

HORIZONS



A Chance to Advance

Nursing Program to Provide New Supply of Practitioners

Boosting Potential

Alumni Help Strengthen BSU

A Clear Leader

Professor's Research Forwards BSU's Environmental Vision

A Life of Conviction
Dr. Annie B. Henry



THE LAKE,



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring semester events are as varied as the weather patterns that heave-and-ho throughout the term when wintry, wind-swept days transition into sun-splashed spring. Sports and activities such as hockey, basketball, the Snow Ball, and skijoring lessons give way to baseball, softball, outdoor track and field, the spring musical, a multitude of concerts and conferences, and, of course, commencement. This year, more than 800 are expected to participate in a ceremony that celebrates not only the achievement of students, but also the realization of their dreams. As we honor these graduates and say our final good-byes, we know that, like the constancy of our seasons, a new crop of freshmen soon will emerge, coming to us full of excitement, anticipation, and dreams to fulfill.

John E. Quistgaard
 Dr. John E. Quistgaard, President

THE LEARNING, THE
Life!

COVER STORY:

Dr. Annie Henry has spent her life trying to better the lives of others through education. Story on page 12.

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HORIZONS

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Campus Notes

Evan B. Hazard Vertebrate Museum Dedicated

The Evan B. Hazard Vertebrate Museum in Sattgast Hall was dedicated this spring to recognize contributions the former faculty member made to Bemidji State University as a teacher, researcher, and benefactor.

Hazard and his wife, Elaine, contributed funds to the BSU Foundation that resulted in naming the museum, which will house the 5,500 specimens in the University's vertebrate collection. Hazard acquired many of the specimens, mostly birds and mammals, which are used for both teaching and display purposes.

A professor emeritus, Hazard retired in 1994 after 36 years at BSU.

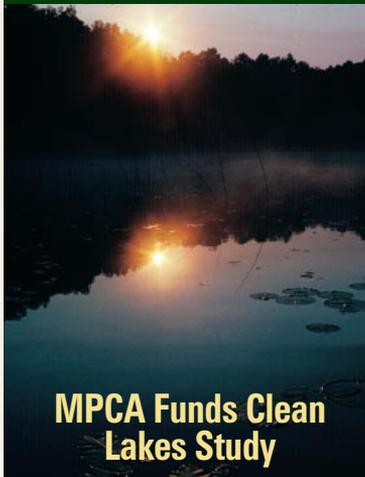


Dr. Evan B. Hazard

Transition Help for Students with Disabilities

Bemidji State University will offer a weeklong workshop in August to assist high school students with disabilities in their transition to postsecondary education, better preparing them for success in colleges and universities.

Sessions will focus on critical skill areas needed for achievement: academic preparedness, independent living, and management of disability needs. The workshop will also help participants learn how their disability affects them socially and in the classroom. For more information, contact the Disabilities Services Office at 218-755-3883.



MPCA Funds Clean Lakes Study

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and researchers at Bemidji State are launching a study to determine how much lake-shore residents and others are willing to pay to clean up Minnesota lakes.

The MPCA awarded BSU a \$48,000 grant for an economic analysis of property valuations and benefits, as well as a comprehensive survey of what affected residents are willing to pay for restoration efforts.

The study focuses on two different lake regions in the Upper Mississippi River Basin of Minnesota - the Sauk River Chain of Lakes, southwest of St. Cloud, and Lake Margaret, part of the Gull Lake Chain, north of Brainerd. Both are popular lake recreation areas with impaired waters caused by excessive nutrients.

Once completed, the study will include models for evaluating the economic impact of management practices and rehabilitation alternatives for water quality. Policy makers will be able to use the findings to determine the social benefits and the costs of various water quality projects across Minnesota.

BSU Recognized as Green Power Partner

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named Bemidji State as a Green Power Partner for its commitment to purchase renewable wind energy.

The University began purchasing wind energy through the Otter Tail Power Company's TailWinds program in 2005, and currently purchases about five percent of its electricity as wind energy. The program aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for electrical power and lessen greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Students for the Environment, a BSU campus-based group, led the effort to begin the student-fee funded purchase of wind energy, which first provided electricity to Hobson Memorial Student Union.

Exchange Signed with Hebei University

Faculty and students at Bemidji State and Hebei University of Science and Technology in China will benefit from an agreement that extends the current administrative exchange to encompass more opportunities in both countries.

The relationship between the two schools began through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which sponsored a leadership training initiative in China. That initiative led to the exploration of faculty and student exchanges.

Hebei University of Science and Technology is one of the key, multi-disciplinary universities in Hebei province. It is composed of four campuses with 16 colleges. Among its 45 undergraduate programs are specialties in engineering, science, liberal arts, management, law, and medicine. They offer master's degrees in nine disciplines.



BSU President Jon E. Quistgaard (left) and Hebei President Li Qiang sign the exchange agreement.

Grant Supports Special Education Initiative

Bemidji State received a \$25,000 grant to encourage Native American undergraduates to pursue careers as special education teachers in hopes that their tribal perspectives will enhance learning for native and non-native students.

Of the 135 Native American students enrolled in education programs at Bemidji State, less than one percent are currently enrolled in the special education licensure program.

The grant will provide a minimum of three scholarships for Native American undergraduates willing to complete an introductory course in special education and commit to an internship or job shadow experience in a special education classroom.

The Minnesota Department of Education awarded the grant through the federal Special Education Improvement Grant for Children with Disabilities. Bemidji State was one of three Minnesota universities awarded a grant from a pool of \$75,000.

Gift Completes Sustainable Campus Endowment

A \$5,000 gift from Otter Tail Power Company has fully endowed the Sustainable Campus Endowment Fund, bringing the balance to more than \$12,000.

The endowment enables the University to use interest generated by the fund to support student projects that make the campus more environmentally sustainable. These projects often lead to campus change, such as the environmental audit conducted in the mid-1990s that led to greater use of energy-efficient lighting and has resulted in nearly \$8,500 in cost savings each year.

A fully funded endowment was one initiative of the Environmental Task Force, formed in 1992, to help the University become more responsive to its impact on the natural world and the campus community more environmentally conscious.



Linden Hall Undergoing Suite Transformation

The transformation of Linden Hall into residence hall suites has begun with plans to open for students as early as spring semester 2008.

Funded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the \$8.5 million renovation calls for converting the entire building into two- and three-bedroom suites, each with its own bathroom, increased storage space, air conditioning, and additional technological amenities.

Plans also focus on improved energy efficiency through better insulated exterior walls, new insulated glass at all openings to the building, new high efficiency mechanical systems, better temperature sensors, and other features. In keeping with BSU's environmental focus, the air conditioning system, which increases energy consumption somewhat, will be highly efficient with zero ozone depletion and modest global warming potential.

Collaborative Degree Offered

Bemidji State University and Alexandria Technical College are collaborating to deliver courses required for students to earn an associate in arts (AA) degree in Alexandria.

The AA is a generalist degree that satisfies liberal arts education requirements and prepares students for work on a bachelor's degree in almost any field.

Alexandria Tech will offer 40 of the 64 degree credits on its campus. Bemidji State will provide 24 credits in a variety of delivery methods, including online, interactive television, self-directed study, and in-classroom instruction. The resulting degree will be conferred by Bemidji State University.

Microsoft Testing Offered

Students and others proficient in various Microsoft Office software may earn national certification to enhance their professional credentials by passing an exam or series of exams now offered at Bemidji State.

The new Microsoft Office Testing Center provides proficiency testing in Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Outlook, as well as expert level testing for Word and Excel.

The BSU Department of Business launched the center to replace services lost in the Bemidji area due to the closing of a testing center. Bemidji State and St. Cloud State are the only four-year institutions within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system that currently offer the testing.

For more information, contact Dr. Kari Wood at 218-755-3925 or kwood@bemidjistate.edu.

Business Administration Major Added Online

Mid-career students and others interested in completing a business administration degree online, rather than on a college campus, now have that opportunity through a program introduced by Bemidji State.

The University offers a bachelor of science degree in business administration with areas of emphasis in marketing and small business/entrepreneurship. An emphasis in management is planned for next fall.

The online business administration degree program is open to those who have completed an associate of arts degree or who have completed a bachelor's degree in another field. Those who have not completed an associate's or bachelor's degree may do so by enrolling in an online program from one of six community colleges within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Contact BSU's Center for Extended Learning for more information at 1-800-852-7422.

BSU Professor Writes Bacteria Book

Dr. Patrick Guilfoile, chair of the Department of Biology, has written the book, *Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria*, which is part of a series intended primarily as a library book appealing to high school age readers.

The book describes pathogens that have become particularly adept at evading a wide range of antibiotics and highlights ways by which scientists strive to develop new treatments.

Chelsea House Publishers, New York City, published the series of more than 40 titles dealing with viral and bacterial illnesses and epidemics. Guilfoile, faculty member at BSU since 1994, is currently working on another book about tetanus for the series.

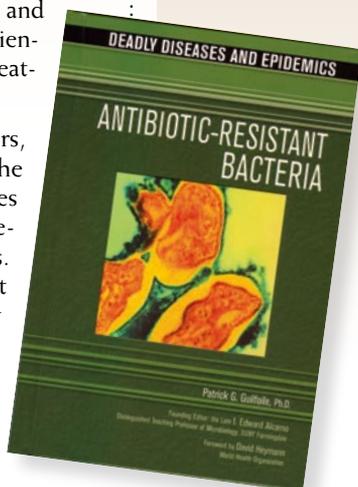


Blandin Grant Supports AIRC Initiatives

The Blandin Foundation awarded the BSU American Indian Resource Center (AIRC) a \$9,000 grant to support a lecture series on American Indian education and develop a revolving loan account for post-secondary education expenses.

The lectures will feature topics based on current events, public awareness, traditional teachings, and other issues. They could encompass such areas as language, culture, treaties, and gaming compacts.

The revolving loan account will ease the transition into the classroom setting for American Indian students, whose awarded financial aid sometimes lags payment deadlines.



Alumni Credential Files Being Returned or Eliminated

Career Services has moved to self-managed credential files. Self-managed files are ones in which students and alumni are responsible for gathering their letters of recommendations, making copies, and sending them directly to employers. Career Services historically managed these files, but that policy changed in the fall of 2006.

For a copy of your existing credential file, please sign the release form available on the Career Services website at bemidjistate.edu/career and send it to Career Services, along with the \$5 processing fee.

Once your completed form and payment are received, Career Services will release your letters of recommendation, including student teaching recommendations and transcripts, if they are on file.

One exception exists in the new system. Other than student teaching recommendations, documents created in files before 1975 are excluded from the new self-managed process because the files are considered confidential and cannot be released. Transcripts in those files will remain available from the Records Office (www.bemidjistate.edu/records or 218-755-2020).

If you want your existing file, please act soon because Career Services plans to return or eliminate most credential files by June 2008. Transcripts and student teaching evaluations will not be eliminated, but letters of recommendation, resumes, etc. will be.

For more information, contact Career Services at career@bemidjistate.edu, 218-755-2038, or toll free 1-800-657-3726.



A Chance to Advance

NURSING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE NEW SUPPLY OF PRACTITIONERS

"The time is ripe; the time is now," says Gwen Verchota, director of development for Bemidji State University's new four-year nursing program, referring to the program's opportunity to fill a void in the nation's nursing shortage and the absence of a public baccalaureate nursing program in northern Minnesota.

"It's very exciting," says Jeanine Gangenness, nursing department chair and assistant professor. "We're coming off a 24-year history of nursing, and we're building on that." The four-year program, which begins this fall, joins BSU's established two-year track that offers completion baccalaureate degrees to nurses who earned associate degrees or diploma RNs at other institutions.

Premier Opportunity

The new program, spurred by the success of the two-year track, is an innovative, comprehensive, and practical education program that will provide in-depth learning opportunities for

"Our program will draw students who already live here, understand rural life, and will continue to live in our rural communities."

Gwen Verchota

students from all corners of the globe, and particularly residents of the region.

"Northern Minnesota is really the only area that hasn't been covered with a four-year public baccalaureate program," Verchota says. Besides meeting the needs of residents interested in obtaining a four-year degree, BSU is aiming to provide a supply of optimal practitioners for northern Minnesota where

the much-talked-about national nursing shortage is felt.

"Right now if one of our smaller communities loses a nurse or two it can be very devastating, because they may only have 15 nurses on their entire staff," Verchota explains. "Also, it can be difficult to recruit nurses into northern Minnesota. Our program will draw students who already live here, understand rural life, and will continue to live in our rural communities."

