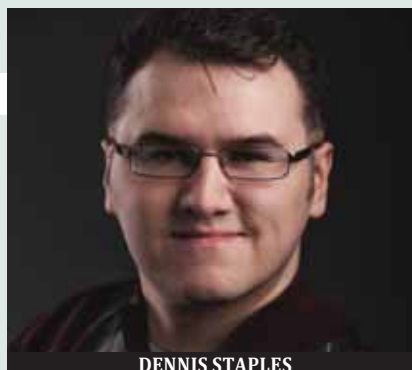
4-7 **BSU and the COVID-19** An inside look at Bemidji State University's response to the Coronavirus

8-9 **Feature: Dennis Staples** 2016 grad poised to change LGBT literary landscape with debut novel, "This Town Sleeps"

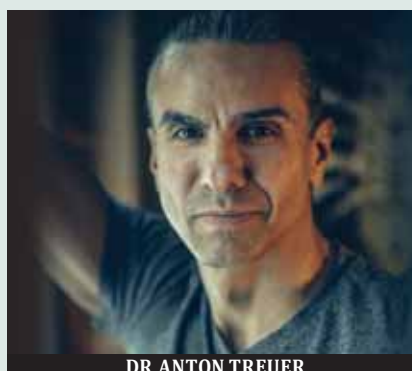
15 **Dr. Anton Treuer**
BSU's language warrior pursues Hole in the Day biopic



COVID-19



DENNIS STAPLES



DR. ANTON TREUER

Departments

10-13 **Campus News**

14 **Faculty Achievements**

16-17 **Campus Happenings**

18-19 **Students to Watch**

21 **BSU Sports**

22-23 **Alumni News**

24-27 **Class Notes**

27 **In Memoriam**



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY Magazine

is produced by the Office of Communications & Marketing and BSU Alumni & Foundation. It is published twice per year and distributed free to BSU alumni and friends. Direct comments to andy.bartlett@bemidjistate.edu or (888) 234-7794
Towns are in Minnesota unless noted.



A member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, Bemidji State University is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity educator and employer.

VOLUME 35, NO. 2

FALL 2020

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Andy Bartlett

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Josh Christianson

ART DIRECTOR, DESIGNER: Mike Lee

PHOTOGRAPHY: Andy Bartlett, Matthew Sauer, Eric Sorenson and John Swartz

WRITERS: Andy Bartlett, Brad Folkestad, Elizabeth Hoover, Casey Johnson, Carissa Menefee, Rachel Munson and Eric Sorenson

BEMIDJI STATE RESPONDS

*University rises to COVID-19
pandemic challenges*

Centennial Plaza sat empty during what would
have been a busy campus day on April 15.



“We don’t have the answers to how the pandemic will unfold. What we do know is we will continue to help students succeed, virtually and in-person when possible, on the shores of Lake Bemidji.”

—DR. FAITH HENSRUD,
BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



By Andy Bartlett

When news that a previously unknown virus had been discovered in Wuhan, China, began making its way into the national headlines in late December 2019, few could have imagined the severity of its eventual impact on the world.

No different from most other colleges and universities, Bemidji State University has been managing its response to COVID-19 with guidance from the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities, a variety of state government agencies including the Office of the Governor, the Office of Higher Education, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HOW OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE DEVELOPED

University administrators and Minnesota State system office leadership increased their attention toward this new virus as early as January, when the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in the United States. Less than two weeks later, on Feb. 3, the federal government declared a public health emergency.

Minnesota State officials formulated a system-wide response, which began with a Feb. 28 announcement from Chancellor Devinder Malhotra that all international travel for the system’s employees and students would be immediately suspended.

{ continued on next page }



Gina Walkup from the BSU business office staffs the welcome table inside Deputy Hall, to ensure visitors complied with mask-usage guidelines and were completing the required online health screening survey. The station was open during the first few weeks of the Fall 2020 semester.

BSU administrators scrambled in response to the announcement, working to recall several faculty members who, with Spring Break approaching, were en route to international destinations.

Janice Haworth, professor of music, was making final preparations for the Third International Music Education Conference in Egypt when the travel suspension was announced.

"I was crushed," she said. "I learned on Saturday that all international travel was canceled, and I was supposed to leave that Monday morning. I had done a lot of work preparing my classes — I had included Egypt as one of the cultures in the World Music course that semester — plus my work on this research presentation. I did end up filming my presentation and a colleague shared it at the conference."

Within days, several colleges and universities across the country announced the suspension of in-person instruction, including the University of Minnesota, and the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

"March 11 was the pivotal day for our response to COVID-19," BSU President Faith C. Hensrud said. "The University of Washington had announced the day before that it was suspending in-person classes, and the situation developed very quickly from there. Minnesota State convened its system-wide COVID-19 response group on the 11th, and the decision to extend our Spring Break — which as we now know would become a full suspension of in-person classes for the remainder of the semester — came the very next day."

In those early weeks, Minnesota State's COVID-19 response evolved rapidly, often changing several times in one day. University employees at all levels made tremendous efforts to keep up. BSU's Emergency Operations Team was activated and began meeting daily, and President Hensrud's cabinet also began meeting for several hours each evening to address the rapidly developing situation.

TRANSITIONING TO ONLINE LEARNING

During the two-week extension of Spring Break, BSU's faculty undertook the greatest challenge of their collective professional careers and moved approximately 800 courses to online delivery. While online teaching was part of the normal routine for some BSU faculty, for many others they were preparing for their first-ever online teaching experience.

"The first thing we started doing was to compare notes and collect data," Dr. John Perlich, associate professor of communication studies, said during a March interview. "We needed to find out what our students had access to, and what they could and couldn't do."

Information Technology Services mobilized its support capabilities as well, providing laptops to students who needed technology to access their newly remote courses from home, and also providing upgraded

internet access points for those who needed better Wi-Fi to accommodate streaming video.



On March 30, BSU students packs their vehicle and prepare to leave campus.



In April, Bemidji State University loaned beds from its nursing labs in Bensen Hall to Sanford Health of Bemidji, which needed them to increase its capacity to host COVID-19 patients.

A VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

In late March, the Minnesota State system made the difficult decision to suspend all in-person commencement activities at the system's 30 colleges and seven universities. Feeling a particularly strong desire to celebrate the Class of 2020, which endured through two months of online courses, BSU designed a virtual, live photo mosaic. Graduates posted photos of themselves in their caps and gowns and had the opportunity to virtually see their friends and colleagues celebrate this momentous event in their lives.

"We put a heavy burden on our students," Hensrud said. "What happened to them during the spring semester wasn't fair — they were forced into an uncomfortable and often unfamiliar learning environment, our on-campus students were moved out of their homes, and our graduating students lost their commencement."

During her remarks to graduates during the virtual Class of 2020 recognition event, she challenged students to focus as much on what they gained through the ordeal of Spring 2020 than they did on what they had lost.

"It is my hope that you recognize the opportunities this situation has presented," she said. "You now know that you can respond to — and succeed under — conditions of adversity; you know you can face the unknown and still find success; and you know how to keep your focus and stay the course during an unprecedented crisis."

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra addresses the Bemidji State University Class of 2020 online for the virtual commencement ceremony held on May 8.

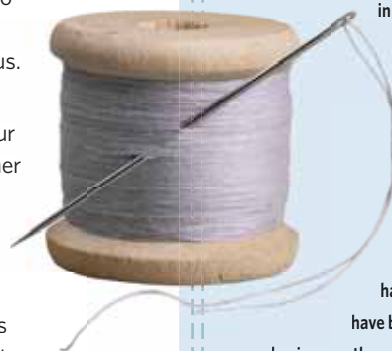


WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Throughout the summer, faculty and staff worked to prepare for an uncertain fall, knowing that course delivery was likely to be primarily through methods other than on-campus instruction. Just under 500 students live in BSU's residence halls, and about 100 of the 800 courses being offered this semester are in-person; the remainder have been transitioned to alternate delivery methods. Masks are required in most circumstances indoors, and social distancing guidelines are being followed. At the time this magazine was published, there had been no reports of uncontrolled COVID-19 spread on campus.

