



BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

A magazine for alumni and friends
FALL/WINTER 2015



MEMORIAL HALL *is reborn*

Renovation transforms landmark at heart of campus



PRESIDENT R. HANSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whether as students or employees, our direct connection to Bemidji State University is inevitably finite. Freshmen become graduates, and so it goes. Since 1919, many generations of arrivals and departures have made us into an innovative source of education for students from around the world. As you may know, I have reluctantly decided to retire next summer after six years in the best job I've ever had. My wife, Dianne, and I won't say farewell quite yet because there is much to do over the next six months, as always.

Naming an end date to a role I have so proudly fulfilled makes me even more appreciative of all we have and will accomplish together as stewards of Bemidji State. Nowhere is that more evident than in the ongoing Imagine Tomorrow fundraising campaign, which recently surpassed its initial goal and is now in uncharted territory. I cannot adequately thank all of you who are a part of this great cause. Already the campaign has allowed us to double our donor-funded scholarships to students.

Each issue of this magazine describes another chapter in the journey of Bemidji State. The stories chronicle the commitment and contributions of individuals who carry us ever onward. I think, for example, of the Bemidji-area legislators and other leaders who helped secure funding to transform venerable Memorial Hall into a state-of-the-art showplace. In every edition we never fail to highlight students' accomplishments, and this time we present six whose lives were changed by scholarships they received. We share engaging photographs of campus happenings, including one of BSU's most memorable Homecoming celebrations. And of course, no publication would be complete without personal updates from scores of alumni who keep in touch because they value their lifelong association with the university.

For now, I still get to say, "See you next time" – hopefully on campus for Homecoming in October as we celebrate the success of Imagine Tomorrow, or maybe at one of our Arizona gatherings in early March. Thank you for being part of the BSU family!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Richard Hanson

Features

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20-21 ACROSS GENERATIONS: Inspired by examples of pride and success, more than a handful of families continue to make BSU a tradition that spans decades and spreads across a swath of siblings.

22-23 CALLED TO CLEANUP: Following his instincts and a knack for seizing opportunity has put alum Mark Ploen and QualiTech Environmental on the front lines of oil spill recovery and containment.



REBIRTH OF A LANDMARK



GRATEFUL STUDENTS



ARLETTE AND MARK PLOEN

COVER PHOTO: The golden autumn hues of a maple tree frame Memorial Hall, whose familiar Art Deco façade belies the dramatic transformation of its interior renovation.

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BEMIDJI

STATE UNIVERSITY



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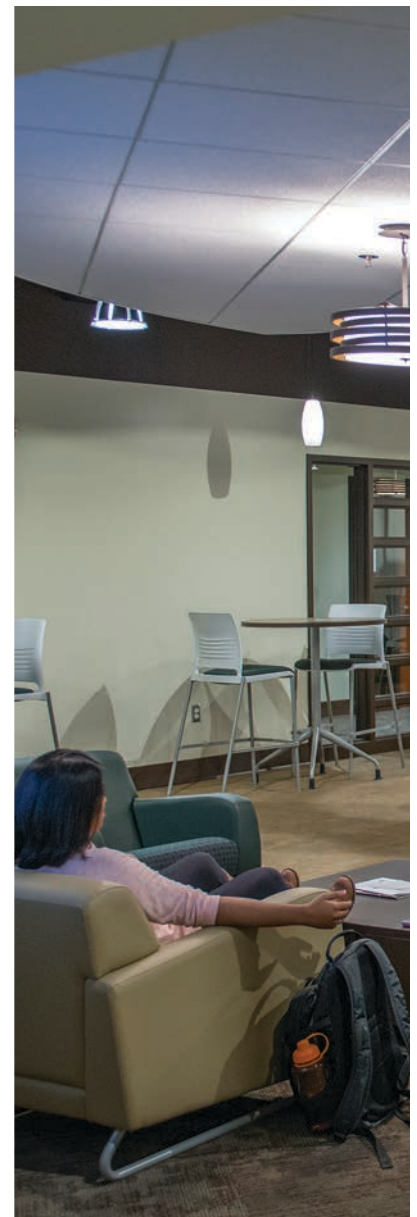


IMAGINE TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR **BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY**



New front steps and large glass windows grace the building's west entrance, facing Birchmont Drive.



MEMORIAL HALL is the **NEW HEART** of BSU's campus

Opened in August as the new home for the business administration and accounting programs and officially unveiled at Homecoming, Bemidji State University's remodeled Memorial Hall is a new star attraction.

The 75-year-old building, built as a gymnasium and for many years used for large gatherings, has been reborn as a state-of-the-art learning center that links the main Birchmont Drive corridor to a newly expanded Central Plaza ringed by the Upper and Lower Hobson Memorial Union, Sattgast Hall and A.C. Clark Library. A spacious lawn and intersecting sidewalks where Sanford Hall once stood is now the Sanford Quad.

"The new Memorial Hall is everything I hoped it would be."

— **Lisa Kittleson**
senior, business administration

The project, which began in September 2014, was made possible by \$13.79 million in bonds approved by the Minnesota Legislature, with strong support from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, Bemidji-area legislators and local officials. The money also financed renovation of Decker Hall as a new hub for student services.

"One thing that is clear to me is that the leaders of this community have rallied around Bemidji State," President Richard Hanson said at the ceremony on Oct. 2. "I think we're on our way, not just in terms of the College of Business, Technology and Communications, but in our other colleges and programs as well. It's time to shine a light and encourage the teaching and learning that develops students every day."



1

1. The lower-level concourse is lined by faculty offices, giving students easy access to instructors and promoting learning outside the classroom.
2. The original flooring from Memorial Hall's first life as a gymnasium is visible in this hallway, as are the red pine bleachers, which have been turned into horizontal paneling.
3. Shown when the project was nearing completion in late November, a new rear stairway and elevator are in a glass atrium overlooking Lake Bemidji and a newly expanded Central Plaza between the Upper and Lower Hobson Memorial Union.
4. Multiple video screens and flexible seating make this new active-learning classroom on the first floor of Memorial Hall highly adaptable to different teaching needs and group project work.



2



3

Dr. Shawn Strong, dean of BSU's College of Business, Technology and Communication, and BSU students Lisa Kittleson, a senior marketing communication major from Young America, Minn., and Marie Schwinghammer, a senior accounting major from Bemidji, also spoke to those gathered in front of the front steps.

"Although this building is one of the oldest on campus, it is now the most technically advanced," Strong said, pointing out its active-learning classrooms, community learning spaces, video conferencing capabilities and computer connectivity. "Ultimately, these features, both in terms of design and technology, are all focused on student learning."

Strong also said the new building has been designed to meet LEED certification, using 20 percent less energy and 40 percent less water than conventional buildings.

"The new Memorial Hall is everything I hoped it would be," Kittleson said. "When I proudly point out this building on tours as a University Ambassador, I always emphasize how it maintains a connection to the past as well as providing a completely modern atmosphere."



4



IMAGINE TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR **BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY**



President Richard Hanson cuts the ribbon on Oct. 2 to officially open renovated Memorial Hall during a morning ceremony.

Naming gifts will raise the bar for business

Renovation of Memorial Hall has opened a door of opportunity to donors who wish to support the College of Business, Technology and Communication through naming gifts for the building's many rooms and features.

Just as the building promises to be a magnet for student recruitment long into the future, it also provides a new avenue for BSU alumni and friends who seek to establish their own visible legacy or honor some other person, such as a family member.

In addition to the business administration and accounting programs, whose courses are all taught in Memorial Hall, the CBTC includes the Department of Technology, Art & Design, noted for its outstanding exhibit and graphic design programs, as well as the visual arts and applied engineering.

The college also leads Minnesota in delivery of online bachelor's degree-completion programs in business administration and is a partner in an on-campus business degree-completion program at Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

To learn more

For more information about Memorial Hall naming opportunities in support of the College of Business, Technology and Communications, contact Dr. Shawn Strong, dean, at (218) 755-3732 or sdstrong@bemidjistate.edu.

Naming opportunities in Memorial Hall vary from \$500,000 for the historic Art Deco lobby and lower-level concourse, to \$200,000 for an executive conference room, \$50,000 for group learning centers, to \$10,000 for individual offices – and those are only a few examples.

Such gifts will fund the CBTC's "2020 by 2020," a plan to grow the college from about 1,300 current students to 2,020 by the year 2020 while raising the bar on every aspect of its academics and outreach.

"We are pursuing many important initiatives that will integrate students, faculty and employers in meaningful and deliberate ways," said Dr. Shawn Strong, the college's dean.

Other objectives of "2020 by 2020" include the ability to host student study tours to places such as Chicago's Board of Trade or corporate headquarters in the Twin Cities, creating a more in-depth entrepreneurship program with real-world experience, launching an Executive in Residence program for visiting business leaders, and funding other initiatives to gain "gold standard" accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

An early naming gift came from the Carlson Companies, which named a suite of offices in honor of BSU alumna Trudy Rautio '75, who retired in May as president and CEO of the Minnetonka-based travel and hospitality giant. Rautio serves on the BSU Foundation board and the Imagine Tomorrow campaign's National Campaign Committee.

'The SKY IS THE LIMIT'

Outlook bright as campaign eclipses \$35 million goal

By Scott Faust

Apparently, Joe Lueken was right all along. Indications are that an original \$35 million goal for Bemidji State University's Imagine Tomorrow campaign wasn't quite a swing for the fences, to borrow an old baseball metaphor.

In retrospect, the target that once loomed so large now looks more like a solid triple than a home run. Fortunately, the game is far from over.

Campaign cash and commitments crept past the goal in November, with seven months to go in the five-year effort and tens of thousands more alumni and friends able to join the cause.

Well before Imagine Tomorrow quietly kicked off in July 2011, Lueken said Bemidji State could aim even higher in its bid to dramatically boost scholarship funding and academic investment.

While deeply grateful for every gift and pledge received so far, President Richard Hanson and other campaign leaders say they won't stop reaching out to new donors at every level of giving.

"Tomorrow" hasn't quite arrived, and it's still possible to "imagine" what can be achieved by midnight on June 30, once everyone has joined the team.

"As much as we use dollars and cents as a measure of our progress, this campaign has always been about more than money alone," Hanson said. "It's about the impact we will make in the lives of students and on the university for decades to come. With that to inspire us, the sky is the limit."



Trudy Rautio '75, seated next to Cynthia Cashman '85 and Dave Ramsey '78, discusses strategy with fellow members of the Imagine Tomorrow National Campaign Committee on Oct. 2 at the American Indian Resource Center.

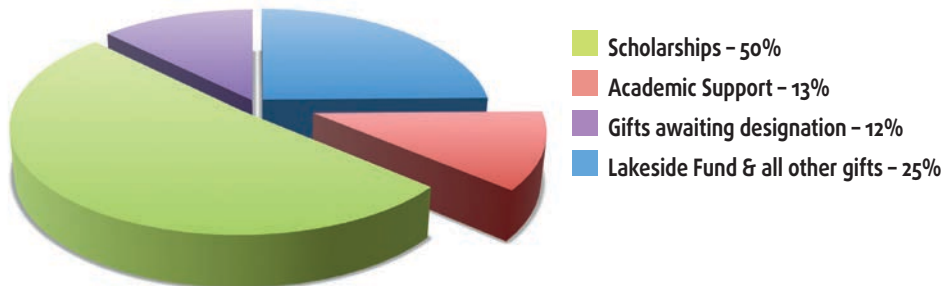
Lueken, who died in July 2014 at age 72, would undoubtedly have agreed. The generosity with which the legendary Bemidji grocery store owner and his wife, Janice, have supported

Bemidji State is an expression of belief in its importance and potential.

When the BSU Foundation Board of Trustees was preparing to launch the campaign to be known as

BREAKDOWN OF GIVING

Designations by category for \$35 million received or pledged to the Imagine Tomorrow campaign as of Nov. 30, 2015:



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IMAGINE TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR **BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY**

How you can get involved

Everyone connects with Bemidji State in a unique way: as a student, professor, staff member, intellectual, art lover, music aficionado, sports fan and on and on. Not surprisingly, every contribution – whether it is a financial gift, bequest or volunteer effort – reflects a donor's perspective, financial situation and time.

From a practical standpoint, here is background to inform your decision to be a part of the Imagine Tomorrow campaign:

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 or visit www.bsuiimaginemorrow.org.



Senior Shelby Andrist speaks about the importance of seizing opportunity during the BSU Foundation's Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast on Sept. 19 in the BSU Gymnasium. Andrist is a first-generation student and the daughter of a single mom.

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Imagine Tomorrow, trustee Lueken suggested they consider a goal as high as \$50 million.

Cautious optimism prevailed, and the lower but still challenging amount was approved.

The campaign's volunteer leadership, BSU Foundation and Alumni Association staff and Hanson himself now have 180 days to see just how far donors are willing to stretch.

Progress to date is encouraging to say the least:

- As of the most recent official tally, on Nov. 30, the total value of gifts and pledges to the Imagine Tomorrow campaign was \$35.34 million.
- The university has doubled its donor-funded scholarships for BSU students in five years, going from \$698,766 in 2011 to \$1,387,275 this fiscal year.
- Campaign donors have created 50 new scholarship endowments valued at \$6.89 million. They are benefiting students in 23 areas, ranging from leadership to mathematics to encouraging American Indian and international enrollment.

The way donors are designating their funds is

also largely on track to meet or exceed initial targets. In the area of scholarships, with a goal of \$20 million, \$17.23 million has been committed. For academic excellence, including faculty development and program investment, \$4.47 million has been committed toward an \$8 million goal. Annual support, which can be applied to the areas of highest need, has garnered \$8.6 million, exceeding a \$7 million goal. About \$5 million more awaits donor designation.

Dave Sorensen, chair of the Imagine Tomorrow Campaign Steering Committee said alumni and friends of BSU can expect plenty of friendly encouragement to participate, if they haven't already.

Reminders and updates will come via email, direct mail, individual meetings and special events such as the Fun in the Sun alumni gatherings in Arizona on March 4-5. One key point is that all multi-year pledges and planned gifts made by June will be credited to Imagine Tomorrow.

"We want as many people as possible to join this campaign and then join us at the gala on Oct. 16 when we celebrate this accomplishment together," Sorensen said. "It will be a thrilling night and a historic milestone for Bemidji State University."

Scholarships make multi-layered

IMPACT

*It's about much more
than the money*

By Scott Faust

For the third straight year, the BSU Foundation invited merit and need-based scholarship recipients, their families and scholarship donors to a Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast. The gathering, held this year on Sept. 19 in the BSU Gymnasium, has quickly become a major event on the fall calendar. President Hanson and Dr. Martin Tadlock each spoke and shook the hands of every student. Two scholarship recipients talked about their own academic journeys, and after the program, many students were able to personally thank the donors who funded their scholarships.

Samantha Wormley

A junior from Nevis, Samantha Wormley is majoring in business administration with an emphasis in management and entrepreneurship and a minor in computer information systems.

She arrived at BSU with an associate degree she earned online from Alexandria Technical and Community College. She is a member of the BSU Business Club and serves as networking officer for the Human Resource Management Club. Working at her parents' fishing resort during the summer taught her the importance of listening to customers and understanding their needs.

In case there was any doubt about Wormley's focus, she states it clearly: "Essentially, my ultimate goal would be to run a company," she said. "I know that's out there, but I like to dream big."

Her gratitude for the scholarships she's received is equally clear.

"Thank you for investing in my future," Wormley wrote in a letter to Wayne and Beverly Thorson after receiving their business scholarship. "I will do my best to make the most of your generous investment."

Dusty Juve

A sophomore from Fosston, Dusty Juve is majoring in engineering technology with an emphasis in manufacturing management and a minor in project management.

He is eager to diversify the experience he's gained working for a construction company in Fosston and is seeking an internship in



Wayne and Beverly Thorson with Samantha Wormley, recipient of the Wayne & Beverly Thorson Business Scholarship.

line with his goal of becoming a certified manufacturing engineer.

"I've been applying like crazy so I can finally get my foot in the door and start something in my field," Juve said.

With encouragement from the Department of Technology, Art & Design, he applied for and received not only a John H. Warford Memorial Scholarship but also a Marvin Window & Doors Scholarship. Both were awarded through the BSU Foundation.

"People are willing to help pay for your way through college, all because they think you're worth their time and money," Juve said, "and that makes me want to work all that much harder."

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Dr. Suzanne Warford Anderson with Dusty Juve, recipient of the John H. Warford Memorial Scholarship.



President Richard Hanson with Jineane Williams, recipient of the Joe & Jan Lueken American Indian Scholarship, and her father, Zane Williams.

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Jineane Williams

A senior from Bemidji, Jineane Williams is majoring in nursing with a dual minor in psychology and indigenous studies.

She is a Navajo Indian and would like to begin her career with the Indian Health Service, possibly in Cass Lake or Red Lake. If she stayed for at least two years, she would benefit from a loan repayment program.

Williams is already gaining experience by working as a certified personal care attendant for several youth clients in the Bemidji area, and she was preparing to job shadow with IHS nurses in Red Lake over winter break. This summer, she will join other BSU student nurses on a 20-day trip to South Africa.

Receiving a Joe & Jan Lueken American Indian Scholarship has reinforced her commitment.

"It really encouraged me to keep doing what I'm doing and gave me motivation to work hard for what I want," Williams said.



Doug '10 and Sue Frederickson with Erik Nims, recipient of the Big Oaks Foundation Scholarship.

Erik Nims

A senior from Brooklyn Park, Erik Nims is majoring in art & design with an emphasis on graphic design.

He is a first-generation college student who has been earning money and developing his design talents as a student worker in the BSU Office of Communications and Marketing since the spring 2015 semester. His work has included designed posters, brochures and advertising for clients ranging from Beaver Athletics to BSU Admissions.

Nims is a member of the Environmental Design Guild and in early December joined the student group on a trip to Chicago, where they visited exhibit and print design firms.

Receiving a Big Oaks Foundation Scholarship "just makes it a lot easier to pay the bills," he said. "It's given me the opportunity to stay in school."



Arla and Willie '53 Stittsworth with Jessie Battistini, recipient of the Willie Stittsworth Scholarship.

Jessie Battistini

A senior from Cloquet, Jessie Battistini is majoring in social studies education with a minor in history. In May, she will become the first in her family to complete a four-year degree.

Battistini tried out majors in business and mass communication before she began pursuing her longtime dream of teaching. Working as a residence hall assistant gave her new confidence, she said.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," Battistini said, "but I never thought I could. Then I decided, 'I'm going to give it a try.' And here I am."

In addition to being a student worker for two academic departments, she writes for the Northern Student magazine, tutors other students and works off campus as a waitress. Last summer, she was a tutor for at-risk students in the Upward Bound program.

The Willie Stittsworth Scholarship she received makes her "so thankful," Battistini said, because it meant not having to take out additional student loans this year.

"I'm paying for my schooling all by myself, and it gets spendy," she said.



George '64 and Sandy Thelen with Bruce Wilmot, recipient of the George and Sandy Thelen Leadership Scholarship.

Bruce Wilmot

A freshman from Park Rapids, Bruce Wilmot is majoring in computer science.

He has gone from being home-schooled since kindergarten to living in a BSU residence hall and is enjoying having a roommate and gaining greater independence.

Although Wilmot said he hasn't yet narrowed his career plans within his chosen field, he knows he's always enjoyed and been fascinated by computers.

In addition to providing important financial help, he said receiving a George & Sandy Thelen Leadership Scholarship has made him be tougher on himself.

"Scholarships require you to maintain a certain level as a student," he said, "and that's a good incentive."

Hanson to retire in June

Chancellor launches extensive search process



President Richard Hanson speaks to staff and faculty on Aug. 18 at the All-University Meeting where he announced his retirement.

Anationwide search is underway to choose a successor for Dr. Richard A. Hanson, who in August announced he will conclude six years as president of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College when he retires in June.

Hanson received a standing ovation from faculty and staff following his remarks on Aug. 18 at BSU's traditional All-University Meeting to kick off the new academic year.

"This is the best job I've ever had at the best place I've ever been," Hanson said. "This is a fabulous institution, and we are on the verge of even greater things."



MnSCU Chancellor Dr. Steven Rosenstone meets with a Bemidji State student Sept. 30 during a visit to Bemidji to gather insights about qualities needed in the next president of BSU and Northwest Technical College.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor Dr. Steven Rosenstone visited Bemidji on Sept. 30 to ask campus and community stakeholders what qualities will be most important for the next BSU-NTC president to possess.

He said he expected the search process to yield a successful candidate who not only has outstanding experience and credentials but is the right fit for Bemidji and the culture of the two campuses.

BSU staff who met with Rosenstone said they are looking for someone who is an innovative thinker, a steward of philanthropic support, an expert at increasing student recruitment and retention, and a confident financial strategist.

Rosenstone has appointed a 17-member search committee with representatives from BSU and NTC employee bargaining units, administrators, students and community members. Dr. Connie Gores, president of Southwest Minnesota State University is committee chair.

The search schedule calls for an initial round of candidate interviews on Feb. 25-26, campus visits by finalists in March, and an April 20 appointment by the MnSCU Board of Trustees based on Rosenstone's recommendation.

Hanson said his decision to retire at the end of his current contract was inevitably difficult, but he looks forward to more time with his wife, Dianne, and their family. He joked about getting a break from frequent four-hour trips to attend meetings at MnSCU headquarters.

"I've still got some gas in my tank, but I don't want to use it driving to St. Paul," Hanson said.

Hanson's tenure in Bemidji has included leadership of BSU's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, *Imagine Tomorrow*, which has already met its initial goal of \$35 million for scholarships and academic investment. He also has placed renewed emphasis on international recruitment and education abroad, increased administrative integration and academic partnership between BSU and

NTC, and championed BSU's distinction as a north woods campus that offers students a unique and transformative residential experience.