Comprehensive Curriculum

Regardless of where these future nurses work, the four-year aspect is important, Gangenness says, referring to the well-rounded experience and exposure to varied nursing areas baccalaureate students receive.

"That's really our focus: to give students broad, practical experiences along with the deep technical education required of a nurse," she says.

Students who come to BSU with an

interest in nursing will begin with general University courses their freshman year, moving into nursing courses their sophomore year once they've been accepted into the program. "The sophomore year is really when they get an idea of what nursing is all about – how they provide care for people, the communication aspects, and laying a foundation for physical assessment," Gangeness explains.

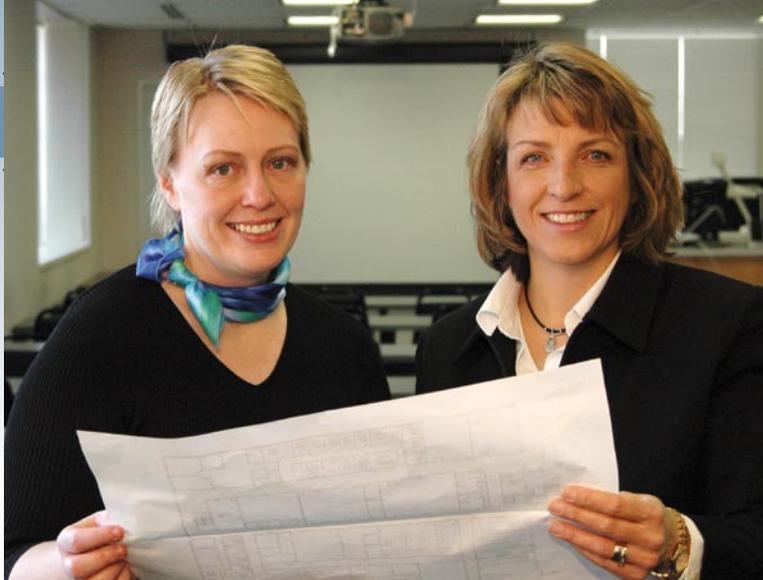
Juniors study medical and surgical nursing, while seniors learn psychiatric and community health-care. Also during the senior year, students participate in service learning and their capstone experience, where they gain an intense look at an area in which they're interested.

"Overall, we're really looking at an adult learning model where students can be given relevant information in a way they can use it – with both theory and a hands-on approach," Gangeness notes.

Some of the program's unique aspects include its rural focus, attention to family health, cultural training, a palliative care component, and use of technology.

Rural Health

"If you compare our program to say, a Minneapolis program, we're designing it so nurses develop excellent critical thinking skills and are effective in a variety of departments and clinical settings," Verchota says. "The flexibility that the expert rural nurse professional brings with them includes a broad skill set and the ability to succeed as the health-care environment changes."



Nursing faculty Jeanine Gangeness and Gwen Verchota prepare for new nursing program.

Because of the variety of cases rural nurses must handle, the program also will educate nurses to assess and address individuals efficiently and effectively. "These nurses will be educated to think on their feet and anticipate problems," Gangeness adds.

Family Health

In many nursing programs, family health has been nearly eliminated, according to Gangeness. Where it does exist, family health is often lumped in with community health training, where it loses some of its weight as a critical care component.

"We feel it's important to involve the family in individual health," Gangeness explains. "There's a better outcome. We see family as a very important component, and we support that in our curriculum."

Cultural Training

BSU has a particularly unique opportunity to develop nurses with cultural awareness and understanding. "Not many programs in Minnesota have clinical

experiences with a really densely populated ethnic group," Gangeness explains, referring to northern Minnesota's Native American population.

With that unique factor, the program and its six mandated cultural-care credits are apt to produce practitioners attuned to a variety of patients and their diverse needs.

Palliative Care

The four-year program also includes a component of palliative care – tending for those with chronic or terminal conditions and diseases. "Not many programs provide training on helping people with non-curable diseases live well," Verchota says.

"We want to make sure people are able to live in peaceful and comfortable ways," Gangeness adds. "We also want to make sure they're receiving the best care, and they can live out their lives in respectful and meaningful ways."

Technology

A technology focus factors heavily into the new program's curriculum, according to Verchota, by incorporating such technologies as palm-held devices and, upon funding approval, simulation mannequins.

"There are no other baccalaureate nursing programs using Palm Pilots at the undergraduate level," Verchota says. "However, in our program, each student will have the latest information in drug interactions and other

patient-important data literally at his or her fingertips."

Such access is critical to providing safe and effective care. "That's what it's all about," Verchota says. "You want somebody who's going to be accurate 100 percent of the time."

Program developers are also seeking to increase accuracy with the use of simulation mannequins, if funds to purchase these high-tech teaching aids become available. These programmable dolls can do everything from breathing to simulating birth.

"This is very high tech as it relates to the skills component," Verchota says. "We can create a scenario where a laboring mother comes in, perhaps without prenatal care, as is typical in rural communities, and the students respond."

If BSU receives a grant providing for the high-tech simulator, it plans to work with other institutions in using the unique tool. "We'd be really happy to partner with our entire community, so that everyone can learn and benefit," Verchota says. Currently there are no high-tech mannequins being used in the Bemidji area.

Collaborative Environment

The idea of collaboration in terms of service learning is appealing to both those inside and outside the program.

"We've had different health-care institutions express interest," Gangeness says. "They want students to get experience and to have good experiences at their health-care institutions, so they can eliminate shortages in the future. They want students to see them as a viable option after graduation."

The number and variety of those interested in collaborating reflects the strong nursing demand. "Right now we have contracts with ambulatory clinics, acute care facilities, and hospitals in the area, and then the public

health agencies and public schools," Verchota says.

Gangeness and Verchota expect collaborations to extend further as the program grows and as they parlay the cultural focus of the program. "Being so close to three reservations...we hope to expand there, as well," Gangeness says.

Win-Win Situation

With curriculum, collaborations, and national accreditation set, the program prepares to open its doors to numerous awaiting students.

"I think they're going to come in droves," Verchota says, citing that Minnesota

"We feel it's important to involve the family in individual health. There's a better outcome. We see family as a very important component, and we support that in our curriculum."

Gwen Verchota

nursing schools had to turn away more than 600 qualified applicants last year. "It's not going to be difficult to attract qualified applicants to our program," she says. "We've been collecting names for a couple of years, and we just sent a mailing to 1,100 people very interested in nursing at BSU.

"Now on the flip side, the question is: Do we have enough slots?"

There are 40 slots for the first year, increasing to 50 or 60 thereafter. "We're expecting many students to come to BSU because of the nursing program," Gangeness says. "We're looking to add 200 full-time students over a four-year period, so that's a significant boost to BSU."

The university is enthused about that boost. "The administration has seen this as a priority program," Gangeness says. "We've had great support. The program connects with a signature theme of BSU. It fits the interests of the area and benefits the community. It's going to benefit everyone across the board."

Verchota agrees. "I think it's just a win-win for everybody," she says. "I don't know how we can go wrong. We're on target; we're on track. The time has come." **HORIZONS**





Seniors



Steve Schreiber

Unfortunately, the chemotherapy left Schreiber with a liver and heart condition that forced him to give up basketball in the 11th grade. Instead, he focused more intently on track and field, where his success in jumping earned him an athletic scholarship to compete at another university. Unhappy there, he transferred to Bemidji State as a sophomore.

Schreiber was immediately impressed with the BSU facilities, coach, and the access he had to fishing and hunting in his free time. His jumping also quickly improved. He now holds the BSU high jump records of 6 feet 10 inches indoor and 6 feet 10-3/4 inches outdoor. In 2005, he earned Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Male Field Athlete of the Year honors. Throughout his college career, he lost to only one NSIC competitor and that was in his senior year after coming back from an injury.

"I still think about the cancer a lot, and the more I think about it, the more I think it's made my view of life so different," he says. "I'm so satisfied with where I am at right now, and it would be completely different if I hadn't experienced it."

This spring, Schreiber completes a double major in physical education and science and then will spend next year as a teaching intern in Nevis, where he hopes to do some coaching.

"While always having his physical problems at the back of his mind, he has worked hard and excelled," says Craig Hougen, BSU track and field coach. "He will be an excellent teacher and coach."

While Schreiber wouldn't wish cancer on anyone, he wouldn't trade his experience. If he had been 6 feet 5 inches tall and played ball, he might have missed out on Bemidji State and Katie, whom he married a year ago.

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Ariana Opsal describes literature and philosophy as being "like cake with frosting – an irresistible combination."

"I have always loved reading and contemplating ideas," says Opsal, who grew up in the Lake George and Park Rapids area, where she graduated with a home school diploma.

As a double major in English and philosophy at Bemidji State University, Opsal has indulged her cravings for words and ideas in the classroom and beyond. She joined the BSU Philosophy Club four years ago, serving as president her junior year. And two years ago, she founded and became president of the Foreign and Classics Film Club to help expand cultural awareness and promote interest in foreign languages.

In addition, Opsal began studying German at BSU, picking up as many classes as her schedule would allow. The sound of spoken German first attracted her, but soon she was drawn to the words and their meanings, many ripe with subtle undertones.

"Words have a way of coloring and altering one's perception of reality," notes Opsal. "I find it fascinating that there are some ideas that can only be aptly expressed in German and seem to have no English equivalent."

Opsal clearly aligns her passions with her career goals. Following graduation this spring, she will begin a graduate assistantship in English at Bemidji State. Her ultimate goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in English and teach college literature and writing.

Ariana Opsal



to Watch

Susan Hauser, professor of English and department chair, has had Opsal in two of her advanced writing classes and enjoys her insights and observations. Opsal reminds Hauser of the American writer Gertrude Stein who believed that seeking the great questions in life was far more important than coming up with the possible answers.

"Ariana is always asking the next question, always looking ahead, and that's a sign of a good scholar," says Hauser. "She looks for context; a fact in isolation doesn't mean much to her."

Opsal first came to Bemidji State as a high school senior. She enrolled as a post-secondary educational opportunity student, which allowed her to earn credits while still in high school. Finding BSU a good match for her, she decided to stay.

"The caliber of the professors at BSU impressed me," she says. "I also became attached to the Bemidji area and the campus. Overall, BSU has been a good fit."

For Opsal, the chance to continue her studies and stay at Bemidji State as a graduate assistant is another irresistible combination.

HORIZONS



Garrett Roth

When Garrett Roth considers his hockey career at Bemidji State University, one moment stands out – playing in his first NCAA national tournament as a Division I hockey player and nearly scoring on a breakaway against Denver University, the eventual national champion.

"It was exciting," recalls Roth, a criminal justice major and senior forward on the BSU men's hockey team. But the goal was not to be and a thrilling overtime game ended in defeat. It's bittersweet, but Roth, of Cary, IL, believes that memory epitomizes one of the most valuable lessons he's learned at BSU.

"Just being able to deal with the ups and downs, the high moments and low moments, is important," says Roth. "I've learned that you have to overcome things that you didn't know you could."

Roth figures that lesson will carry over into law enforcement where investigations often lead to as many dead ends and setbacks as successes. Yet, Roth is not deterred by the thought of having to be persistent.

"I always wanted to be an FBI agent or a detective," says Roth, who got hooked on the idea from watching television dramas as a kid. "When I came to BSU, I took a couple of classes and really loved it."

Roth earned all conference academic honors three times while at Bemidji State. His diligence in the classroom has also caught the attention of his adviser, Dr. Michael Herbert, chair of



the Department of Criminal Justice, who has watched his progress on and off the ice.

"I think he's just a great young man with a promising future," says Herbert, noting that he'd gladly take more self-driven students like Roth.

This spring, Roth interns with the Hubbard County Sheriff's Department, spending several days a week observing the investigative process while patrolling with a veteran deputy, whose insights Roth appreciates.

"We have good conversations," says Roth, who rides along on all the calls. "He lets me know that you have to take something from everyone you work with to round out how to be a police officer. And on every call, he says to treat people like you would like to be treated, to stay calm and on an even keel. And always expect the unexpected."

Whatever the ups and downs, Roth looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"I'm excited to get into the field and try things myself," says Roth. "I hope I can make a difference in people's lives by putting the pieces together to solve crimes and giving closure to people in difficult situations."

HORIZONS



Enduring Memories

When his East Coast colleagues swap stories about their college days at Harvard, Dartmouth, Brown, and Stanford, Kirk Gregg loves to join in the one-upmanship by noting that he earned his undergraduate degree at Bemidji State University.

"I love my roots," says Gregg, now executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Corning, Inc., headquartered in Corning, NY. "It's more familial at Bemidji State, just good people. It's kind of a small fish bowl, and if you try to be cocky there, it doesn't fly very well, which is what you find out in life, too."