"We've taken a more conservative approach to our fall semester than some other institutions, and so far our caution has paid off," Hensrud said. "Everyone at Bemidji State is looking forward to a future that feels normal. For now, our highest priority remains the health and safety of our students and employees — and we will take the steps necessary to ensure their safety."

"We don't have the answers to how the pandemic will unfold," she added. "What we do know is we will continue to help students succeed, virtually and in-person when possible, on the shores of Lake Bemidji."



In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, several traditional summer activities — such as the Galen Nagel Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Beaver Hockey men's team — continued with COVID safety guidelines in place.

BSU STUDENT MAKES MASKS WHILE COURSES MOVED ONLINE

In the early days the global effort to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, Holly Bachschneider saw her opportunity to contribute by helping to provide those in need with cloth face masks.

Like most students across the nation, Bachschneider finished the spring semester of her junior year under the shadow of the coronavirus. While spending time at home

in Virginia, Minnesota, she decided to join her mom and sister and lend a hand with a mask-making project.

"It is so rewarding knowing that you are helping people feel safe during these difficult times," she said.

Bachschneider estimates that they have created 1,400 masks so far, which have been distributed to family, friends and businesses throughout her community.

She added that the mask project was a welcome distraction while finishing her spring coursework from home.

"It was hard finishing this semester during the coronavirus," she said. "I got so used to going into the classroom and completing assignments and discussion boards while working with students. The work was the same, but the so many of our field experiences had to change because of this pandemic."

She expects to graduate in Dec. 2021 with a degree in elementary education as a member of BSU's distributed learning in teacher education program.

"The professors in this program are the best," she said. "They are so supportive and are my biggest fans while going through the program. I couldn't ask for better professors."





WALKING WITH GHOSTS & SWIMMING WITH Mermaids

Novelist Dennis E. Staples' first book contract came with waves of anxiety.

By Elizabeth Hoover

"I didn't know how the community might react," he explained, in reference to his depictions of rural, Native American, and gay life. Published in March 2020 by Counterpoint Press, "This Town Sleeps" tells the story of a young Ojibwe man and his closeted white lover. Their fraught relationship is the backdrop of a richly complex ghost story exploring historical trauma and contemporary identity. To Staples' relief, the response has been

mostly positive; O Magazine named the novel one of the 31 LGBT books that will change the literary landscape.

A member of the Red Lake nation, Staples grew up in a "big Ojibwe family" on the Leech Lake reservation. While he did inherit his mother's and grandmother's love of reading, he started out as an accounting major at Bemidji State University.

"I struggled to concentrate on my accounting homework," he recalled. "But I could spend an entire day reading fiction."

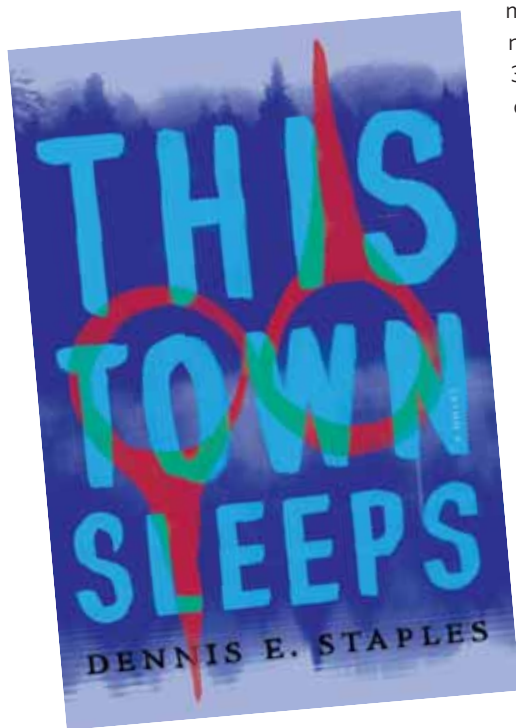
Behind in his classes, he knew he needed to switch trajectories and joined "a rather ribald class of English majors." Caffeinated chocolate bars fueled his all-night paper writing, and he graduated in 2016 with a degree in creative and professional writing. He went on to earn a master of fine arts in creative writing from the Institute for American Indian Arts.

He was living in Bemidji and working as a bank cashier when a sleepless night birthed his novel. On a late-night drive through his hometown of Cass Lake, he passed a playground and remembered that, as a kid, he would never use the merry-go-round because rumor had it a stray dog died underneath it. As he stood in the dark playground reminiscing, a train passed and with its ghostly presence came the inspiration for "This Town Sleeps."

When he got home, Staples jotted down, "The dog went under the merry-go-round to die and, when a train passed by, I brought it back to life." While he played around with different structures and worked on fleshing out characters, the ghost dog remained at the center. It guides the characters—and the reader—through an examination of the crimes of the past and back to the rewards of the present.

The COVID-19 epidemic halted the book tour for "This Town Sleeps" and moved its promotion online, but Staples, who still lives in Bemidji, is already hard working on a sequel following one of the novel's characters.

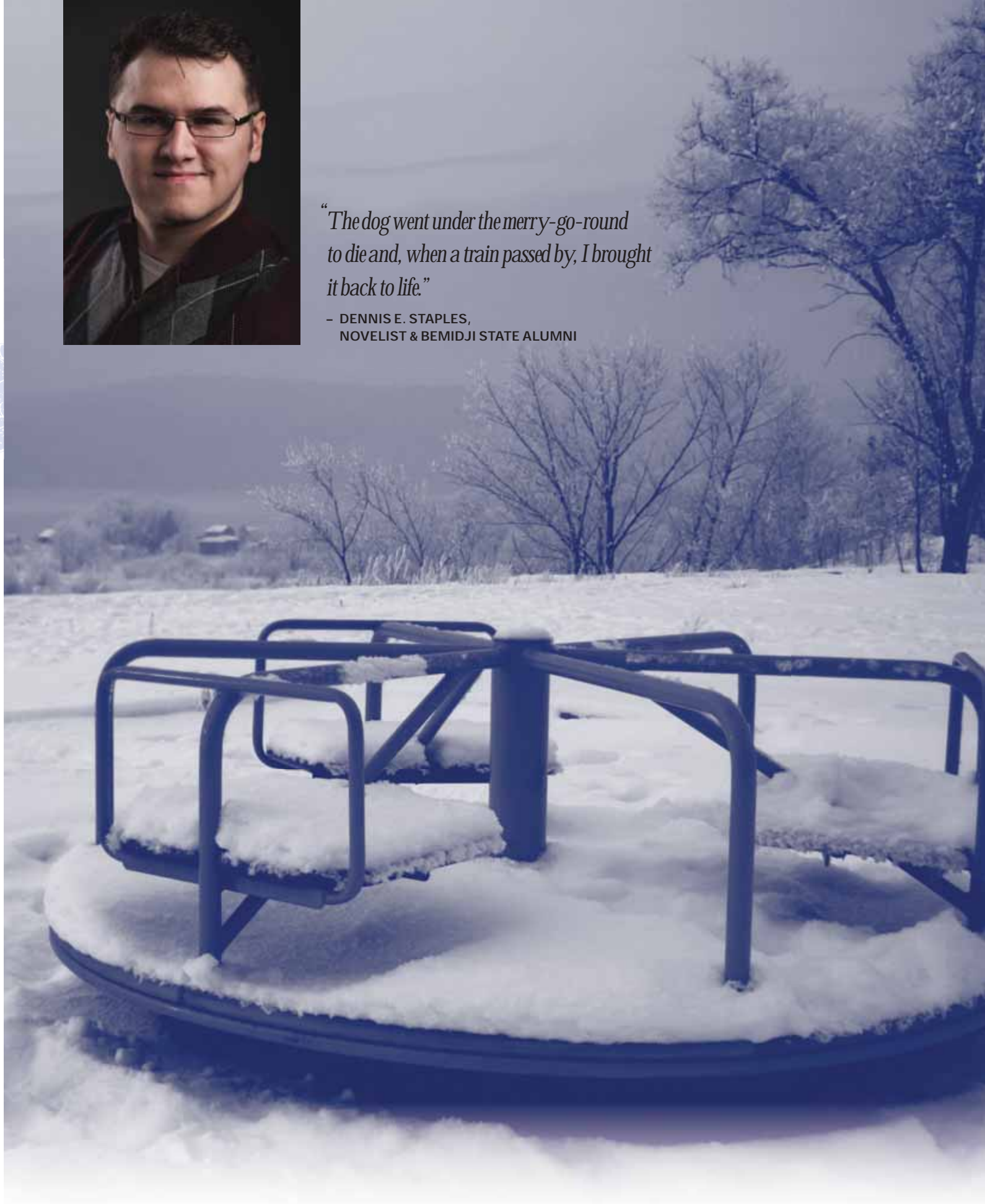
"I haven't decided where it will go just yet, but that's the fun of craft," he said. "My current protagonist was never meant to be a character beyond chapter one of 'This Town Sleeps.' Now he's swimming with mermaids."