Major improvements to the BSU campus have also been a hallmark of Hanson's years, including installation of artificial turf in Chet Anderson Stadium, renovation of Memorial Hall, a public-private project to build a 56-unit student apartment building called University Heights, and the planned replacement of Hagg-Sauer Hall, a project that includes renovation of six other campus buildings.

Hanson also has placed a priority on increasing BSU's community visibility and engagement, including such steps as establishing an office in the Mayflower Building, an economic development hub in downtown Bemidji, and agreeing to maintain a BSU gallery in the Watermark Arts Center for visual art, also in downtown Bemidji.

In addition, he has strengthened the connections between Bemidji State and NTC, fostering greater academic collaboration in addition to efficiencies gained from dual responsibilities for many administrators and staff. In August 2014, Dr. Hanson initiated a comprehensive process of review for NTC known as "reinvention" that produced streamlined academic programs aligned directly with workforce needs in northern Minnesota.

What's next

Finalists for the presidency of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College are scheduled to be selected in time for campus and community interviews in Bemidji in March.



This architectural rendering shows the design of a new two-story Hagg-Sauer Hall planned for the same location as the existing building. It will be brown brick to match other campus buildings.

Hagg-Sauer replacement project hinges on bonding

Planning is underway for the demolition and replacement of Hagg-Sauer Hall and the redistribution of faculty offices across the Bemidji State University campus, an \$18.1 million combined project that depends on legislative approval of bond funding this spring.

Hagg-Sauer, located just south of Chet Anderson Stadium, is sixth on the Minnesota System of Colleges and Universities' priority list for its 2016 capital request. On Oct. 1, BSU hosted the Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee for a tour and briefing from Karen Snorek, vice president for administration and finance. The House Capital Investment Committee made a similar visit on Aug. 12.

Plans call for the 82,000-square-foot, 35-year-old Hagg-Sauer

Hall to be torn down in summer 2017 and replaced over the following year by a new 25,000-square-foot academic learning center, with updated technology and a variety of classroom types and sizes. The old building has poor wheelchair access and significant deferred maintenance costs from groundwater intrusion. The new building is slated to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standards for energy efficiency and sustainable design.

Renovation of the A.C. Clark Library, Bangsberg Performing Arts Complex, Bensen Hall, Deputy Hall and Sattgast Hall is scheduled to begin next summer to relocate faculty now in Hagg-Sauer and establish learning communities that will promote collaboration among faculty and interaction with students.



Student Senate President Brittany Hull shows off her Save Our Students bracelet in a student-produced video titled "Who's Got Your Back?: No Buddy Left Behind."

Student safety in forefront following 2014 tragedy

BSU's 2015 orientation for new students in August included "Life on Campus and What You Need to Know," a mandatory presentation and panel discussion for all incoming freshmen specifically focused on student safety, responsible behavior and caring for fellow students. These topics gained greater urgency than ever following the hypothermia death of a student in December 2014.

The presentation included a new video titled "Who's Got Your Back?: No Buddy Left Behind." It was a student project coordinated by Jay Passa of BSU's Student Center for Health and Counseling produced in partnership with Lakeland Television. The video, just over two minutes long, encourages students to take care of themselves and to watch out for their friends.

Also, green rubber bracelets with the words "S.O.S. SAVE OUR STUDENTS" have been distributed by Student Senate for students, faculty and staff to wear in support of this initiative. Students, faculty, staff and area law enforcement will meet in the coming year to continue implementing recommendations from a task force President Richard Hanson formed after last year's tragedy.

Rankings continue to put BSU in top tier of peer institutions

Bemidji State was again named one of the 100 best colleges and universities in the Midwest region in rankings released Sept. 9 by U.S. News and World Report. BSU tied for 34th among public institutions in the Midwest and tied with four other institutions for 99th among all colleges and universities in the region. It is the eighth consecutive year that BSU has made the U.S. News list of top 100 colleges in the region.

Winds of Change magazine also again named Bemidji State one of the top 200 colleges in the nation for American Indian students. The list focuses on a college's native community and support system and also includes data measuring undergraduate degrees in science, engineering, technology and mathematics-related disciplines and six-year graduation rates. BSU has made the Winds of Change Top 200 each year since 2008.



Nursing students from Jinhua, China, tour Sanford Bemidji Medical Center during their September visit to BSU.

Chinese delegation is vanguard for possible nursing partnership

Nursing students and faculty from Jinhua University in Jinhua, China, visited BSU and Bemidji for a week in September. The group toured the nursing programs at both the university and Northwest Technical College and visited health care facilities throughout the Bemidji community.

The ambassadors were visiting Bemidji to explore a potential degree-completion agreement between Jinhua and BSU, which would allow Jinhua students to spend two years in Bemidji completing bachelor's degrees in nursing after finishing their three-year program in Jinhua.

"They were very impressed by the quality of what they saw in our classrooms and labs," said Dr. Martin Tadlock, BSU/NTC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. "They loved meeting American students and felt like they had made quick friends."

Tadlock says the next step will be to determine BSU courses and workshops the Bemidji School of Nursing could deliver on campus in Jinhua beginning as soon as the summer of 2016.

Administrative appointments

These individuals have been appointed to permanent cabinet-level administrative positions at Bemidji State University over the past six months:

Karen Snorek

Vice President for Finance and Administration

Karen Snorek joined BSU and Northwest Technical College on July 1 as the new vice president for finance and administration, replacing Bill Maki, who was appointed president of Minnesota's Northeast Higher Education District, a consortium of five community colleges. Snorek has more than two decades of higher education experience in Minnesota and has served as vice president of finance and operations at South Central College in Faribault, Minn., since 2006. She was vice president of finance and facilities at Riverland Community College in Austin from 1996-2006, and was business manager at Minnesota Riverland Technical College from 1992-96.

Before beginning her career in higher education administration, she worked eight years in a variety of accounting positions at Owatonna Tool Company. She has a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Karen Snorek

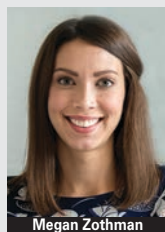
Megan Zothman

Chief Human Resources Officer

Megan Zothman was named chief human resource officer for Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College in October. She had been a human resources specialist in Bemidji State's Office of Human Resources since March 2014.

Zothman has been recognized for her performance by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, winning its 2015 Human Resources All-Star Award. Before joining the BSU/NTC human resources office, Zothman was an executive team leader for Target Corp., overseeing human resource at stores in Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Sioux Falls, S.D., and Minneapolis.

She has bachelor's degrees in retail merchandising and business-entrepreneurial management from the University of Minnesota.



Megan Zothman

Bill Blackwell Jr.

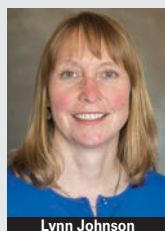
Director, American Indian Resource Center

Bill Blackwell Jr. started July 1 as director of the American Indian Resource Center. Blackwell, a 2012 graduate of BSU and member of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, will serve BSU and NTC after spending the past three years in fundraising leadership role at Leech Lake Tribal College.

Blackwell also worked as the college's admissions and outreach coordinator, following earlier work in retail management. He has a bachelor's degree in Indian Studies and a certificate of instruction in Ojibwe from BSU, as well as a master's degree in tribal administration and governance from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.



Bill Blackwell Jr.



Lynn Johnson

Lynn Johnson

Director of Distance Learning

Lynn Johnson became director of distance learning for BSU on July 1 after serving as interim director for the past four years. She joined the university in 2001 as associate director of distance learning.

Johnson has responsibility for managing online and off-campus instruction and degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as establishing partnerships with other colleges and universities. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling, both from Moorhead State University.



American Indian student leader Vincent Staples-Graves and Summer Program Director Angie Gora show off a plaque from the North American Association of Summer Sessions, which recognized BSU's new Ojibwe Language Summer Camp for innovation.

Ojibwe cultural-immersion camp receives national recognition

BSU's Ojibwe Language Summer Camp, which offers a unique opportunity for students to become immersed in Ojibwe culture, has won the Innovative Award for Non-Credit Programs from the North American Association of Summer Sessions.

Jan Yopp, the association's committee chair for creative and innovative awards, said the camp, whose Ojibwe name is Ojibwemowin Niibinishi Gabeshi, was recognized for "its impact on students and adaptability for other campuses."

The association recognizes member schools that offer creative and innovative programs each year at its annual conference. The awards are meant to highlight the importance of curriculum development, acknowledge programs that make outstanding contributions to the management, operation or marketing of summer sessions, and to give its members an opportunity to learn from one another.

During the two-week camp at BSU, faculty and staff teach campers about the Ojibwe language, history, cultural traditions and native arts. Current Bemidji State students serve as camp counselors, chaperoning students to daily activities and facilitating evening programs. Ojibwe language proficiency isn't required to participate in the camp.

The two-week camp will be held next summer on July 11-15 and July 18-22. Registration materials are now available at <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/summer/summer-academies-and-camps/>

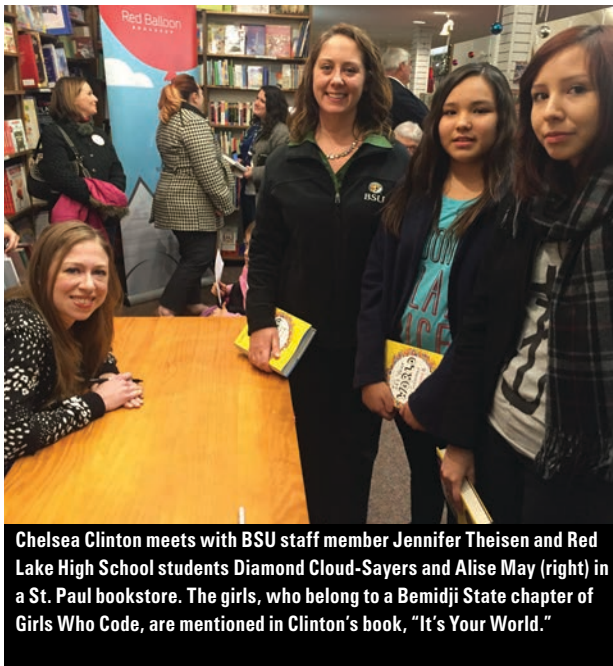
Grad student gains help push BSU enrollment up 2 percent

More than 5,000 students are pursuing their higher education goals at Bemidji State this year. Fall enrollment on the 30th day of classes shows 5,013 students attending Bemidji State, the school's highest enrollment since 2012.

BSU's head count enrollment is up 107 students from its Fall 2014 30th-day enrollment of 4,906, a 2.2 percent increase. Enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students has increased from last year. BSU has 4,739 undergraduate students this fall, an increase of just under 1 percent from last year, while graduate enrollment has jumped more than 31 percent to 274 students — BSU's highest number of graduate students since 2011.



Student-athletes help carry belongings into residence halls during Move-In Day on Aug. 21.



Chelsea Clinton meets with BSU staff member Jennifer Theisen and Red Lake High School students Diamond Cloud-Sayers and Alise May (right) in a St. Paul bookstore. The girls, who belong to a Bemidji State chapter of Girls Who Code, are mentioned in Clinton's book, "It's Your World."

Chelsea Clinton book includes girls from Girls Who Code chapter at BSU

A pair of American Indian high school students from Red Lake who have begun learning computer coding in a BSU-based Girls Who Code chapter are named in a new book by Chelsea Clinton, daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton.

Clinton greeted students Alise May and Diamond Cloud-Sayers and gave them each a signed copy of her new book, "It's Your World", at a Nov. 20 event in a St. Paul bookstore. BSU computer programmer Jennifer Theisen, who organized the chapter last year, joined the girls.

Girls Who Code is a non-profit program meant to inspire high-school aged girls to learn computing and coding skills and, ultimately, increase the number of women working in high-tech professions.

Clinton highlighted the fact that the girls have used what they learned in the club to create a smartphone app called Ojibwe Helper, which helps teach the Ojibwe language. BSU's Girls Who Code club is funded in part by a girlsBEST grant from the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.



The newly built Laurel House is a home and gathering place for Honors Program students.

Laurel House unveiled as new home and gathering place for Honors Program students

Bemidji State officially unveiled a reconstructed Laurel House for Honors Program students with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during Homecoming Week on Oct. 2.

Laurel House, on Birchmont Drive north of the Alumni House, was completed this summer after the former house was demolished. Designed in the Craftsman style, the four-bedroom house was the result

of an extensive collaboration between the university, Northwest Technical College and professional construction contractors and consultants in the region.

The house will not only serve as a residence for four honors students each year, but also as a new gathering and learning space for all students in the Honors Program.

BSU showcases sustainability as host of UMACS conference

Around 200 college and university faculty and staff who are involved with sustainability and green activities on their home campuses visited Bemidji State University June 17-19 for the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability conference.

The association's sixth conference was called "Healthy Planet = Healthy People, Campuses and Communities." Programming focused on the integration of wellness and healthy lifestyles into sustainability programs to ensure that campuses and communities are not only sustainable, but also that the people within those institutions are developing healthy lifestyles.

Presentations covered such topics as student-grown produce in campus greenhouses, sustainability leadership and how to teach it, and how campuses can partner with surrounding communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It was exciting to see all of the good work that is going on and to get ideas for projects that can be done in our own communities," said Erika



Anna Carlson, assistant sustainability coordinator at Bemidji State, speaks to attendees during the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability conference, held June 17-19 at BSU.

Bailey-Johnson, director of BSU's Sustainability Office, which hosted the conference.

The conference also featured a panel led by Anthony Desnick, director of greater Minnesota strategies for the state's Nice Ride bike rental and sharing program, on efforts to reduce automobile usage. BSU is one of several Nice Ride sites in the city of Bemidji.

New wildlife biology major opens broad career path

Starting this fall, BSU students seeking careers in natural resources agencies or who are interested in graduate study in wildlife biology have enrolled in a new bachelor of science program in wildlife biology.

As part of the 72-credit program, students are taking courses in wildlife management, geographic information systems, policy and legal administration, and ethics and human dimensions in management in addition to traditional biology courses. Previously, BSU biology students could pursue a wildlife biology management emphasis by taking around a half-dozen classes related to the subject.

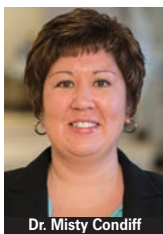
Students who graduate with the new degree also will receive certification from The Wildlife Society as an associate wildlife biologist.

BSU FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Erika Bailey-Johnson, sustainability coordinator, presented at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's annual conference, Oct. 25-28 in Minneapolis. She was one of four co-presenters at an all-day pre-conference workshop entitled "Sustainability, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Across the Curriculum." Bailey-Johnson also presented "Including Mental and Physical Wellness in the Sustainability Model."

Dr. Valicia Boudry, associate professor of mass communication, and **Dr. Mary Fairbanks**, associate professor of nursing, have received Quality Matters certification for online courses they teach. Quality Matters is a faculty-centered peer review process designed to certify the quality of online and blended-delivery courses. Boudry's Principles of Public Relations course was certified in July, and Fairbanks' Community and Family Health Nursing course was certified in October.

Dr. Misty Condiff, assistant professor of nursing, was the keynote speaker at the Aotearoa Indigenous Nurses Conference, Aug. 7-9 in Auckland, New Zealand. Her presentation was titled "The Lived Experience of American Indian Organ Donors and Recipients: Stories of Cultural, Physical and Spiritual Triumph."



Dr. Misty Condiff

Dr. Eric Forsyth, professor of human performance, sport and health, has received certification as a Master Athletic Administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's education program. His professional involvement project was the book, "NIAAA's Guide to Interscholastic Athletic Administration," which he co-edited and was co-author of its introduction and conclusion, with Dr. John Olson.

Dr. Timothy Goodwin, assistant professor of professional education, has published a new book, "Within These Woods," which is a thematic collection of his poems, essays and artwork that explore how a human being lives in the world as a member of a globally interconnected ecosystem.



Dr. Timothy Goodwin

Debra Sea, assistant professor of mass communication, in October had her short film "Lift to Move" presented as an official selection at the London Greek Film Festival. The film is a tribute to Mårkos Vamvakaris, recognized as the father of rebetiko, a style of Greek folk music that emerged in the 1960s.



Debra Sea

Thomas Dunn, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, in October presented "Multiplicities and Integral Closure of Monomial Ideals" at the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America fall meetings at BSU.

Dr. Janice Haworth, associate professor of music, in October presented a paper titled "The Evolution of Traditional Rhythms in Redefining the West African Country of Guinea" at the International Conference on Musicology and Ethnomusicology in London. Haworth also presented a paper titled "Drumming in a Cultural Context: From Notational Architect to Ethnomusicologist" at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology One-Day Conference at Newcastle University.

Dr. Kelly La Venture, assistant professor of business administration, has co-authored a new book, "The Human Factor to Profitability: Building a People-Centered Culture for Long-Term Success," with Dr. Jeannette Kersten of the University of Wisconsin-Stout. LaVenture and Kersten presented the book in October at the World Congress on Education in Dublin, Ireland.



Dr. Kelly La Venture

Francois Neville, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, in October presented "The Perceptron: Introducing Artificial Intelligence into the Developmental Math Classroom" at the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America fall meetings at BSU.



Dr. Anton Treuer, professor of languages and indigenous studies, in October launched his new book, "Warrior Nation: History of the Red Lake Ojibwe." The book, which documents four centuries of the Red Lake Nation's history through stories carried by its people, is Treuer's fourth published by the Minnesota Historical Society and his 14th overall.

Dr. Marty Wolf, professor of mathematics and computer science, presented "This Ethical Trap is for Roboticians, Not Robots: Why Use a Robot When a Human Will Do?" in June at the Computer Ethics: Philosophical Enquiry/International Association for Computing and Philosophy joint conference in Newark, Del., along with Dr. Frances Grodzinsky of Sacred Heart University



Dr. Marty Wolf

and Dr. Keith Miller of the University of Illinois-Springfield. Wolf also presented "Augmented Reality All Around Us: Power and Perception at a Crossroads" in September at the ETHICOMP 2015 conference in Leicester, U.K. in September, also with Grodzinsky and Miller. He is vice chair of the Association for Computing Machinery's Committee on Professional Ethics.

Natalia Himmirska, associate professor of technology, art & design, and **John "Butch" Holden**, professor of technology, art & design, participated in the city of Bemidji's First City of Arts: Studio Cruise tour in October. Holden displayed his pottery work and the work of his students, along with pottery wheel demonstrations, while Himmirska showed painting work done by her and her students.

Dr. Dennis Lunt is serving as BSU's director of leadership studies for the 2015-16 academic year. Lunt manages curriculum for the leadership studies program, coordinates reviews of capstone projects, advises students pursuing a leadership minor, and organizes campus events associated with leadership.



Dennis Lunt



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BSUSPORTS

Fall/Winter Sports Recaps

BASEBALL The Bemidji State baseball team completed its 2015 season with a 14-33 overall record and an 11-21 mark in NSIC play. The Beavers capped the season by winning their final four games and finished 11th in the league standings. **Jack Hegarty** led BSU at the plate, hitting .380, with a team-high five home runs and the second highest RBI count, at 29. **Terry Hadden** logged 60.2 innings on the mound, totaling 32 strikeouts to 29 walks en route to a 4-6 record in a team-best 11 starts ... **SOFTBALL** Under the direction of Head Coach **Rick Sumpinski**, in his fifth year at Bemidji State, the BSU softball team concluded its 2015 season with more wins than any Beaver softball team since 1998 (9). BSU recorded an overall record of 18-30 and an 8-22 mark in NSIC play.

Lyndsey Peterson led the Beavers in several offensive categories, including: batting average (.362), home runs (nine), on-base percentage (.435), runs (27), RBI (30), doubles (16) and walks (17). Her nine home runs and 16 doubles set new single-season program records. The Cottonwood, Minn., native is one of 16 players returning to the Beavers for the 2016 season ... **OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD** Hailey Horob headlined the women's track and field program as it capped its 2015 outdoor season at the NSIC Championships in May. The junior broke her own school record, clearing 11 feet, 7.75 inches in the pole vault. The meet served as Head Coach **Craig Houggen's** final event, as he retired after more than 26 years at BSU. Following the season, BSU was selected for United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II All-Academic Team honors...

FOOTBALL After opening the season 0-3, the BSU football team used a 39-7 Homecoming victory over U-Mary to spark a six-game winning streak and charge toward the NSIC North Division title. Following a 20th-anniversary victory plunge into Lake Bemidji, BSU claimed "The Hubcap" traveling trophy with a 41-7 win at Minnesota Crookston. A convincing 41-24 victory at Northern State solidified a share of the division title for the second time in four seasons ... **SOCCER** Led by First-Team All-NSIC forward **Sarah Stram**, the BSU soccer team posted an 11-7-1 overall mark and an 8-6-1 record in NSIC play to finish tied with Southwest Minnesota State for sixth in the league standings and secure a berth into the NSIC Tournament for the seventh consecutive season. At the completion of the season, Stram, **Christine Szurek**, **Emily Olson**, **Rachael Norton** and **Miranda Famestad** were all selected for All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference honors ... **WOMEN'S GOLF** The BSU women's golf team wrapped up the fall portion of its 2015-16 season in eighth place after 36 holes of the split-season NSIC Championship. Led by an 86.0 stroke average from junior **Mary Elmquist**, the Beavers competed in five events, highlighted by a successful defense of their BSU Invitational title Oct. 2 and achieving a second-place finish in the Dragon Invitational, Sept. 11 ... **MEN'S GOLF** Led by a freshman class that ranked 12th nationally in average scoring, the BSU men's golf team competed in five events during its fall season, finishing among the top two teams on two occasions. Newcomer **Gabe Douglas** took medalist honors to lead the Beavers to a team title in the BSU Invitational before fellow freshman **Will Czeh** finished fourth to lead BSU to second place at the Jamestown Invitational. The Beavers sit fifth after the first 36 holes of the NSIC Championship, 20 strokes off the pace set by Minnesota State, Mankato. Junior **Aaron Leintz** carded a 74.1 scoring average in 10 rounds this fall to lead the Beavers and rank fourth in the NSIC.



