

# HORIZONS

**Caring for the  
Caregivers**  
Alumna Makes  
Workplaces Safer

**In the Game**  
*Grad Takes Shot at Hockey*

*A Daily*  
**Question**  
Alum's Medical  
Research Affects  
Women's Lives







***An Incredible Journey. We Salute You!***



#### **COVER STORY (Page 8)**

An internationally renowned scientist in the field of women's health, Dr. Benjamin Tsang finds personal satisfaction in touching people's lives through medical research and mentorship of the next generation of researchers.

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## **HORIZONS**

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## A Remarkable Year

What a remarkable year this has been! As the Beavers skated onto the national scene in the Frozen Four, we celebrated with great pride. Their drive, determination, and spirit captured the hearts of people everywhere.

Throughout the year, the University celebrated other extraordinary accomplishments that depict a similar resolve. A few milestones

help showcase those achievements.

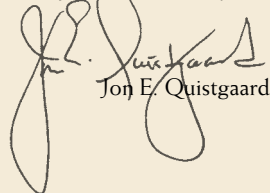
In August, BSU hired a sustainability coordinator to expand our environmental stewardship. Later in the semester, the Presidents Climate Commitment was signed to further work in this area. The University garnered a Tier 1 ranking among Midwest master's institutions, one of only two Minnesota state universities to reach this standing.

In January, the new Clinical Resource Center opened, providing high-tech, hands-on training for our four-year nursing students. BSU also secured a 20-year lease with the city of Bemidji, making the new events center the future home of Beaver hockey.

This spring marked the 10th anniversary of BSU's Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference, where 115 student scholars presented their research and creative works. Dr. Kit Christensen was awarded a Fulbright scholarship. As a Fulbright research scholar at the University of Tromsø in Norway, he will investigate ways to reduce the impact of revenge as communities seek to resolve conflicts nonviolently and sustain peace.

Recently, our business and accounting programs earned specialized national and international accreditation through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. Only a handful of Minnesota programs have achieved this status. We also celebrated the rich diversity of our campus as our international students hosted the 40th annual Festival of Nations and the BSU Council of Indian Students sponsored the 36th annual Traditional Powwow. Both events deepened our multicultural awareness and our understanding.

These accomplishments reflect the first-class learning environment offered – and experienced – at the University. As we say good-bye to the class of 2009, we do so with confidence. We know they are well prepared to shape the worlds in which they will live and work for they have displayed the dedication, drive, and heart that is Bemidji State University.

  
Jon E. Quistgaard



## Council of Indian Students Collects Teddy Bears for Kids

Bemidji State's Council of Indian Students held a fry bread taco fundraiser, If Teddy Bears Could Talk, in early April to raise money and donated teddy bears for social agencies to distribute to area children. The fundraiser was held as part of campus events observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Higher Learning Commission Seeks Public Views of BSU

Bemidji State University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on March 22-24, 2010, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The University has been accredited by the commission since 1943. Its accreditation is at the master's degree level and includes BSU program sites at various locations within Minnesota, outside of the state, and online.

The Higher Learning Commission is one of six accrediting agencies in the United States providing institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Institutional accreditation evaluates an entire institution and accredits it as a whole. Other agencies provide accreditation for specific programs.

For eighteen months, Bemidji State University has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the commission's accreditation requirements and criteria. The evaluation team will visit the University to gather evidence to confirm the self-study findings. The team will recommend to the commission a continuing status for Bemidji State. Following a review process, the commission will take the final action.

## BSU Aids Moorhead Flood Victims

In early April, Bemidji State opened its doors to several dozen students from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) as they sought shelter from rising floodwaters in the Red River Valley.

Minnesota State University Moorhead President Edna Mora Szymanski contacted President Jon Quistgaard requesting residential space to accommodate students from MSUM. The two presidents had been in contact over a period of weeks regarding ways Bemidji State could help its sister institution during the flooding. The students lived on campus for one week.

Two BSU security staff also aided MSUM by providing relief to their security personnel who had been on extended work schedules due to the floods. David Long, BSU security officer, and Joe Kleszych, assistant director, BSU Security and Safety, were on duty at the MSUM campus for about a week.

As part of the review process, the public is invited to submit comments regarding the University to:

Public Comment on  
Bemidji State University  
The Higher Learning Commission  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Written, signed comments must be received by February 20, 2010. The commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered.

Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

Individuals with a specific dispute or grievance with an institution should request the separate "Policy on Complaints" document from the commission office. The Higher Learning Commission cannot settle disputes between institutions and individuals. Complaints will not be considered third-party comments.