*“The dog went under the merry-go-round
to die and, when a train passed by, I brought
it back to life.”*

– DENNIS E. STAPLES,
NOVELIST & BEMIDJI STATE ALUMNI





Biology faculty video series explains COVID-19, viruses and vaccines

To help university employees and residents in the Bemidji community better understand viruses and vaccines, College of Business, Mathematics and Sciences faculty created videos explaining the novel coronavirus, how it operates and potential interventional strategies to inhibit it.

Dr. Holly LaFerriere, assistant professor of biology, explained the biology of viruses, specifically the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. This virus is classified as an obligate intracellular parasite, meaning it relies completely on the ability to infect a living host cell in order to create and spread more viruses. Viruses are not alive, as they can't move, metabolize or replicate on their own.

Dr. Marilyn Yoder, dean of the college, describes the physical structure of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, explaining the three main components of a virus: the envelope, spike proteins and other viral membrane proteins. Each of these components are created by cells in the host, in this case humans infected with COVID-19.

Dr. Mark Wallert, professor and chair of the Department of Biology, explained how vaccines are developed and the potential for developing a treatment for COVID-19. Vaccines are used to stimulate the production of antibodies and drive an immune system response to protect the body, curing a host of an infection.

The videos are available at bemidjistate.edu.

Minnesota State welcomes students back with fall tuition freeze

The colleges and universities of Minnesota State welcomed students, both back to campus as well as online, with a freeze on undergraduate tuition for fall semester. Tuition at Minnesota State's colleges and universities makes them, on average, the least expensive higher-education option in Minnesota. Tuition at the system's 30 colleges starts at approximately \$5,000 per year, with state universities averaging about \$8,000 per year, before factoring in scholarships or other aid. The Board of Trustees vote to freeze undergraduate tuition kept Fall 2020 tuition at the same level charged during the spring semester of 2020. A 3 percent tuition increase will go into effect spring semester 2021 to fund inflationary costs and long-term financial and programmatic sustainability.



Federal CARES Act funds support BSU students impacted by COVID-19

Bemidji State students who were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic received much-needed relief through funding provided by the U.S. Government's CARES Act.

Financial assistance was available for students who did not drop or withdraw from classes and attended in-person classes before they were suspended as a result of the pandemic in March. Students who met eligibility requirements received \$340, with students eligible for federal Pell Grants receiving an additional \$285. In addition, students could apply for COVID-related emergency funds, up to \$500, during the spring and summer.

Virtual commencement celebrates more than 1,000 Class of 2020 graduates

On May 8, more than 560 students, family members, faculty and staff joined to celebrate the university's 101st graduating class. The virtual event, held live on Zoom as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledged the Class of 2020's commitment to the BSU community. Graduates were addressed by Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra; Jay Cowles, chair of the Minnesota State Board of Trustees; U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar; Stacia Goodman, a Minneapolis-based artist commissioned to install a mosaic inside the new Hagg-Sauer Hall; Then Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Allen Bedford; Associate Vice President of Student Life and Success Travis Greene; Executive Director for University Advancement Josh Christianson on behalf of the university's more than 45,000 alumni; and by academic deans, faculty and staff. The virtual graduate recognition ceremony was later re-broadcast by Lakeland Public Television.

DNR grant funds student group's efforts to expand hunting community

BSU's student chapter of The Wildlife Society received a \$14,800 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Angler and Hunter Recruitment and Retention grant program. The chapter's project, "Future Hunters and Wildlife Stewards of Bemidji," aims to remove financial, physical and psychological barriers that prevent potential hunters from joining the hunting community and to broaden the interest and skills of current hunters. This grant will fund training courses — including introduction to whitetail deer hunting, introduction to archery education and hunting, wildlife track and sign and wilderness survival — to equip community members with hunting knowledge and skills.



**BLACK
STUDENT
UNION**
BEMIDJI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Black Student Union sparks conversations with social injustice demonstration

BSU's Black Student Union led a peaceful demonstration June 6, both to recognize the death of George Floyd and to raise awareness for social injustice. The demonstration, held at Bemidji's Paul Bunyan Park, included nine minutes of silence to commemorate Floyd, along with speeches and musical performances from BSU students, professors and community members. Several hundred members of the community attended the demonstration.





BSU launches new online master's program in public accounting

Bemidji State University has launched a new online master's degree in public accounting. The program, offered by the Department of Accountancy, can be completed in as little as one year and equips students with advanced-level skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic and complex accounting environment. The program is available in an accelerated option, which allows undergraduate students to complete bachelor's and master's degrees in five years, and as a traditional graduate program.

U.S. News again ranks BSU among region's Top 25 public schools

Bemidji State University has received its highest ranking in the annual U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges since 2010, tied for 22nd amongst the region's public universities. Overall, BSU tied for 86th amongst all colleges and universities in the Midwest region, up six spots from last year. BSU was also recognized as the 17th top performer among Midwestern universities on social mobility, which measures a school's success at enrolling and graduating large proportions of underrepresented students who receive Pell Grants.



NEW HIRES



Dr. Randy Westhoff was named interim associate vice president for academic affairs in June. His primary responsibilities include university-wide assessment of student learning outcomes, curriculum review, budgeting for academic affairs, faculty hiring and grant and contract review. Westhoff has been at BSU for more than 25 years as a professor of mathematics and is in his fifth year in an interim administrative role.



Dr. Allen Bedford was named provost and vice president for academic affairs in May following a national search. He had served as acting provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at Bemidji State since March after joining the campus community as associate vice president of academic and student affairs in July 2019.



Andrew Wright joined the Office of Admissions as director of admissions in June. Wright came to Bemidji State from the University of Southern Indiana, where he served for five years as the school's first vice president for enrollment management. Prior to that, he worked in several capacities for Eastern Michigan University, most recently as the associate director of the admissions office.



Dr. MaryTheresa Seig was named dean of the College of Arts, Education and Humanities in June. She previously served as a professor of English in applied linguistics at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she worked in a variety of roles since 2001. She spent six years building and delivering an intensive English program in Bagdad, Iraq, and from 2017-2019 she served as Ball State's executive director for global initiatives.



Dr. Jim White, a BSU alumnus, professor and chair of the Department of Human Performance, Sport and Health, was named interim dean of BSU's College of Individual & Community Health in June.