Lyndsey Peterson



Patti Zwiers



Jim Scanlan



Sarah Stram

33 Beavers make NSIC academic list

Bemidji State landed 33 student-athletes on the 2015 Spring Academic All-NSIC Team. To be eligible for the Academic All-NSIC Team, student-athletes must maintain a grade point average of 3.20 or better, be a member of a varsity traveling team, and have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at their institution with one full year completed at that campus. The BSU baseball team led the spring contingent with 12 student-athletes recognized for academic accomplishment. BSU also had seven members of its women's outdoor track and field team honored, four from its women's golf team and five student-athletes from the softball and women's tennis teams selected to the 2015 all-academic squad.

Mowatt named First-Team All-American for net prowess

Women's hockey goaltender **Brittini Mowat** was named to the 2015 CCM/AHCA All-American First Team to cap a record-setting 2014-15 season. The first BSU player to garner a First-Team All-American accolade, Mowat was instrumental in the Beavers' season, posting a 19-13-1 record with an 1.68 goals against average and .945 save percentage to rank among the top 10 nationally. She was also instrumental in BSU's penalty-killing unit, which finished second in the WCHA and third nationally with .915 success rate last season.

BSU women's shot put star takes place among NSIC Hall of Famers

Bemidji State graduate and former women's track and field standout **Patti (Fitzgerald) Zwiers** was inducted into the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame as part of the league's 16th Annual Summer Kickoff event.

Zwiers was a three-year letter winner for the Bemidji State women's track and field team and head coach Jan Berg. She earned All-Northern Sun Conference honors six times and was a five-time All-American in the shot put. Zwiers also shone in the classroom, where she was named a NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 1989 and earned NAIA Academic All-America accolades in 1988, 1989 and 1990. She graduated magna cum laude in 1990 with a degree in math education.

Successful debut earns Scanlan national coach of the year honors

Jim Scanlan, who is in his second season at the helm of the BSU women's hockey program, was named USCHO.com National Coach of the Year to cap the 2014-15 season. Scanlan led the Beavers to a program-best 21 wins and the team's first appearance in the WCHA Final Face-Off championship game. The 2014-15 WCHA Coach of the Year, Scanlan guided the Beavers to a 10-win improvement from the previous season and five wins over teams that finished in the top 10 nationally. The Beavers also posted three wins against teams that went to the Frozen Four, which included handing the eventual national champions, University of Minnesota, two of its three losses.

North Star College Cup awaits BSU

The Bemidji State men's hockey team may be just halfway through its 2015-16 season, but anticipation has been building for the 2016 North Star College Cup. Last season, behind a Most Valuable Player performance from goaltender **Michael Bitzer**, the Beavers defeated then-No. 7 Minnesota Duluth, 4-0, and No. 1 Minnesota State, 3-1, to win the tournament in its inaugural appearance. The event at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul features the best college hockey has to offer, pitting Minnesota's five NCAA Division I men's hockey programs against one another for bragging rights in the State of Hockey. BSU will begin defense of its 2015 title at 4 p.m. Jan. 30 when it faces Minnesota. Four-game ticket packages for the 2016 North Star College Cup are available now at the Sanford Center Box Office.

Stram earns a spot on the Academic All-District First Team

The Bemidji State soccer team's leading scorer, **Sarah Stram**, is also turning heads in the classroom. The junior chemistry major was named to the 2015 Capitol One/College Sports Information Directors of America College Division Academic All-District® First Team. In addition to leading the team with 10 goals and 26 points, the Elk Grove Village, Ill., native carries a 3.97 cumulative GPA. In 2014-15, she was recognized as BSU's Outstanding Analytical Chemist and was selected for BSU's American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award.

DeVille earned offense, recruiting stripes at Sioux Falls

By Brad Folkestad

Bemidji State women's basketball began a new era when it took to the court for its 2015-16 opener Nov. 14. In June, Director of Athletics Tracy Dill announced Chelsea DeVille as the 10th coach in the history of the program.

"The level of energy and enthusiasm she brings to the position is unmatched," Dill said. "In addition, she is an outstanding recruiter and communicator."

A first-time head coach, DeVille is just over six years removed from being a collegiate student-athlete herself. She has injected the program with youthful exuberance while assembling a team poised to make big strides in 2015-16. The roster features nine returning players, including 2014-15 NSIC Freshman of the Year Sierra Senske.

DeVille came to Bemidji State after serving on the University of Sioux Falls women's basketball coaching staff since 2009. Following a year as graduate assistant under Head Coach Travis Traphagen, she was promoted to assistant coach beginning with the 2010-11 season and served in that capacity until she was elevated to associate head coach following the 2013-14 campaign.

While at USF, DeVille helped the Cougars to an overall record of 111-64 during a transition from the NAIA to NCAA Division II and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. A NAIA powerhouse, USF posted a school-record 27 wins en route to a trip to the NAIA Elite Eight in 2010-11. Since making the transition to the NCAA, the Cougars have made two consecutive trips to the NSIC postseason tournament, which included a 17-10 mark in 2014-15.



New Bemidji State women's basketball coach Chelsea DeVille in the BSU Gymnasium.

In addition to assisting in offensive game strategies and leading the Cougars' defense and substitutions on game day, DeVille was the driving force behind USF's recruiting efforts. She oversaw the team's academic progress, was responsible for scouting the opposition, film breakdown, travel and the university's youth basketball camps.

A 2009 graduate of Augustana College, DeVille was a four-year starter and letter winner for the Vikings and earned the North Central Conference Freshman of the Year award in 2006. The Watertown, S.D., native has a bachelor's degree in special education from Augustana and a master's degree in educational leadership from USF.

Kean offers regimen for success

By Brad Folkestad

The June retirement of long-time Head Coach Craig Hougen left a hole in the Bemidji State track and field and cross country programs, but new Head Coach Kevin Kean has jumped in with a desire to lead his teams to conference and national prominence.

"This is a great opportunity for me," Kean said. "With a great indoor training facility and the outstanding backdrop of Bemidji's cross country trails, Bemidji State possesses everything we need to be successful within the conference and at the national level."

He was hired in prior to the 2015 cross country season and led the Beavers to a seventh-place finish at the NSIC Championships. The team also traveled to the North Central Regional meet, where BSU trimmed one minute, six seconds off its average 6,000-meter time to place 25th.

Kean came to BSU after a three-year stint as assistant track and field coach at NCAA Division II Tiffin University, where he has was one of the program's primary recruiters and

had direct responsibility for multi-event athletes and jumpers. In addition, he developed strength-training programs for the multi-event athletes, sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers and played a significant role in facility and meet management.

Prior to his time at Tiffin, Kean spent four seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Northern Michigan University. At NMU he was responsible for an overhaul of the Wildcats' Olympic weightlifting programs, helped create and implement the training programs for multi-event athletes, sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers, provided oversight of the team's stretching and pre-habilitation regimens, and provided the team with nutritional education. In addition, he served as a member of the NMU faculty in the fall of 2011 and spring of 2012.

As a collegiate assistant coach, Kean has already worked with 50 Division II national championship qualifiers, 15 All-Americans, 16 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions and multiple GLIAC record-holders, while his teams have finished among the nation's best, most recently



New BSU track and cross country coach Kevin Kean in the Gillett Recreation-Fitness Center.

placing sixth at the 2015 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Kean carries multiple USA Track and Field and U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association certifications.

A 2009 graduate of Northern Michigan with a bachelor's degree in health education and physical education, Kean also earned a master's degree from NMU in exercise science.

ALUMNI NEWS

McGovern's Pub will be alumni HQ for North Star College Cup

The new Twin Cities Alumni Chapter is gearing up for the North Star College Cup at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul Jan. 30-31. The Beavers will take on the University of Minnesota Gophers at 4 p.m. Saturday to begin defending their 2015 championship. University of Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State University round out the tournament. Sunday's games are determined by the outcome of Saturday's games. Tickets for all four games are \$80 and can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 745-3000. Before and after the weekend's games BSU Alumni will gather at McGovern's Pub 225 7th Street W.

Alumni Association planning Fun in the Desert Sun events

President Richard Hanson and the Alumni Association will again host alums at BSU Fun in the Desert Sun events, beginning with a Tucson Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 4 at Blue Willow Restaurant for \$15, followed by a Mesa Luncheon at noon March 5 at Apache Wells Country Club. The Mesa luncheon is \$15 and an optional 8 a.m. golf outing that same day is \$47. Alumni who travel to the Southwest for the winter are asked to share their contact information (even if it is temporary) with the Alumni Office so they can get you the latest information. Call (218) 755-3989, email alumni@bemidjistate.edu or visit bsualumni.org.



Alumni Relative Scholarship applications now available

The Alumni Association provides scholarships to students attending BSU who are relatives of contributing alumni. Scholarships are made possible by contributions to the Lakeside Fund. Scholarship awards are allocated in halves for each semester of the academic year. Awards are made for first-time freshmen and returning or transfer students. Learn more about the application process and requirements at bsualumni.org or by calling (218) 755-3989. Scholarship applications must be submitted before Feb. 1.

Bahr and Dunn step into key roles for Alumni & Foundation

Two alums, Brett Bahr '09 and Adrian Dunn '09 '11, have taken on leadership roles with the BSU Alumni & Foundation.



Brett Bahr

Bahr began working as director of alumni relations in mid-June. Previously, he was an assistant director of admissions and transfer specialist in the Office of Admissions. He will work to connect BSU alumni back to campus and to each other.

Bahr earned a bachelor of arts degree in sport management in 2009 and is finalizing his thesis for a master of science in sports studies. He also worked as an admissions representative and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) coordinator while in the Office of Admissions.

Also in June, Dunn joined the BSU Foundation as its director of annual giving for athletics. A former Beaver athlete himself, his responsibilities include overseeing the athletic annual giving program and serving as Beaver Pride coordinator and liaison to the alumni B-Club. Prior to joining the foundation, Dunn was an assistant football coach and physical education instructor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He earned an undergraduate degree in physical education in 2009 and a graduate degree in sports studies in 2011. After graduation, he served as a graduate assistant football coach at BSU during the 2009 and 2010 seasons.



Adrian Dunn

Dunn can be reached by phone at (218) 755-2827 or via email at adunn@bemidjistate.edu. Bahr can be reached by phone at (218) 755-2599 or via email at bbahr@bemidjistate.edu.

Alumni and Foundation boards gain new members

The Alumni Association and the BSU Foundation board both welcomed new volunteers to their ranks. Becky Tischer '78 of Frederic, Wis., Craig Nathan '83 of Brainerd, Kari Cooper '14 of St. Paul, Lynn Baird '76 of Bemidji, Paul Steenerson '90 of Maple Grove and Thor Carlsrud '02 of New Hope will serve on the Alumni Association



The BSU men's hockey team celebrates its victory over Minnesota State University, Mankato in St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center to claim the 2015 North Star College Cup. This year's tournament is Jan. 30-31.

Board for three-year terms. The Foundation Board of Directors has added Tom Anderson '70 of Baxter and Joe Geary of Bloomington.

Nominations accepted for annual awards

The Alumni Association offers several award programs to recognize alumni for their contributions to Bemidji State's reputation either during their student years or after graduation. Alumni may nominate fellow alumni in any of the categories listed below. Specific criteria exist for each award program.:

- Outstanding Alumni, Young Alumni and Alumni Service Awards are presented annually during Homecoming to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their industries and communities. The deadline is Feb. 1.
- The Department of Professional Education at Bemidji State University is seeking nominations for its 2016 Hall of Fame award. BSU alumni who demonstrate excellence in teaching students or managing schools are eligible for induction into the Professional Education Hall of Fame. Inductions are held during even years. The deadline is Feb. 1.
- The Athletics Hall of Fame inducts individuals and teams for accomplishments in several categories. Former BSU athletes, teams and coaches can be nominated for accomplishments during their days at Bemidji State. Individuals who have achieved coaching success after leaving BSU may be nominated for the Alumni Coaching Achievement Award. The John S. Glas Letter Winner Award is presented to those who have provided exemplary support to BSU Athletics. The deadline is March 1.

Wenonah Kingbird '09, Amayah Littlewolf and Gail Kingbird '88 gather for a picture on Dec. 3 at the American Indian Resource Center.



When BSU runs in the

FAMILY

By Andy Bartlett

When she starts at Bemidji State University this January, Amayah Littlewolf will extend a family tradition that began with her grandmother and continued with her mom.

Littlewolf's mother, Wenona Kingbird, is a 2009 Indian studies graduate who works with Leech Lake Child Welfare's Family Preservation Program. Her grandmother, Gail Kingbird, graduated in 1988 with an elementary education major and a minor in Indian studies. She teaches at Lincoln Elementary School in Bemidji.

"I was happy Amayah chose to attend BSU," Wenona said. "It's a beautiful campus that's not too big or too small, and the American Indian Resource Center has a good support system."

With appreciation for Bemidji State's importance in their life journeys, many graduates inspire the next generation — and the next — to take the same step. Others are joined by an entire generation of siblings.

The Berkelands

Graduate Maria Berkeland of Fairbanks, Alaska, followed the example of her mother and grandfather when she graduated in 2015. All three earned a degree in biology.

When it came time to choose a college, Berkeland said Bemidji State caught her attention for its biology program, plus its size, affordability and access to outdoor activities. Family history didn't hurt.

"My family connections definitely played a role in my decision to attend BSU," she said. "I wanted to go to college outside of Alaska, and I wanted to be close to my grandparents and extended family."

Her grandfather, Allan Wake, taught biology for a few years after graduating from Bemidji State before taking up farming near Federal Dam. Her mother, Patricia Berkeland, moved to Fairbanks in 2001. Now a special education aide, she also helps coach high school cross country, drawing on her experience as a runner at BSU.

Maria Berkeland is now back in Alaska, working as a wildlife technician near the Fort Wainwright Army base. But her family's three generations of biology majors gathered in Bemidji for her Commencement. They had lunch with Dr. Evan Hazard, professor emeritus in biology. Both her mother and grandfather were his students, and Patricia Berkeland lived with Hazard and his late wife, Elaine, for a year.

"Both my mom and grandfather have said he was the most influential teacher they had while at Bemidji State," Maria said.

Grads inspire others to follow



Members of the Walrath family pose during a 2007 family reunion in Itasca State Park. *Front row, from left: Donald Vanusek '73,76, Diane (Walrath) Vanusek '73, Richard Koch, Katherine (Walrath) Koch '66, Patricia (Walrath) Kramer '67, Mary Walrath '72 (wife of James Walrath), Eugene Desselier '62, Margaret (Walrath) Desellier '71, Patricia Walrath (wife of Robert Walrath) '62. Second row, from left: Tracy Walrath (wife of Michael), Michael Walrath attended '77-78, Albin Pulczynski, Genevieve (Walrath) Pulczynski, James Walrath '71, Charles Walrath '70, 74, Theresa Walrath (wife of Charles), Robert Walrath attended '59-61.*

The Rynders

The Rynders family can trace their university connection to 1950, when they settled on a farm west of Bemidji. Ric, the eldest of eight children, was the first to attend the Laboratory School at what was still called Bemidji State Teachers College. They got to know some of BSU's most famed faculty.

"Most of the supervising teachers were Ph.Ds in education and also taught at BSC," said Faith Rynders, who now teaches music at Kabul University in Afghanistan. "Marie Bishop, Alice Christiansen, Floraine Neilson and Dr. Art Lee were some of our teachers — as children."

Ric also was the first to attend Bemidji State College, graduating in 1961 with a degree in education. Over the next decade and a half, six more Rynders siblings would attend Bemidji State, and four would graduate. Tom graduated in 1965 with a degree in elementary education, starting his own three-generation run of BSU grads that includes his daughter, Colleen, and granddaughter, Bridget.

Among the remaining Rynders siblings, Carol graduated in 1971 with a psychology degree and later earned a master's degree in counseling; Faith graduated in 1970 with a degree in music and pursued some graduate study in music at BSU before eventually earning an MBA; and Eldon graduated in 1972, also with a degree in music.

"All of us were required to take an instrument at the Lab School from fifth grade on," Faith said. "I learned quite early that my mother wouldn't bother me to do chores if I was playing the piano, so I played for hours — usually not my lessons."

She went on to study music at BSU with such luminaries as Paul Brandvik, Carl Thompson and Patrick Riley.

The Walraths

It's difficult to imagine that one family could have sent more sons and daughters to Bemidji State than the Walraths of Roseau did from the late 1950s into the mid-1970s.

Starting in 1958, 12 current members of the Walrath family attended Bemidji State — eight Walraths and four men and women whom those Walraths met in college and subsequently married.

Margaret Walrath was the first to attend Bemidji State, starting in 1958. She graduated cum laude with bachelor's degrees in English and library science in

1971. Next came Robert, who attended Bemidji State from 1959–61 before completing his education at the University of Minnesota.

Katherine Walrath graduated from Bemidji State with degrees in English, journalism and speech in 1962. She was followed by Patricia Walrath, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in 1967. Chuck Walrath transferred from a two-year college in 1967 and earned two bachelor's degrees from Bemidji State — one in social studies in 1970 and another in elementary education in 1974.

Jim Walrath graduated cum laude from BSU in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health. A four-year track and field and cross country athlete, he was inducted into BSU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. Diane Walrath attended BSU from 1969–73 and graduated magna cum laude in accounting.

The Walraths have established a scholarship endowment in the family name to benefit up to 12 second-year or transfer students every year.

The Walrath children and their spouses each made their way to Bemidji State for their own reasons: they followed high school classmates; they came for the lake and the outdoors; they came because it was close to home and affordable; they came because their older brothers and sisters shared their own remarkable experiences at BSU.

'I can be close to family'

Amaya Littlewolf believes she also has found what she's looking for at Bemidji State, where she plans to study biochemistry and eventually go to medical school. But her journey from 2015 graduation at Bemidji High School included 18 weeks of National Guard training last summer at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Littlewolf completed her training with honors, earning a sharpshooter badge and achievement awards for combat readiness and fitness. She stayed on in Ft. Leonard Wood to train as a motor transport operator.

Littlewolf said she considered a few other schools. But basic training had deepened her appreciation of home and family, giving the edge to Bemidji State.

"I can be close to family, and it's a really good school," she said. "So it just had everything I realized that I wanted this summer."

Family traditions

Kim Babula Zerr was a four-time letterwinner for the BSU women's basketball team from 1983–87 and was inducted into the BSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. Her daughters, **Haley** and **Hanna**, are now playing basketball for the Beavers. Haley is a freshman forward and Hanna is a junior guard.

C.V. Hobson is not only namesake of the Hobson Memorial Union but also part of a long tradition of Bemidji State alumni. His son, **Ronald Hobson**, graduated in 1949 and lives in Brainerd. Ron's daughter, **Susan**, is a 1977 graduate, and Susan's daughter, **Kelli**, graduated in 2005. Kelli is married to **Jason Schmitz**, a 2006 graduate. They live in Minneapolis.

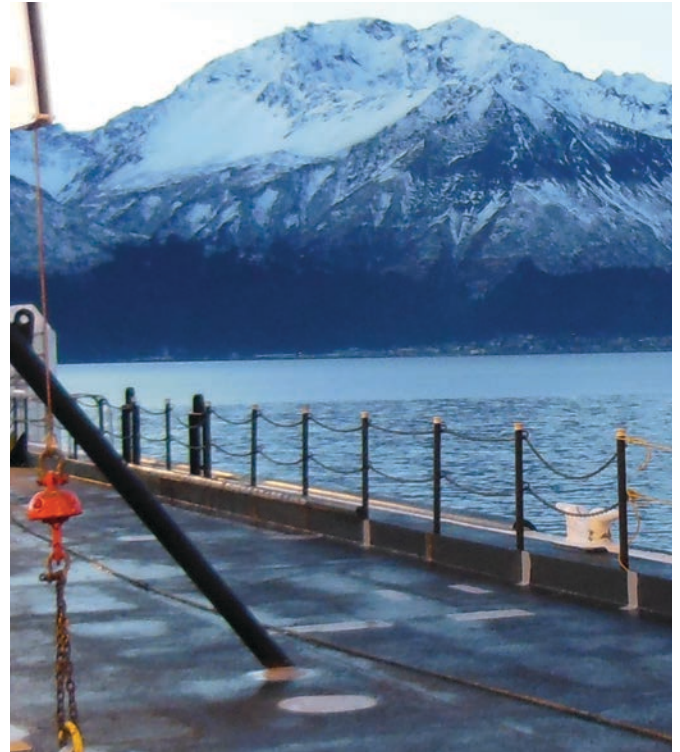
Lisa Kittleson is a senior marketing communication major from Norwood Young America and a third-generation Beaver. Her father, **John**, is a 1987 graduate in business and marketing. John's parents, his brother and his brother's wife also graduated from Bemidji State.

David Marchand and his three brothers, **Louis**, **Peter** and **William**, all attended Bemidji State. Louis was on the BSU faculty for many years and was named a professor emeritus of theatre in 1992.

Todd Moen graduated from Bemidji State with a degree in industrial technology in 1979. His grandfather, **Francis W. Soderberg** '54, graduated from Bemidji Normal School in the 1920s, and his late mother, Dionne, graduated in business in the mid-1950s. Todd's brother, **Del** '82, graduated in political science in the mid-1980s.

Share your own BSU family tradition: (218) 755-3989, alumni@bemidjistate.edu or bsualumni.org.

PLOEN ANSWERS CALL FOR OIL SPILL **EXPERTISE**



By Maryhelen Chadwick

Mark Ploen was trained to draw straight lines, but you certainly can't track his career path on one. His route from technical illustration and commercial design student to international oil spill cleanup and containment expert is more of an upward spiral.

Ploen followed his older brother, Jeff, to Bemidji State University in the early 1980s. When visiting, Mark enjoyed attending football and hockey games, loved the campus and knew the hunting and fishing would be good.