Gregg graduated from Bemidji State in 1981 with a degree in psychology and minors in business administration and economics. He went on to the University of Minnesota for a master's degree in industrial relations and is a Sloan

Fellow from M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management. Today, he is one of a six-member executive team running Corning, a manufacturer of consumer and laboratory glassware, fiber optic cables, and other high-tech glass products such as the ultra-thin glass used for computer and television screens.

With all his success, Gregg continues to hold his alma mater in highest regard, and, in particular, his BSU psychology professor, Dr. James Rafferty. His esteem for Bemidji State and Rafferty prompted his return to campus for the first time in 25 years to honor and thank Rafferty, whom he describes as "a true teacher and explorer, a teacher of skills as well as knowledge."

At a special campus luncheon, Gregg announced his \$105,000 gift to the BSU Foundation. His gift, which includes a match from Corning on the first \$5,000, endows two annual \$2,500 scholarships in Rafferty's name and is available for psychology students.

Months after the reception, Rafferty still marvels at the idea and recently had the privilege of helping select the first two scholarship recipients.

"When you teach, you have the opportunity to touch people's lives. Sometimes people say thanks or you have a sense that you've made a difference," says Rafferty. "Kirk made it concrete in a way that's had a big impact on me."

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a teacher, says Rafferty, is "helping students do things they didn't know they could." The scholarship provides another opportunity to offer that kind of encouragement.

While Gregg hopes the endowment is beneficial to Bemidji State and its students, he is quick to note that his appreciation for Rafferty is what motivated the gift.

"It's really about Jim," says Gregg. "I wanted it to be meaningful for him. I have never had a teacher who meant more to me. He is the epitome of what an educator should be."

Rafferty introduced Gregg to research in mental imagery and then involved him in research on forgetting – the process the brain uses to discard useless information such as where one parked the car two days ago at the



The first recipients of the Dr. James Rafferty Endowed Scholarship are psychology majors Carl Sorensen, Bemidji, and Elizabeth Wentland, St. Stephen.

THE FIRST TWO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

grocery store. That research experience led Gregg – always intrigued by how people think – to consider the phenomenon of déjà vu. From there, he was hooked.

With guidance from Rafferty, a world of possibilities exploded for Gregg. He never planned to have a psychology career, but he thrilled at the chance to gather, analyze, and use the data. He especially appreciated the opportunity to bounce his research conclusions and ideas off Rafferty. As he stepped up his efforts to pursue an honors program in psychology, Gregg found Rafferty's office door always open and his advice encouraging.

"I think the fact that Jim took an interest in my work is what really impressed me," says Gregg. "He was always there to listen and guide you in whatever you wanted to do. That's where Jim really excels."

Gregg's potential was hard to miss, recalls Rafferty, noting that Gregg once submitted a 50-page, handwritten paper on mental imagery when a far more modest paper would have sufficed. Gregg remembers the paper well. In fact, he still has it.

Despite his intrigue with psychology, it was business that Gregg ultimately pursued, partly influenced by his parents' entrepreneurial spirit. Gregg

grew up in Iowa where his father built a dairy cooperative into a very successful enterprise. The family moved to New Ulm in Gregg's junior year in high school, and he later followed his prom sweetheart to Bemidji State only to have her switch schools at the last minute.

Even so, Gregg found Bemidji State to his liking. Perhaps too much so. Having fun with his roommate and friends, reveling in the freedom that college brings, and enjoying northern Minnesota's great outdoors cut deeply into his studying. By the end of his freshman year, his grade point average plummeted, a disappointment for Gregg who had been a straight-A student in high school. It took two summers to get those grades up. In the end, he graduated magna cum laude.

His roots help keep him grounded even in heady

corporate situations. He often thinks of his Midwestern upbringing, lessons from his parents about hard work and ambition, and his experiences at Bemidji State. Naturally those reflections include the insights gleaned from Rafferty about managing work and life, empowering others, and allowing time for introspection.

"I have been very fortunate and lucky in my career," says Gregg. "And I have come to learn that as you do well, you need to find ways to give back."

For Rafferty, who nears retirement, Gregg's generosity is a gift that will endure. "To me it's the definition of a legacy, something that's going to outlive me and be meaningful to other people, and I'm honored." **HORIZONS**

"To me it's the definition of a legacy, something that's going to outlive me and be meaningful to other people, and I'm honored." Dr. James Rafferty



Dr. James Rafferty reminisces with former student Kirk Gregg.



A Life of Conviction

& COMMITMENT

"If I can be the one adult who says they can do this, they can make a difference, and they can be better, then I will be the voice that needs to be heard. That's how we chip away at oppression in this country, one heartbeat by one heartbeat, one person by one person, one classroom at a time."

Dr. Annie B. Henry

Raised in Jacksonville, FL, Annie B. Henry remembers her youth as one filled with limitations rather than opportunities.

As a young black girl in a segregated south, Henry remembers she wasn't allowed to go to kindergarten. Her parents couldn't take her to the hospital or emergency room. She wasn't allowed to ride a bus

to school. The Jacksonville Library was off-limits. No one would hire her for a part-time job.

"I remember going out and sitting on the steps, because we had no back or front porches, and looking up at the stars," she says of her early years. "They were a shiny blanket, but even one star had a bright place. They gave me solace. I knew I had to find my niche."

Henry, who is retiring after 20 years of teaching professional education courses at Bemidji State University, found her niche in a life of commitment and conviction. She filled her life trying to change the lives of others.

Along the way, she was jailed, denied entrance to classes, and overcame a list of obstacles to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in education. She also learned that through teaching she could ignite a spark of understanding in the eyes of young children and young adults, so classrooms could become like a blanket of stars brightening a dark sky.

After completing undergraduate studies at Edward Waters College and enrolling in a master's program at Florida A & M University, she had the chance to sit down with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his family in Atlanta, GA. It was a visit that helped shape the tone of her life.

"He predicted I would go on to get my master's and would also get the doctorate. I told him, in all due respect, I didn't think so. He then told me, 'There will come a time in your life that you will say: If not me, then who?'"

She taught school in Florida for a short while before teaching in the Virgin Islands. There, she witnessed a different societal structure. Blacks held positions as bank tellers; they were elected to political offices; they were treated as equals.

The status of Virgin Island Blacks was a lesson of change and hope she brought with her as she left after 15 years of teaching to complete her doctorate at Florida State University, where she had previously been denied access to a course because of her race.

After earning that degree, she sought a university where she could help shape future teachers. Two institutions were interested in her, one from California and another from a part of the world she didn't even know existed, northern Minnesota. She accepted the offer made jointly by President Ted Gillett and Vice President Les Duly and headed to Bemidji State in 1987.

"I can remember my first days here when I was talking to a staff member who said, 'There are no Blacks here, but you know we care for you,'" Henry recalls. "I realized what she meant was that my sisters and brothers didn't have to be black, or white, or polka dot. My sister and brother could be anyone, and I had to build the circle of people who accepted me, not just tolerated me."

She built that circle quickly, becoming a highly visible and energetic proponent of multicultural learning across all education levels. She organized Black History Month activities. She planned and presented vocal concerts to raise scholarship dollars. She exhibited her African American dolls. She brought speakers to campus, including Yolanda King, the daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Using education as a match that could ignite a spark of understanding, she presented lectures in other campus classes, traveled to give programs in school districts across northern Minnesota, and taught an African American class outside of the education curriculum.

And she guided countless numbers of African American students in their studies at Bemidji State, helping prepare them for the future.

"When I see young African Americans now, they tell me I don't understand how it is for them," she says. "I ask them, What don't I understand? I marched, I demonstrated, I went to jail. That marching, demonstrating, going to jail and getting the crap beat out of me was to give them the opportunity to be at Bemidji State."

Henry also tells her students to give something back to those people and places that have brought them along their way. She teaches this as much by example as by words.

For instance, she created the University's first endowed scholarships for African Americans in education. She also established a life estate gift through the BSU Foundation, which will receive income from the sale of her home at a future date when Henry determines she cannot or will not live in it. The proceeds from the sale will support more scholarships.

"It's not the amount of the scholarship that's important," she says. "It's the fact that someone cares enough to make a difference in your life."

In recognition of her work and successes, a room in the Education-Art Building on campus was dedicated last winter in her honor.

Typically, Henry doesn't plan to let retirement silence her words or works. She will still be a teacher, telling the story of African Americans whenever she is invited to speak, especially where young children gather.

"If I can be the one adult who says they can do this, they can make a difference, and they can be better, then I will be the voice that needs to be heard," she says. "That's how we chip away at oppression in this country, one heartbeat by one heartbeat, one person by one person, one classroom at a time."

And by lighting one star at a time in that bright blanket that illuminates the future. **HORIZONS**



Annie Henry uses her quilt (pictured on opposite page) and African American dolls to build bridges of multi-cultural understanding.



THE CHANGING *E*ducational Landscape

NON-TRADITIONAL
STUDENTS FIND NEW
ROUTES OPEN TO BSU

Their lives are worlds apart, yet for Bruce Norman, Jill Hentges, and Gail Clendening those differences dissipate when it comes to needing – and finding – a college route that enables them to pursue their goals without upsetting their daily routines.

Like many of today's college students, they are not the typical 18- to 23-year old living in a dorm or nearby campus apartment. They're among the ranks of older, often off-campus, established individuals with standing life conditions and responsibilities. They need higher education institutions that provide alternative learning options, use available technology, and tune in to non-traditional student needs.

"As a public institution, we see it as our responsibility," says Robert Griggs, interim associate vice president for information technology and extended learning. "It's a commitment that we take seriously as we continue to respond to the needs of society and its changing demographics."

As a student-centered University, Bemidji State has taken a progressive position in meeting the needs of non-traditional students. The University offers such assorted learning options as the Arrowhead University Consortium (AUC) in northern Minnesota and the BSU online programs, as well as varied forms of non-traditional student assistance.

"You have to make sure students have the services they need, no matter if they're on campus or hundreds of miles away," Griggs explains.

Bruce Norman is taking advantage of Bemidji State's off-campus options. He's earning an undergraduate degree through the AUC, a collaborative arrangement between universities and state regional community and technical colleges. Through the consortium, university classes are offered at local colleges, utilizing face-to-face instruction, interactive television, and Internet technology.

"I think it's a great deal," says Norman, Hibbing resident and applied psychology student. "They make it easy for you to get an education."

Norman, who plans to be a health-care specialist, discovered the program after being laid off from his 30-year steel fabrication job. "I wanted to retire there, but the company failed," he says. "Then I got the idea of going to school."

But going to school had to meet Norman's existing lifestyle. "My house is paid for, so I didn't want to leave the area," he explains. While taking a few sample courses at Hibbing Community College, Norman discovered BSU's distance applied psychology program and was sold on it.

The program is offered mostly through evening classes three or four nights a week, Norman says, and taught by professors and adjunct instructors.

"The adjunct instructors have so many real-life experiences to add to their material," Norman says. "You get a much better picture."

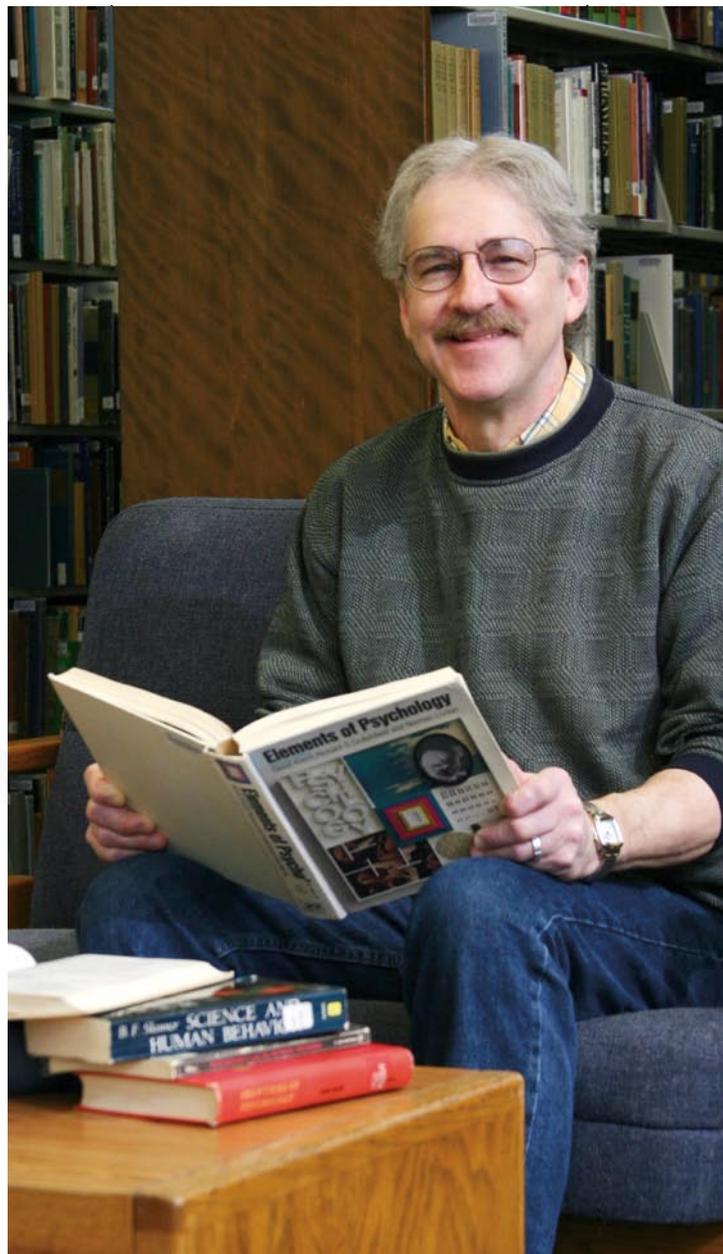
Value is also added to the program in the form of heightened communication. "The access is available at all times," Norman says. "I am kind of amazed at how well the communication is set up. Any time, any department, I call or e-mail, and I get the answer."