Food Pantry

The Hobson Memorial Union is helping to address a growing issue of food insecurity among college students through a new food pantry. In partnership with United Way of Bemidji Area, a former supply room located near the union's information desk has been converted into an easily accessible, yet private, food pantry. Students and union staff will maintain the pantry with food purchased by gift cards provided by the United Way. BSU Dining Services and the Sustainability Office are providing donations as well, and any member of the campus community is welcome to contribute.

Communications & Marketing produces "What's New, BSU?" online variety show

During April and May, staff in BSU's Office of Communications and Marketing began producing a weekly variety show broadcast live on Zoom, featuring interviews with and short videos produced by the university's employees. The video series, which featured segments such as "Meet My Pet," "Tour My Home Office" and "What I'm Streaming," was meant to help maintain personal connections between friends and colleagues as the university's employees adjusted to the challenges of remote work. "What's New, BSU?" aired for six 30-minute episodes between March 27-May 1; all are archived on BSU's Coronavirus website.



$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + x_2 = 7 \\ x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 = -1 \\ 6x_2 - 2x_3 + x_4 = 0 \\ 2x_3 - 3x_4 = 1 \end{cases}$$

\$1.8 million grant will help BSU develop a new generation of math teachers

Bemidji State will help high-need schools in northern Minnesota address a critical shortage of mathematics teachers by offering full, grant-funded scholarships to more than a dozen students majoring in mathematics and mathematics education. The initiative, funded by a \$1,813,687 grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, provides resources for higher education institutions to recruit and train science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers for K-12 schools. The grant will fund 16 students in two cohorts, one starting in the fall of 2021 and a second in Fall 2022.



Students win research scholarships

Three BSU biology students have received funding to continue their undergraduate research as recipients of the Dr. Richard Beitzel Biochemistry Student Research Fund scholarships. Recipients include biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology students **Emily Withers** and **Hannah Leffelman**, and biology major **Adam Smiley**. Smiley, a first-generation student from Maple Grove who aspires to become a research scientist, and Withers, a Nisswa native pursuing research in pulmonary fibrosis, graduated in May 2020. Leffelman, a senior from Bemidji, is conducting research into the role of a protein called NHE1 in the regulation of cancerous cell proliferation.

BSU FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Nusrat Chowdhury,

assistant professor of technology, art and design, won the Best Presentation Award for her presentation on "Hierarchical Production Planning Problems" at the 22nd annual International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management in New York City.



Dr. Angela K. Fournier,

professor of psychology, recently published a book titled "Animal-Assisted Intervention: Thinking Empirically" in which she encourages practitioners and scholars to examine interactions between patients and therapy animals.



Brenda Mack, assistant professor of social work, co-presented a keynote lecture during the University of Washington's annual Women in Agriculture conference on January 25. The conference, "Healthy Farms,"

was broadcast to more than 600 female farmers across the United States and focused on personal health and resiliency. Mack and her colleague Shauna Reitmeier, chief executive officer of Northwestern Mental Health Center in Crookston, presented "Healthy You - Healthy Farms" via Zoom.

Dr. Donna Pawlowski,

professor of communication studies, recently had an article titled "Communicating the Significance of Home: Stroke Survivors and Caregivers Share their Stories," published in the Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota Journal. Pawlowski's research, which included interviews from 12 stroke survivors and their caregivers, examines the transition from hospital discharge to home care. The study focused on the recovery of stroke survivors, caregiver preparedness and how environmental changes affected both physical and emotional recovery.



Dr. Season Ellison, assistant professor of history, directed a new play, "Now Maybe Sunbeam," in August as part of a virtual fringe festival sponsored by the United Kingdom Edinburg Festival Fringe. The annual

festival celebrates fringe theater, a form of performance art that is considered unconventional and non-mainstream. "Now Maybe Sunbeam," written by playwright Justin Maxwell, associate professor of playwriting at the University of New Orleans, stars Ron Zank, assistant professor of theater at the University of Nebraska Omaha, and reveals the realities of social distancing and working from home.



Dr. Afsoon Kazerouni, assistant professor of geology, recently published a book titled "Sustainable Cities: From Social and Green Sustainable Urban Ecology to Resilience Policy."

Using Nordic case studies, the book explores ways to develop sustainable policies that consider the environment, social conditions and the economy.

Dr. Angie Kovarik,

assistant professor of business administration, placed first in the Innovated Pedagogy Competition during the Small Business Institute's 44th annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, Feb. 27-29. She received first place for her presentation "Virtual Teams in an Applied Learning Environment: Innovative Processes to Help Faculty Facilitate Virtual Teams and Lessen the Drama Load."



Drs. Delana Smith and Miriam White,

assistant professors of professional education, presented at the Critical Questions in Education conference held Feb. 17-19 in Seattle. The professors, who are also members of Bemidji State's professional education diversity committee, discussed practice-based teaching and how to integrate conversations about equity and diversity in the classroom in their presentation "Preparing Teachers for Diversity."



Dr. Eric Forsyth, professor of human performance, sport and health, published the first two parts of a four-part series on contemporary issues in high school sports for the magazine

Interscholastic Athletic Administration. Part 1 focused on administration- and finance-related issues, with part 2 exploring issues related to coaching and officiating. The series stems from a national research study evaluating pertinent issues important to athletic administrators. He also recently co-authored articles exploring mixed-methods approaches to decision-making and administration issues relevant to interscholastic athletics.

Dr. Colleen Livingston, professor of mathematics, won the 2019 Editor's Pick award from the journal Problems, Resources and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies. Her article, "Dog Treat Ball: An Activity to Introduce Systems of Differential Equations," introduces systems of first-order differential equations to explore the variables affecting the functions in a dog-treat ball. BSU alumna Dayna Jaeger '18 assisted Livingston in collecting data and reviewing the article during her time at BSU.

Dr. Gabriel Warren,

assistant professor of business administration and motivational speaker, has relaunched his 2008 debut book "No Regrets!: Living Your Life to The Fullest" to help people cope with the pandemic. The book catalogs Warren's life journey from a college athlete to corporate America and emphasizes how each decision brought him to higher education and a life he loves.



KEEPING LEGENDS ALIVE

Ojibwe professor developing big-screen adaptation of “Assassination of Hole in the Day”

Love. Betrayal. Drama. Backstabbing. Assassination.

The story of legendary Ojibwe Chief Hole in the Day has all of those elements and more. Through his writing and, hopefully soon, through a feature film, Bemidji State University's Dr. Anton Treuer is working to keep the chief's legend alive.

Treuer, a professor of Ojibwe in BSU's Department of Languages and Indigenous Studies, penned “The Assassination of Hole in the Day,” considered the definitive biography of the chief, in 2010 and has told and retold the tale in dozens of appearances promoting the book from coast to coast.

Assembled through meticulous research of historical documents and by carefully gathering and incorporating oral histories, the book explores the entwined stories of Hole in the Day the Younger and his father, Hole in the Day the Elder. Born in 1825, the younger Hole in the Day grew to become a renowned politician and diplomat, skillfully negotiating treaties with the U.S. government, traders in the region, and with Ojibwe and Dakota tribes in and around Minnesota. Following the death of his father, Hole in the Day staked his claim as head chief of all Ojibwe — a position the U.S. government recognized, but many Minnesota Ojibwe did not.

During the 1862 Dakota War, Hole in the Day spread false rumors that the U.S. government was conscripting Ojibwe men to fight in the civil war in efforts to encourage native people to join with the Dakota and attack white settlers. He flirted with the idea of joining the conflict himself, which included threats to attack Fort Ripley.

He later helped negotiate the 1867 Treaty with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi, which led to the creation of the White Earth reservation, which Hole in the Day envisioned as a home for all Minnesota Ojibwe.