He was right about the outdoor opportunities. He counts the many early mornings spent waterfowl and grouse hunting among his favorite memories. He's also grateful for lifelong friends he made during freshman year, like Brad Benson '84.

"Like all of us, Mark knew how to have fun, but you could see that he was focused and driven, whether it be in school, hunting or fishing," Benson said.

In addition to game, Ploen pursued the business degree he thought he would earn, but taking technical illustration and commercial design courses "just because he liked them" was one of his first unexpected turns.

The self-described "hands-on guy" remembers using a T-square to draw plans. Those classes introduced him to professors Dr. Kermit Anderson and the late Dr. Arthur Edlund, who advised him he might be better off working toward a degree in industrial education.

Ploen switched majors because the courses appealed to him and he appreciated the mentoring. Then his head was turned by friends returning from Alaska with stories of tuition money raised working in fisheries. He headed to the wilderness, a few credits shy of a degree. His fishery job supported his hunting and fishing habits, but he soon realized big money was being made in the oil fields in Prudhoe Bay. He and his girlfriend, Arlette, who had moved with him from

"It's definitely harder to manage an oil field service company from Minneapolis, where there are no oil fields, than it is in Houston."



Mark Ploen oversees installation of oil spill response equipment on a barge in Seward, Alaska, in 2013.

Bemidji, returned briefly to BSU before finding more permanent work in Alaska. After applying at every large oil

and service company, he was hired as a stick picker/grunt laborer for a small environmental services firm. He joined an industry busy drilling for oil in very sensitive surroundings.

"There was a lot of research being done on how to do things right — and if you did have a spill in those environments, how did you clean it up," Ploen said. "So it was 'right time, right place' for that."

He became the firm's North Slope manager within about 18 months. When a Los Angeles firm purchased the company, he became their Alaska manager. His advancement coincided with a severe drop in oil prices, which led to a transfer to L.A. in late 1988. In March, the Exxon Valdez ran aground, and he went back up to Alaska to work under contract for Exxon for nine months.

"I was real close to getting out of the industry all together in the fall of 1988 ... but the Exxon Valdez changed all that," Ploen said.

The ensuing Oil Pollution Act of 1990 required companies to have oil spill response plans, equipment and expertise—and created a tremendous niche opportunity. Ploen hit the ground running for the next two years, consulting and selling equipment for his employer. In 1992, he decided if he were going to work at an exhausting pace, he would go to work for himself. Soon after, he opened QualiTech Environmental in Houston.

A few years later, his father's estate planning prompted discussions about bringing his company into family-owned, Chaska-based QualiTech, Inc. Instead of merging businesses, Ploen and his father and brothers worked out an agreement to add QualiTech Environmental to the QualiTech organization. QualiTech Environmental continues to consult, train, sell equipment and integrate systems for oil spill prevention and cleanup. Ploen is majority owner and vice president of the division.

Ploen and Arlette, who married in 1991, were glad to move back to Minnesota, so they could be close to family and send their daughters, Saren and Marissa, to good schools.

"I tell people that was the best family decision I ever made in my life, but probably the worst financial decision," Ploen said, "It's definitely harder to manage an oil field service company from Minneapolis, where there are no oil fields, than it is in Houston."

It still works, he said, because he is close to an airport and can get wherever he might need to be fairly quickly. In 2010, he was called on to lead cleanup on the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Emergency phone calls often whisk him away to either coast, the Gulf, North Dakota's oil fields and overseas locations for extended periods of time. His firm's expertise has even expanded beyond oil spills to assist in unique clean-up situations such as the recent Avian Flu crisis in Iowa.

According to Arlette, Ploen's even-tempered work ethic and knowledge are just a few of the reasons he is so well respected in the industry. She credits Bemidji State for starting him in the right direction.

"His education was the key to opening many doors," she said.



Arlette and Mark Ploen relax in their backyard in Mound this past summer.



IMAGINE TOMORROW

HONORS *Gala*

More than 300 people gathered Oct. 2 for BSU's 2015 Homecoming Honors Gala in the Sanford Center ballroom. The event was the third since the public launch of the Imagine Tomorrow fundraising campaign and included recognition of donors who have newly become members of giving societies based on their total lifetime giving or planned gifts.



YOUNG **ALUMNI** *Award*

Initiated in 2011, a Bemidji State graduate 40 years of age or younger who has had outstanding achievement in career, public service and/or volunteer activities.

Katrina Jorene Maliamau '07



Katrina Jorene Maliamau was always encouraged to get the most from every educational opportunity – including study abroad at BSU for her senior year. She remembers the peacefulness of the setting and the importance of feeling “seen” and “respected” by her professors.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology, worked in New York and then returned to Malaysia to work as a human rights activist. She works for Tenaganita, an organization that upholds and defends the rights of migrants, refugees, trafficked persons and other marginalized communities. Inspired by her mother, the late Dr. Irene Fernandez, who founded the organization in 1991, Maliamau advocates for and intervenes for individuals on matters of labor rights, arrest and detention, gender-based violence and at the intersections between issues and rights.

A Chevening Scholarship recipient, Maliamau is pursuing a master's degree in Applied Human Rights from the University of York in the United Kingdom and will return to Malaysia upon completion of her degree. She is a feminist, a believer in the power of hope, radical love, and collective action to re-imagine and create a more inclusive, just and equal world for all.

OUTSTANDING **ALUMNI**

Created in 1972, the Outstanding Alumni Award is the Alumni Association's highest honor and takes into consideration an alumnus' professional accomplishments and community service. Including the 2014 honorees, there are 182 Bemidji State alumni who have received this award.

Sandra Anderson '82



Sandra Anderson is chief legal officer for Great Clips, Inc. in Minneapolis. She advises the organization on a broad range of complex legal, business and strategic issues including regulatory compliance, corporate business conduct, marketing and advertising law, negotiations, contracts and employment law.

With 25 years of experience in franchising, she has implemented legal best practices to ensure the success of the company/franchisee relationships for Great Clips. She joined Great Clips in 2000 and was promoted from vice president and general counsel to her current position in 2011.

As a student, Anderson went to London and Munich as part of Eurospring, which inspired a love of travel. She graduated from Bemidji State University with a bachelor of arts in English and went on to earn a doctor of jurisprudence from the William Mitchell College of Law in 1987.

A member of the Hennepin County, Minnesota and American bar associations, Anderson also finds time to volunteer for the “Great Needs/ Great Deeds” program, Habitat for Humanity, a women's mentorship program and other efforts.

She lives in Eden Prairie and enjoys spending time with her adult children, Nicole and John.

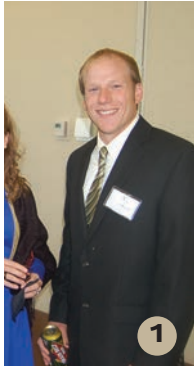
Joseph Grabowski '80



Joseph Grabowski is CEO of Wenck Associates in Maple Plain. Throughout his 34-year career, Grabowski has been committed to the consulting engineering field specializing in the investigation and remediation of hazardous waste sites.

With 27 of those years at Wenck Associates, he has advised industrial clients on environmental regulatory issues, provided expert testimony in county, state and federal court. He has lectured and published in the field and led the cleanup of more than 50 national and state Superfund Hazardous Waste Sites. After earning a bachelor of science in aquatic biology with a minor in chemistry at Bemidji State University, Grabowski went on to earn a master of science in water resources from the University of Wyoming in 1982. He furthered his post-graduate learning with additional studies in industrial hygiene and he completed his mini-MBA through the University of St. Thomas.

Grabowski and his wife, Patty '81, met at BSU. They live in Plymouth and have twin adult children, Ben and Katie.



1



3



5



2



4



6

1. Dr. Debbie Guelda (left), Dr. Richard Koch, Dr. Katie Peterson and Nathan Peterson.
2. Marian '81 (left) and Karen Norell '76.
3. Tracy Dill and Keith Johanneson.
4. Bob Green '57 and Dr. Art Lee.
5. Katrina Maliamauv '07 and Dr. Louise Jackson. 6. Current and past alumni award recipients.

Award

ALUMNI SERVICE

Award Created in 2011, the Alumni Service Award recognizes significant service contributions an alumnus has made to community, state or nation.

ALUMNI HONORARY

Award Initiated in 1990, the Honorary Alumni Award is presented to individuals who, though not graduates of Bemidji State University, have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and support of BSU, its mission and goals.

Roger Reiersen '74



Roger Reiersen joined the Flint Agency in 1976, when it employed 13 people, and has since expanded the operation to include agencies in Grand Forks, Duluth and St. Cloud, plus AdFarm offices in Calgary, Guelph, Kansas City and Sacramento, that have more than 175 employees. He is also the

chairman and CEO of AdFarm, one of the largest agri-marketing firms in North America.

Reiersen holds a bachelor of science degree in marketing and finance from Bemidji State University. He has a high-profile presence in community and professional associations and other organizations, including the Greater North Dakota Chamber Association, Agricultural Bioscience International Association and Village Family Services Foundation. In 2011, he was named NAMA National Agri-Marketer of the Year. He has gone beyond his work in international communications to develop agribusiness and microbusiness opportunities in Africa.

Reiersen also has served on the Roundtable on Higher Education, Higher Learning Commission—North-Central Association, Xcel Energy advisory board, National Plains Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. He has chaired the Fargo Downtown Business Association, Fargo Chamber of Commerce, Greater North Dakota State Chamber Association and the North Dakota New Economy Committee.

Reiersen and his wife, Arlene, live in Fargo. They have two adult children, Andy and Alissa.

Richard Siegert '67



Richard Siegert earned business and education degrees at Bemidji State University and began teaching in Wyandotte, Mich. He moved back to Bemidji and into the lodging industry.

Siegert's 44 years as a business and community leader includes 30 years as a board

member (past president) of the Minnesota Association of Innkeepers (now Minnesota Lodging Association). He also is a member of Bemidji Chamber of Commerce, Bemidji Curling Club and the First Lutheran Church Board, Bemidji Visitors & Convention Bureau (BVCB) Board (past president) and Bemidji Lions Club (past president), among others. He has supported BSU as a Beaver Pride member and BSU Foundation Board member and officer. Since 1988, he has led the Paul Bunyan Expressway Coalition, as co-chair and now chair. He has been recognized by the Governor's office for the "Bemidji Area Business Gives." A recipient of the Outstanding Service Award from BVCB, he earned the Chairman's Award from the Minnesota Lodging Association for industry involvement and service.

Siegert and his wife, Joyce, live in Bemidji and have adult children, Mindy and Christopher.

Jeffrey Kemink



Jeffrey Kemink became familiar with Bemidji State University during his early years in Bemidji with Wells Fargo Bank. His career progressed, necessitating a move from the Bemidji area in 2009. Nevertheless, his interest in and support for BSU has continued to grow.

In 2005, Kemink joined the BSU Foundation Board of Directors, and in 2012 he was elected board president. He fulfilled this leadership role for two years, providing additional service on the executive, strategic planning and personnel committees. Now, as past president, he continues on the board by providing guidance on several committees and is the foundation liaison to the Alumni Association Board. This exemplary contribution has required countless volunteer hours and expenses necessary for traveling to campus. In addition, he has personally supported BSU as a financial contributor.

Foundation Board President Carol Russell says, "He is a respected voice strategically and as a true friend to our university."

Kemink lives in Bloomington, where he serves as national crop manager for Wells Fargo. He has two adult children, Andrea and Austin.



HOMECOMING

Best weekend EVER!

Bountiful activities and beautiful weather combined for a memorable weekend that kicked off Friday, Oct. 2, with the grand reopening of Memorial Hall. Grads and students talked shop at Alumni Leaders in the Classroom panels. The Honors Gala recognized distinguished alumni and celebrated generous donors. Saturday morning's parade down Beltrami Avenue was led by 96-year-old grand marshal and football alum Harold Shellum '41. Hundreds tailgated in Diamond Point Park before BSU's football victory, capped by the team's winning plunge into Lake Bemidji. Music and football reunions renewed friendships and helped swell a record crowd at the Beaver Block Party and Street Dance. Sunday's Carl O. Thompson Memorial Concert ended everything on a high note.



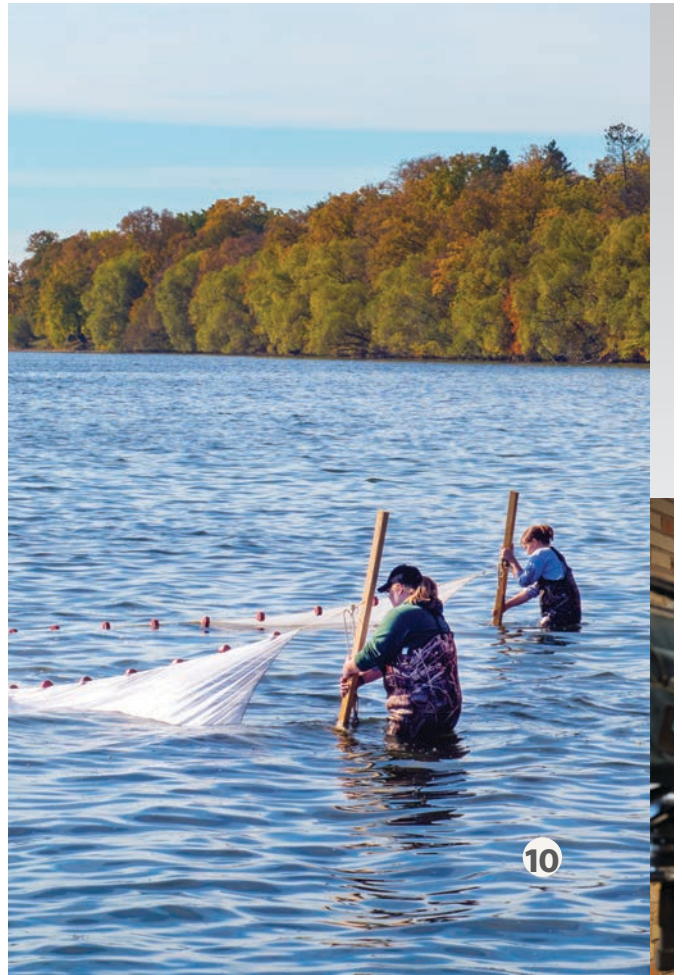
2015



1 Sue Ann Peterson, Julie (Noga) Vollen '89 and Deb Larson at the Oct. 3 Beaver Street Dance & Block Party downtown. 2 Alumni Leaders in the Classroom mass communications panelists Jane Berman '85 (left), Tom Delano '73, Dr. Michael C. Porter, APR '84, Roger Reiersen '74 and Randy Syverson '96. 3 Football alums Jeremiah Dagle '02 (left), Lemarr Williams '09, Robert Kucher '10 and Brad Borkhuis '01 at the Oct. 3 tailgate in Diamond Point Park. 4 Kyle and Kathy Christianson and their daughter pose with Bucky. 5 Carl O. Thompson Concert on Oct. 4. 6 Bucky leads the charge against the University of Mary. 7 Homecoming King and Queen D.J. Mills and Leah Gnitka in the morning parade on Oct. 3. 8 State Sen. Tom Saxhaug and Randy Bowen '73. 9 Parade Grand Marshal Harold Shellum '41 with daughters Cindy Wight and Roberta Dohse. 10 Jeff Sands '09 (left), Ashley (Bremseth) Sands, Anna (Smith) Benson '11 and Eric Benson '11 enjoy the Music Alumni Dinner on Oct. 3. 11 Football alumni celebrate their founding Homecoming victory lake plunge in 1995. 12 Bucky with Yigal Bensadoun ('96-98).



CAMPUS HAPPY





ENINGS

1 Family Weekend participants enjoy a Lake Bemidji pontoon ride on Sept. 18. **2** University Heights student apartments, to open in August, were nearly built by Dec. 3. **3** SCRUBS health careers campers learn about patient simulators on July 2. **4** Native artist and teacher Sarah Agaton Howe leads a Nov. 20 moccasin workshop at the American Indian Resource Center. **5** 2015 Distinguished Minnesotan Jon McTaggart addresses grads at Commencement on May 6. **6** A logoed Jack-o'-lantern lights up the BSU homepage before Halloween. **7** Twins Nick and Andy Bertrand '15 of Bemidji show off their dragon art project in September in Gallery X. **8** Jester Hannah Jenson holds court during a Dec. 3 Madrigal Dinner rehearsal. **9** Football players guide young talent at Community Appreciation Day on Sept. 3. **10** Aquatic biology students research fish populations in Lake Bemidji on Oct. 7. **11** A reporter interviews Dean Shawn Strong during the May 1 opening of Bemidji's new Mayflower Building, where BSU has an office. **12** Criminal justice students hear from U.S. Border Patrol agents on Sept. 25.

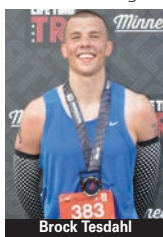


CLASS NOTES

Towns are in Minnesota unless noted. Alumni names appear in bold. Send information to alumni@bemidjistate.edu or call toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM.

'15 **John Frazier** has been hired by Showcraft of Burnsville as an exhibit designer ... **Sam Windle** has signed a contract to play with the Reading (Pa.) Royals of the East Coast Hockey League. A defenseman for the BSU Beavers, he led the NCAA Division I last year with 97 blocked shots. The Royals are affiliated with the Philadelphia Flyers of the NHL ... **Ami Johnson** has returned to Park Rapids after teaching English to students ages 5 to 8 in China. She plans to work as an elementary-level substitute in districts across the region ... **Phil Brewer** has signed a contract to play for the Tulsa (Okla.) Oilers of the East Coast Hockey League. A forward, Brewer played with the Oilers as an amateur in March and signed a 2015-16 pro contract with the team, affiliated with the Winnipeg Jets of the NHL.

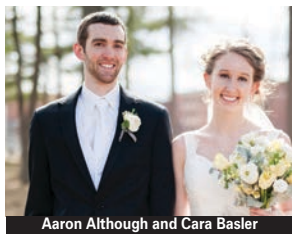
'14 **Lane Young** has been named vice president of marketing and business development at the Occupational Development Center in Bemidji, where he lives. He and his wife, Sarah, have two young children ... **Patrick Rudlang** is designing exhibits for TradeTec Skyline in Chicago, Ill. ... **Chris Vinderslev** delivered the Memorial Day address during Chokio's celebration of the holiday. A member of the Army National Guard, he served two tours in Kuwait before returning to his home in Apena, S.D. He works as a grain dispatcher and asset manager for Stan's Inc., a trucking and feed processing firm ... **Rachel Wold** has joined the Christenson Insurance Agency, with offices in Crosby and Deerwood. She is a licensed advisor in the health, life, property and casualty insurance areas ...



Brock Tesdahl

Brock Tesdahl completed the 2015 Boston Marathon, finishing 994th out of more than 30,250 runners. He has returned to Minnesota from a year in the Telluride,

Colo., school district and is teaching at Hopkins High School, where he will also coach cross country, basketball and track and field ... **Aaron Although** and **Cara Basler** of Richfield were married last spring. They work in



Aaron Although and Cara Basler

Bloomington, she as a compensation analyst for the consulting firm McLean and he as a loan portfolio analyst for the commercial real estate company NorthMarq Capital ... **Jeff Jubinville** of the Tulsa (Okla.) Oilers finished fifth in the Rookie of the Year voting in the East Coast Hockey League. He completed his first professional season as a forward with 63 points in 70 games. The Oilers are affiliated with the Winnipeg Jets of the NHL.

'13 **Danielle Carty** has joined the Bemidji Pioneer as the multimedia coordinator in the marketing department ... **Megan Ehrnriter** has been commissioned as a second lieutenant with the U.S. Marine Corps after completing officer candidate school in Quantico, Va. ... **Sadie Lundquist** participated in her second consecutive Red Bull Crashed Ice competition held annually in St. Paul. She finished fifth on the 1,400-foot obstacle course out of 19 female skaters from three countries. She lives in Minneapolis and works for the Minnesota Wild as an associate account executive in the NHL team's sales and marketing department ... **Scott Sobocinski** volunteered as an official for the annual school spelling bee in Wabasso, where he lives and works as a librarian, helps on the family natural livestock farm and is writing a novel ...



Danika Stelton

Danika Stelton creates 3D exhibits and permanent brand environments for clients of MG Design from her office in Pleasant Prairie, Wis. At BSU, she won the Euroshop Design Contest conducted by the Exhibit Designers and Producers Association. She lives in Kenosha, Wis. ... **Ayla Koob** of Bemidji is the regional coordinator at TXT4Life, a texting service that connects trained

counselors with people contemplating suicide ... **Devin Kopperud** is Windom's newest police officer. He has relocated to Windom from his home in Morristown.



Sadie Lundquist



Ayla Koob



Danielle Swenson and Brent Oslin

'12 **Brent Oslin** married Danielle Swenson last winter. The couple lives in Mora, where he works in sales and estimating at Oslin Lumber ... **Jessica**

Bobrowski is a housing coordinator for Advocates for Family Peace. She presented a program on the faces of poverty sponsored for the AAUW. A licensed foster parent, she lives in Deer River with seven children for whom she has legal custody. She is also working on a master's degree in criminal justice ... **Josh Hardy**



Jessica Bobrowski

served as dean of students and a physical education teacher last year at Crookston High School, where he was also an assistant hockey coach for the boys' team. He lives in Grand Forks, N.D. ... **Nathan Voll** is chief financial officer at Intercept Industries, a company in Roseau that assembles tires for ATV manufacturers. He also served his first year as head baseball coach last spring for Greenbush-Middle River High School, which he guided to a third-place finish in the district ...