BSU's distance learning has been the answer for Norman, who is preparing for graduation. "I think they've done a wonderful job," he reflects. "I'm actually sad school is ending; I'll be the saddest guy walking across the stage to get my diploma."

But, Norman says, if there's a graduate program ever offered, "I'll be the first to sign up."

Jill Hentges found that she clicked with BSU's online elementary education program. Hentges, a Minneapolis resident and marketing professional, is enrolled in BSU's Distributed Learning in Teacher Education (DLiTE) program. "I was researching programs... and it just hit me: This is what I need, where I need to be."

Hentges, who has a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota, joined the program after deciding to change careers. "My first feeling of wanting to be a teacher was in the 10th grade. But as it happens, I got sidetracked," she explains. "Then I



Going the distance

"The access is available at all times. I am kind of amazed at how well the communication is set up. Any time, any department, I call or e-mail, and I get the answer."

Bruce Norman



Getting online with it

The course work consists of reading (some posted online), video viewing (also online), writing and many discussions, which take place through board posts and live chats. "The discussion piece mirrors being in a classroom beautifully," Hentges says. "Plus, you always have a written record of the discussion."

While it may seem that the limited in-person contact would leave students feeling isolated, Hentges is quick to state otherwise. "We really get to know each other," she says. "You wouldn't think that you do,

but you do. In fact, I have more contact with faculty and classmates than I did at the U of M."

Needless to say, Hentges is an online-learning enthusiast. "I'm such a fan," she says. "It's so good, just the coolest thing. I've been in school sitting in front of the fireplace in my north shore cabin, hotel rooms, out at lunch."

And she sees a future benefit to her experience, as well. "This program prepares us as leaders in teaching this way, because we have

learned this way," Hentges explains. "I don't believe we will ever replace the traditional classroom entirely, but when you can get instruction this good, I can see it expanding to the students I will be teaching."

Bemidji State is meeting the needs of non-traditional students by offering not only varied learning avenues, but also unique accommodations. Gail Clendening is making use of those accommodations – literally.

Clendening, a single parent and accounting student, lives in BSU's Cedar Apartments, on-campus, two- and three-bedroom units for single-parent families. "I came to BSU because of Cedar Apartments," Clendening says.

Clendening, who has an outdoor recreation degree from the University of North Dakota, found herself looking at colleges with accounting programs after she lost her job due to the closing of the juvenile treatment facility where she worked.

In addition to a strong accounting program, she wanted good living and care arrangements for her young daughter, Ally. Clendening feels Cedar Apartments provide that with a fenced playground, convenient parking, adjacent child care, and social elements.

"The Campus Childcare Center is right here. I don't even have to walk outside," she says. "I also didn't want us to feel isolated. At Cedar Apartments, everyone is a single parent, so there's a sense of community."

That sense of community is important to Clendening, who recently helped create a resident advisor (RA) position at the apartments, a role she now fulfills. "I talked with the student director and advocated for some sort of RA or building manager to help with planning and improvements," she recalls.

Jill Hentges

volunteered a little and got a taste of it, and I just knew."

While her metro location granted her a variety of programs to attend, Hentges selected BSU's online program because she felt it stood out. "I was looking for something with flexibility, but also a school with a strong reputation in education and a curriculum that I thought would be very rigorous," she explains. "The caliber of this program is just so high."

Hentges, whose goal is to be an urban teacher with Minneapolis public schools, says the online program functions extremely well. "It's just a brilliant program."

"Now there are parties, activities, field trips, and potlucks."

There are also a number of site improvements in the works including new furniture for community rooms, privacy fencing, and a children's bike path, she says.

As a non-traditional, on-campus student, Clendening says she feels accepted and supported by other students and faculty at BSU. "I've had a great experience," she says.

In fact, when Clendening was considering schools, her daughter, Ally, accompanied her to the first meeting with accounting department chair and professor, Dr. Mandy Wick. "And she [Wick] was totally fine with that," Clendening says. "That's the other reason I chose BSU."

As for traditional students, Clendening says they're extremely supportive. "They understand that I have to be home certain hours and have to do things at certain times. They're really accepting of both Ally and of my role as a mom. I didn't expect that."

For all the right reasons

Many may not expect a small, northern Minnesota university to be plugged in to non-traditional student needs, but BSU is – with good reason, notes David Carlson, interim vice president for student development and enrollment.

"We want to offer learning opportunities to a greater proportion of students living off campus," he says. "At



Gail Clendening

Doing your homework

the same time, we want to provide opportunities for non-traditional students to take classes in a traditional setting, giving services to students who might not otherwise be able to attend the University. For us, we need to pursue the non-traditional demographic to increase the population from which BSU draws."

Looking toward the future, the University is likely to continue its non-traditional offerings and expand its scope, Carlson says. "Our expectation is it will only increase in terms of the proportion of students who take courses in non-traditional ways. As the public evolves, we will be meeting

their needs; they will have opportunities elsewhere if we don't."

So far, BSU is meeting expectations and delivering exceptional services, according to Norman, Hentges, and Clendening. "I've had great experiences here at BSU...and Cedar Apartments have been the best thing about coming here," Clendening notes.

Hentges agrees, based on her experience. "Some colleges and universities are doing online learning, and others are doing it well," she says. "BSU is head and shoulders above other universities."

The consensus? BSU is fulfilling its tenet to be a truly student-centered university. "It is my belief that this program was created for the student," Hentges says. "In my view, it is completely student centered...the most selfless way to deliver education."

HORIZONS



Boosting Potential

"I just had a student in here, and he's doing okay in school, but financially he's struggling with whether he should stay in school. I'm trying to make him understand this is the best way for him to have a better life. His parents have never been to college, so they're encouraging him to quit. . . ."

This factual account, shared by a Bemidji State University professor with Foundation President Becky Dawley, may describe any number of students at BSU – where many students are first-generation college attendees and financially challenged. "Hearing that has bothered me ever since," Dawley says. "Did he stay in school? Where is he now?"

As an alumna and strong believer in education, Dawley says the story of that student's struggle has influenced her commitment to improve student opportunities for success at BSU through the University's foundation.

The BSU Foundation, established in 1969, is a charitable organization designed to encourage, accept, and distribute gifts, bequests, and trusts. The foundation works to fund scholarships and also to assist financially with student recruitment, student and faculty research, as well as special department projects or programs.

"I see our role as really knowing and understanding the strategy, direction, and plans for the University so we can help develop BSU," Dawley says. Dawley describes the foundation not as an independent entity, solely focused on fund raising, but

Becky Dawley, a 1977 BSU graduate, is the first vice president and information services director at Federated Insurance based in Owatonna, MN. With a bachelor's degree in math and a minor in computer science, she started at Federated as a programmer.

ALUMNI HELP STRENGTHEN BSU THROUGH FOUNDATION

as part of a triangle that includes the University alumni association, and administration.

"Fund raising is just a piece of it," Dawley explains. "It is really about aligning ourselves with the alumni association and administration in developing relationships, providing alumni with opportunities to give back, and understanding where the University wants to go."

In recent years, the foundation's role has become increasingly important due to state funding changes. "With state funding changing from 'support' to 'assistance,' the University has had to increase tuition – and that's hard for students," Dawley explains. "There's only so much they can tolerate. When you look at the standard of living in northern Minnesota, some students are holding down two jobs while trying to go to school."

The results of the funding cuts aren't all negative though, Dawley says. "It's forced positive changes in a variety of areas," she explains. "Both the foundation and the University have had to become more focused. It's what a business would have to do. I think that's good."

The lessening of state involvement also provides a certain amount of liberation. "There is value in diversification of funding sources. There are people who want to leave a legacy, and now there are more opportunities than ever before to do that."

One of the most popular and valuable ways for alumni to leave legacies is through scholarships, Dawley says. Those scholarships can be designated

or undesignated. "When alumni decide to help the University, they often have an idea of where they want that money to go," Dawley explains. Designated scholarships provide funding for particular types of students or programs.

However, the new state cuts have created a greater need for undesignated scholarships. "Sometimes the University needs undesignated scholarships so they can choose where the money needs to go," Dawley says.

For alumni interested in contributing in a designated form, Dawley suggests taking an approach that will make the act most beneficial and rewarding. "Take the time to learn more about what BSU is today and where BSU wants to head in the future," she says. "Then ask: How can I help? Where do I fit in? Where do I have a passion for wherever BSU is moving forward?"

She also suggests participating in alumni events, paying attention to mailings, visiting the University's website, and reaching out to the foundation, alumni association, and faculty. "Reconnect with your former faculty," she suggests. "Who were the professors who made a difference in your life? Learn ways to help from them; they're as close to the needs as anybody."

The bottom line? Alumni support significantly impacts BSU and its students – now more than ever. "Alumni can truly make a difference," Dawley says, in terms of whether a student stays in school or the types of experiences the student has while at BSU.

Dawley says the choice to make a difference is truly worthwhile, as she believes BSU is special, as are its students. "I believe so strongly in BSU," she says. "It's the Little Engine That Could. They think they can, and they do. And BSU students: The raw potential is incredible."

HORIZONS

"I believe so strongly in BSU. It's the Little Engine That Could. They think they can, and they do. And BSU students: The raw potential is incredible."

Becky Dawley





Protecting the environment drives the research efforts of Dr. Fu-Hsian Chang; Devi Adhikari, laboratory specialist; and Evelyn Ashiamah-Finch, graduate assistant.

PROFESSOR'S FINDINGS FORWARD BSU'S ENVIRONMENTAL VISION

Along the shore of Lake Bemidji, discoveries are being made, although not the kind you might expect. Along with the toddler finding her first footprints in the sand or the rock collector spying his first quartz, discoveries are emerging that involve changing potatoes into plastic, grass into fuel, and algae-overtaken lakes into clear, cerulean pools primed for big-game fish.

"It's very exciting," says Dr. Fu-Hsian Chang, professor of environmental studies and the director of the Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies at Bemidji State University. "When I think of my work, I just want to jump up and do something."

In his 26 years at BSU, the internationally acclaimed researcher has completed 13 grant-funded projects, bringing more than \$2 million into the University and establishing BSU as a leader in environmental research. "I never feel tired," Chang says.

Potato Plastic

Chang's tireless work includes one project concerning the bioconversion of potato waste into marketable polymers, taking potato scraps and creating polylactic acid used for a completely biodegradable plastic. "Our product is starch based, so it's 100 percent biodegradable," he explains.

He's working on this project with environmental studies professors Dr. Drago Bilanovic, Dr. Patrick Welle, and Dr. Steven Spigarelli.

Polylactic acid's applications are varied and the implications far reaching. "This kind of product can be used for many things, from bags to drapes to diapers," Chang says, noting that he finds the diaper possibility particularly exciting.

"Think about how many diapers are used in the United States," he says. "That's the one I dream about."

Potato-derived polylactic acid also could be an economic dream for Minnesota, one of the nation's top ten potato-producing states. To realize that dream, Chang would soon like to implement a pilot-scale plant to assess the viability of mass producing

"We are working on the application of biotechnology to restore the lake water quality in Indian Lake," Chang says. "If things go as planned, it will return to its original quality level."