Please send comments directly to The Higher Learning Commission. Do not send them to Bemidji State University.

## Former Interim President Haugo Dies

Dr. Richard Haugo, a former industrial technology professor who served as interim president of Bemidji State in 1982, died on January 22.

Haugo retired from the Bemidji State faculty in 1988 after a 23-year career. He joined the University as part of the industrial technology faculty in 1965 and, ten years later, was named placement director. He served as counseling and placement director from 1983-1988 with responsibilities that included Indian student services and Upward Bound. He was also tapped in 1983 to oversee the University's Educational Development Center.

His seven-month assignment as acting president of the University began in January 1982 following the resignation of President Rebecca Stafford. He held the position until Dr. Lowell R. Gillett was named the University's sixth president on August 1, 1982.

Haugo held a variety of leadership and advisory positions on campus, including president of the Inter Faculty Organization, vice president of the Faculty Senate, and chair of the industrial technology department. He also served on the University's strategic planning committee and the dean's council.

Haugo was named an Outstanding Alumnus of Bemidji State in 1982 and was a charter member of the BSU Foundation. He received his bachelor's degree in industrial education and master's degrees in counseling and education from Bemidji State. He held a doctorate in teaching education from the University of North Dakota.

## Business and Accounting Programs Nationally Accredited

Bemidji State University received specialized national and international accreditation for its accounting and business programs from the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) this spring.

According to Douglas Leif, chair of the business administration department, only two other Minnesota universities have earned specialized national and international accreditation in accounting. Similarly, he reports that Bemidji State is among only six Minnesota institutions with this accreditation status for their business programs.

During the accreditation process, a team of external evaluators assessed Bemidji State's accounting and business programs according to IACBE standards. Overall, the quality of these programs were measured by their success in helping fulfill BSU's mission and broad-based goals, the effectiveness of student learning, and the operational effectiveness of the business programs.

"Accreditation is recognition that business and accounting programs of Bemidji State University demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to continuous quality improvement," notes Dr. Robert H. Roller, president of the IACBE, in his remarks regarding Bemidji State's accreditation accomplishments. "The IACBE is especially interested in the assessment of student learning outcomes. The accreditation process is one means of making certain graduates are well-equipped to excel in the business world."



Shown holding the IACBE accreditation certificate for BSU's business and accounting programs are: **Dr. Sandra Bland, professor and accounting department chair; Dr. Kari Wood, business administration professor; Dr. Terry Girdon, past chair, IACBE Board of Commissioners; Douglas Leif, professor and business administration chair; and Dr. Joann Fredrickson, associate professor, business administration.**

## Kit Christensen Named Fulbright Research Scholar



Dr. Kit Christensen, professor of philosophy, was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant for 2009-10. He will be traveling to Norway in February for a four-month research project at the Center of Peace Studies on the campus of the University of Tromsø – the world's northernmost university.

Throughout his career, Christensen has taken a keen interest in the possibility for progressive social and political change. As a Fulbright research scholar, he will study and write about revenge as an obstacle to resolving social conflict. He hopes to advance his understanding of human behaviors that tend to block the attainment of a more egalitarian, mutually respectful, caring, and nonviolent society.

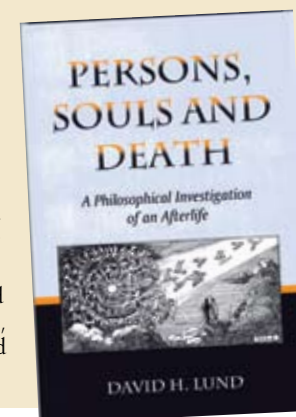
Christensen's forthcoming textbook, *Nonviolence, Peace and Justice: A Philosophical Introduction*, includes a section on revenge, retribution, and reconciliation. His Fulbright grant will enable him to continue pursuing the issues approached in that section.

## Lund Book Explores Afterlife

Dr. David Lund, professor of philosophy, is author of a new book, *Persons, Souls and Death: A Philosophical Investigation of an Afterlife*.

In the book, Lund explores the difficulty of conceptualizing the afterlife by examining what it means to be a person. He notes that questions of individual identity, while often ignored in studies of death, are crucial when trying to determine whether a person's existence ends with the death of the body.

This is his second book published by McFarland & Company, Inc., of Jefferson, N.C. They released *Death and Consciousness* in 1985.





# Champions On and Off the Field

## Campus Notes

(Continued from page 3)

**Coach Tom Serratore** won the CHA Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his eight-year career at BSU. He also was one of nine coaches from across the country named a finalist for the Spencer Penrose award, a national hockey Coach of the Year honor.