Nathan Voll

Hank Fiskevold premiered a composition entitled "Final Thoughts Before the Supernova" at the annual spring concert of the Lakes Area Community Band. After studying a year in Argentina, he lived and worked in Detroit Lakes but moved to Washington this fall to pursue a master's degree at the Seattle Film Institute ... **Drew Fisher** is continuing his professional hockey career in the United Kingdom with the Coventry Blaze of the Elite Ice Hockey League. Fisher completed his best professional season last year when he scored 77 points for the Tulsa (Okla.) Oilers of the East Coast Hockey League ... **Bryce Tesdahl** has accepted a position as a health and physical education teacher at New Prague High School, where he will also coach the boys' basketball team. He was an assistant coach for the past three seasons at the University of Minnesota Duluth ...



Jack Pellinen became assistant manager at Hayes Lake State Park in June. The park is located southeast of Roseau, where he now lives.

11 Katie (Jurvelin) Jones is a marketing and enrollment specialist for Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. She married Ryan Jones last fall, and the couple lives in Grand Forks, N.D.



Ryan and Katie (Jurvelin) Jones

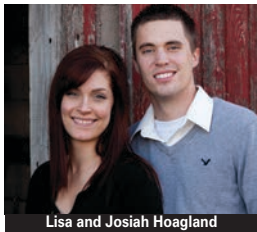
... **Jackie (Robertson) Stoffel** has moved from an elementary school to the high school in Bemidji, where she is teaching physical education and continuing to coach the girls' hockey team.



Jackie (Robertson) and Bryan Stoffel

She also wrote a successful application for the 2015 USA Hockey Grow the Game Award, which picked the Bemidji Little Lumberjacks development program for 3- to 10-year-olds who are starting out in hockey. The award included 20 sets of starter equipment. Prior to the start of the school year, Jackie married **Bryan Stoffel ('05)**, who teaches physical education and is an assistant football coach at the high school in Bemidji, where they live.

10 Courtney Snyder has been putting the finishing touches on a business education textbook for grades 6-12 with a December 2015 publishing date. A former teacher in Red Wing, Snyder now works as an education technology consultant. She and her husband, Adam, have two young children and live in Hager City, Wis. ... **Josiah Hoagland** completed a master's in pastoral counseling and is serving as lead pastor at New Journey Church in Fosston. He was also recently commissioned as a second lieutenant chaplain candidate in the Minnesota National Guard. His wife, **Lisa ('15)**, is an early childhood mental health



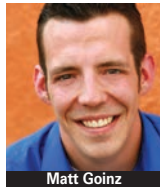
Lisa and Josiah Hoagland

practitioner at Stellher Human Services in Bemidji, where she specializes in working with families and children ages 6 and under. The couple has a toddler and lives in Fosston ...

Joel Van Nurden has opened a law office in St. Anthony where he will focus on family law, criminal defense and civil litigation. He and his wife, Anna, live in Golden Valley ... **Kent Croatt** married Samantha Trick one year ago. He works for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. The couple lives in Mankato ... **Matt Goinz** of St. Paul returned to his hometown of Bemidji to play the keyboards during the play "Spamalot," the final production of the 2015 Paul Bunyan Playhouse summer season. He sings professionally as a member of Cantus, an internationally known ensemble based in the Twin Cities ... **Joe Gould** has been hired for the government relations team of Capitol Hill Associates. Gould, who lives in St. Paul with his wife, Gwenia, lobbies for the Minnesota Rural Education Association, a nonprofit advocacy group representing 200 school districts outside the Twin Cities ... **Kevin Ham** was inducted into the Mound Westonka Wrestling Hall of Fame. Ham amassed 89 career wins during his high school career and twice earned berths in the state tournament. He is assistant superintendent at Burl Oaks Golf Course and also works for Innovative Marketing Solutions, which develops promotional product solutions for the sports, beverage and casino industries ... **Jackie (Ostenaar) Huschle** brings nine years of experience to her new position as a real estate processor at VISIONBank in Fargo, N.D., where she recently moved with her husband, Cody, and one child ... **Ashley Leopold**, a St. Paul police officer, participated in a Minnesota Hockey Day skate-off, a fundraising event for St. Paul Youth Hockey and Serving Our Troops. Leopold lives in Afton.



Joel Van Nurden



Matt Goinz



PAQUETTE'S PAINTINGS TAP NATURE'S POWER

To truly experience nature, landscape artist Thomas Paquette needs to feel a scene as much as see it. Only then is he confident of being able to present a "human sense of the earth."

A 1985 BSU graduate who now lives in Pennsylvania, Paquette ranks among the premier landscape artists in America. More than 50 of his canvases in oil or gouache were displayed in various locations across the country in September alone, including a one-person exhibition at the prestigious Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia, Pa. Globally his works have graced 16 U.S. embassies, most recently in Moscow.

"On Nature's Terms," a 60-piece exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, just concluded a yearlong national tour.

"My highest goal is that the finished painting holds the same level of interest, power, ecstasy or whatever I originally experienced," Paquette said. "The painting is a living, organic thing—deeply inspired by, but not owned by, its original subject."

As an aspiring artist, he chose Bemidji State because he loved the north woods environment. On campus, he recalled a challenge from Marley Kaul, an art professor who mentioned that very few artists survive solely by painting. Paquette vowed to become one.

"It isn't just coming up with the dream," he said. "You have to somehow manage your books, deal with galleries, and take care of all kinds of business outside the studio. Artists are not wired that way."

Looking ahead, Paquette is painting scenes along the Mississippi River, from Bemidji to New Orleans, where he can sense as much as see the view.

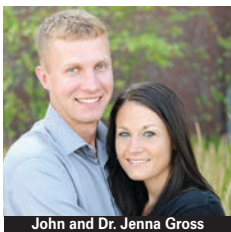
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CLASS NOTES

'09 **Dr. Jenna (McKean) Gross** is a

nephrology nurse practitioner with Sanford Health in Bemidji, where she specializes in hypertension and dialysis. Jenna also just received a doctorate in nursing from North Dakota State University.



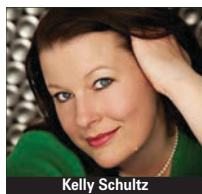
John and Dr. Jenna Gross



Robert Strand

She lives in Blackduck with a toddler and her husband, **John ('11)**, who teaches elementary physical education there ... **Robert Strand** is admissions director at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. The Superior, Wis., resident also fishes on the Professional Muskie Tournament Trail

and last year finished second in the World Championships in a field of 35 teams ... **Kelly Schultz** has worked at RP Broadcasting in Bemidji in many capacities, from sports play-by-play to marketing. But her hat making is getting noticed as well. Inspired by the hats worn at the most recent British royal wedding, she has created and sold a variety of the fascinators in local shops and online at www.angelinealice.com.



Kelly Schultz



David Esping

She lives in Bemidji with her husband, Brian ... **Dave Esping** has been named chief technology officer for Ozarks Technical Community College. This year he was also inducted as a fellow into the Leading Change Institute, an organization that engages leaders who seek to develop their skills

for the benefit of higher education. He and his wife, Amy, have lived in Rolla, Mo., but were planning a move to Springfield, Mo., with their two teenagers ... **Bryan Wick** won a gold medal as part of the U.S. team that won the American Football World Championship. Teams from seven countries participated in the month-long tournament, held every four years. A former defensive lineman for the Beavers,



Bryan Wick

Wick works for a beverage distributor in Duluth, where he has a home ... **Gordie Haug** of Laramie, Wyo., coaches wide receivers and serves as director of recruiting for the University of Wyoming football team.

'08 **Kyle Shepherd** has been named assistant vice president and branch manager of RiverWood Bank in Bemidji. An ICB certified lender with



Kyle Shepherd



Rabi Vandergon

eight years of experience, he lives in Park Rapids with his wife and three young children ... **Rabi Vandergon** is working as an analyst with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, a nonprofit whose mission is to reduce the environmental and economic costs of energy use by helping design and deliver energy efficiency and secure renewable resources. He married Sarah Bhimahi early this fall, and they will be living in Burlington, Vt. ... **Allison Barta** has been hired as a teacher in Bagley High School in the areas of Earth and physical sciences. She and her life partner, Neil Peterson, reside in Cass Lake.



Allison Barta

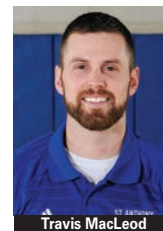
'07 **Josie (Aschnewitz) Johnson** was recently hired as a patrol officer for the Detroit Lakes Police Department after she had served as a corrections officer in Becker County for several years. She and her husband, Matt, are both certified firearms instructors and operate a gun dealer business in Frazee, where they live with their three children ... **Mychal Stittsworth** was selected as a co-winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award presented by the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce. He earned the honor for expanding his business, Stittsworth Meats, into a new store facility and by finishing as a finalist in the regional Idea competition. He and his wife, Danielle, live in Bemidji with their two children.

'06 **Shannon (Anderson) Cunningham** was recently promoted to director of government and community relations for the Minnesota Nurses Association. She was also re-elected to the board of directors of the City and County Credit Union. She lives

in Roseville with her husband, Cary, and a toddler ... **Scott Klicker** is the new school activities director and high school dean of students in Onamia. Married to **Carly ('08)**, he previously served in the same capacity in Rosholt, S.D.

'05 **Katie Edgar** is head librarian at the Greenbush Public Library, part of the Minnesota's Northwest Regional Library system. Edgar and her kindergarten partner reside in Karlstad.

'04 **Travis MacLeod** teaches social studies at St. Anthony Village High School, where he is the junior varsity boys' basketball coach and head cross country coach for both the girls' and boys'



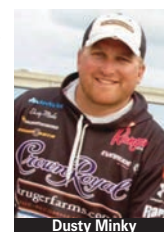
Travis MacLeod



Valerie Wilwert

teams. He and his wife, Jill, live in St. Paul with a toddler ... **Valerie Wilwert** was chosen the Outstanding Graduate Student in the College of Health, Community and Professional Studies at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul.

She received her master's degree last spring in social psychology. An operational teller trainer at Wings Financial Credit Union in Apple Valley, she lives in Cottage Grove with her husband, Charlie, and infant child ... **Dusty Minky** of Forest Lake is a sales representative with North Country Marketing, a firm specializing in the shooting, hunting and outdoor industries in the Upper Midwest. He also serves as a fishing guide and has competed in professional walleye tournaments



Dusty Minky



Jason Swanson

over the past four years ... **Lenny Bellecourt** has been hired as a computer-aided design technician at Meyer Group Architecture in Duluth, where he lives ... **Jason Swanson** was presented with the Presidential Excellence in Leadership Award from Tealwood Senior Living for his performance in managing the Prairie View Health Care Center in Tracy, where he is executive director. He lives in Walnut Grove with his wife, Devon, and their



grade-school-aged children ... **Brad Johnson** was inducted into the Bemidji High School Athletic Hall of Fame. While in high school, Johnson competed in baseball and hockey, earning All-State Honorable Mention. He teaches fifth grade and is a coach in the Bemidji School District. He and his wife, Ashley, live in Bemidji.



Brad Johnson

'03 Carol Spragg of Gilbert was recently appointed as the accounting clerk for Lake Country Power's Mountain Iron Service Center, where she provides records, reports and accounting information to the electric cooperative ... **Brian Bell** is the safeties coach for the New Mexico State University football Aggies after coaching defensive backs and coordinating recruiting at Minnesota State University Mankato for eight years. He has relocated



Brian Bell

to the Las Cruces, N.M., area with his wife, Amanda ... **Chris Knopik** was promoted to a principal at the accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen, where he has 11 years experience providing auditing and consulting services to state and local governments. He and his wife, Tanya, live in Rogers ... **Justin Isaacs** and his wife, **Heather (Howe)**, are both employed as educators in the Deer River school district. Justin, who recently became a volunteer firefighter, teaches industrial arts and coaches football, while Heather has moved into an early childhood teaching position. The couple has a home in Deer River with their two young children ... **Jake Cook**, an independent financial advisor, was recently



Jake Cook

featured as a 40 Under 40 professional in Faribault, where he lives with his wife, Dana, and their three children.

'02 Dr. Nicholas Lentz has joined Midwest Energy Emissions Corporation as a field technical manager. He and associates in the company will help spearhead system deployment efforts in emerging mercury control services and develop the company's proprietary mercury removal technologies. His wife, **Rebecca (Robb, '02)**, is a special education teacher in the Fisher school system. They live in Grand Forks, N.D.

... **Todd Knott** is an assistant coach of forwards and recruiting coordinator for the Minnesota State University Mankato men's hockey team. He and his wife, Angie, have two young children and live in Eagle Lake ... **Gary Sabart** was promoted



Todd Knott



Gary Sabart

to an associate in the TSP Architects and Engineers firm, which specializes in planning and design for facilities in education, health care and communities. He and his wife, Chelsie, have welcomed a newborn into their Watertown, Wis. home ... **Jim Etzel**, an educator specializing in soil and plant nutrition, recently presented a program at a meeting of the Fifty Lakes Association. He lives in Hackensack. ...

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HAUGEN AND FAMILY GRADUALLY GO NUTS

Some might consider 1997 BSU graduate Sarah Haugen and her husband, Trevor, perfectly nuts. And they would happily agree.

In 2003, Sarah abandoned work as a mortgage broker in Fargo, N.D., to launch Perfectly Nuts, a confectionary snack business. Five years later, Trevor left his engineering career to help run the enterprise.

Family concerns were their motivation. Their first son adjusted poorly to day care, so the couple decided he and his mother would stay at home in West Fargo, N.D. A small income stream would come from Sarah's venture into a business similar to the one her parents operated in Grand Forks, N.D.

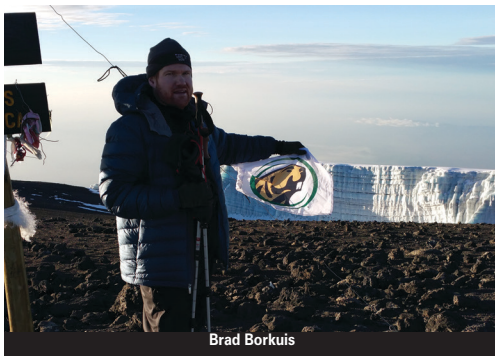
"We started Perfectly Nuts slowly with one location," she said. "Our nuts became popular, and the business grew on its own."

Perfectly Nuts roasts almonds, cashews, sunflower seeds and pecans at kiosks in established venues across the Fargo area. It now operates seven and added mobile units to serve summer events over a three-state region. Their sons, now 12 and 10, help out on occasion, and the Haugens employ up to 10 people during the peak fall season with three kiosks in the Fargodome.

"It takes a whole week to get ready for NDSU football there," Sarah said. "On game day, we start before 6 a.m. and put in a 14-hour day."

While the days are long and demands high, Sarah said benefits outweigh the stresses.

"We are able to spend time with our kids," she said. "And people at the events are in good moods because they want to be at the trade show, concert or sporting event. They come excited."



Brad Borkhuis

Brad Borkhuis '01 is founder of Epitome Coaching and Consulting and travels extensively to motivate individuals, teams and organizations. From Minot, N.D., he recently planted a BSU Beaver flag on the summit after climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

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CLASS NOTES

'01 **Simon Waltman**, who teaches math and coaches football and wrestling at



Simon Waltman

Little Falls High School, was a mainstay pitcher, logging 1,000 innings and notching 100 wins for the Sobieski city baseball team over 13 seasons before an arm injury sent him to the sidelines in 2012. He returned to the mound this season following a four-year rehab

from Tommy John surgery and pitched three shutout innings during an early season appearance. He lives in Little Falls ... **Jill Bakken** and her husband, Jeremy, are operating Bakken's Market in Clearbrook. Jill took a leave from teaching science to help the transition to the new venture but returned this fall to the classroom in the Win-E-Mac schools. The couple lives in Clearbrook with two young children.

'00 **Nicole Manecke** of Brainerd is a certified dermatology physician assistant who sees patients throughout the region ... **Nathan Ellingson** has accepted the position of regional clinic manager of Altru facilities serving Crookston, Erskine, Fertile and Red Lake Falls. He lives in Fertile with his wife, Jessica, and three children ... **Amy Green** of Buffalo has been hired as special education director for the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose school district ... **Hollie Swanson** is a clinical research nurse who recently joined the staff of the Cancer Center at Essentia Health-St. Joseph Medical Center in Brainerd, where she lives. Swanson is certified as a chemotherapy and biotherapy infusion nurse.



Gus Vettleson and Kay Granley

'99 **Kay Granley** experienced several changes in 2015. In January, she and her father, Bob, sold Granley's Market, a family-owned landmark in Clearbrook for over 100 years. In March she married **Gus Vettleson**, a math teacher at Clearbrook-Gonvick High School who also

operates a screen-printing and embroidery company. After a short hiatus, Kay has returned to the market part-time to handle bookkeeping duties. The couple lives in Clearbrook ... **Dr. John Gonzales**, an associate professor of psychology at BSU, is a member of a strategic planning team that is working on a 10-year plan for the future of the White Earth Nation. As the lead consultant, he has conducted community forums in all reservation communities and consults with the tribal council on developing specific goals and objectives for the plan. He and his wife, **Nanako Kaga ('00)**, live in Bemidji with their three children ... **Dr. John Pietila** published an article in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare publication as a new member of the International Association of Healthcare Professionals. A chiropractor in Burnsville, he is considered an expert in applied kinesiology, functional neurology, injury prevention, performance optimization and accelerated injury rehabilitation. He and his wife, Leslie, live in Richfield ... **Michael Cedergren** received the Employee of Excellence Award from Wells Fargo Financial for his work as a business process specialist. He lives in Beaverton, Ore., with his wife, Maria Josie.

'98 **Becky (Carlsen) Boland** brings 10 years of experience in the financial industry to her new position as a financial services manager at Altana Federal Credit Union in Billings, Mont., where she lives with her husband, Patrick ... **Steve McCaughan** has retired from serving as a pastor for two churches in the Bagley area. He and his wife, Laura, first became involved in Lutheran ministry 39 years ago in Montana. The couple raised two children and planned a move to a 40-acre residence near Sandstone ... **Shane Zutz** presented the program Culture Eats Strategy for Lunch during an annual banquet of the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce. He has held the position of principal at TRF Lincoln High School since 2009 and three times has been honored by the region's association of school administrators with Principal of the Year or Assistant Principal of the Year Awards. He and his wife, Mya, live in Thief River Falls.



Shane Zutz

'97 **Craig McKechney** and his wife, Cindy, live on a ranch near Litchfield, where they raise 300 head of sheep. They export wool to Canada and markets in Asia. They have two adult children

... **Brent Glass** is system director and operations manager for academic and student affairs at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. He is also enrolled in a higher education administration doctoral program at St. Cloud State University. He lives in Prescott, Wis., with his wife, Jennifer ... **Greg Berg** is assistant area fisheries supervisor in Aitkin after previously working at Minnesota DNR stations in International Falls, Baudette, Detroit Lakes and Brainerd. He lives in Deerwood ... **Sammi Davidson** has accepted the administrative director position for Sanford Bagley, where she will oversee the health care system's medical center, ambulance and clinic operations, as well as the Clearwater clinic. She lives in Bagley with her husband, Corey ... **Marc Iverson** was elected auditor and treasurer for Renville County last fall after providing assessor services to county residents for 12 years. His wife, **Sarah (Domeier)**, teaches third grade at the elementary school in Bird Island, where they live with their two children ... **Kristen (Vidor) Busch** is teaching life science, physical science and environmental science at Mountain Iron High School. She also is instructing forest ecology and forest field skills classes for Vermilion Community College, where MIHS students may earn college credits. She and her husband, Rick, live in Gilbert with their two middle-school-aged children.



Brent Glass

'96 **Kris (Hendrickson) Mallett** is coordinator of the Rookie Basketball Association, a youth development league in Duluth. She is also head coach of the girls' basketball team at Lakeview Christian Academy. She lives in Duluth with her husband, Jon, and three children ages 9 to 16 ... **Marie Chandler** was named Western Bank Educator of the Month in April for her work in Cass Lake-Bena elementary schools. Chandler is a 20-year veteran of the classroom, with 14 of those



Kris Mallett



spent in Cass Lake. She and her husband, David, live in Bemidji ... **Mark Carter** spent the past year teaching at Clearbrook-Gonvick High School. He recently moved from Spokane, Wash., to Park Rapids to help on the family farm that raises a variety of produce and stock. Carter is also co-artistic director of the Red Compass Theatre in Park Rapids, where he lives with his wife, Beth, and three children ... **Rhonda Fochs**, a retired social studies teacher who lives in Motley, has authored a series on towns in Minnesota that once were thriving but have virtually disappeared. The series, "Minnesota's Lost Towns," has a central and two northern editions, and a southern version is scheduled for release in 2016.



Rhonda Fochs

'95 **Bryan Brown** began serving as the high school principal in Isle this fall. He and his wife, Kim, live between Isle and Mora and have three adult children.

'94 **Susan Frisby Lee** retired last spring from 37 years of teaching high school and elementary school in the Red Lake County district. In addition to working as a speech therapist, she served in the school readiness program and early childhood special education. She lives in McIntosh with her husband, Jim. They have two grown children ... **Scott Wiechman** has been promoted to senior creative director at Lawrence & Schiller, an integrated marketing and digital strategy firm in Sioux Falls, S.D., where

he lives ... **James Ekstrom** started as director of information systems at First National Bank in Bemidji, where he previously was the information technology supervisor. In his new position, he will manage all information systems, including hardware, software, networks and security. A lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, he and his wife, Sheri, live in Bemidji ... **Danni Halvorson** is director of education and monitoring for the International Water Institute. With his wife and daughter, he also helps run a mobile lemonade stand that travels to fairs and other venues over the summer. The family lives in Viking.

'93 **Allen Kidd** teaches a series of Japanese language classes at Muncie Central High School in Indiana. He has also taught history, geography and personal finance for the school. Last year he was named Secondary Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association and previously won the same honor from the Association of Indiana Teachers of Japanese. He lives in Muncie with his wife, Kyoko, and two young children ... **Shannon (Wraa) Alto** was named Exceptional Educator of the Month for March by Western Bank. She has been at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School for 22 years and currently teaches in a first-grade classroom. She, her husband, Dan, and two children live between Blackduck and Bemidji.