That quality level was last seen in the 1970s, when the Annandale lake was full of top-quality game fish. Over the years, agricultural run-off carrying fertilizers and pesticides into the lake along with effluent from residents' sub-standard septic tanks have polluted it.

"Gradually the lake's nutrient level increases, and if the lake watershed is

A Clear Leader

polylactic-acid products.

"We would put the process into a small production line," Chang explains, which would be used to conduct two to three years of further research. "During that time we'd hope to identify some industry or company to put this into mass production."

Lucid Lakes

Chang is also wading through research that could clean up Minnesota's many eutrophic lakes – those with dense algae and vegetation due to high nutrient levels and a subsequent loss of top-quality fish.

BSU student Christine Thorman assists with Dr. Chang's research



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HALL OF FAME AWARD

a closed system, the nutrient has nowhere to go," Chang explains. "That promotes algae to grow."

To counter this process, Chang is using a microorganism to compete with the algae. This, in turn, will reduce the lake's nutrient level and allow for an organism shift from vegetation to fish. "These microorganisms, their biomass can feed the fish, then the fish can move up to the trophic level and can grow very healthy," Chang says.

Chang hopes the results of the Indian Lake project, which concludes next year, will allow for other lakes' restoration. "If this and expansion studies prove successful, then all the eutrophic lakes around Minnesota – we're talking thousands – could be cleaned up."

Green Gas

A final area where Chang is covering new ground is in the cultivation of switchgrass for ethanol fuel. As a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bioscience and Research Work Group, Chang has been involved in renewable bioenergy research, seeking to develop an ethanol source superior to corn.

"To grow corn we need a lot of fertilizer and water," Chang notes. Switchgrass, on the other hand, is a less consumptive crop, is highly adaptable, and provides a natural means of soil conservation. "Minnesota has a lot of switchgrass, but we need to see how we can put that into mass production," Chang says.

If BSU gets that opportunity, Chang will be working with fellow faculty Bilanovic, Welle, geology professor Dr. Tim Kroeger, biology professor Dr. Patrick Guilfoile, and Karen White, director for the Center for Manufacturing and Applied Engineering.

Ongoing Outlook

That opportunity, as with his other projects, depends upon funding, a component critical to Chang's work and the state's environmentally progressive position. "If we want Minnesota to stay a front-runner, we need support," he says.

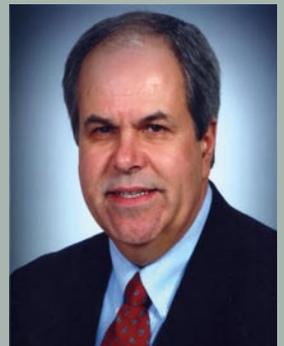
Besides seeing Minnesota's role continue, Chang hopes to see BSU remain an environmental leader, as well. When he came to BSU, the main research activity focused on peat extraction for chemical uses, and Chang saw a great opportunity for growth.

Many projects have been launched since then. "We've developed our program through years of improvement and work," Chang says. "Today we still feel we are going to lead the nation in the environmental studies field."

The work conducted by Chang and his colleagues along the shores of Lake Bemidji will likely lead to further life-changing discoveries – discoveries that began with one simple observation.

"When I came, I looked at the surrounding environment – especially the ecosystem – and I said, 'Oh, this place belongs to me,'" Chang says. "I am so happy I found BSU, and that BSU happened to be in the right place." **HORIZONS**

Three outstanding teachers have been selected to receive the 2007 Bemidji State University Professional Education Hall of Fame Award. Recipients were honored at a Hall of Fame banquet.



Rick Coe '77
Counselor
Bemidji Middle School
Bemidji, MN



Gary Hokanson '69
Teacher and Coach
Roseau High School
Roseau, MN



Katherine Fleener Techam '67
Teacher and Coach
Verndale High School
Verndale, MN



2007 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The 2007 Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies were held on February 17.



Nine athletes, one coach, and four teams were honored.



Team Hall of Fame Inductees - Women's Field Hockey Teams

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ken Christianson '50 Bemidji, MN / Basketball 4 Yrs, Football 1 Yr
Lori (Ehrhardt) Clark '76 Vancouver, WA / Swimming 3 Yrs
Scott Currie '80 San Diego, CA / Hockey 4 Yrs
Mike Gibbons '82 & '87 & '89 St. Paul, MN / Hockey 4 Yrs
Jeanne (Larson) Glassmann '76 Roseau, MN / Track & Field 4 Yrs
Rod Heisler '80 Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan / Hockey 4 Yrs, Baseball 4 Yrs
Pam (Gildersleeve) Porter '85 & '93 Effie, MN / Field Hockey 4 Yrs
Sue (Almleaf) Samuelson '73 St. Paul, MN / Field Hockey 4 Yrs, Tennis 4 Yrs
Bill Wagner '60 & '67 Roseau, MN / Basketball 4 Yrs, Track & Field 4 Yrs

COACHES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

R. H. 'Bob' Peters Bemidji, MN
 BSU Men's Hockey Coach 1966-2001

TEAM HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Women's Field Hockey Teams
 1975, 1976, 1977, & 1979

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Seven BSU graduates will receive the 2007 BSU Outstanding Alumni Award at the Alumni Honors Banquet on Friday, September 28, during Homecoming weekend. The Outstanding Alumni Award is the BSU Alumni Association's highest honor. For more banquet information, contact the alumni office at 1-877-278-2586 or 218-755-3989.

Paul Boswell '81 Mass Communication / Posthumous

Dr. Almond "Al" Clark, Ph.D. '64 Business Education
 Owner, State Farm Agency / Arlington, TX

Dr. Hildreth McCarthy, M.D. '74 Psychology
 Colorectal Surgeon, Alliance Endoscopy Center / Metairie, LA

Jon McTaggart '83 Mass Communication
 Senior Vice President and COO, Minnesota Public Radio /
 Oakdale, MN

Dan Ninham '83 & '92 Physical Education
 Teacher and Coach / Bemidji, MN

Trudy (Kocinski) Rautio '75 Accounting
 Executive Vice President and CFO, Carlson Companies, Inc. /
 Minneapolis, MN

Jeanne (Remick) Thomas '64 Elementary Education
 Retired Teacher / Burnsville, MN

Class Notes

If you want your information included in **Horizons**, contact the Alumni Association Office (email: alumni@bemidjistate.edu; toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM).

PLEASE NOTE:

Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

2006 Lyndi Odegard is employed as a personal banker with Citizens State Bank, Bemidji ... Jeff Isaacson of Gilbert is a co-leader of the American men's rink curling team ... Mary Dwyer and Paul Troskey ('94) were married October 7. Mary is employed with AgStar Financial Services, Duluth. Paul is employed by Northview Bank in Finlayson ... Allan Olson of Bemidji is employed with the *Cass Lake Times*, selling advertising as well as reporting on high school sports and community news. He and his wife, Susan, have three children ... Kelly Bohannon and Daniel Stout were married June 30 in Brainerd ... Andrew Hanson and Kerin Jetto were married December 16 in Goodridge. Andrew is employed with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network as a financial representative and Kerin is a biology education major at Minnesota State University ... Megan (Armstrong) Bader has been employed as a youth advocate at Advocates for Family Peace for three years. She and her husband, Mike, and daughter, Madison, live on a farm in Boy River ... Jessica Kingsley and David Heisel were married December 23 in Bluffton ... Corey Hunt is teaching English and coordinating theater productions at Central High School, Norwood ... Katie Kritzeck is teaching high school English and coaching middle school volleyball at Warroad ... Derek Dowty is teaching high school and middle school math and algebra and serving as head boys basketball coach at Warroad ... Josh Knopik worked and studied for several months this fall and winter at the Cray Biology Center in McMurdo, Antarctica ... Matt Marsolek is the band director for Pine River-Backus Public School ... Ellen Edwards of St. Paul was a candidate for the St. Paul Winter Carnival's Queen of the Snows. She works as a pharmacy technician at Target Pharmacy in St. Paul ... Michael Mestemacher is an officer with the Blackduck Police Department ... Cole Scott has been named taskforce manager of the Bemidji Area Task Force on Underage Drinking, Illegal Drug Use, and Youth Violence. He's also a member of the BSU football coaching staff ... Elissa Oman teaches third grade at Northern Elementary School, Bemidji ... Katherine Ballard-Royer has had a sculpture featured on the Bemidji Downtown Sculpture Walk and this winter gave a Bemidji show featuring abstract landscapes in oil-on-canvas ... Mychal Stittsworth and Danielle Dahle were married December 30 in Bemidji ... Jenn Steinbrink opened her own ceramics shop, The Crazy Kiln, in Crookston this winter ... Jill Amiot and Josh Ganske were married August 26 in Beltrami. Jill is a substitute teacher and Josh owns Ganske's Quality Painting. They live in Pine River ... Dewey Beckel, Philip Berg, and Clark Monson have joined Federated Insurance, Owatonna, as associate programmers.

2005 Mike Gutz volunteers with the American Red Cross in Bemidji ... Allyson Westerman and Alex Holte ('06) were married December 31 in Bemidji ... Julie Albrecht recently moved from Bemidji to the Twin Cities to continue her career in public policy and electoral politics. As an associate chair of the Beltrami County DFL, she was the youngest DFLer to take high office in the county party structure ... Lisa Smith and Eric Walker ('04) were married July 29 in Woodbury and reside in Eagan. Lisa is a health and physical education instructor and volleyball coach at Shakopee High School. Eric is a contract analyst for Benfield, Inc., in Bloomington ... Amanda Sachau and Eric Nevins were married August 26 in Bemidji. They reside in Bemidji ... Vanessa Pulkrabek is teaching high school English at Clearbrook-Gonvick. She and her husband, Charlie, live in Bemidji ... Nathan Heim of Be-

midji is currently a staff sergeant in the Minnesota Army National Guard ... Thea Kinney and Mitch Feierabend ('04) were married June 3 in Brainerd. Thea works at the Family Medical Center as an MLT and Mitch is employed at HY-TEC Construction. They live in Breezy Point ... Dawn Michel is an elementary teacher at Crosslake Community School. She previously worked as a certified medical assistant for 29 years before returning to college and changing careers. She and her husband have two grown sons ... Pete Malsed is teaching third grade at Rippleside School, Aitkin. He'd previously spent three years as a naturalist at the conservation center in Laurentian before returning to school to pursue his teaching degree. He and his wife, Marcy, have a son, Dylan ... Edwin Helntunen is teaching mathematics and algebra at Nevis schools ... Alexis Wraa is teaching special education this year at Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools. She'd previously taught at Red Lake and the Bemidji Middle School ... Josh Ogunleye has been awarded the St. Thomas School of Law President's Scholarship, a full tuition, three-year scholarship ... Joanna Dymond of Bemidji was awarded a one-month residency at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Red Wing. She was one of six resident-fellows given the chance to complete or advance a work in progress. Her project was a memoir about growing up in an immigrant family in Clearwater County entitled "Waiting for Momma." ... Sarah Bisping is employed as a marketing representative with *The Enterprise Dispatch*, Cokato ... Beau Lofgren is teaching third grade at Atkinson Elementary, Barnesville ... Lindsey Bromenshenkel and Andrew Bronczyk ('03) were married August 12 in Bemidji and now live in Chanhassen. Both are employed by Emerson Process Management, Inc. Lindsey is a customer service representative and Andy is a design engineer ... Samantha Foth and Tyler Chambers ('06) were married June 3, 2006, in Bemidji. The couple resides in Savage ... Molly Turner is a teacher and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... Katrina Kehoe is the recreation director at Andros Tower Hills Ski Area and a figure skating coach for the Alexandria Figure Skating Club ... Tim Girod was part of

an alumni contingent vying against the Beaver's track team in an informal meet this winter. He won the 400.