The next year, in 1868, a group of traders, fearful that Hole in the Day would keep them out of White Earth and damage their businesses, solicited — but ultimately never paid — assassins, who would shoot him to death in Crow Wing while en route to Washington D.C. for a treaty negotiation.

“It’s a fantastic story with every kind of human drama you can imagine,” Treuer said.

Now, plans are in the works to develop the story into a full-length feature film.

In March, Treuer and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe announced a partnership with Debwe Films to produce the film, with the band agreeing to fund development of the screenplay. Treuer also announced that Oscar-winning producer and screenwriter Dave Franzoni, who co-wrote and produced 2000 Best Picture recipient “Gladiator” and wrote the screenplay for Steven Spielberg’s 1997 film “Amistad,” had been hired to draft the screenplay.

“It was a series of conversations and probably a year of sorting out details,” Treuer said. “There are lots of mom-and-pop kinds of films and the tools to make your own things, and some of them are getting pretty good — but I wanted to do something bigger.”

Treuer, who began developing “The Assassination of Hole in the Day” as his doctoral thesis at the University of Minnesota, said he has always been able to envision the story’s potential as a film.

“We have something to deliver,” he said. “Most treatment of Native Americans in films has just been caricature — always a tragic ending without fully realized characters or characters with an arc. This is just a really captivating story.”

Even with positive momentum, Treuer knows there remains a long road ahead before a completed film is realized.

“There are no guarantees in this business,” Treuer said. “When we first started this, I would say our chances were less than 1 percent. But, you know, I think we have a shot to pull it together.”

Treuer joined the BSU faculty in 2000 and has since become a national and global leader in Ojibwe language and cultural preservation efforts. He has written or contributed to 19 books and has received more than 40 awards and fellowships from organizations such as the American Philosophical Society, the National Science Foundation, the Bush Foundation and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

“The Assassination of Hole in the Day” was named “Minnesota’s Best Read” by the Library of Congress and received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.



BSU Partners with Local Community Radio Segment to Discuss Racial Injustice

Four members of BSU’s faculty were featured on Northern Community Radio’s “What We’re Reading” program during the month of June. **Drs. Rucha Ambikar**, assistant professor of sociology and communication studies; **Dennis Lunt**, assistant professor of philosophy; **John Gonzalez**, professor of psychology; and **Egypt Grandison**, assistant professor of business administration, recommended books to help people learn more about Black Lives Matter, racism and racial injustice. Visit bemidjistate.edu for a full list of books.



CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



1



2



4



3



5



6

1 Bemidji State University closed its doors to the public in early April in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Campus doors were locked until late August ... 2 Human Resources began its #BeaverFamily project during the Spring 2020 semester to help welcome new employees to campus ... 3 In spite of the COVID-19 outbreak, crews still worked diligently throughout the summer to maintain campus grounds ... 4 Megan Zothman and other administrators distributed free face masks to BSU employees in April ... 5 BSU employees packed congratulatory packages for Class of 2020 graduates that were mailed prior to the virtual commencement in May ... 6 Accompanied by her children, Ciara Fineday received her American Indian graduate stole in April.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



7



8



9



10



11



12

7 Students attended the Black Student Union's social injustice demonstration in June ... 8 In April dozens of BSU volunteers gathered at Sanford Center to help Ruby's Pantry pack meals for local residents ... 9 COVID-19 did not slow down progress on the new Hagg-Sauer Hall, completed this fall ... 10 The Department of Music's production of the opera "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" ran for three shows in February ... 11 School of Technology, Art & Design students attended EuroShop, Europe's largest retail trade show, in March ... 12 U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar addressed BSU's Class of 2020 during the virtual commencement ceremony on May 8.

A portrait of Patty Bugg, a woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue turtleneck and large, ornate blue and white earrings. The background is a room with framed pictures on the wall.

A Family of Beavers: National Powwow Competitor Excited to Join the Many BSU Grads in Her Family

PATTY BUGG

By Rachel Munson

Every year the Bemidji State University's Council of Indian Students host a Powwow where renowned dancers from across the nation are invited to attend in celebration of American Indian culture. National-competitor and contemporary style fancy shawl dancer Patricia Bugg, BSU junior exercise science major, is often among them.

"The powwow here is what we call a traditional powwow, where everyone comes together to dance and have a good time," Bugg said. "I love those kinds of powwows because you can just dance and you don't have to worry about anything."

The onset of COVID-19 in Minnesota postponed the spring 2020 powwow just a week before it was scheduled to be held.

"I really wanted to dance and represent BSU to all who would have attended," Bugg said. "There are so many emotions when we come together. Many people sing and dance for healing in many aspects of their lives."

Though the pandemic postponed or canceled numerous opportunities to celebrate her culture, Bugg's ties to Bemidji State and the community keep her connected to her heritage.

Bugg, who grew up in Bemidji, began dancing when she was seven years old and has danced at the CIS powwow for many years. A member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe in South Dakota, Bugg enjoys balancing her Dakota ancestry with the Ojibwe cultures and traditions of her hometown.


"I've learned all of the Ojibwe traditions and I have learned some of my Dakota traditions, as well," she said. "It's been good for me and dancing is everything to me. I love it and I just hope to continue doing it."

Energized by her dancing, Bugg is pursuing a future in exercise science to help those struggling with obesity and diseases caused by the lack of healthy lifestyle options or education. With this in mind, she is focused on becoming a personal trainer or fitness instructor to help those who need it.

"Native Americans have a higher rate of obesity and diabetes, both of which are truly devastating to communities," Bugg said. "I want to get my masters in exercise physiology so I can determine the best possible exercise and fitness regime for those who suffer from chronic diseases."

In addition to her pursuit of an exercise science degree, Bugg has declared a minor in psychology. Though she admitted to struggling in her first semesters at Bemidji State, the mother of three is on track to graduate in the spring of 2021 and looks forward to joining a number of her siblings as a Bemidji State alumna.

"We're a family of beavers," she laughed. "One of my sisters graduated in 2011 and two of my sisters graduated last spring. It's a tradition to go Bemidji State for my family and I have worked so hard to be here, stay here and graduate from here."



Young Cancer Researcher Set Her Sights on Bemidji State While Attending Local High School

ANNA CORRADI

By Rachel Munson

Savannah “Anna” Corradi started her research experience at Bemidji State University during her junior year at Bemidji High School. Now a college senior, majoring in biochemistry with a cellular and molecular emphasis, Corradi is well on her way to making an impact in the medical field through her research on ovarian cancer.

Corradi, a life-long Bemidji native, decided to attend Bemidji State after attending a presentation at Bemidji High School by BSU Professor of Biology Dr. Mark Wallert. Wallert’s presentation on his cancer research team and the opportunities it could provide caught Corradi’s attention, and she immediately joined the team as a volunteer.

“In her four years on the research team, Anna has developed into a truly exceptional undergraduate researcher,” Wallert said. “I look forward to following Anna’s educational and professional career after she graduates. The question is not whether she will change the world, but how great will that change be.”

In just three years at Bemidji State, Corradi has presented her research internationally and has won numerous recognitions for her study of a protein called NHE-1 and its role on ovarian cancer cells.

“Specifically, I have been working with different chemotherapeutic agents and combining them with known inhibitors of this protein,” Corradi said. “I am looking for a

synergistic relationship between the two — so essentially I’m not curing cancer, but finding a better treatment for it and trying to decrease the potency of these chemotherapeutics and their negative side effects.”

Corradi said her role in Wallert’s cancer researcher team has provided her with the momentum needed to build her resume and scientific reputation.

“This project has been a really fun and great experience,” she said. “It will help me get to where I want to be in the future. BSU has provided me with the opportunity to travel to national conferences and to do research in a close-knit atmosphere.

“Dr. Wallert has been, by far, the most influential person in both my scientific path and also in myself. He has really pushed me to be a better scientist and a better person, and encourages me to strive for things that I don’t think I could typically reach.”