BSU women's hockey player in the program's 10-year history. Six other players garnered a spot on the WCHA All-Academic Team.

### Indoor Track and Field

For the fourth consecutive indoor season, the Bemidji State track and field team produced an All-American. Sophomore sprinter **Kristi Buerkle** set school records in the 200-, 300-, and 400-meter dash events en route to her first trip to the NCAA Championships and a seventh-place finish in the 400. Junior **Zac Preble**, a multi-event athlete, also qualified for the championships after breaking his own school and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) records in the heptathlon.

### Men's Golf

**Mitch Mackedanz** and **Jesse Nelson** earned All-NSIC honors for their performances at the NSIC Golf Championship in Lake City, MN. Mackedanz led the Beavers with first-place individual honors. Nelson finished 10th.

### Scholar Athletes

Among the NSIC's scholar honorees this spring were Bemidji State's **Mara Johnson** and **Gunther Zajic**. Johnson, who recently wrapped up her collegiate eligibility on the BSU softball team, leaves BSU as its all-time home run leader after just three seasons. Zajic, a sharp-shooter for the BSU men's basketball team, transferred to Bemidji State from Central Lakes College after his sophomore season. BSU football players **Jeremy Gettel**, **Josh Karch**, and **Jason Kunz** were among 564 players from 266 schools that qualified for membership this spring in the 2009 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society.

### BSU to Mark 90th Birthday

Bemidji State University opened its doors as a normal school on June 23, 1919. The school's first summer session enrolled 130 students – 124 women and six men. During the upcoming academic year, BSU will be celebrating its 90th birthday at a variety of venues, including homecoming. Watch for more details. News about birthday observations will be posted to *BSU Today* and the events calendar on the University's website, the Bemidji State Facebook fan page, BSU foundation and alumni association web pages, and in the fall issue of *Horizons*.

Happy 90th Birthday, Bemidji State!

### Event Center Lease Signed

In January, President Jon E. Quistgaard and Bemidji Mayor Richard Lehmann signed a 20-year lease between the University and the city of Bemidji to secure Bemidji State's status as the anchor tenant of the Bemidji Regional Events Center (BREC).

"The event center demonstrates what is possible when we work together," Quistgaard said. "We have achieved far more than either entity could have accomplished on its own."

The terms of the 20-year agreement, which begins January 2011 and runs through January 2031, will make approximately 170,000 square feet of the BREC available to the University as the home for its NCAA Division I men's and women's ice hockey programs. The center will feature a 4,000-seat arena around an NCAA-regulation sized ice sheet. The building will also house 25 luxury suites, 250 club-level seats, hockey office space, a weight room, training facilities, and a retail outlet for Bemidji State merchandise.

# Educating with a Capital "DC"

REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNMENT



For Louise Mengelkoch, education is clearly more than classrooms, textbooks, and tests. It's a boundless opportunity to help students expand their horizons, take chances, and learn through involvement – even if that means plunging into distant, unknown waters.

"I like to get students out of their comfort zone," says the Bemidji State University journalism professor and mass communication department chair.

One of the ways Mengelkoch stirs students from the comfort of Bemidji's lakeside campus is through her relationship with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, a non-profit organization that gives college students opportunities to work and learn in Washington, DC's political environment. The center's mission is to give students opportunities to work in the nation's capital for academic credit while encouraging them to become informed, public-spirited, and engaged citizens.

Being engaged and active is an important part of Mengelkoch's teaching approach at Bemidji State. "There is an expectation of activism," Mengelkoch says, considering what she tries to incorporate in BSU's mass communication curriculum and students' educational experiences.

Because its philosophy values involvement, The Washington Center is an ideal organization for internships and experiential learning.

"To see students experience and be affected by something in a short period of time – because it's so intense – is very gratifying," she says. "It's the transformational aspect of education that I love."

Over the past 15 years, Mengelkoch has helped some 25 Bemidji State students obtain internships in media relations and related areas for government agencies and advocacy groups. Likewise, she has worked with hundreds of other students in providing them opportunities to attend national political conventions and various Washington Center seminars.

Last fall Mengelkoch took Bemidji State students to the National Democratic Convention in Denver and in January took students to the inauguration of President Obama – a powerful experience not only for her students, but also for Mengelkoch.

"It was outstanding," she says. "It just felt like something new was going to happen."

Although retirement is just three years away, Mengelkoch has no plans of slowing her involvement with The Washington Center and taking students on experiential-learning trips. She doesn't view these experiences as ways to direct students toward specific careers, but rather to impress upon them the importance of active learning and living, and create in them a desire to make a difference.