Allen Kidd



Buck Lescarbeau (left) with Gov. Dayton

Tim "Buck" Lescarbeau '90 owns and operates Best Bet Guide Service and is chairman of the Lake Vermilion Guides League. Last spring he guided Gov. Mark Dayton for the annual fishing opener hosted by Explore Minnesota and the Department of Natural Resources for media, state officials and special guests. His full-time job is as a control-room operator with Hibbing Taconite. He lives in Chisholm with his wife, **Megan (Scanlan, '88)**, an early childhood development teacher. They have two young adult children



DRAPER REFLECTS ON CAREER BEHIND LENS

Monte Draper likely spent more time at Bemidji State University events than any faculty member, coach, administrator or student. But as a photographer with the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper, the 1980 BSU graduate was rarely noticed on the sidelines, in the wings offstage or at a public meeting.

That's one of the secrets to Draper's success as a photojournalist.

He retired his camera last summer after 30 years recording events across the city and campus. During his career, he won numerous state and regional awards, including the 2014 Minnesota Newspaper Association award for the best photographic portfolio.

Draper wasn't always hiding in the spotlight. Three times he came away from non-BSU assignments with a bloodied nose after being punched. Twice he suffered broken ribs from attacks by aggressive subjects. His tires were slashed on occasion; his apartment defaced with graffiti; and he was choked by a snake. He almost drowned by breaking through ice on the Willow River trying to photograph a train wreck.

"I've been told I had the greatest job, and I did despite the crazy hours," Draper said, noting that someone once told him he wasn't just a photographer, but a recorder of history. "I saw the community, experienced it, and was part of it."

While no longer working as a photojournalist, he stays busy. He and his wife, Charlene, have moved to Bagley for a new life with a routine, including a daytime job at TEAM Industries.

It's a schedule he expects won't include a bloodied nose, broken ribs or snakes.

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CLASS NOTES

'92 **Ross Faldet** teaches seventh- and eighth-grade industrial arts in Clearbrook-Gonvick schools, where he also is head coach for the girls' basketball team. He lives in Clearbrook with his wife, Jennifer, and three children ... **Pete Fenson**,



Pete Fenson

a former Olympic bronze medalist, is rejoining the competitive curling ranks this winter after resigning from his national coaching position. He will now be considered with other applicants for the 2015-16 USA Curling High Performance Team. He and

his wife, **Roxanne (Matter, '91)**, operate Dave's Pizza in Bemidji, where she also works for Security Bank. Residents of Bemidji, they have one son, Alex, now enrolled at BSU, and another child in high school ... **Jim Varichak** has been named an Administrator of Excellence by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. He has served as superintendent for Chisholm public schools since 2002. Under his leadership, the district successfully passed an \$871 per pupil operating referendum and started a K-12 iPad initiative. He lives in Side Lake with his wife, Jill.

'90 **Missy (Coffield) Karboviak** is director of the Kittson County Day Activity Center for senior citizens in Lake Bronson, which is licensed to serve 22 people. She and her husband, **Thomas ('89)**, have three children ranging in age from 17 to 27 ... **Brian Stefanich** received the Northern Division Principal of the Year Award from the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. He has been principal of Bemidji High School since 2009. He and his wife, Sage, live in Bemidji and have five grown children ... **Linda Erceg** retired from the Concordia Language Villages after 33 years. A BSU Outstanding Alumna and registered nurse, she started as a camp nurse and left as the associate director of health and risk management. She coauthored "Basics of Camp Nursing," the definitive text for individuals in outdoor and community health care professions. She and her late husband raised one child in their Bemidji home.



Linda Erceg

'89 **Lance Northey** is the new superintendent for the Nashwauk-Keewatin School District. Originally from Two Harbors,

he was looking forward to relocating his family to the Iron Range from Fisher, where he previously served as superintendent.

'88 **Candy Heide** has joined the First National Bank of Durango, Colo., as a business-banking officer in the institution's branch in Bayfield, where she lives with her husband. **Gary ('83)**.

'87 **Tina Haroldson** is gaining a following as a singing waitress at the Amboy Cottage Café, where she entertains diners with popular tunes, original adaptations and requests. She sings despite a decade-old decline in her hearing. She returned to Amboy a year ago to help care for her elderly mother after 15 years in Albuquerque, N.M., where she spoke and sang at various ministry conferences ... **D.P. Brumbaugh** is celebrating his 20th year of employment at the Keg n' Cork, located in Bemidji, where he lives.



D.P. Brumbaugh

'86 **Jeff Olson** was named president and CEO of the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas. He had previously served as executive vice president for government relations at the financial cooperative trade organization, which serves credit unions in



Debbie Aune

both North and South Dakota. He lives in Bismarck, N.D., with his two teenagers ... **Debbie (Dahl) Aune** of Gatzke had an exhibit of her watercolor paintings shown at the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council Gallery in East Grand Forks last spring. The show was titled Midwest Living and included personal images from a busy farming community and the outdoors and scenes important to the traditions of northern Minnesota. She and her husband, Elroy, have four children ranging in age from 16 to 30 ...

Nancy (Ettish) Vyskocil was named to the board of directors of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. She is president and CEO of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, which has offices in Bemidji. She



Nancy Vyskocil

and her husband, Richard, have three adult children and a home in Dent, although she also maintains a residence in Bemidji ... **John Damjanovich** has joined the board of directors for Woodland Bank. The chief financial officer for MNSTAR Technologies in Grand Rapids, he previously worked as a commercial lender at the bank for 13 years. He lives with his wife, Rose, in Remer.

'84 **Duane Wolfe** writes a regular column that appeared on PoliceOne.com, an online source for news, training information and products for law enforcement agencies. One recent article outlines 11 ways police officers can improve their job performance. Wolfe spent 25 years as a peace officer in Minnesota before retiring in 2014. He now is a full-time instructor in the law enforcement program at Alexandria Technical College. He and his wife, **Lynn (Rauker, '86)**, live in Kensington ... **Chris Tower** retired from teaching in the Edina public schools and has relocated with his wife, Betsy, to their cabin on Lake Movil near Bemidji. Chris is staying busy as farm manager at the Bemidji Community Food Shelf. Tower will also become involved at BSU as an adjunct professor and student teacher supervisor. The couple has two adult children.

'82 **James Schwarz** retired as an industrial technology teacher in New Ulm. Schwarz taught a variety of subjects during his 33 years in the district, from middle-school industrial technology to advanced woodworking in the high school. During his tenure he also coached eighth-grade football for 15 seasons. He and his wife, Sarah, live in New Ulm ... **David Gregory** has been hired as director of corporate and foundation relations with the University of North Dakota Alumni Association Foundation. His wife, **Sandra (Christensen, '83)**, is an educator in Grand Forks, N.D., where they live.

'81 **Louise Oven** retired after teaching elementary school for 34 years in the Pipestone schools. While most were spent teaching second grade, her final two were in a first-grade classroom. She lives in Brandon, S.D., with her spouse, Pam Oberembt, but they are eventually planning a move to Sioux Falls, S.D. ... **Craig Stubbins** of Eden Prairie was inducted into the Bemidji High School Athletic Hall of Fame. A standout golfer who qualified for the state tournament in each year he competed on the varsity level and an alpine skier who



three times finished in the top five at state, he is a software engineer with QLogic in Eden Prairie. He and his wife, Jayne, have three grown children. The oldest, **Jesse**, is a 2008 BSU graduate who lives in Bemidji and works in the information technology field ...

Larry Hutchins of Loretto retired as a senior marketing representative with Federated Insurance and moved into a new career as a senior vice president with the Christensen Group, one of the largest locally owned and independent insurance and employee benefits brokers in Minnesota. He earned 43 different company awards at Federated. He and his wife, Shelly, have two adult children and one in high school ... **Sarah Hoagberg** retired after 20 years of teaching in the Kelliher Early Childhood Family Education program and the school readiness area for Clearbrook-Gonvick schools. She and her husband, Rod Skoe, live on a farm north of Clearbrook. The couple has two grown children ... **Greg Wood** has retired after 32 years with Federated Insurance, where he served as a marketing representative, ARMS account executive, district marketing manager and senior marketing representative. He received 19 awards from the company. He and his wife, Valerie, live in Verona, Wis., with a pre-teen child.

'80 Sandy (Gould) Perkins is an office representative at the Pulkra-bek State Farm Insurance Agency in Crookston, where she also is music director for a Presbyterian church and directs the area Women's Chorus. Her husband, **James ('70)**, retired from teaching in 2007. The couple has two adult children



Sandra Perkins

... **Jenny (Dubois) Bloedow** retired after 35 years of teaching second- to sixth-grade classes at Reede Gray Elementary School in



Dave Thomas

Redwood Falls. She plans to continue working with the Minnesota Reading Corporation. She and her husband, Fred, raised two children in Redwood Falls ... **Dave Thomas** retired from teaching physical education on the high school and middle

school levels for the Prior Lake-Savage Area district, where he also served as a mentor to staff in technology and as a dean. He plans

to continue working with the Prior Lake swimming program, where he had served as head and assistant coach. He was also instrumental in rejuvenating the BSU alumni athlete B-Club. He lives in Savage with his wife, Terri.

'79 Jim Grafelman has joined GAI Consultants as an environmental specialist in its community development unit. A certified wetland scientist, Grafelman has 34 years of experience in environmental and regulatory science. He lives in Rhinelander, Wis. ... **Ed Jose** is a pharmacy technician at Lakewood Health System Hospital Pharmacy in Staples. He also is a certified Minnesota instructor in pistol, home firearms safety, person protection and carry permit instructor. He recently spoke on the current gun laws in the state during a program in Staples, where he lives with his wife, Anita ... **Kathy (Christiansen) Wade** has joined Winona Health as chief human resources officer. She previously held a similar position at Maple Grove Hospital ... **Ron Schoonover** is a substitute teacher in the St. Cloud School District ... **John and Sue (Tousley, '76) Tibstra** of Bemidji have retired and closed the Home Place, the cross country ski shop they operated for 26 years in Bemidji. The shop also sold and serviced bicycles until two years ago, when the Tibstras focused on skiing. The couple serves on the boards of the annual Finlandia Ski Race and the Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club ... **Dr. Dale Schmid** worked as the visual and performing arts coordinator for the New Jersey State Department of Education while he completed his doctoral work in educational and organizational leadership at the University of Pennsylvania. His resume includes serving as a dance instructor on the college level and touring regionally as a dancer, actor, choreographer, director and teaching artist. He and his wife, Karen Stone, live in Philadelphia, Pa.



Mary Klamm

'78 Mary (Bergeron) Klamm is superintendent of the Staples-Motley School District. A recipient of a Bush Leadership Fellowship in 2004, she previously served in the same capacity for Menahga schools. She and her husband, Jim, have five children and were planning a move to the Staples or Motley area from their home in Park Rapids ...



SPIRIT BUOYS KEAVENY ON PADDLE TO ARCTIC

The trip's website described the undertaking: six friends, nine months, five provinces, 11 rivers, 10 states, 5,200 miles, one continent. That added up to adventure for 2008 BSU alumnus John Keaveny, who with five others paddled canoes from the Mississippi River Delta to the Arctic Ocean.

Starting on Jan. 2 in Buras, La., the trip actually traversed 5,230 miles before ending after eight months in Kugluktuk, a small town where the Coppermine River empties into the Arctic Ocean in northern Canada. The canoeists paddled nearly two-thirds of the way to the North Pole.

"The trip was done in the spirit of adventure," Keaveny said. "I saw it as a one-time opportunity to meet new people and see new places."

Meeting individuals along the route was a major highlight, he said: "I thought we'd be out by ourselves more, but wherever we went, people reached out to help, greet and meet us. Everyone's spirit was incredible."

That spirit helped the travelers over the rough times, such as paddling the Mississippi in ice, rain and snow or struggling against the current for more than half the river miles. In addition to the people, he saw scores of new cities, traversed miles of secluded waterways or rapids, and collected lifelong memories.

Keaveny left his job as a field staff member at a wilderness therapy program in Utah to make the journey. After returning from the Arctic Circle, he landed in New Ulm, where he is substitute teaching and looking forward to new adventures.

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CLASS NOTES

Sally Soliday has been selected as the director of elementary education for the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan district. A former teacher and elementary principal, she will oversee preschool through grade-five programs at the district's 18 elementary schools. She and her husband, **Charles ('77)**, have a residence in Lakeville ... **Dean Dalen** was named Alumnus of the Year at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. He started working at the local vocational technical institute in 1981, assisting students in math and other subjects. In 2000, he became director of the Learning Center at what became NCTC and held that position until he retired in 2014. He and his wife, Renae, live in Thief River Falls and have two grown children.

'77 **Joe O'Koren** marked a lifelong career of education in Lanesboro when he retired last spring from his position as an industrial arts teacher for grades seven through 12. He also helped students prepare for their general education development certificates. He lives in Chatfield ... **Kim (Leier) Ramsey** was nominated for the Woman of Achievement Award presented by the

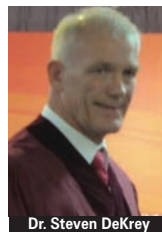


Owatonna Business Women's Organization. A substitute teacher in Owatonna for 23 years, she is active in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Wee Pals Child Care Center and the Owatonna Learning Center. She and her husband, **Dave ('78)**, live in Owatonna.

'76 **Kirsti Trygstad** retired from the Army Reserve as a colonel in October 2014. She has been a full-time Army Reserve civilian employee since 1989 and now works in the equal employment opportunity office located at Fort McCoy, Wis. She lives in Sparta, Wis. ... **Michael Rasch** has been named vice president for enrollment management at Oak Hills Christian College near Bemidji. In his new position, he will oversee the admissions office, financial aid and athletics. He and his wife, Julie, live in Bemidji and have two grown children.

'75 **Pam (Underdahl) Gunnerson** retired this spring after dedicating four decades to teaching and working for students in the Norman County East district in the Twin Valley area. Most of that time was spent teaching Title I and grades one through four before she was named dean

of elementary students three years ago. She and her husband, Charlie, live in Moorhead and have two grown children ... **Dr. Steven DeKrey** has been named an honorary fellow of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Now president of the Asian Institute of Management, he was the HKUST Business School associate dean, director of master's programs and one of the major forces behind the school's MBA



Dr. Steven DeKrey



Cheryl and John Flatt

program, ranked as the best in the world six times since 2007. He lives in Hong Kong with his wife, Veronica ... **Cheryl (Skalsky) Flatt** retired from teaching in 2013. She spent 35 of her 36 years in education at the Waubun-Ogema-White Earth School District, with 25 of those in kindergarten and the remainder in Title I. Her husband, **John ('74)**, has enjoyed six years of retirement after teaching industrial technology for 20 years and serving as the school-to-work coordinator for 13 years in the Detroit Lakes School District. The couple, who met at the BSU Music Camp, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year. They live in Detroit Lakes.

'74 **Tom Anderson** retired as manager at the northwest Minnesota region of the Minnesota Vocational Rehab Services Program located in Crookston, where he helped people with disabilities become employable and stay on the job. An avid river fisherman, he and his wife, Lenore, raised three children in Crookston ... **Bob Bird** retired after 41 years teaching on the secondary level, three in Minnesota and the remainder in Alaska, where he also spent 13 years as a varsity hockey coach. He will now teach history at Kenai Peninsula College. Active politically, he has twice run for the U.S. Senate in Alaska. He and his wife, Rosemary,

live in Kenai and have three grown children ... **Lyle Hanson** finished his 35th and last year of teaching in the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District, the final being an SLC teacher in the high school. He and his wife, Vicki, live in Clearbrook and have three grown children ... **John Clark** has been promoted to human resources director at the Shooting Star Casino, Hotel and Event Center in Mahanomen. He taught in a public school setting for 34 years before joining the human resource staff at the Shooting Star complex seven years ago. He lives in Mahanomen.

'73 **Chris (Hanson) Starr** was featured on Minnesota Public Radio in a segment that highlighted the lives and work of music educators throughout the state. Starr retired in January after 41 years as a music teacher in the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted district. The last 34 were spent in the classroom and directing choirs for grades six through 12. She has two adult children and lives in Norwood Young America ... **Mike Eastling** has retired after a 35-year career in the Richfield Public Works Department, which he left as its director. During his tenure, he was named a Top 10 public works director in the nation by the American Public Works Association in 2011 and last year was named the Public Works Director of the Year by the organization's state affiliate. He has a home in Eagan ... **Dennis Moore** retired recently after working 36 years in supply chain management, most recently with Enbridge Energy out of Duluth. He and his wife, Deb, recently moved to Champlin to be closer to children and grandchildren. It also allows



Dennis Winkowski

him to continue his part-time position in guest services at Target Field for the Minnesota Twins ... **Dennis Winkowski** has retired after nearly three decades as publisher of the Detroit Lakes Tribune. During his tenure, the paper won five Mills Trophies from the Minnesota Newspaper Association as the best weekly in

the state. He and his wife, Carol, live in Park Rapids and have two adult children.

'71 **Gordon Johnson** received the Governor's Arts Award from the state of Montana for conducting and directing the Great Falls Symphony for 33



Gordon Johnson



years. The Conductors' Guild president, he also served as the conductor and director of the Glacier Symphony in Kalispell for 15 years; had the same responsibilities at the Flathead Music Festival for nine years; and helped found the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras and its annual young artists competition. A 2009 BSU Outstanding Alumnus, he lives in Great Falls with his wife, Ruth ... **James Luense** was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame in St. Ansgar, Iowa. He was a high school counselor and football coach before retiring in 2001. He and his wife, Carlene, raised two grown children from their home in St. Ansgar.

'69 **Gail Nuzech** was inducted into the Hibbing High School Athletic Hall of Fame this fall. One of the most successful high school volleyball coaches in Minnesota, Nuzech has also been named to halls of fame at BSU, the Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association and Greenway High School. She led the Hibbing Volleyball program to 23 appearances in the state tournament, which they won in 1975. Her 884 wins are the most ever compiled by a Minnesota high school coach. She and her husband, Dennis, live in Hibbing.

'68 **Carol (Bren) Dunn** retired after teaching fifth-grade reading and language arts at Pequot Lakes Middle School for 26 years. Although stepping away from the classroom, she expects to stay busy by making wool rugs and giving lessons in the craft from her home studio as well as the North House Folk School in Grand Marais. She and her husband, Bart, raised four children in the Pequot Lakes area. ... **Bob Bernier** has returned to instructing industrial technology courses at Red Lake County Central High School in Oklee, where he previously taught from 1999-2008. He and his wife, Emily, own Bernier's Custom Cabinets in Oklee, where they live and raised three children.

'65 **Mike Shaw** received the Jordan Commercial Club Honored Guest Award presented annually to a resident who consistently gave time and energy to the community. Shaw retired in 2000 after a 35-year career as a business teacher and coach at Jordan High School. Now the mayor of Jordan, he served 25 years on the city council. He and his wife, Lori, live in Jordan ... **Larry McDowell** of Thief River Falls was presented with the Pro Bono Service Award from the Legal Services Corporation in Washington, D.C. A private attorney with Wurst &

McDowell in Thief River Falls, he specializes in real estate, probate and estate administration. He has been a volunteer with Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota since it was formed in 1976, first as a lawyer and the last 12 years as the president of its board of directors.

'64 **Al Clark** has been inducted into the Arlington (Texas) Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame. A 2007 BSU Outstanding Alumnus, Clark moved to Texas in 1979 as a State Farm Insurance agent and built one of the country's most successful agencies during his tenure. Active in the city's chamber, he was a founding member of the Arlington Chamber Foundation, which supports the organization's strategic and financial development. He lives in Arlington with his wife, Shalyn.

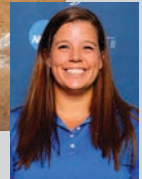
'63 **Beverly (Schinderle) Pfeilstifter** retired 15 years ago after a career teaching elementary education. She and her husband, Chuck, maintain a home in Racine, Wis., and a winter residence in The Villages, Fla.

'61 **Neil McCormack** retired as boys' golf coach at Rochester Mayo High School, an assignment he had filled for 48 seasons. He retired as a science teacher for the district in 1998. He helped form the Mayo girls' hockey team, which he coached for 11 years while guiding them to three state tournament berths. He lives in Rochester ... **Ron McKechney** has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame. A retired educator, he spent nine years with the Estevan Maple Leafs before joining the Swift Current Indians. During his playing days, he helped teams win three league championships, earned several batting titles and was named league MVP. He lives in East St. Paul, Man., with his wife, Peg, and maintains a winter home in Bonita Springs, Fla. The couple has three sons, including **Craig**, a 1997 BSU graduate who operates a sheep ranch near Litchfield.

'57 **Bob Ness** is serving as a liaison for Colin Peterson, a Democrat who was recently sworn in for his 13th term as Minnesota's congressman from the seventh district. Ness is a former Republican state representative who also served as school superintendent in Detroit Lakes. He provides constituent services for Preston in 29 communities. His wife, **Marianne (Johnson, '54)**, is a retired teacher and homemaker. The couple lives in Dassel.



Marianne and Bob Ness



BOWEN FINDS CALLING BEHIND HOME PLATE

Leah Bowen called balls and strikes with 10,000 fans in the stands, a national TV audience watching on ESPN, and softball teams from Michigan and UCLA scrutinizing her every move. As an umpire at the 2015 NCAA Division I Women's College World Series, the 2004 Bemidji State graduate still was conscious only of the game.

"Umpiring is customer service, and the customer is the game," said Bowen, a Hermantown native who played both volleyball and softball at BSU. "If you're not doing right about the game, you're not doing right about yourself. You have to respect that."

The respect translates into acting professionally to coaches, players and fans. It means keeping your cool. It means you don't make friends during the game, but of course that's not the point.