Expected to graduate in spring of 2021, Corradi hopes to attend graduate school and earn a doctorate in biomedical sciences.

“Eventually I want to work for a pharmaceutical company and afterwards possibly become a professor and have my own research lab,” she said.

Funding sources that support the research team include the Lueken Family Foundation, the Richard Beitzel Biochemistry Student Research Fund, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and various BSU faculty grants.



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

Can you get a world-class
education in the Northwoods?
Find out.



**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN UNEARTH YOUR WISDOM
WITHIN AT WWW.BEMIDJISTATE.EDU/VISIT**



MINNESOTA STATE

A member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, Bemidji State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer.



FOLLOW BSU SPORTS @ bsubeavers.com



BSU SPORTS



Fall & winter schedule updates

Following guidance from the NCAA and in collaboration with various local, state and regional public health experts, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has led Bemidji State to make significant changes to its scheduled fall and winter athletics schedules.

The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, home to BSU's NCAA Division II sports, announced in early August that all fall competition and championships were canceled, and that all sports competition would be suspended until Dec. 31. The

league will explore opportunities for student-athletes to resume competition in the spring, if it can be done so reasonably and safely.

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, home to both Division I Beaver Hockey men's and women's programs, announced delays to its respective seasons as well. Both the men's and women's leagues announced in September that competition would be delayed, with schedule announcements expected later this fall.

73 Division II student-athletes receive academic achievement honors

In August, 72 BSU student-athletes were recognized for their academic performance by the Division II Athletic Directors Association. Members from each of BSU's 13 Division II programs were honored. Eligibility requirements include a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.



Assistant softball coach wins award from national coaches association



Rachel Rhode

Assistant softball coach **Rachel Rhode** is one of two recipients of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association's Mary Nutter Scholarship for 2020. The award will sponsor her attendance at the association's virtual national convention for 2020 and free registration, travel and lodging for the anticipated in-person convention, scheduled to be held in Las Vegas in 2021.

CCHA unveils new logo

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association, the future home of the Beaver Hockey men's team, officially unveiled its new logo in October. The new conference, which will include BSU, six other current members of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, and the new NCAA Division I program at the University of St. Thomas, will begin play next fall.



DeGeorge nets national team evaluation camp invite

Claire DeGeorge, a senior forward on the Beaver Hockey women's team from Anchorage, Alaska, is one of 53 skaters who have been invited to the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team Evaluation Camp. DeGeorge is one of 31 current college student-athletes to attend the camp, which also includes 14 members of the 2019 gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic Team. The evaluation camp was held in Blaine in late October.



Beaver hockey men's team ranked 16th in first USCHO.com poll

U.S. College Hockey Online has ranked the Beaver Hockey men's program 16th nationally in its 2020-2021 pre-season poll, released Oct. 26. Although BSU has received votes in the USCHO.com pre-season polls several times, this is the first pre-season ranking for BSU since USCHO.com records are available beginning with the 2006-07 pre-season ranking.

ALUMNI NEWS

Beaver Pride golf events raise over \$100,000

Organized by the BSU Beaver Pride office, the six golf tournaments held this summer raised over \$100,000 to support operating expenses and scholarships for Beaver Athletics. Special precautions were put into place ahead of each tournament to slow the spread of COVID-19, including moving golfer registration online and using a tee-time format instead of the traditional shotgun start. Read more about the tournaments by visiting the BSU Alumni & Foundation website under the "news" tab, and stay tuned for an announcement regarding upcoming 2021 Beaver Pride golf dates.



Alumni receive money-saving offers through new Alumni & Foundation program

The BSU Alumni & Foundation's Discounts & Deals program offers contributing alumni access to exclusive discounts and special offers on dining, shopping, groceries, professional services and more in their local areas. The discounts can be viewed online and redeemed via smartphone, tablet or by printing and representing the coupon to the participating vendor. Alumni who make an annual gift of \$75 or more to BSU receive access to the website, along with a number of other valuable benefits. Learn more at bsualumni.org/alumni/benefits.



2021 ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
CEREMONY

Athletic Hall of Fame rescheduled for Fall 2021

Originally scheduled for this coming February, the BSU Alumni & Foundation has rescheduled its biennial Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony for a date to be determined in Fall 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions surrounding in-person gatherings. The list of 2021 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees can be found at bsubeavers.com.



MAKE SURE THE BSU ALUMNI OFFICE HAS YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFORMATION

Alumni who have changed jobs or their names and those who have multiple or seasonal addresses are asked to update their contact information by visiting bsualumni.org or calling (218) 755-3989 so you can stay up-to-date on news and events.



Clay



Maher



Dahlen



Deeds



Kahl

Five distinguished BSU alumni recently named

The Bemidji State University Alumni & Foundation named five Bemidji State alumni as distinguished alumni for the 2020-21 academic year. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions in place regarding physical gatherings, the honorees will be officially recognized in Bemidji during Homecoming 2021 on September 24-26, 2021.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD:

Noel (Naegele) Clay '90 (posthumously)
Mike Maher, Jr. '81, Spotsylvania, Va.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD:

Megan (McCrary) Dahlen '04, Jordan

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD:

Virginia (Johnson) Deeds '72, Bemidji

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HALL OF FAME:

Dr. David Kahl '61, Moorhead

Read each recipient's biography and professional achievements at bsualumni.org.

Effort to rename the BSU dance studio underway

A group of BSU alumni have organized an effort to rename the dance studio in BSU's Gillett Wellness Center in honor of Marion Christianson, a long-time teacher, athletic director and leader of many athletic and dance activities at BSU. The Marion Christianson Memorial Dance Studio and Scholarship Fund will keep Marion's memory alive for generations of BSU students to come. Those interested in making a gift to support the renaming opportunity can contact Lisa Hofstad with the BSU Foundation at (218) 755-4147 or by visiting bsualumni.org/giving/bsu-programs.



Alumni Relative Scholarship Deadline is Feb. 1

First-year, returning and transfer students who are relatives of contributing alumni may apply for an Alumni Relative Scholarship for the 2021-22 school year. The program provides a limited number of \$1,000 scholarships to attending students with relatives who have contributed \$75 or more to the university by Feb. 1. The scholarships are made possible by donor contributions to BSU's Lakeside Fund. Apply at bsualumni.org or call the alumni office at (218) 755-2762.



Bemidji State Alumni & Foundation launches "BSU Presents...", a home for virtual online content

With in-person Homecoming events cancelled for 2020, the BSU Alumni & Foundation has instead launched "BSU Presents...", a special webpage that hosts a list of distinguished alumni award winners, schedules of upcoming online webinars, exclusive photo and video content, music from throughout the decades and more. With plans to add new content through the fall, the public can view the page at bsualumni.org/bsupresents.



CLASS NOTES

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

'20 Haley Mack

was drafted by the Minnesota Whitecaps in the fourth round of the National Women's Hockey League draft. Mack, who ranks fifth on BSU's career scoring list, is the first Beaver to be selected in the NWHL draft. She lives in Stillwater.



Haley Mack

Jonathon McNicholes

was named state chair elect of Students United for the 2020-21 academic year. Students United is a non-profit, student-led organization that advocates for the 65,000 students who attend Minnesota's seven state universities. McNicholes began his masters program in advocacy and political leadership at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul this summer. He lives in Maple Grove.



Jonathon McNicholes

Emma Terres joined the Beaver Hockey women's team as an assistant coach. She succeeded former associate head coach **Amber Fryklund '03**, who accepted an assistant professor position in BSU's Department of Human Performance, Sport & Health. Terres played professionally in Germany after her BSU career, scoring 47 goals in 51 career games. She lives in Bemidji.

'19 **Eric Ross** opened Motorheads, a small engine repair shop specializing in marine, ATV and snowmobile repair, in Longville. The shop, co-owned by his father, also offers storage, parts and apparel sales. Ross graduated with a degree in business administration. He lives in Remer.