2004 Sarah Crotteau is employed as an optician with Opticare in Crookston ... Angie Olson and Jeffrey Richardson were married October 14 in Detroit Lakes and live in Bullhead City, AZ. Angie is a first-grade teacher with Bullhead City Schools and Jeffrey is employed by Mohave Wall Systems as a painter ... Lisa McCaslin and Erik Hopperstad ('03) were married September 30 and live in Moorhead. Lisa is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Fargo and Erik is a sales representative with Weekes Forest Products in Fargo, ND ... Lisa Holliday is a preschool teacher with Little Lambs Learning Center in Blackduck ... John Martin and his wife Rachael (Bessler) Martin ('05) live in Walker where he recently joined Centennial Bank's Investment Services as a financial planner and investment counselor ... Jim Mack teaches industrial technology in Greenbush ... Sarah Carlsrud and Jason Saude were married September 16 in Ada. Sarah is employed with Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead, and Jason is employed by Pepsi Americas, Fargo, ND ... Rachel Moen of Bemidji has been hired as an officer by the Wyoming Police Department ... Jacob Lundquist and Kate (Ocken) Lundquist of Roseau announce the June 16 birth of a daughter, Adison Leah. Jacob is the prototype specialist/designer at Marvin Windows and Doors in Warroad, and Kate is a substitute teacher for Roseau Community Schools and Badger Community School ... Caesare Stimson was part of an alumni contingent vying against the Beaver's track team in an informal meet this winter. He was a triple winner for the graduates, taking the 55, 200 and high jump ... Corey White and Whitney Fort, both of Las Cruces, NM, were married March 10 in Mesilla, NM. Corey and Whitney are both employed at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

2003 Ryan Bothun, in his fourth year of teaching wood shop and drafting at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle High School, was recently named head wrestling coach. He served as an assistant wrestling coach for the last three seasons ... Karen Propeck served as the coordinator of the 2006 Bemidji Community Holiday Meals program ... Jeremy Nelson of Hill City and Erin Grossell, Deer River, were married March 17 in Deer River. Jeremy is a deputy sheriff with the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office and Erin is a case coordinator at ITASKIN Juvenile Center ... Justin Sherwood, a career firefighter, has served with the Bemidji Fire Department for four years ... Suzette (Zelm) Rettinger is a sales and leasing associate with Griffin Cos. Retail Team ... Casey Damlo has been working as a chemical dependency social worker at Wadena County Social Services for the past three years. She and her husband, Chad, an electrician, have two sons, Cody and Tanner ... Heather Kelley and Chris Brown were married July 22 on Sawtelle Mountain, Island Park, ID. Heather teaches fifth grade in Broadview, MT, and Chris is head baseball coach at Montana State University in Billings, MT, where the couple resides ... Jeannene Johnson is teaching early childhood school readiness and early childhood special education at Nevis schools. She and her husband, Tom, have two sons ... Krista (Ringstrom) Schmitz and her husband, Michael, live in Sartell. Krista is a special education teacher in St. Cloud and is working on her master's in special education ... Karen Puschinsky was hired last fall by Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School to be a liaison between the school and parents and to

help teach pre-kindergarten students. She and her husband, Chad, have a son, Brandon ... **Michelle Preiner** and Jamie Little were married September 9. She's employed as an English teacher in Onamia, and Jamie is a veterinarian with Pierz Veterinary Clinic ... **Michelle Christiansen** and Yon Egusquiza were married January 19, 2006, in Maayan, Riviera, Mexico. The couple resides in Phoenix, AZ ... **Jennifer (Barr) Poenix** and **Jeff Poenix** ('02) of Grand Rapids announce the September 25 birth of a son, Zane. Jennifer is employed as a member services manager with KAXE Community Radio in Grand Rapids. Jeff works for the Minnesota Conservation Corps ... **Mike Fogelson**, as coach of the Bemidji American Legion baseball team, was presented with the state Sportsmanship Award trophy for the team's play in last summer's state tournament ... **Shane Graham**, a teacher in the Park Rapids School District, was among 130 teachers who accepted nominations for Minnesota Teacher of the Year ... **Laura Pulford** and **Paul Peterson** were married September 18 and live in Buhl. Laura is the director of social services at Eveleth Health Services Park, and Paul works as a lab technician at U.S. Steel.

2002 **Tim Hugley**, Engine #1 foreman, has served with the Bemidji Fire Department for seven years ... **Jill Podominick** is a custom training representative with the Continued Learning Center of Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids ... **Eric Barnum** served as guest conductor at Crookston High School's Fall Choral Festival as the combined choir performed two of his compositions. He is director of the Maverick Men's Ensemble at Minnesota State University, Mankato; has won several national competitions; and has had numerous works performed throughout the United States and Europe ... **Jessica Isackson** is teaching special education in the Virginia School District ... **Susan Satrom** is teaching physical education and developmental adaptive physical education at Cambridge-Isanti High School. She'd previously taught high school in Roseville and Faribault ... **Angela Ferris** and **Anthony Arnold** were married December 16 in-Walker. Angela works as a nanny, and Arnold is program director at the Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities ... **Brittany Barnes** is a staffing supervisor with Kelly Educational Staffing, Bemidji ... **Anna (Ford) Kringen** is a K-12 counselor in the Northome School ... **Dan Frette** was part of an alumni contingent vying against the Beaver's track team in an informal meet this winter. He won the hurdles ... **Tamera Mayer** has accepted the office and administrative specialist senior position in the BSU Advancement Office.

2001 **Rita Albrecht** is an assistant city planner with the City of Bemidji ... **Clifford Martell**, a Red Lake Police investigator, was among four Red Lake officers honored as the 2006 Indian Country Law Enforcement Section's Officers of the Year. He and other honorees were recognized for their actions upon responding to the multiple shootings at the Red Lake School on March 21, 2005 ... **Rob Billings** has served as a Bemidji volunteer firefighter for five years ... **Matthew Roberts** and **Laurie Winkelman** were married on July 29 in Pequot Lakes. Matthew is a student in the graduate program at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and Laurie is a registered nurse at Aurora Health Care ... **Dana Schnortz** is the manager of Anytime Fitness in Bemidji ... **Laura Hood** of Bemidji teaches fifth grade at Clearbrook-Gonvick schools. She'd previously taught for several years in southern California ... **Thomas Smith** is teaching construction trades at Cambridge-Isanti High School ... **Lisa Lommen** teaches math at Braham Area High School ... **Ben Huhta** teaches

choir and music for grades 7-12 at Verndale School. Prior to this school year, he'd taught music in Menahga and spent two years running his own contracting company ... **Stephanie Kauppi** and **Gregory Larson** were married September 23 in Hoyt Lakes. Stephanie is employed as a social worker with Miller Dwan Rehabilitation Center, Duluth, and Gregory is a manager at Festival Foods in Virginia ... **Chris Campbell** and **Jess Corcoran** of Sartell were married April 5, 2006, in Seaside, FL. Chris is a project manager for Larson-Glastron, Inc., and Jess is a photographer ... **Heather Rypkema** is a staff member at Chiropractic Sport and Spinal Rehab, Bemidji ... **Becky (Stensland) Fulton** and **Adam Fulton** live in St. Joseph and have a child, Landon. Becky works in marketing and business development for R.A. Morton Construction Managers and Adam is a Minnesota State Trooper ... **Jennifer Shaner** and **Chris Graber** were married October 14 in Brooklyn Center and now live in Belle Plaine. Jennifer is an early childhood special education teacher for Shakopee Public Schools ... **Anna (Wake) Barsness** and her husband, **Jon**, of Coon Rapids announce the May 3, 2006, birth of a son, **Ethan** ... **Kristopher Price** lives in Alexandria, has three grown children, and is employed as an applications engineer at Douglas Machine.

2000 **Laurie (Ozwonkowski) Olson** and her husband, **Dave**, of Lakeland celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on October 10. Laurie teaches second grade at Mesabi East schools, and Dave works with public utilities in Virginia. They have two children, **Kari** and **Andrew** ... **Marcus Damjanovich** was promoted to the position of education coordinator with Range Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in Iron Range communities ... **Tuleah Palmer** is executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area ... **Myia Conro** is a Title I lead teacher and substitute for all elementary grades in Ely schools ... **Jeff Teasck** is teaching third grade in the Virginia School District ... **Brenda Torborg** teaches kindergarten at All Saints School in Madison Lake. She'd previously taught third grade for six years at Holy Family Catholic School ... **Mike Norden** served recently as an ambassador for the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce ... **Kenny Miller** was part of an alumni contingent vying against the Beaver's track team in an informal meet this winter. He won the mile competition.

1999 **Mike Mischke**, a career firefighter, has served with the Bemidji Fire Department for two

years ... **Eric Villeneuve** has served as Itasca County's business fiscal division manager since 2005, having previously served three years as that county's chief accountant ... **Brooks Grossinger** was part of an alumni contingent vying against the Beaver's track team in an informal meet this winter, winning the 3,000 ... **Matthew Menne** has headed the Bemidji girls' hockey team program for the past three years ... **Ryan Holmgren** and **Sarah Borough** were married October 20 in the Florida Keys. Ryan is a social studies teacher at Jackson Middle School and a baseball coach for Champlin Park High School, both in Champlin. Sarah is a cost service representative for IKON Office Solutions in Anoka ... **Nathan Pietruszewski** and **Jessie Hass** were married October 21 in Monticello. Nathan is employed with Marvin Windows in Eagan ... **Dan Gutterud** teaches third grade in Fosston ... **Renee Bush** has joined the teaching staff at Eagle Country Christian Academy, Longville ... **Heather Meyer** is a potter and owns a home business, Muddy Paws Ceramics, in Maple Island. She's married and has a two-year-old daughter ... **Heidi (Buchmeier) Veith** and her husband, **Brian**, announce the June 28, 2006, birth of their second son, **Cole**. Heidi teaches fifth grade at Dassel-Cokato Middle School ... **Marilyn Delaney** teaches sixth- and seventh-grade math at Schoolcraft Learning Center, Bemidji.

1998 **Tammi Depew** is a preschool teacher with Little Lambs Learning Center in Blackduck ... **Nikki Frank-Rebischke** is a teacher and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... **Jeremy Struck**, a teacher in the Hayfield School District, was among 130 teachers who accepted nominations for Minnesota Teacher of the Year ... **Randy Qual**, a Mora Public School teacher, was honored as an outstanding educator from East Central Minnesota at the annual Leaders in Educational Excellence banquet held in October at St. Cloud. He and his wife, **Darcy**, an elementary teacher at Fairview, have a baby daughter, **Karla** ... **Janelle Saiger** and **Kirk Saiger** ('87) of Bemidji announce the February 2006 birth of a daughter, **Brooklyn**. They also have two other children, **Bryce** and **Taylor**. Kirk owns and operates Merle's Steam Clean of Bemidji ... **Chris Horgan** has joined Deerwood Bank in Bemidji as an assistant vice president of business banking. He'd previously spent eight years as a business banker with Wells Fargo in International Falls. His wife, **Shana**, and their children also moved to Bemidji ... **LeEarl Rugland** and his wife, **Karrie (Hetteen) Rugland** ('97) live in Roseau and have two children, **Mackenzie** and **Jaci**. LeEarl is technology coordinator for the Tri-County School District and Karrie is employed at Polaris in the snow engineering department ... **Chris Justice** teaches lifetime fitness at the Bemidji High School ... **Joe Koman** and **Aubrey (Levno) Koman** ('97) live in Baxter. Joe teaches kindergarten at Nisswa Elementary School. Aubrey teaches English at the Brainerd High School South Campus ... **Val Opheim** is a personal banker with the Walker office of American National Bank of Minnesota ... **Laurie Hanlon** teaches first grade in Fosston ... **Daniel Lillquist**, currently deployed to Iraq as an Army medical officer, lives in Paynesville where he works as a family practice P.A. He and his wife, **Kelly**, have two children, **Axel** and **Allie**.

1997 **Gordy Beighley** has served as a Bemidji volunteer firefighter for five years ... **Ryan Aylesworth** coached the Bemidji Girls' Nordic Ski Team this winter ... **Sarah Bailey** of Inver Grove

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Class Notes

PLEASE NOTE:

Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

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Heights received her MBA from the University of St. Thomas in May 2006 ... **Jen Carver** is employed with ZeBear Post Framed Contractors in Bemidji ... **Charlie Nichols** of Bemidji is employed as an assistant groundskeeper at Bemidji Town & Country Club. Along with his wife, Tara, he builds cedar strip kayaks during the winter ... **Ann Bardwell** is a science teacher at Bemidji High School and an advocate for organ donation awareness. Her husband, Alan, who died in a truck accident on June 4, 2006, had designated himself a donor on his driver's license. Ann has two children, Adam and Sri ... **Sarah Goudge** teaches life science at Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools and also coaches the girls' track team. She and her husband, Dylan, live in Clearbrook with their son Benjamin ... **Tina Diaz** and Dan Taus were married September 9 in Red Lake Falls. The couple lives in Middle River. Tina works for the middle school in the Greenbush-Middle River district. Dan works for UPS in Thief River Falls and for Community Contractors in Grand Forks, ND.