Now the intramural director at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Bowen started umpiring softball in 2008 after full-time jobs were hard to find in the recession despite a recently acquired graduate degree. It was one of several part-time opportunities she cobbled together. She began officiating high school games before eventually moving up to NCAA Division III and Division II. During a tournament in 2009, an impressed college coach asked why she wasn't working Division I games.

Bowen umpired her first Division I game later that year, and has built a resume that now includes 50-60 games each season in the Southeastern, Big 10, Big 12 and Missouri Valley conferences. She was one of seven umpires selected for the NCAA finals and worked the plate in front of the largest crowd at this year's event.

While Bowen's officiating acumen and personality served her well at the tournament, a return trip to the finals isn't certain. The NCAA Division I playoff crews are put together each year from a national pool of eligible game callers.

Whatever the schedule, Bowen said she's committed to being a neutral judge of her most important customer, the game.

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CLASS NOTES



Millie Gjertson (right) attends her first hockey game on Sept. 26 with Kathleen McKinstra, BSU's director of planned giving. The women's team fought Robert Morris to a 4-4 tie.

LIFE IS NEVER DULL FOR A 'GAL' LIKE GJERTSON

When Millie (Kortuem) Gjertson '45 visited Bemidji State in September after more than a decade away, her campus tour conjured more than classroom memories.

In her mind's eye, the 92-year-old saw several men whose names are now on the buildings.

Gjertson worked as a secretary for John Glas, C.R. Sattgast and A.C. Clark – first as a student and briefly full time before she completed her English degree.

She was taken aback by how much BSU had changed.

"Once I recovered from the demolition of Sanford Hall," Gjertson joked, "I could kind of settle down and enjoy the tour.

"There is still a friendly atmosphere that pervades the campus. I was happy to see that."

She and Wilfred, her late husband of nearly 54 years, lived in several towns during his career with the state employment service. She often was among those he placed in jobs.

Still living independently and enjoying interests and friendships, Gjertson cherishes the couple's north woods adventures and her lifetime of travel to all 50 states, including Hawaii in 2013.

She stays engaged with reading, plant care, church and the Vikings and indulges an eclectic generosity that will now permanently benefit BSU.

In October, Gjertson established a scholarship endowment to benefit a female junior or senior student.

"I checked with my financial adviser," she recalled, "and he said, 'Yes, we can swing that.'"

'53 **Willie Stittsworth** has been inducted into the Ankeny High School Hall of Honor for his contributions to education after he left the Iowa school. Stittsworth is a professor emeritus at BSU, having served on the education faculty until his retirement in 1989. He and his wife, Arla, live in Bemidji, where they raised three children.

'52 **Bill Howe** earned the 2015 Charlie Naylor Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce. Howe, a retired president of Northern National Bank, has been active in

numerous civic and community organizations during his years in Bemidji, where he has a residence.

'50 **Truman Schoaff** and his wife, Mary, recently downsized when they moved from a country home to a residence in Grand Rapids.

OTHER ALUMNI

Doug Bulver is a licensed minister who counsels youth, individuals and couples on life experiences in the Lakeville area.

IN MEMORIAM

Listed in order of class year

Evelyn B. Sather '35, Bend, Ore.
Rebecca (Corbit) Stetzler '37, Menahga
Ardis J. (Aho) Esala '45, New York Mills
Robert R. Luox '48, San Leandro, Calif.
Dr. Perry W. Patterson '48, Sioux City, Iowa
John B. Emkovik '49, Inver Grove Heights
Charles O. Fisher '49, Annandale
Reuben J. Patnode '50, Grand Rapids
Ronald Randklev '50, Grand Marais
John W. Schultz, Jr. '50, Maple Grove
Richard R. Scanlon '51, Grand Rapids
Bette (Stengrim) Henkes '53, Staples
Dorothy (Rake) Gustafson '54, Hallock
Irwin St. John '54, Mesa, Ariz.
Joan E. (McCullor) Hovdestad '55, Park Rapids
Ann M. (Lalonde) Malikowski '55, Dekalb, Ill.
Lowell A. Vaughn '56, Minneapolis
William "Bill" L. Wirtanen '56, Hibbing
Judith B. Wold '57, Thief River Falls
Duane M. Wilson '57, Spokane, Wash.
Richard L. Bovitz '58, Grand Rapids
Dr. David D. Sandwick '58, Bracketteville, Texas
Marian M. King '59, Yucaipa, Calif.
George L. Jernberg '60 & '68, Detroit Lakes
Daniel G. Johnson '61, Duluth
Mark O. Paulson '61, Bemidji
Clifford M. Woodford '61, Mankato
Richard T. "Dick" Sauer '62 & '66, Bemidji
Richard L. Berganini '63, Minneapolis
Paul A. Ofstedal '63, Fertile
Ruth B. Sorknes '63, Moorhead
Fred L. Hill '64, Fargo, N.D.
Rayome C. Koehler '64, Erskine
Leon I. Oistad '64, Excelsior
Warren C. Anderson '66, Alexandria
Douglas Gooselaw '66, Bozeman, Mont.
Dr. Dennis M. Martin '66, Kingsville, Texas
Wallace H. Etter '68, Mora
Joseph N. Horoshak '68, Orr
Arlene Bergman '69, Clearbrook

Richard Paciotti '69, Eveleth
Kathryn "Kay" (Knott) Knoer '70, Bemidji
Charles A. Linn '70, Backus
Ruth E. Lundstrom '70, Park Rapids
Merlyn Stai '70, Bemidji
Marjorie M. (Schoville) Dietz '72, Eyota
Richard F. Beer '74, Warba
Jon "Jack" Echternach '74, Bemidji
David W. Erickson '74, International Falls
Mary (Beneke) Buckentin '75, Plato
John C. Zak '74 & '76, Saint Hilaire
Donald G. Anderson '76, Detroit Lakes
Charles Stuhaug '76, Erskine
Randy A. Berger '77, Mahanomen
Jacalyn M. (Jenneke) Caron '77, Fifty Lakes
Virginia M. (Dearholt) Magnuson '77, Solway
Lawrence A. Houg '79, Bemidji
Myrna D. Mannausau '79, International Falls
Ole Jessen-Klixbull '80, Cold Spring
Gail (Nelson) Sells '80, Park Rapids
Pamela A. Young '80, Perham
Sharon P. (Christiansen) Lepel '81, Gillette, Wyo.
Bruce K. Baustian '82, Sauk Rapids
Kristan Janse-Dinkel '82, Cochrane, Wisc.
Beverly Torgerson '82, Park Rapids
Richard S. Frykman '83, New Prague
Genevieve A. Brandt '87, Bemidji
Carol E. Campbell '86, Bemidji
Jerry Colley '87, Bemidji
Johanna Desrocher '87, Great Falls, Mont.
Patrick T. Johnston '87, Detroit Lakes
Daniel A. Davis '88, Mora
Teresa A. Galloway '88 & '98, Bemidji
Michelle M. (Folden) Prestebak '88, Goodridge
Audrey E. Rolfson '95, Austin
Trevor C. Howe '02, Duluth
Barron J. Cottingham '13, Grand Rapids
Trevan L. Smith '13, New Prague
Jeremiah "Jeremy" Flackus-Carlson '14, Walker

REPORT 2014-15

GIFTS BSU FOUNDATION



Carol Russell '74

THE POWER OF DECISION

When you look around campus these days, you see incredible, exciting advances: the opening of the “new” Memorial Hall, home to our business and accounting programs; the innovation and academic achievements in our classrooms, labs and learning centers; and the awarding of almost \$1.4 million in scholarships to our deserving students this year.

None of these things just happened. They were all possible because of the commitment and vision of our faculty, students, administration and contributors like many of you. Each step forward took place because someone believed – and took action.

There is perhaps no greater evidence of this than the significant accomplishments we have seen within our Imagine Tomorrow campaign. By the end of November, we had passed an initial \$35 million goal and were setting our sights even higher. This historic achievement is making enrollment at Bemidji State a possibility for hundreds more students each year.

That’s important. To maintain and grow BSU as a viable, comprehensive, regional university, we need to continue to be responsive to our students and their needs. Our students are changing, as is the environment in which they learn. And, for many, the dream of pursuing higher education is complicated by busy lives, affordability and the reality of juggling work and family responsibilities.

Understanding this, we know there is still work to be done. We need to tell the BSU story more widely and give voice to our advocates. We need to grow partnerships between BSU and our business community, further diversify our funding and be responsive to the emerging needs of our university. In other words, we need to continue on this path of positive growth and change.

As we look back at the past year, we want to thank everyone who has given their time, talent and financial contributions to Bemidji State University and the work it does. Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are changing lives.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carol Russell'.

Carol Russell '74

President

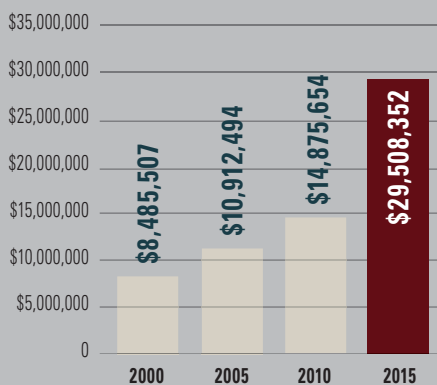
Bemidji State University Foundation

REPORT of GIFTS



Custom chargers (as pictured above) are created especially for the President's Society by visual arts professor and department chair John "Butch" Holden. They are "awards of distinction," honoring donors with cumulative giving of \$50,000 or more.

Growth of Foundation Assets



the President's SOCIETY

The President's Society recognizes the university's most generous contributors, based on lifetime/cumulative giving to the Bemidji State University Foundation. Members include individuals, families and organizations.

Visionary's Society (\$2,500,000 +)

Joseph* and Janice Lueken/The Joseph and Janice Lueken Family Foundation

Trustees Society (\$1,000,000 +)

The George W. Neilson Foundation
Michael W. and Tracy Roberge

Chancellors Society (\$500,000 +)

3M, Inc.
Keith and Maria Johanneson/Marketplace Food and Drug
Edwin* and Myra* Johnson
Sam and Peggy* Johnson
David and Brenda Odegaard
Paul Bunyan Communications
Wayne and Beverly Thorson

Benefactors Society (\$250,000 +)

Dr. M. James and Nancy Bensen
Doug and Sue Fredrickson/'Big Oaks Foundation
M. Fern Birnstihl*
First National Bank Bemidji
Elfrida B. Glas*
Kirk P. Gregg/Gregg Family Charitable Fund
Kathryn K. Hamm*
John and Delphine Jacobsen
Robin Norgaard Kelleher
Elwood and Jean Largis
Eva Lind*
John W. Marvin
Susan I. Marvin
Mary A. Mushel*
Trudy and Kevin Rautio
Sanford Health
Rich and Joyce Siegert /Edgewater Group (Hampton Inn and Suites, Green Mill)
David and Kathryn Sorensen
George and Sandra Thelen
Security Bank USA
Steve and Lauren Vogt

Directors Society (\$100,000 +)

Donald G. Anderson* and Vicki Brown
Trent and Beth Baalke
Bank Forward
Ron Batchelder
Jeffrey and Kathy Baumgartner/Circle B Properties
Big North Distributing, Inc.
Fred F. Breen*
Raymond Breen*
Dr. Almond and Shalyn Clark/Al Clark's Formula 4 Success
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Bemidji, Inc.
Dr. Donald* and Petra DeKrey
Dondelinger GM

Enbridge Energy Co.

Kenneth and Mary* Erickson

Dr. Bruce and Mary Jo Falk
Federated Insurance
Anthony S. Gramer
Russell* and Gudrun* Harding
Dr. Evan and Elaine* Hazard
Dr. Ruth Howe and Merrill Thiel
Paul and Lynn Hunt
Christine Janda*
Margaret H. Johnson*
Katharine Neilson Cram Foundation
Kopp Family Foundation
Kraus-Anderson Construction Company — North

Joan L. Kriegler*

Leech Lake Casinos: Northern Lights, Palace and White Oak
Lueken's Village Foods
Michael McKinley and Deborah Grabrian/McKinley Companies
Mark and Sandra Niblick
North Country Business Products
North Country Health Services
Northern Inn/Gary Gangelhoff
Otter Tail Power Company
Otto Bremer Foundation
Robert and Mary Lou Peters
Pinnacle Publishing LLC
David and Kim Ramsey
Dr. Patrick Riley and Dr. Natalie Roholt
Marcella Sherman
TruStar Federal Credit Union
Moses and Angela Tsang
Robert* and Jeanette* Welle
Bob Whelan/Whelan Properties/Su-preme Lumber
Stephen G. Wick

Builders Society (\$50,000.00 +)

Bernice M. Anderson Charitable Rmndr. Unitrust
Thomas J. Beech
Dr. Richard and Josephine Beitzel
Bemidji Woolens, Inc./Bill Batchelder
The Bernick Companies
Elaine D. Bohanon*
Bradley Borkhuis
BSU Dining Services/ARAMARK
Lynne C. Bunt Estate
Jim* and Lorraine F. Cecil
Michael and Noel Clay
Herbert and Lynn Doran
Gregory S. Droba
Joe and Karen Dunn
Rebecca Eggers*
Steve and Sue Engel
Drs. Gary and Nancy Erickson/Gary S. Erickson, DDS

* Deceased

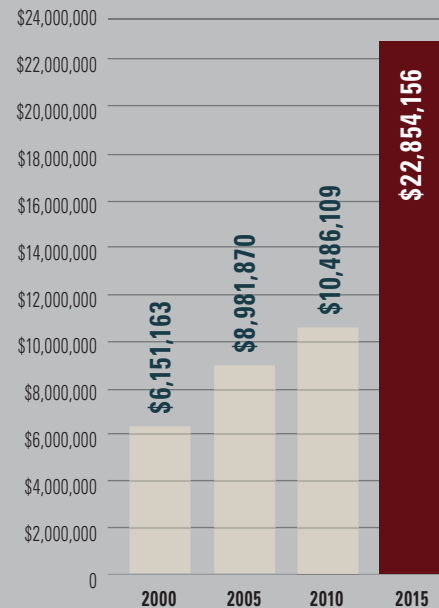
New member

General Mills Foundation
 Dr. Lowell* and Ardis* Gillett
 Dr. Muriel B. Gilman
 Bernard* and Fern* Granum
 Dr. Richard and Dianne Hanson
 Margaret H. Harlow*
 Thomas and Joanne Heaviland
 Paul and Tammi Hedtke
 Dr. Annie B. Henry
 Lynne K. Holt
 William and Bette* Howe
 Myrtie A. Hunt*
 Esther F. Instebo*
 The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
 Alan and Judy Killian
 Alan Korpi and Martha Nelson
 Dale and Michelle Ladig
 Lake Region Bone and Joint Surgeons
 Lakeland Public Television
 Margaret Listberger Estate
 LeRoy E. Maas*
 Marvin Lumber and Cedar Co
 Jon and Debra McTaggart
 MeritCare Clinic Bemidji
 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
 Miller McDonald, Inc.
 R. Alexander Milowski
 Dr. Thomas and Mary Moberg
 Harry Moore*
 Ronald and Alvina Morrison
 NLFX Professional
 Nash Finch Company
 Charles Naylor*
 William* and Dona Mae Naylor
 Nei Bottling, Inc.
Darby and Geraldine Nelson
 Norbord Minnesota
 Northwest Minnesota Foundation
 Paul Bunyan Broadcasting
 Harold T. Peters*
 Phillips Plastics Corp.
 The Pioneer/Advertiser
 Drs. Jon and Patricia Quistgaard
 Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
 Steven and Robyn Seide
 Tom and Cindy Serratore
 Anonymous
 Lowell and Lois Sorenson
 Jack and Marie St. Martin/The Jack and Marie St. Martin Family Foundation/KFC
 State Farm Companies Foundation
 The Idea Circle, Inc.
 Dr. Theodore and Margaret Thorson
 Gary* and Joanne E. Torfin
 Mervin "Sock" Wagner*
 E. Joseph and Jane Welle
Tom and Paulette Welle
 Wells Fargo Bank N.A.
 White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
 Robert and DeAnn Zavoral

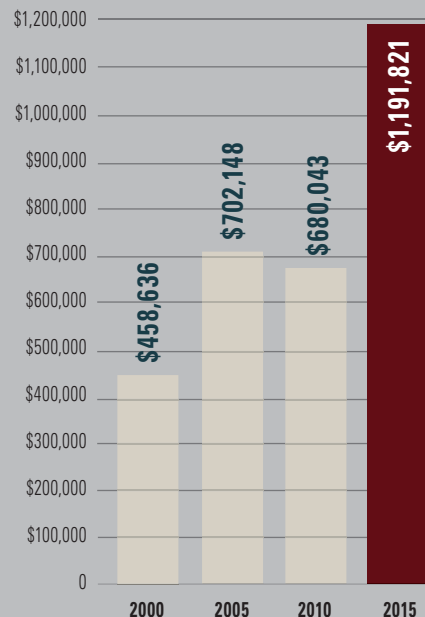
Ambassadors Society (\$25,000.00 +)
 3M Foundation
 Ace on the Lake
 Alltech Associates, Inc.
 American Legion Post 14
 Winnifred Anderson*
Dr. Will and Mary Lou Antell

Bill* and Jesse* Baer
 Carl and Terry Baer
 Beaver Bookstore
 Dr. Marjory C. Beck
Julie and Scott Becker
 Bemidji Dental Clinic
 Bemidji Lions Club
Kermit and Sandy Bensen
 Marie Bishop*
 Blandin Foundation
 Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council
 Robert and Lisa Bollinger
 Alan P. Brew
 David and Stormi Brown
 Patrick Brown/Clem's Hardware Hank
Jeffrey P. Busse
 Joan Campbell Anderson and David Anderson
 John and Ann Carlson/John Carlson Agency, Inc.
 Steve Carter Jr.
 Bertha A. Christianson*
 Kenneth* and Marion M. Christianson
 Citizens State Bank Midwest
Corner Sports, Inc
 Annie M. Czarnecki
D & T Landscaping, Inc.
 Eugene Dalzotto*
 Deerwood Bank
 DeLaHunt Broadcasting
 DeLoitte Foundation
 Dick's Northside, Inc.
 Dickson Enterprises, Inc.
 James and Tiffany Fankhanel/Bemidji Chrysler Center/Honda of Bemidji
 Dr. Jeremy and Megan Fogelson-Dahlby
 Fred and Virginia Forseman
 Dr. Jeanine and Ronald Gangeness
 George and Joann Gardner
 Dale Greenwalt and Kim Warren
 Cedsel J. Hagen*
 Paul and Paige Hanson
 Hartz Foundation
 Gary and Diane Hazelton
 Jim* and Marilyn Heltzer
 John R. Heneman
 Barbara Higgins*
 Hill's Plumbing and Heating
 Terry and Cindy Holter
 Dr. Howard and Mary* Hoody
 InFaith Community Foundation
 InHarvest
 John Johanneson*
 Arnold* and Nancy* Johnson
 Virginia Hope Johnson*
 Wilbur Johnson Estate
Jeffrey D. Kemink
 Lillie M. Kleven*
 Gary D. Knutson*
Krigbaum and Jones, Ltd.
 League of Women Voters — Bemidji Area
 Douglas and Renee Leif
 Drs. Gordon and Alice Lindgren
 James* and Janet* Love
 Lutheran Community Foundation
 William and Jodi Maki
 Gary and Ruth McBride
 Betsy J. McDowell
 Neil and Patricia* McMurrin

Growth of Endowed Funds



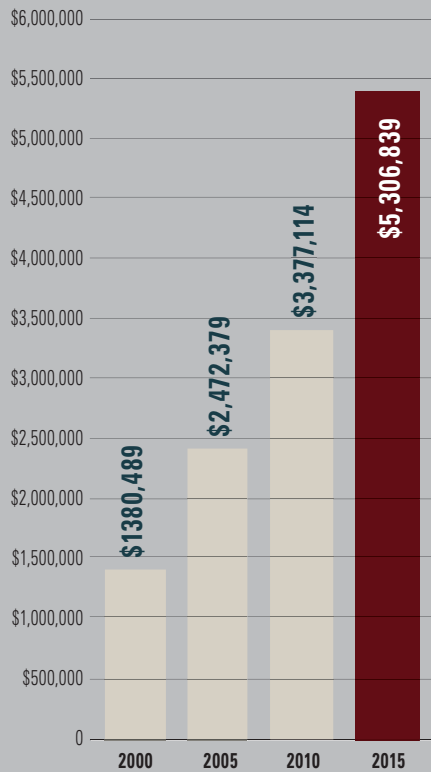
BSU Foundation Scholarship Dollars Provided



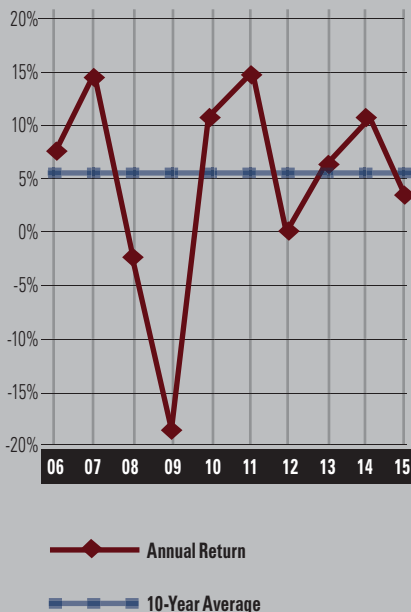
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REPORT of GIFTS

Cash Revenue



Rate of Investment Return



the President's SOCIETY

{ continued from page 43 }

Dr. Thomas and Marilyn Miller
The Minneapolis Foundation
Minnesota Energy Resources
Minnesota Society of Certified
Public Accountants
Diane Moe and Thomas
Fitzgerald
Gary and Marlene Moe
Sharon Moe
Betty L. Murray
James and Janice Naylor
Judy Nelson

Dr. Raymond* and Jane*
Nelson
Lee A. Norman
North Central Door Company
NorthEnd Trust
Northern Aggregate, Inc.
Northland Electric
Northwestern Surveying &
Engineering, Inc.
Marc and Kay Olson
Kris and Grant Oppegaard/
The Oppegaard Family
Foundation
Otter Tail Power Company
Joel and Kary Otto
David and Dianne Parnow
Edward and Marla Patrias
Dr. John C. Pearce
Stephen Pearce, M.D.
Rod and Delores Pickett
The Presto Foundation
Raphael's Bakery Cafe
REM Northstar, Inc. Bemidji
Regional Office
Dr. Tom and Sandra Richard
James and Carol Richards
RJ Ahmann Company
RiverWood Bank
Carol Russell/Russell Herder
Lee C. Scotland, DDS
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community
Mark A. Shanfeld, MD, Ph.D.
Hazel Shimmin Estate
Robert Fiskum and Yvonne* E.
Siats-Fiskum
Skyline Exhibits
Slim's Bar & Grill
Bob and Jane Smith/Image
Photography and Framing
Dr. Kathryn Smith
Buster and Helen Spaulding/
Spaulding Motors, Inc.
Michael and Melinda Spry
St. Joseph's Area Health
Services
Super 8 Motel
Dr. Thomas and Bonnie
Swanson
Dr. Martin and LaRae Tadlock
Eugene and Sue Teigland/
Bemidji Sports Centre/Ground
Round

Dr. Dave and Peggy Tiffany
Terri Traudt
Dr. Ken Traxler
Tri-State Manufacturers'
Association
Dr. James and Diane Tuorila
USA Color Printing
Austin and Paula Wallestad
Richard and Judith Werner
Drs. Larry and Ranae Womack
Barbara L. Wylie
Zetah Construction, Inc.