Justin Baudry

Justin Baudry, a defenseman for the Cincinnati Cyclones of the East Coast Hockey League, was named to the 2019-20 ECHL All-Rookie Team after leading the league's rookie defensemen in points, goals and assists.

Baudry played four years for the Beavers and was named team captain his senior season. Baudry lives in Cincinnati.

'18 **Maddy Kintner** has been working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic response as a registered nurse in the emergency department at M Health Fairview Northland Medical Center, located in Princeton. She lives in Zimmerman.

Alexis Joyce is co-director of hockey operations for the Bemidji State women's hockey team and a firefighter for the Bemidji Fire Department. As a former player, she holds the Beaver women's hockey record for most consecutive games played at 148. She lives in Bemidji.

Christian Pekarek

was hired as head basketball coach at St. Cloud's Tech High School. A former guard for the Beaver men's basketball team, Pekarek also teaches language arts in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district. He lives in St. Cloud.



Christian Pekarek

'17 **Abby (Neis) Sorenson** is a registered nurse in the obstetrics and pediatrics department at the Sanford Bemidji Medical Center. She lives in Bemidji with her husband, **Eric '16**, who works for the Bemidji State Alumni & Foundation.

Sam Peterson monitors fish populations and river health in his work as Big Rivers Assistant Fisheries Scientist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Peterson earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in aquatic biology at BSU. He lives in Mount Carmel, Illinois, with his wife, **Emily (Keller) '16**, who teaches kindergarten at Parkside Elementary School in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

'16 **Emily Allen** works as an intensive care nurse at Saint Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. She lives in Cottage Grove with her husband and their three children.



Emily Olson

Emily Olson is a reporter for NBC News 4 in San Antonio, Texas. She previously worked as a reporter and news anchor in Fargo, North Dakota, and Rapid City, South Dakota. She lives in San Antonio.

Ryan Zubke works as assistant branch manager at First National Bank Bemidji. Zubke started at the bank in 2016 as a customer service representative. He lives in Bemidji.

'15 Jake Dahlnes

was promoted to manager of Mahoney Ulbrich Christiansen Russ P.A. in St. Paul. Dahles started with the CPA firm in 2015 and provides tax planning advice and preparation to businesses and individuals. He lives in Roseville.



Jake Dahlnes

Andrew Bensen is a realtor for Keller Williams Premier Realty Lake Minnetoka where he represents buyers and sellers in the Twin Cities' western suburbs. Bensen played golf for the Beavers and was named BSU's Male Athlete of the Year during his senior season. He lives in St. Louis Park.



Andrew Benson

'14 **Jake Oslin** creates custom wood baseball bats as the founder of STAG Bats. The bats are available in many sizes, weights and colors, and feature a unique "antler-hardening" process that uses deer antlers to produce a harder bat that is less prone to splintering. Oslin lives in Saint Francis with his wife, **Tiffany (Wiskur) '16**, who works as a nurse at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.

'13 Anthony Ragsdale is a behavior analyst for Aspire College Academy in Sacramento, California. The academy's mission is to prepare elementary students for college success. Ragsdale lives in Rancho Cordova, California, with his fiancé and son.

'12 Andrew Rudlang works as a software engineer at GrowthZone, a membership management software provider based in Nisswa. He also coaches the Pine River-Backus High School robotics team and is the city of Pine River's youngest councilman. Rudlang lives in Pine River.



Tashia Hart

Tashia Hart published her first book, "Gidgie and the Wolves", which tells the story of Gidjie, an Ojibwe girl growing up on the shores of Lake Superior, and her journey of discovery. Hart is also a jewelry maker and chef who specializes in dishes inspired by her Native American heritage. She lives in Duluth.

Josiah Hoagland

moved to Grand Rapids in Fall 2019 to work as a hospice chaplain for Essentia Hospice in Grand Rapids after having served as a pastor for seven years at New Journey Church in Fosston. Hoagland also serves as a chaplain in the Minnesota Army National Guard. He and his wife, **Lisa (Julin) '14**, have four children.



Josiah Hoagland

'10 Hanna Lord is the GIS manager for GeoComm, the largest GIS solutions provider in the United States. GeoComm focuses on emergency response and public safety. Lord lives in St. Cloud.

'07 Garrett Roth was named the first head coach for the newly-formed Wichita Falls Warriors hockey team. Located in Wichita Falls, Texas, the Warriors will play in the North American Hockey League. Roth previously spent eight years as an associate head coach and director of player personnel for the Bismarck Bobcats, also of the NAHL. He and his wife, Lauren, will be moving to Wichita Falls with their son, Jaxon.



Garrett Roth

'06 Nicholas Jackson is the art director at Evolve Creative, a marketing and branding firm based in Bemidji. He was previously the worship director at Bemidji Evangelical Covenant Church, where he was responsible for recording and editing the church's weekly worship services for online audiences. He lives in Bemidji with his wife and their three children.



Nicholas Jackson

'04 Jennifer (McNutt) Boon was hired as a special education teacher at Annandale Elementary School, where she has worked as a special education paraprofessional since 2005. Boon lives in Maple Lake with her husband and their two children.

Caesare (Stimson)

Engstrom was named head girls' hockey coach at Hill-Murray School in Maplewood. Engstrom participated in track and field and hockey for the Beavers and spent five seasons playing professionally with the Minnesota Whitecaps. She lives in Circle Pines with her husband and three children.



Caesare Engstrom

Nikki (Baird) Brink is the chief operating officer at First National Bank Bemidji. She lives in Bemidji with her husband, **Bob '04**, who teaches social studies at Bemidji High School. They have three children.



LWIN SUPPORTS BSU NURSING GRADUATES IN FIGHT AGAINST VIRUS

One of BSU's young alums has made the fight against COVID-19 a top priority, not only in his home country of Myanmar, but by investing in Bemidji State nursing students.

As president of the Yangon Region Young Entrepreneurs Association, Than "Alan" Lwin '05, led the group's campaign to gift medical supplies to area healthcare workers and raise more than \$150,000 to fund meals for the doctors, nurses and lab experts fighting COVID-19 in Myanmar.

As COVID-19 cases rose globally, Lwin felt a strong desire to put the future registered nurses from the BSU class of 2020 on the fast-track to making a difference in the health of their communities by gifting funds to help pay licensure exam fees for BSU's 49 recently-graduated nursing students.

The National Council Licensure Examination is the standardized test used to determine if a candidate is ready to become licensed as an entry-level nurse.

"This thoughtful and generous donor, after seeing what nurses are doing in this time of a global pandemic, is honoring those ready to enter the field of nursing and thereby making an impact on the future of nursing," said Marci Maple, professor and chair of BSU's Department of Nursing.

Lwin, who graduated with a business administration degree, is the president of Proven Technology Industry Co., Ltd., one of Asia's largest automotive product distributors. He visited Bemidji with his family during Homecoming 2019 - his first return to Bemidji since graduating. During that visit, he received BSU's Young Alumni Award at the Alumni & Foundation's annual Honors Gala.

"I sincerely hope my gift will help both BSU and the nursing students to get them ready to assist the community of Bemidji," Lwin said. "I am so honored to be part of the program."

CLASS NOTES

'03 Amber Fryklund accepted a teaching position in BSU's Department of Human Performance, Sport & Health after spending nine seasons as an assistant coach for the Beaver Hockey women's team. A former player as well, Fryklund remains one of the program's all-time greats. She remains the program's all-time leader in points and goals scored and is second all-time in assists. She lives in Bemidji.

'02 Eric Barnum is the director of choral activities at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Barnum previously led the choral department at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and has commissioned music for ensembles around the world. He lives in Clive, Iowa, with his wife and two sons.