Awareness and engagement are important not only to Mengelkoch, but also to BSU faculty as a whole. As part of Bemidji State's core values, professors strive to develop a student's sense of community and involvement. With opportunities like those provided by Mengelkoch and organizations like The Washington Center, students venture beyond the northwoods of Bemidji to experience the world, become involved, and help shape the future.

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Upper right: Mengelkoch and students, including Josh Christensen, BSU mass communication major (far right), at the Democratic National Convention as part of the DC-based internship program.

Right: BSU students Becky Boe, Kelsey Olson, and Ryan Schwingler examine Mengelkoch's collection of campaign buttons.



Matt Read Brad Hunt Matt Dalton Zuzana Tomcikova Kristi Buerkle Zac Preble Mitch Mackedanz Mara Johnson Gunther Zajic Jeremy Gettel Josh Karch Jason Kunz



# Caring for the Caregivers

ALUMNA HELPS MAKE NURSING WORKPLACE SAFER

**A** culture of caring defines the nursing profession. Yet, when Bemidji State University alumna Julie Flathers began working in employee health at North Country Health Services (NCHS) in 2000, she saw a profession in pain. And so began a lengthy organizational journey to reduce that pain by creating a safer working environment where nurses could more easily direct care to their patients without injuring themselves.

"We knew there was a problem," she recalls about her early days on the job. "Injuries were occurring frequently when transferring patients. Of the 50 back injuries in 2001, 29 were on one medical-surgical floor. Initially, we didn't know how to prevent these injuries."

That floor had one portable device to assist with patient lifting – the leading cause of back injuries among nurses – but it was underutilized.

The nursing mindset was another part of the problem.

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*"Nurses work at a hospital to care for people who are sick and haven't always been aware of their own risk for injury."*

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Julie Flathers

"Nurses work at a hospital to care for people who are sick and haven't always been aware of their own risk for injury," Flathers says. "Many nurses were taught in school that good body mechanics would prevent injury. Recent research shows that body mechanics alone don't prevent injuries."

Flathers took the first steps toward safety by listening to workers on nursing floors. They told her that convenience for lifts was as essential as having oxygen in every room. One suggestion proposed a ceiling system with tracks for hoisting and moving patients. The image of using that system prompted laughter among the co-workers. Most of them had never heard of it before.

Once information and research were gathered, recommendations were brought to the NCHS leadership team, which operates the hospital and other medical-related services in Bemidji.

"We needed equipment, needed it available, and needed training," Flathers says. "I mentioned someone thought we should have ceiling lifts, and people laughed."

But not everyone found it funny. Gary Johnson, the manager of Bemidji Medical Equipment, a subsidiary of NCHS, later told her they did have ceiling lifts that could be installed in hospital and nursing home settings.

The laughter then turned into a serious effort to address the problem. Using safety grant funds to defray costs, they

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## Caregivers (Continued from page 7)

*"The solution wasn't just lifts. The solution was multifaceted. Once tasks that put people at risk were identified, the next step was to see if we could engineer the danger away."*

Julie Flathers

installed the system on the troublesome second floor. Staff received training, and the injuries began to drop.

At about the same time, the hospital began an expansion and remodeling project. Bolstered by results from the second floor, NCHS leaders agreed to install ceiling lifts during the construction of the hospital and nursing home.

Positive results continued, and change started permeating the facilities. Injury rates decreased, fewer nurses missed work due to injury, and worker's compensation losses fell.

In thinking about the results, Flathers, who came to NCHS from a community health background, quickly notes a change in culture is not an event, but an ongoing process with many dimensions.

"The solution wasn't just lifts," Flathers comments. "The solution was multifaceted. Once tasks that put people at risk were identified, the next step was to see if we could engineer the danger away."

Flathers uses carpeting in the new building as an example. Back problems cropped up among workers who pushed wheeled carts or beds on carpet. Research showed that carpet-

ing added to back stress as individuals pushed harder in awkward positions. Purchasing electric bed and cart movers, as well as removing the carpet, were all part of the solution.

Communication was a key component throughout the process, and Flathers credits her education at BSU in this regard.

"Bemidji State prepared me well for these challenges by developing my writing and public speaking skills," says the 1998 graduate. "Initially, I didn't have the answers, but I knew how to find them. I had learned to observe a population, study data, look at nursing research, and apply evidence-based solutions. My education at BSU allowed me to develop the skills needed to work through these problems."

Flathers will have more opportunities to use these abilities in her new role as a nurse consultant in safe patient handling for Bemidji Medical Equipment. Her responsibilities will include training and assisting organizations in creating a safer environment for nurses and the patients they serve.