Founders Society (\$10,000.00 +)

Robert J. Aalberts
Don and Susan Addy
Bernard V. Adlys
Allen Oman State Farm Agency
Carol M. Alstrom
American Assn. of Univ. Women
American Family Insurance
Dr. Kris and Linda Anderson
Robin and DeAnne Anderson
Boris and Caroline Andrican
Annexstad Family Foundation
Arrow Printing
Drs. Norman and Linda Baer
Ryan and Jean Baer
Baratto Brothers Construction
Dr. James and Julie Barta
Bear Creek Energy
William and Maria Beitzel
Edward and Jennifer Belisle
Beltrami Electric Cooperative,
Inc.
Bemidji Ambulance Service, Inc.
Bemidji Building Center
Bemidji Medical Equipment
The Bemidji Rotary Club
Bemidji Welders Supply, Inc.
June L. Bender
Terry and Gail Bergum
Best of Bemidji Quarterly
Magazine
Best Western Bemidji
Jon and Linda Blessing
Bob Lowth Ford, Inc.
Daniel and Midge Boettger
Dr. Mel and Ruby Bolster
Howard and Rebecca Borden
Randy and Marlene Bowen
Trey and Ann Bowman
Dr. John* and Ann* Brady
Bravo Beverage Ltd.
Bonnie L. Bredenberg
Gurnee K. Bridgman
Phillip A. Buhn
Louis H. Buron Jr.
Robert C. Bush
Dr. Mark and Mishel Carlson
Dr. Raymond and Margaret
Carlson

Jason and Angela Caron
Caswell International Corpo-
ration
Central Valley Food Services,
Inc.
Charter Communications
Richard F. Chopp*
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
Control Stuff
Cool Threads
Bret and Veronica Cooper
Veita L. Corbin
Corner Bar of Bemidji, Inc.
Country Kitchen Restaurant
William and Teresa Crews
Dean and Wendy Crotty
Scott Curb and Mary Boranian
**The Curtis L. Carlson Family
Foundation**
Mike and Michell Curfman
Dr. Caroline M. Czarnecki
Lyle E. Dally*
Dave's Pizza
Richard M. and AnnMarie Day
Robert* and Jackie Decker
Dr. Steve and Veronica DeKrey
John and Kay Delinsky
Delta Kappa Gamma
Patrick and Barbara DeMarchi
Roxanne Desjarlait
James and Jana Dewar
Dick's Plumbing and Heating of
Bemidji, Inc.
John T. Driessen
Shawn and Shaina Dudley
Richard and Rose Dukek
Jon and Beth Duncan
Dwayne Young, Inc. Plaster &
Drywall
Ed Sauer Memorial Fund
Eldercare Health Benefits
Mgmt. Systems, Inc.
Erbert & Gerbert's Subs and
Clubs
Janet Esty*
Herbert M. Fougner*
Joann Fredrickson
Michelle and Morris Frenzel
Laura Gaines
Dr. Fulton and Nancy Gallagher
Michael and Deanna Garrett
Dr. Daniel Gartrell and Dr. Julie
Jochum
Georgia-Pacific Corp. — Su-
perwood
Dr. James and Connie Ghostley
Col. Clark and Judith Gilbertson
Dr. Eric Gilbertson
Keith and Jeannie Gilbertson
Ordella M. Gilbertson
Marjorie and James Gilder-
sleeve
Paul and Kathy Godlewski
Dr. Richard and Carol Goeb

Dr. Frank and Marilyn Goodell
 Bruce L. Gordon
 Gourmet House
 Bryan and Paulette Grand
 Great Lakes Gas Transmission
 Ltd. Partnership
 Dr. Colleen Greer
 Beulah F. Gregoire*
 James and Barbara Grier
 Robert and Susan Griggs
 Keith W. Gunderson*
 Richard F. Haberer*
 Lisa L. Haberman
 Richard and Sheridan Hafdal
 Dr. Harold* and Renate* Hagg
 James and Joyce Hanko
 Hanson Electric of Bemidji, Inc.
 Linda S. Hanson
 Hardees of Bemidji
 Hartz Foundation
 James and Pamela Harrison
 Dr. Richard* and Dorothy Haugo
 Oluf* and Margaret* Haugrud
 Headwaters Shrine Club
 Kenneth Henrikson
 Beverly Henriques
Dr. Mike and Deb Herbert
 Hobart Laboratories, Inc.
 Hoeschler Fund — St. Paul
 Foundation
Neal and Maureen Holmstrom
 Honeywell Foundation
 Pamela Hovland
 Kenneth and Kari Howe
 IBM
 Insure Forward
 Myriam Ivers
 Iverson Corner Drug
 JC Penney Co.
 Louise H. Jackson
 Richard and Sheri Jahner
Paul S. and Sarah B. Jensen
 Jerry Downs Agency
 Johnson Controls
 Diane and Thomas Johnson
 Jeremiah D. Johnson
 Dr. Terrance and Susan Johnson
 Dr. Johannes M. Jordan
 Thomas and Susan Kaplan
 Jeff Keckheisen/Keck Sports
 Keg N' Cork
 Rich and Meredith Kehoe
 Keith's Pizza
 Dr. Debra Kellerman and Anthony
 Wandersee
 Ken K Thompson Jewelry
 David and Charlotte Kingsbury
 Knife River Materials/MDU
 Resources Foundation
 Drs. Raymond and Beatrice
 Knodel
 Clayton M. Knoshaug
 Paul and Catherine Koski
James and Patricia Kraby

Derek Kringen
 Lois M. Kruger Estate
 Dr. Franklin and Diane Labadie
 Dr. David and Alice Larkin
 Lesa and Jeff Lawrence
 Dr. Arthur and Judith Lee
 Hazel M. Leland*
 LePier Oil Company
 Dr. Robert and Dale Ley
Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.
 Paul and Teri Lindseth
 Mark and Monica Liska
 Brad and Dawn Logan
 Kenneth and Mary Lundberg
 Steven Lundeen and Jennifer
 Driscoll
 Brian J. Maciej
 Keith Marek
 Mark's Frame House/Mark and
 Linda LaFond
 Marvin Windows and Doors
 Douglas and Mary Mason
 MasTec North America Inc.
 Allen and Susie Mathieu
 John and Judith McClellan
 Dr. Judith L. McDonald
 James D. McElmury
 Robin and Diane Mechelke
 Medsave Family Pharmacy
 Debra M. Melby*
 Dr. Kathleen J. Meyer
 Midcontinent Communications
 Midwest Cable Communications
 Minnesota Humanities Com-
 mission
 James and Sharon Molde
 Dr. Robert and Sally Montebello
 Dr. Dorothy L. Moore*
 Robb H. Naylor
 Katharine Neilson Cram*
 Gerald* and Fern* Nichols
 North Country Dental
 Northern Amusement
 Northern Liquor Offsale
 David and Jean Olderman
 Bruce L. Olson
 Olson-Schwartz Funeral Home
 Douglas L. Onan
 Royal and Diane Orser
 Family and Friends of Ruth
 Ouverson
 Dr. Donna K. Palivec
 Greg and Kathy Palm
 John and Lori Paris
 Pat Knoer State Farm Insurance
 Patterson's Men's Wear
 R. Scott and Kathy Pearson
 Rep. John S. Persell
 Dr. Martha and Don Peters
 David Lee Peterson Estate
 Debra F. Peterson
 Rohl and Patricia Peterson
 Pickett Agency, Inc.

Productivity, Inc.
 Dr. Joanne M. Provo
 Jack* and Mary Betty Quistgard
 Michael and Jackie Rasch
 Roger Rasmussen
 Dr. John and Mary Sue Rede-
 baugh
Mary A. Reitter
 Billy and Lainey Rodgers
 Richard Rude Architectural
 Dr. Patricia A. Rosenbrock
 Ross Lewis Sign Company
 Susan and Stuart Rossette
 RP Broadcasting, Inc.
 Dr. Samuel and Sara Sant
 William and Rochelle Scheela
 Kevin and Paige Schoepel
Lee and Deborah Schreck
 John* and Evelyn* Schuiling
 Walter and Mardene Schuiling
 John and Charlotte Schullo
 John and Mary Seamans
 Patricia and Mark Shough
 Pete* and Marilyn Simonson
 Dr. Maria and Terry Statton
 Irene K. Stewart
 Willie and Arla Stittsworth
 Stittsworth's Meats
 Maurice and Lorna Sullivan
 Dr. Bruce and Shari Sutor
 Chet* Swedmark and Helen
 Kohl-Swedmark
 Systec, Inc.
 Doug and Lori Taylor
 Teammates for Kids Foundation
 Telespectrum Worldwide
 Jeff and Susan Tesch
 Dr. Jerome and Jane Thompson
 Thorson, Inc.
 Chris and Dick Tolman
Shane A. Veenker
 Mary M. Veranth
 Robert and Patricia Walrath
 Ruth E. Warde Estate
 Dr. Victor D. Weber*
 Julie A. Wegner
 George* and Paula Welte
 Wes' Plumbing & Heating
 Bryan and Judy Westerman
 Harvey and Lorin Westrom
 Widseth Smith Nolting & Asso-
 ciates
Wilde Financial, Inc.
 Dr. Rodney Will and Anne
 Meredith-Will
 Jerry and Kathy Winans
 James and Lois Wood
 Bud and Gloria Woodward

* Deceased
New member

Statement of Position

June 30, 2015

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 49,560
Investments	24,290,947
Contributions Receivable	2,428,663
Prepaid Expenses	4,157
Total Current Assets	26,773,327

Property and Equipment	325,278
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Other Assets

Contributions Receivable	2,308,204
Remainder Interest in Real Estate	90,816
Cash Surrender Value Life Insurance	10,727
Total Other Assets	2,409,747

Total Assets	29,508,352
---------------------	-------------------

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,152
Payroll Liabilities	57,242
Annuities Payable, Current Portion	23,234
Total Current Liabilities	99,628

Long-term Liabilities

Annuities Payable, Long Term Portion	166,619
Total Long Term Liabilities	166,619
Total Liabilities	266,247

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	
Lakeside Fund & Quasi Endowment Fund	\$ 462,919
Alumni House Acquisition	-40,000
Imagine Tomorrow Campaign	1,808,692
Academic Affairs/Admissions Schol Funds	2,084,708
Plant Fund	325,278
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	4,641,597

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	4,351,941
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	20,248,567

Total Net Assets	29,242,105
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	29,508,352
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REPORT GIFTS

the Legacy SOCIETY

The Legacy Society recognizes and honors those alumni and friends who have provided for Bemidji State University in their wills or have exercised a planned giving option through the Bemidji State University Foundation.

Charles & Nancy Aldrich
Donald G. Anderson*+
Joan & David Anderson+
Boris & Caroline Andrican+
Bill* & Jessie* Baer+
Grant Bateman*
Dr. M. James & Nancy Bensen+
Evelyn Berg*
Dan and Terri Bergan
M.Fern Birnstihl*+
Marie Bishop*+
Jody & Gene Bisson

Elaine Bohanon*+
Randy & Marlene Bowen
Lloyd & Katherine Bradfield
Fred Breen*
Raymond Breen*
Alan P. Brew
Gurnee K. Bridgman+
Virginia Bridgman*
Dr. William & Henrietta Britton
Lynne C. Bunt *+
Jeffrey P. Busse+
Dr. Dale and Joanne Carlson
Dr. Joseph & Jenifer Carson
Cynthia & James Cashman
Dr. Sam* & Rose* Chen+
Richard Chopp*
Bertha Christianson*
Dr. Almond & Shalyn Clark
Dr. Caroline M. Czarnecki+
Lyle E. Dally*+
Dr. Donald DeKrey*+
Rebecca Eggers*
Fritz & Robin Ehlers
Steve & Sue Engel
Irvin & Kay Engebretson
Eldridge* & Jean Erickson
Donald & Mary Erickson
Janet M. Erickson
Dr. Bruce & Mary Jo Falk
Ann Moore Flowers*+
Dr. William & Margie Forseth
Jerry & Shirley Froseth
Helen Gill*
Dr. Lowell* & Ardis* Gillett+
Ronald & Nancy Gladen
James D. Gribble+
Beulah Gregoire*
Dennis & Patricia Grimes
Keith W. Gunderson*+
Cedsel J. Hagen*
Kathryn K. Hamm*
Linda S. Hanson
Luther & Diann Hanson
Russell* & Gudrun* Harding
Margaret H. Harlow*+
Oluf* & Margaret* Haugrud+
Paul A. & Tammi L. Hedtke
Beverly Henriques
Dr. Annie B. Henry
Dr. Ruth Howe & Merrill Thiel+
Dr. Myrtie A. Hunt*+
Esther F. Instebo*+
John & Delphine Jacobsen
Christine Janda*
Edwin* & Myra* Johnson
Sam & Peggy* Johnson+
Margaret H. Johnson*+
Jeffrey & Marjorie Johnson
Vince Johnson*+
Wilbur Johnson*+
Dr. Johannas M. Jordan
Robin Norgaard Kelleher
William & Patricia Kelly
Richard & Sharon King+
Justin & Jessica Klander
Lillie M. Kleven*+
Norman Kramer
Joan Krieger*

Dr. Elwood & Jean Largis
Eva Lind*+
Glen & Terri Lindseth
Keith Malmquist*
Neil & Patricia* McMurrin
Nelmarie Melville
Kathryn & Donald Mertz
Margaret A. Miles
John & Susan Minter
John & Walli Mitchell
Dr. Dorothy L. Moore*+
Dr. Thomas & Mary Moberg
Harry Moore*+
Claude Morris*+
Richard and Susan Morris
Betty Murray
Mary Ann Mushel*
Norman* & Judy Nelson
Dr. Raymond A. Nelson*
Wilford* & Albioni* Nelson
Dr. John & Monica* O'Boyle
Dr. Charles K. O'Connor
Beulah M. Parisi
David & Dianne Parnow
Lawrence W. Perkins*
Robert & Mary Lou Peters
David Peterson*+
Rohl & Patricia Peterson
Dr. Joanne M. Provo+
Drs. Jon & Patricia Quistgaard
David & Kim Ramsey
Dr. Tom & Sandra Richard
Bill & Lois Robertson
Pamela Fladeland-Rodriguez
Dr. Patricia A. Rosenbrock
Carol A. Russell
John & Charlotte Schullo
Mark & Margaret Schultz
Dr. Duane & Marilyn Sea
Ken* & Betti Sherman
Hazel Shimmin*
Richard Somodi
Lowell & Lois Sorenson
Duane & Celeste Sperl
Michael & Melinda Spry
Irwin* & Patricia St. John
Jack & Marie St. Martin
J. Ruth Stenerson*
Willie & Arla Stittsworth
Maurice & Lorna Sullivan+
Melanie & Michael Teems
Dr. Dave & Peggy Tiffany+
Dr. Ken Traxler
Joanne E. Torfin
John Traxler*
Bennett & Joan Trochil
Dr. James & Diane Tuorila
Floyd A. Tweten
Nancy and Richard Vyskocil
Mervin Wagner*
Jeff & Christel Wallin
Dr. Victor D. Weber*
Robert* & Jeanette* Welle
Tom & Paulette Welle
George* & Paula Welle
Wesley W. Winter*
Shirley M. Yliniemi*
Robert and Sherry Young
Charles & Susan Zielin
Nine anonymous

Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	\$608,195	\$1,107,093		\$1,715,288
Endowment Gifts			1,291,291	1,291,291
Investment Income	98,592	560,996		659,588
Royalty Revenue	4,442			4,442
Lease Revenue	15,793	61,087		76,880
Increase in Cash Surrender Value				
Life Insurance and Actuarial Adjust	-10,718			-10,718
Net Assets Released from Restriction				
Administrative Assessment	305,417	-305,417		0
Investment Income (Loss)		-51,543	51,543	0
Adjust for Donor New Restrictions	-976,200		976,200	0
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions	2,171,863	-2,171,863		0
Total Support and Revenue	2,217,384	-799,647	2,319,034	3,736,771
Expenses				
Program Services				
Scholarships	1,192,821			1,192,821
Special Events and Other Services	1,483,401			1,483,401
Total Program Services	2,676,222			2,676,222
Supporting Services				
Management & General	188,781			188,781
Fundraising Expenses	689,122			689,122
Total Supporting Services	877,903			877,903
Total Expenses	3,554,125			3,554,125
Change in Net Assets				
Change in Net Assets	-1,336,741	-799,647	2,319,034	182,646
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,978,338	5,151,588	17,929,533	25,059,459
Net Assets, End of Year	4,641,597	4,351,941	20,248,567	29,242,105

* Deceased

+ Charter member

Bolded names are new Legacy Society members in 2015

2015–2016 CALENDAR

ALUMNI & FOUNDATION

JANUARY

- 9 **Men's & Women's Basketball Reunion**
2-6:30 p.m., Sanford Center, Lakeside Room, Bemidji
- 29 **Bemidji Area Alumni Social**
(pre-game to women's hockey game and basketball games)
5:30 p.m., Buffalo Wild Wings, Bemidji
- 30 **North Star College Cup**
4 p.m., BSU men's hockey vs. Minnesota, Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul.
Pregame, 2 p.m., McGovern's Pub and Restaurant.
Ticketmaster.com, (800) 653-8000.
- 31 **North Star College Cup**
1 p.m. consolation game, 4 p.m. championship game, Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul.
Pregame, McGovern's Pub and Restaurant,
Ticketmaster.com, (800) 653-8000.

FEBRUARY

- 12 **MMEA Social**
5-7 p.m., Minneapolis Hilton, 1001 S. Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
- 25 **Twin Cities Alumni Chapter Networking Social**
5-8 p.m., Sociable Cider Werks, Minneapolis, (218) 755-3989, bsualumni.org

MARCH

- 4 **Tucson Luncheon**
11:30 a.m., Blue Willow Restaurant, Tucson, Ariz., (218) 755-3989, bsualumni.org
- 5 **Mesa Golf & Luncheon**
Apache Wells Country Club, 8 a.m. golf, 12:30 p.m. luncheon,
(218) 755-3989, bsualumni.org
- 23 **Bemidji Area Alumni/Beaver Pride Social**
5-7 p.m., Bemidji Brewing, Bemidji

APRIL

- 6 **Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference**
8 a.m. breakfast, all-day student presentation, no daytime classes,
www.bemidjistate.edu/conferences/sscac/
- 8 **Professional Education Hall of Fame**
6 p.m., American Indian Resource Center, BSU campus
- 16 **Green & White Dinner and Auction for BSU Athletics**
5-10 p.m., Sanford Center arena, Bemidji

- 20 **Bemidji Area Alumni Social/Annual Meeting**
5:30 p.m., Keg n' Cork, 310 Beltrami Ave. NW, Bemidji

MAY

- 6 **Golden Beaver Luncheon**
11 a.m.-1 p.m., American Indian Resource Center, BSU campus
- 6 **Commencement**
2 p.m., Sanford Center arena, Bemidji

JUNE

- 17 **BSU Night at Target Field**
7 p.m., Target Field, Minneapolis
- 17 **39th Annual Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament**
8 a.m. and 12 p.m., dinner to follow, Bemidji Town and Country Club, Bemidji, (218) 755-2294, beaverpride@bemidjistate.edu.
- 20 **Twin Cities Golf Tournament**
12-7 p.m., Greenhaven Golf Course, Anoka

JULY

- 29-30 **50-Year Reunion (Class of 1966)**
TBD, BSU campus

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Community Appreciation Day & Football Game**
4:30 p.m., Lakeside Lawn and Chet Anderson Stadium, BSU campus.
- 17 **Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast**
8:30 a.m., BSU Gymnasium

SAVE THE DATE Oct. 14-16
BSU HOMECOMING 2016
(Details on Page 25)

ALUMNI EVENT INFORMATION

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



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699



THE GREEN & WHITE

Dinner & Auction for BSU Athletics

SAVE THE DATE

Sanford Center Arena
Saturday, April 16
5 p.m.

The inaugural "Green & White"
in 2014 raised more than
\$100,000 for BSU Athletics.

Help us surpass that mark!

Learn more about this event at:
bsugreenwhite.maestroweb.com