Eric Barnum

John Dukek became senior systems analyst for American Crystal Sugar Company's corporate headquarters in Moorhead. In his role, Dukek is responsible for supporting the company's agriculture-related software systems. Dukek and his wife live in West Fargo, North Dakota.

'00 Tuleah Palmer was selected to serve as the president and CEO of the Blandin Foundation. The Blandin Foundation's mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially in the Grand Rapids area. Palmer was previously the executive director of the Northwest Indian Community Development Center, working to serve American Indian families in northern Minnesota. She lives in Cass Lake.



Tuleah Palmer

Jon Passer works as a commercial lending officer at Neighborhood National Bank in Mora. In addition to his banking career, he is a member of the McGregor Fire Department and serves on the local school board. Passer lives in McGregor with his wife and their three sons.

Leslie Sagen, a special education coordinator and teacher at Nevis Public Schools, was selected Teacher of the Year by her peers. Sagen has taught at the school district for 25 years. She and her husband live in Walker and have three children.

'99 Ben McAninch, an attorney for Mankato-based law firm Blethen Berens, was elected president of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association in August. McAninch was varsity captain of the BSU Beavers football team and past president of the BSU Alumni & Foundation board of directors. He lives in Mankato with his wife **Jill (Arndt) '99**.



Ben McAninch

'97 Frank Haege will implement community recreation programs as the first-ever recreation director for the city of Tiffin, Iowa. Haege was an assistant coach for the BSU football team from 1992-1995 before serving as head coach for the Augsburg College football team from 2005-2019. He and wife have three sons and live in the Tiffin area.

'96 Tami Nendick is a science and environmental studies instructor at Red Lake Nation College in Red Lake. She lives in Hines with her husband, Tony, and their two sons.

'93 Shawn Stone was awarded the 2020 George Wythe Award for Excellence in Teaching at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Stone is a professor of physics and computer science and serves as chair of the university's faculty senate. He lives in Storm Lake, Iowa.



Shawn Stone

'90 Jeff Dravis was named the 2019-2020 Education Minnesota Teacher of the Year for Park Rapids Area Schools. Dravis teaches building trade courses at Park Rapids High School and has helped his students build and sell 14 homes since 2005. He lives in Osage with his wife, Tara. The couple has four children.

Joan (Smith) Berntson works for First Children's Finance as a business development specialist. First Children's Finance brings awareness to the shortage of child care in northwest Minnesota and offers business development resources to child care businesses. Berntson was previously the vice president for advancement at Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji. She and her husband, **Ron '92, '09**, live in Bagley.

'88 Ian Resch retired as Alexandria High School's head boys' hockey coach after amassing a 126-59-9 record and winning five section championships in seven seasons. Resch also teaches sixth grade at Minnewaska Area Intermediate School. He lives in Montevideo.



Ian Resch

'87 Sheri Rutar retired from Clearview Elementary School after 33 years with the St. Cloud Area School District. Rutar and her husband, Jon, look forward to spending time in Arizona with their children and golfing in retirement. They live in Sauk Rapids.



Sheri Rutar

'86 Drey Bradley retired from his head coaching role for Apple Valley's Eastview High School boy's hockey program after leading the team for 13 years. The former Beaver Hockey men's team standout teaches physical education and health at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield. He lives in Eagan with his wife, **Karen (McDougall) '85**.

'84 Brad Dokken was awarded the Conservation Communications Award from Ducks Unlimited, a national conservation organization focused on wetland habitat



Brad Dokken

conservation. Dokken, an outdoor reporter and editor at the Grand Forks Herald since 1985, was recognized for his contributions to wetland conservation through his writing. Dokken lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

'82 Mike Gibbons announced his retirement after spending 13 seasons as an assistant coach for the St. Cloud State University men's hockey program. A veteran coach at nearly every level of the game, Gibbons began his coaching career as an assistant at Bemidji State in 1981 and later served as the program's interim head coach while legendary head coach Bob "R.H." Peters was on sabbatical during the 1982-83 season. As a player, Gibbons helped guide the Beavers to an NAIA national title in 1979. He and his wife, **Nancy (Christian) '83**, live in Clear Lake.



Mike Gibbons

'77 Michael Peterson was inducted to the Minnesota Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in February. Peterson retired in 2013 after teaching band at Fulda High School for 35 years. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Fulda.



Michael Peterson

'76 Debbie (Bryant) Davis is the programs and initiatives manager for the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

'75 Jean (Gant) Ellis was named the top volleyball official in the state of Iowa by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Ellis has officiated high school and college volleyball for 46 years, starting while she was a volleyball player at BSU. In addition, she serves as the volleyball officials coordinator for the Great Plains Athletic Conference. She lives with her husband in Sioux Center, Iowa.



Jean Ellis

'70 Marjorie Carlson owns Carlson Travel, a Minneapolis-based travel agency, and works part-time as a church organist at a local church. Before that, she spent 20 years as a medical technologist. She lives in Minneapolis.

'69 Marilyn (Kanten) Ames was selected the 2020 Clearwater County First Lady at a special reception in Bagley. Organized by the Clearwater County Historical Society, Ames was selected in recognition for her lifelong service to the Bagley area. Ames lives with her husband in Bagley.

IN MEMORIAM *in order of class year*

Copp, Muriel '57, Red Wing
 Sherman, Bettimae "Betti" (Lagather) '52, Redlands, Calif.
 Trompeter, Barbara (Kerry) '57, Ranier
 Reinke, Martin '59, Pinewood
 Smalley, James "Jim" '62, Bemidji
 Cherney, Jr., Ignace "Butch" '65, Bena
 Gregorich, Richard '65, Virginia
 Emery, Donald '66, Bemidji
 Galliher, Clarice (Andrews) '67, Goodridge
 Huwe, Kathryn '67, Bagley
 Backman, Gerald '69, Plymouth
 Baumann, Susan (Pooch) '69, Mahnomen
 Bergsven, David '69, Bonita Springs, Fla.
 Anderson, Carlton "Ozzie" '71, Park Rapids
 Clark, Todd '74, Hibbing
 Haugene, Sandee (Aitken) '76, Brainerd

Engebretson, Judy '79, Clearbrook
 Paulseth, Nanci (Tischart) '79, Sturgeon Lake
 Studley, Carolyn (Anderson) '83, Byron
 Schenkel, Raymond '85, Reidsville, N.C.
 Phelps, Barbara '86, Bemidji
 Olson, Judy '87, Fosston
 Trask, Perry '89, International Falls
 Clay, Noel (Naegle) '90, Cincinnati
 Wourms, Rick '90, Cohasset
 Kimbrough, Daniel '91, Bemidji
 Zacharias, Tracy (Nipp) '91, Cambridge
 Kingbird, Michael '94, Bemidji
 Kauppi, Jon '96, Palo
 Anderson, Sarah (Johnson) '09, Wilton
 Phelps, Matthew '12, Bemidji

2021 CALENDAR

JUNE 2021

- 18 Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament**
Bemidji Town & Country Club, Bemidji

JULY 2021

- 10 Beaver Best Ball Golf Tournament**
Bemidji Town & Country Club, Bemidji
- 16 Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament**
Bemidji Town & Country Club, Bemidji
- 24 Jeff "Bird" McBride Memorial Golf Tournament**
Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale
- 30 BSU Football Golf Outing/Ken Traxler Memorial**
Castle Highlands Golf Course, Bemidji

AUGUST 2021

- 21 Ed Sauer Memorial Golf Tournament**
Tianna Country Club, Walker
- 27 Howe-Welle Women's Athletics Golf Tournament**
Bemidji Town & Country Club, Bemidji

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 11 BSU Baseball Golf Outing**
Castle Highlands Golf Course, Bemidji
- 24-26 Homecoming Weekend**
Bemidji State University



ALUMNI & FOUNDATION

SAVE THE DATES

HOMECOMING
2021

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2021