1996 **Eric Palmer** has served as a Bemidji volunteer firefighter for seven years ... **Kyle Nemeth** of Andover works with the Minnesota Department of Commerce as a financial institution senior examiner and also works part-time for the Target Corporation ... **Kristina Vanwilgen-Hammitt** was among first-place finishers in the Polar Challenge 5K Run/Walk, a Bemidji Polar Daze event ... **Mike Hagel** is the new head coach of the Roseau boys' basketball team and a math teacher ... **Tom Ryan** is a physical education instructor at J.W. Smith Elementary School in Bemidji ... **Rian Heimark** is a Title I teacher and head boys' swimming coach at Detroit Lakes ... **Jason Carlson** is the new hospital administrator at Kittson Memorial in Hallock. He and his wife, Renee, have an infant son, Brayden ... **Kelly Sufka** is the new executive vice president and general manager of the Joliet Jack-Hammers of the Northern League in Joliet, IL.

1995 **Mike Yavarow**, a career firefighter, has served with the Bemidji Fire Department for 11 years ... **Stacy Aune** is teaching kindergarten in the Virginia School District ... **Amy Bergeron** is teaching at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary. She and her husband, Jerry, have two children ... **Roxy Lukenbill**, a Mora school teacher, was honored as an outstanding educator from East Central Minnesota at the annual Leaders in Educational Excellence banquet held in October at St. Cloud. She and her husband, Darren, a second-grade teacher at Fairview, have two daughters, Molly and Sage ... **Mindi (Steinbrink) Brill** teaches first grade at Eagle View Elementary in Pequot Lakes. She and her husband, Wade, have two sons, Brendan and Keaton, and were anticipating the birth of another son this spring ... **Jeri Fuller** and husband, Doug, are the new owners of First Realty GMAC, Bemidji ... **Pam (Kovech) Kelm** was recently recognized among Wells Fargo's four top-performing regional team members. She is a business associate ... **Heather (Sande) Copsiskey** teaches Title I at Lincoln Elementary, Bemidji, and has two children, Rocky and Riley ... **Dan Boushee** is assistant principal for the Fosston School District. He and his wife, Angie, have a son, Treydon ... **Don Schunk** has joined Coastal Carolina University as the first research economist for the Coastal Federal Center for Economic and Community Development. He is responsible for keeping the community updated on the area's economic health and for conducting cost-benefit analysis of certain public and private projects.

He has four children ... **Andrea (Mashuga) Cavanaugh** and her husband, Paul, announce the July 15, 2006, birth of their first child, a daughter, Avery Joy. They live in White Lake, MI. Andrea is a marketing manager for the University of Michigan ... **Chris Abner** serves as co-chair of the Headwaters Quilt Guild of Bemidji.

1994 **Tiffany Fankhanel** is a co-owner of the Honda of Bemidji dealership ... **Nancy Tepovich** of Chisholm was promoted to employment coordinator with Range Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in Iron Range communities ... **Mark Studer** coached the 2006 Bemidji Middle School girls' soccer team ... **Robyn Heinle** is the new science instructor for grades 7-9 at Bigfork School. She and her husband, Mark, have four children.

1993 **Jacinda Crews** has been named general manager of The Hampton Inn & Suites of Bemidji. She'd previously served as general manager of the Peppercorn Restaurant, Bemidji, and worked as the catering manager for Aramark ... **Curt Nyegaard** is the new Clearwater County 4-H program coordinator. He and his wife, Wendy, have four children and live on a farm in Shevlin Township ... **Kristin Hanson** has been hired as an assistant county attorney in Pennington County. She'd spent the previous eight years working as a public defender for the State of Minnesota. She and her husband, Ed, live in Thief River Falls with their sons, Brett, Austen, and Peyton ... **Jennifer Kovach** serves on Sister City 21, a Bemidji group formed to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The group raised nearly \$15,000 that was donated to a Boys & Girls Club in New Orleans ... **Pamela May** was among a contingent of Red Lake DNR employees that accepted the Honoring Nations Award from Harvard University for their work on the Red Lake Walleye Recovery Project. She is an information officer ... **Suzy and Jon Langhout** ('91) have relocated their business, Suzy & Hondo Dance Studios, to the first floor of the Elks Lodge in downtown Bemidji.

1992 **Steve Bernard** joined Norman County East High School faculty this year as an industrial technology instructor ... **Geri Hickerson** is executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Bemidji ... **Jodi Schroeder** has joined First National Bank Bemidji as a commercial loan officer and credit manager. She has three children, Cale, Carlie, and Caitlyn ... **Mike**

Bakke was hired in January as chief deputy for Beltrami County. He'd previously served as assistant county jail administrator. He lives in Bemidji with his wife, Kristin ... **Spencer Brandt** of Bemidji, after 29 years of practice and training, has passed the test for Seventh-Degree Grand Master of Tae Kwon Do. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children ... **Andi and Bob Radniecki** moved to Dorset where Andi owns and operates Unknown Legend Designs, an embroidery business. Bob works with TEAM Industries. They have a grown son, Josh ... **Deborah Steinbar** is a piano instructor at BSU and an accomplished harpsichord player ... **John Carlson** serves as a finance subcommittee chairman for the Bemidji Events Center Task Force ... **Ron Bertson** teaches physics and chemistry in Fosston ... **Drew Hildenbrand** is the principal of Alternative Education Programs in the Bemidji School District ... **Pete Fenson** and teammates including **Joe Polo** ('04) and alternate **Scott Baird** ('77) were honored by the 2006 United States Olympic Committee, which named Bemidji's Pete Fenson Rink the Team of the Year. The team captured the bronze medal at last year's Winter Olympics, and Baird, at age 55, holds the honor of being the oldest competitor at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games ... **Erik Livingston** is now managing actuary with Federated Insurance of Owatonna.

1991 **Marilyn Carver** was hired as a full-time Spanish teacher with Verndale School. She previously served as a Spanish teacher who was shared among three schools, including Verndale, since 1995 ... **Patti Haasch** is principal of the Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... **Lee Westrum** is the District 777 superintendent in Benson. Previously he was the principal of Benson High School. His wife, Jennifer, is the clinical director of Counseling Associates in Benson. They live in Benson and have two children ... **Daren Blanck** is a teacher at Pequot Lakes High School. He and his wife, Michelle, have two children, Elijah and Sophia ... **Layna Cole** received her doctor of philosophy degree in teaching and learning from the University of North Dakota in August. She is currently a professor in early childhood education at Minnesota State University, Moorhead ... **Jayne Dusch**, Ely's high school girls' cross country coach, was selected by her peers as the Section 7A Coach of the Year ... **Lisa (Hanna) Peart** is teaching grades 6-8 at Bigfork. She and her husband, Todd, also a teacher, have three children, Maddi, Sadie, and Jack ... **Rhonda (Rindahl) Vettleson** of Oklee is an education coordinator for a Head Start program in her town. She and her husband, Kim, have three children, AnaAlecia, Joshua, and Cassandra.

1990 **Louise Mengelkoch**, professor and chair of mass communication at BSU, attended the Inside Washington '07 Academic Seminar along with two students. The annual program of the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars provides a behind-the-scenes perspective of Washington and the politics of the day ... **Jennifer (Brown) Evans** has started her own home design business, Vision by Design. She lives in Lamberton.

1989 **Lisa Bender** of Bemidji has been recognized as one of Lia Sophia's excellent beginning program achievers. The company sells jewelry through in-home demonstrations ... **Kay Zimmerman** is special projects coordinator with Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids ... **Roy Booth**, Hibbing, and **Mitch Bertson** ('94), Fosston, recently won best one-act drama honors for the play they co-wrote entitled *Pairing Energy*.

The recognition comes from a national contest held this year by Stepping Stone Entertainment, a non-profit theatre organization ... **Craig Hegna** and **Wanda (Cederholm) Hegna** live in Princeton and have three daughters. Craig is in his 18th year as a groundwater technologist with Leggette Brashears & Graham, St. Paul. Wanda is a hospital unit coordinator in the emergency department at Monticello-Big Lake Hospital ... **Gerald Johnson** is Bemidji's new police chief. He's worked for the Bemidji Police Department since 1979, serving for the past 14 years as detective sergeant for the department.

1988 Scott Patrow is the principal and athletic director of the Bigfork School. He and his wife, Renee, have two daughters, Morgan and Madison ... **Robert Lindgren** is the work experience teacher/coordinator at Park Rapids Area High School and was named the Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education's Teacher of the Year for 2006-07 ... **William Brunelle** is the White Earth Chief of Police ... **Rick Mathwig**, a captain with the City of Roseville Police Department, received specialized training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, joining 250 police personnel from around the world. He and his wife, Kim, live in Woodbury with their sons, Nathan and Joshua.

1987 Paul Parthun, a 20-year veteran with the Bemidji Police Department, has been accepted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Training Program. He and his wife, Sara, have three-year-old twins ... **Jim Lubke** was hired this year to teach math at Clearbrook-Gonvick schools. He's been teaching for 20 years and lives in Bemidji with his wife, Debbie. They have two grown children, Jenni and Sig ... **Tom Serratore** marked his 200th game as BSU hockey coach and 100th victory in January ... **Wendy (Wells) Mills** of Wells Technology in Bemidji met with Cris Carter, former wide receiver from the Minnesota Vikings, while she participated in the National Minority Supplier Development Council Trade Show in San Diego, CA, last fall.

1986 Tammy Phelps is a teacher and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... **Jody Perrine**, a teacher in the Crosby-Ironton School District, is among 130 teachers who accepted their nominations for Minnesota Teacher of the Year ... **Barb (Mohr) Fellman** was recently recognized among Wells Fargo's four top-performing regional team members. She is a credit analyst ... **Dan Drusch** currently works for the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals in Bemidji. He returned to Bemidji in 2001 after living and working in the Twin Cities for 15 years ... **Vicki Wangberg** and **Kay Mack** serve as members of the PEO Chapter EX scholarship committee in Bemidji ... **Diane Paulson**, a communications instructor at Franklin Middle School, Thief River Falls, was awarded the Peter Hess Memorial Teacher Recognition Award. She and her husband, David, live in Thief River Falls. They have two grown children, Nicole and Troy.

1985 Betty Arvidson of Crookston was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Riverview Health Board. She is clerk/treasurer for the City of Crookston and has lived there for 12 years. She and her husband, Bruce, have two teenage daughters ... **Mark Nelson** has been promoted to detective sergeant with the Bemidji Police Department. He's been with the department since 1989 ... **Vikki Howard** is director of education for the

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake ... **Diane Dappen** was among members of the Evening Guild of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, who produced wreaths sold at the Guild's fall bazaar.

1984 Elizabeth Parthun serves as auxiliary treasurer of VFW Post No. 1260 in Bemidji ... **Brian Canfield** and his wife, Kate, live in Evans, GA, and have four children. He is currently a student at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and was promoted in May 2006 to colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps.

1983 Bill Batchelder has served as a Bemidji volunteer firefighter for 22 years ... **David Schnell**, a U.S. Navy commander, was promoted to captain and awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He and his wife, Alexandra, live in Washington, D.C. ... **Laurie Martinson** was named deputy commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in December. She's been with the DNR seven years, having previously worked on water quality issues for the state Pollution Control Agency ... **Dan Ninham**, Cass Lake-Bena head coach, picked up career win 150 for the Panthers in December, defeating Red Lake 97-82.

1982 Suzanne Elhard is an assistant with Edward Jones Investments of Bemidji ... **Priscilla Fairbanks** served on a panel of four Indian educators at a one-day American Indian Education Conference held on campus last fall at the American Indian Resource Center. She is the education department chair at Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake ... **Kari Larson** is now editor and publisher of GoodBiz113, <http://goodbiz113.blogspot.com>, which showcases small businesses that partner with public agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions to serve the greater good.

1981 Shelly Schmitz, a teacher in the Lakeville School District, was among 130 teachers who accepted their nominations for Minnesota Teacher of the Year and completed the required candidate materials ... **Marian Norell**, a teacher in the Waseca School District, was an eligible nominee for Minnesota Teacher of the Year ... **Mark Hessler** is currently serving as a member of the II Marine Expeditionary Force MU. His home is in St. Cloud.

1980 Steve Cairns is principal of the Bagley High School ... **Kim (Carlin) Roysland** teaches health in Fosston ... **Dann Siems** is an assistant professor of biology at BSU and delivered an honors lecture there this fall entitled, "With God(s) in Mind: The Integrative

Science of Neurotheology" ... **Nellie Wegscheid** displayed several handmade quilts and wall hangings in the Courtyard at Tri-County Hospital, Wadena. She started quilting in 1993 after retiring from a 24-year teaching career in Wadena. She and her husband, Jerry, have four children and 15 grandchildren ... **Mike Roysland** is now the women's basketball coach at University of Minnesota, Crookston, after having spent the past 20 years coaching at Win-E-Mac and Fosston high schools ... **Jerry and Karen Ness** ('79) have moved to Fergus Falls where Jerry is the superintendent of schools.

1979 Sue Wynne serves on Sister City 21, a Bemidji group formed to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The group raised nearly \$15,000 that was donated to a Boys & Girls Club in New Orleans ... **Karen Pederson** of Warroad is a CPA and recently joined the partnership that was previously Hayes & Czeh. She and her husband, Wes, have two sons, Aaron and Derek ... **Joyce Holmstrom** and **Teresa Thomas** volunteered as a cook for the Bemidji United Methodist Church's annual harvest dinner last fall ... **James Tuorila** received the VFW Outstanding VA Health Care Employee of the Year Award 2005-06 at the state convention in Rochester. He is a retired doctor with extensive expertise in handling post-traumatic stress syndrome ... **Melissa Morris-Olson** is a business professor at Bay Path College, Longmeadow, MA, where she teaches in both the undergraduate college for women and the graduate school for men and women.

1978 Nancy Benson is a literacy coordinator and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... **Andrew Staudt**, a teacher in the Bemidji School District, is among 130 teachers who accepted their nominations for Minnesota Teacher of the Year ... **Michael Meuers** serves on Sister City 21, a Bemidji group formed to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The group raised nearly \$15,000 that was donated to a Boys & Girls Club in New Orleans ... **Kristi Reise** serves as a member of the PEO Chapter EX scholarship committee in Bemidji ... **Lynn Dyer**, a business education teacher at Lincoln High School, Thief River Falls, was awarded the Peter Hess Memorial Teacher Recognition Award. He's been teaching in the district for 28 years. He and his wife, Tammy, have two adult children, Matt and Brianna ... **Ron Otterstad**, Beltrami County commissioner, was recognized by the American Cancer Society in January for his commitment to public health and safety by supporting passage of the Beltrami County Smoke-Free Ordinance ... **Rebecca and Jerry Tischer** ('79) have two daughters, Jessica and Lindsey, and live in Frederic, WI. Rebecca is a business education teacher at Willow River School, Askov ... **Nancy Schwartz** serves as the treasurer of First Lutheran Church, Bemidji.

1977 Claudia Dubinsky is a teacher and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... **Paul Lindseth**, as past baseball director of the Bemidji American Legion baseball team, was presented with the state Sportsmanship Award trophy for the team's play in last summer's state tournament ... **Don Day** served on a panel of four Indian educators at a one-day American Indian Education Conference held on campus last fall at the American Indian Resource Center. He is president of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet ... **Sandy Eaton** is a first-grade teacher at Lake of the Woods School and was selected as that school's Teacher of the Year. She's been a teacher

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Class Notes

PLEASE NOTE:

Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

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there for 29 years. She and her husband, Tom, have three children, Andy, John, and Karlie.

1976 Kathleen Sonsteng, assistant professor of education at BSU, was a co-presenter at a January workshop on positive behavior interventions for K-12 teachers at the Stephen-Argyle Schools ... Susan (Iverson) Beaton has spent more than 25 years in various publishing positions and is currently a project manager and assistant director of continuing medical education for *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. She and her husband, Zane, live in Collierville, TN, and have one child, Erin.

1975 Terrance Fox of Oakdale is a recipient of the Metropolitan State University 2005-2006 Excellence in Teaching Award. A division scientist in 3M Pharmaceuticals in Maplewood, Fox teaches statistics in Metropolitan State's College of Arts and Sciences.

1974 Larry Aitken served on a panel of four Indian educators at a one-day American Indian Education Conference held on campus last fall at the American Indian Resource Center. He is an American Indian studies professor at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids ... Gordy Hagen of Clearbrook has retired as director of the Clearwater County Department of Human Services after devoting 32 years to social work. He and his wife, Kathy, raised four children and

have five grandchildren ... Lois Jenkins resigned as coordinator of Bemidji Community Holiday Meals, having served in that role since the program began in 1981 ... Margaret Ingison of New Brighton has stepped down as finance commissioner in Gov. Tim Pawlenty's administration to serve as the chief financial officer for Minneapolis Public Schools. Her state government experience spans more than three decades.

1973 George Stowe serves as executive director of the North Star Chapter of the American Red Cross in Bemidji ... Jill Masten is a teacher and member of the Reading First Literacy Team at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School ... Don Rindahl, a high school instructor, was chosen as Grygla's 2006-07 Teacher of the Year. He and his wife, Mary, also a teacher, have two children and three granddaughters ... Bob Dettmer was sworn in as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives for District 52A. He's taken a leave of absence from his 34-year career of teaching and coaching at Forest Lake ... Reid Haglin has been appointed executive director of the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Foundation ... Bill Hubbell coached this year's Bemidji Middle School girls' basketball teams ... Robert Ladehoff, a high school social studies teacher at Tracy, received District 417's Teacher of the Year Award. He and his wife, Nan (Chiodo) Ladehoff, have three children, Leah, Alyssa and Ross.

1972 Meredith Kehoe, instructor of English as a second language at BSU, was named a regional recipient of the 2006 Teacher Achievement Award by the Center for Academic Excellence ... Michael Gradvahl, former *Park Rapids Enterprise* sports editor and long-time general manager, has retired ... Dennis Winkowski has assumed the duties of general manager with the *Park Rapids Enterprise*.

1971 Gale Falk, former Bemidji High swim coach, was honored with a Distinguished Service Award at the annual award night banquet of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association in October ... Sharon Kemper of Bemidji is a two-time breast cancer survivor and spoke as an advocate for breast cancer screening and patient involvement in treatment options at a Breast Cancer Awareness Month event held in Bemidji in October ... Jim Bell, along with wife, Kathy, and children, Brian and Jennifer, are the new owners of B's Liquor in Rockville.

1970 Rich Engstrom of Pequot Lakes has retired from teaching, most recently as a special education teacher in Pine River Schools. He and his wife, Mary, have two grown children, Dustin and Sunnie ... Merlyn Stai has retired from his position as advertising consultant with *The Bemidji Pioneer*.

1969 Kathie Allen is a founding member of Northern Community Coaches and received life coach training from the Coaches Training Institute. She taught in the wellness and physical education department at Itasca Community College for 31 years ... Bob Scarpino and his wife, Jan, live in Port Clinton, OH, and have two grandchildren.

1968 Joyce Way has retired from an office and administrative specialist senior position in the BSU Advancement Office ... Ken Witt of Tracy is teaching science, chemistry, and physics at Lakeview School, returning to teach after retiring in 1999. He has 31 years of experience teaching in the Tracy School District. He and his wife, Linda, have one son.

1967 Lowell Scearcy of Brainerd will coach the Pillager High School football team next season ... Gary Trueblood and his wife, Sandy, are retiring after running the Paul Bunyan Amusement Park on Lake Bemidji for 47 years. Their daughters, Eva Trueblood ('03) and Jessica Trueblood ('98) grew up helping their parents run the amusement park during the summers.

1966 Andy Wells of Wells Technology in Bemidji met with Bill Kurtis from the television programs "American Justice" and "Cold Case Files." Wells was one of five panelists in a two-day symposium, "Capitalizing on Rural America," that was held in Minneapolis and moderated by Kurtis ... John Nakonechny is a part-time U.S. history teacher at Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL. He'd retired in 2003 after teaching 35 years at DeKalb High School in Dekalb, IL. He and his wife, Sheryl, have four grown children.

1965 Bonnie Bredenberg of Bemidji had a recipe included in *The Best of Country Cooking 2006*, the ninth in a series from the Taste of Home Books.

1961 Tom Wrolstad of Bemidji volunteered in the kitchen, preparing food for the Bemidji Community Holiday Dinner on Christmas Day ... Bob and Lois Thomson ('66) live in Fosston and have been married for 63 years. Bob is a retired Marine Corps major and university instructor. Lois worked as a welder in a Marine shipyard during World War II and later earned a master's degree from Bradley University. They raised four sons.

1960 Jacqueline Barclay of Blackduck received the 2006 National JENNI Award from the General Federation of Women's Clubs for her commitment to club, community, and family.

1959 Will Antell served on a panel of four Indian educators at a one-day American Indian Education Conference held on campus last fall at the American Indian Resource Center. He is a former MnSCU trustee.

1944 Ann Corcoran was among members of the Evening Guild of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, who produced wreaths sold at the Guild's fall bazaar.

HORIZONS

IN MEMORIAM

Chandler Bailey '50 Redlands, CA

Evelyn Berg '35 Pine River, MN

Lee Bonicatto '78 Hayward, WI

Larry Bowman '61 Hibbing, MN

Bernice Thomas Churchill '68 Bemidji, MN

Mildred Phillips Collins '34 Vancouver, WA

Robert Elkington '65 Grand Rapids, MN

Vera Liverington Flategraff '41 Pine River, MN

Russell Hatheway '59 Yakima, WA

Darlene Fimreite Holman '57 Morris, MN

Virginia Stenlund Johnson '61 Bemidji, MN

John Kolodji '65 Laporte, MN

Eilene Steinke Larson '46 Bemidji, MN

Lillian Kelly Nelson '64 Roseau, MN

Mildred Olson Olmstead '64 Fosston, MN

Donna Tangen Poole '51 Thief River Falls, MN

Jarred Portugue '73 Eveleth, MN

Harland Siiro '63 Grand Rapids, MN

Ann Stennes '59 Bemidji, MN

Gary Underhill '65 Sheridan, MT

Donald Varpness '60 Worthington, MN

Timothy Vrchota '85 Eau Claire, WI

Everett White '48 Fort Atkinson, WI

Mae McKinnon Olson Wilson '67 Baudette, MN

Paul Wrolstad '67 Bemidji, MN

Marie Berg Wynne '41 Bemidji, MN

Alumni & Foundation UPCOMING EVENTS

Golden Beaver Society Luncheon ~ for alumni who graduated in 1957 or earlier
Friday, May 18, 2007 ~ 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
American Indian Resource Center, BSU Campus

**Football Alumni Golf Scramble to benefit the
Danny Kraus Memorial Football Scholarship**

Saturday, June 9, 2007 ~ 12:30 p.m. Shotgun start; 6 p.m. Dinner
Monticello Country Club, Monticello, MN

30th Annual Wells Fargo/Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, June 15, 2007 ~ 7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Shotgun start
Bemidji Town and Country Club, Bemidji, MN (www.skaargolf.com)

10th Annual Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, July 13, 2007 ~ 12 p.m. Shotgun start; 6 p.m. Dinner
Bemidji Town and Country Club, Bemidji, MN

BSU Day at the Dome with the Minnesota Twins vs. Detroit Tigers

Wednesday, July 18, 2007 ~ 5 p.m. Pre-game, 7:10 p.m. Game
HHH Metrodome, Minneapolis, MN

BSU Alumni & Friends of Bemidji, Dinner and Golf

Thursday, July 19, 2007 ~ 12 p.m. Shotgun start; 5:30 p.m. Social
6:30 p.m. Dinner ~ Oak Glen Golf Course, Stillwater, MN
Need not golf to attend the evening events

**24th Annual First National Bank, Bemidji
BSU Women's Athletics Golf Classic**

Friday, August 3, 2007 ~ 9 a.m. Shotgun start
Bemidji Town and Country Club, Bemidji, MN

Homecoming 2007

September 28 - 29

Various events throughout the weekend on the BSU campus, including:

Alumni Honors Banquet, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Homecoming 5K run /walk, Saturday, 9 a.m.

Carnival and Tailgate party ~ fun for the whole family, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

BSU Beaver Football game, Saturday, 1 p.m.

40-year Reunion, Class of 1967, Saturday, 9 a.m.

CONTACT:

Alumni Contact/Tickets/Registration

1-877-278-2586 (toll free), 218-755-3989 (local)
www.bsualumni.org

Foundation Contact/Tickets/Registration

1-888-234-5718 (toll free), 218-755-2294 (local)





BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699



CAMPUS Calendar

The A.C. Clark Library (left) and the newly renovated Bridgeman Hall overlook the new courtyard.

ADMISSIONS

Academic Advising and Registration (Freshmen/Transfer Students)
June 15 & July 13

Open Registration (Freshmen/Transfer Students) August 24

Fall Visit Days (Prospective Students) October 18-19

Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference June 17-22

Disabilities Transition Workshop August 5-11

CAMPS

Boys' Basketball Camp June 11-14 / July 30-August 3

Girls' Basketball Skills Camp June 16

Volleyball Camp June 18-21

Recreation Camps June 18-28 / July 9-19 / July 23-August 2

Swimming Instruction June 18-28 / July 9-19 / July 23-August 2

Click on *BSU Today* at www.bemidjistate.edu for a listing of BSU events.