As part of the commitment to workplace safety, the firm is offering patient lift motors to Minnesota nursing schools at no charge. They have already donated six lifts to Bemidji State's nursing program.

Overseeing nursing care safety is a role well suited for Flathers who has served as a change agent within a culture of caregiving.

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## Partnerships Shape Clinical Resource Center



In today's economic and political climate, it still takes a village to raise children, but it takes partnerships to educate them.

That cooperative spirit is evident in the newly opened Clinical Resource Center (CRC), a 6,400 square-foot area in Memorial Hall that serves as the educational backbone for Bemidji State University's new four-year nursing track. In the state-of-the-art facility, students gain core laboratory experiences using technology that simulates real life.

None of it would have been possible without public and private partnerships. Federal legislation and a Health Resources and Services Administration grant paid for equipment. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system allocated money for renovation and programming. The Bemidji medical community stepped forward to supply staffing assistance, safe patient handling systems, and other resources. Individual donations helped purchase furniture and supplies.

University expenditures rounded out the funding and created the CRC, which will be coordinated by a full-time staff member and consists of:

- four health-assessment rooms to prepare students for work in rural health care settings;
- five health-care suites, one each for pediatrics, obstetrics, medical-surgical nursing, intensive care, and home care;
- four classrooms and seminar rooms;
- a computer lab with access to electronic medical record systems and specialty software; and
- a simulator and performance room where computer-driven mannequins replicate nursing scenarios.

"Students will learn that being at the cutting-edge of information and technology will give them and their patients the best possible outcomes," says Dr. Jeanine Gangeness, chair of nursing. "They are learning that each action is based on evidence, and this is what continues to build a strong nursing profession."

The most complex technology is Sim-Man, according to Gangeness. The mannequin can be programmed to display a heartbeat, pulse, and swelling tongue. It also can simulate breathing, talking, and head movements. These features can be programmed to be within normal limits or simulate a health abnormality.

An observation classroom allows students to watch the scenarios, which can also be recorded and replayed on television monitors throughout the center. The results are opportunities for immediate debriefing or critical thinking exercises.

Gangeness remembers her own nursing education as having set rules, static information, and a well-defined scope of practice. Nurses today must access updated information from the bedside.

"Students in the CRC can practice physical and interpersonal skills prior to interactions with patients," she says while acknowledging that one part of the profession hasn't changed. "Their first semester involves lessons on working with people, and they learn bedside manners from day one."

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# A Daily Question

ALUM'S MEDICAL RESEARCH TOUCHES WOMEN'S LIVES

Since graduating from Bemidji State in 1971, Dr. Benjamin Tsang, Ph.D., has been asking the same question nearly every day: "Why?" This seemingly simple question, with rarely a simple answer, has led Tsang – on the leading edge of oncology and reproductive health research – to shape the world as BSU once shaped him.

"It is such an important principle," Tsang explains. "It challenges your thinking. Don't accept things at face value. Ask 'why?'"

## Touching Lives

As a senior scientist in the Chronic Disease Program at the Ottawa Health Research Institute and as a professor in the obstetrics and gynecology department as well as the cellular and molecular medicine department at the University of Ottawa, Tsang finds personal satisfaction in touching people's lives through both medical research and mentorship of the next generation of researchers. Directing his 14-member research team, he challenges up-and-coming scientists to find the "why" in some of medicine's most vexing enigmas.

The probing question influencing Tsang's highly successful career as an internationally renowned scientist in the field of women's health was first asked him at Bemidji State. Prior to this experience, Tsang attended high school in Hong Kong where he found a very different educational philosophy.

"In Hong Kong, the education system is very much based on what we call a 'stuffed duck,'" he recalls. "They force feed facts rather than train the brain to think."



*"It is such an important principle. It challenges your thinking. Don't accept things at face value. Ask 'why?'"*

Dr. Benjamin Tsang

At BSU, Tsang developed a foundation for critical thinking and his openness to unlimited learning. Arriving on campus with his brother Moses in 1967, he knew he wanted to pursue a degree in science, but he didn't know which field to study. After taking both chemistry and biology courses, he focused on chemistry because of the analytical thinking required in its applications.

Besides the challenging learning environment, Tsang also was impressed with Bemidji State's faculty, such as Dr. Tom Boates, now a professor emeritus of chemistry.

"People like Tom got me going on my studies in chemistry," Tsang notes. "The way he taught was amazing. He engaged us – didn't look down on us – and tried to develop us as individuals, maximizing our capacity to learn and ultimately our potential."

## Persistent Inquiry

Using his potential to its fullest, Tsang now enjoys life in Ottawa with his wife, Janet; two children, Christopher and Jacqueline; and a career conducting innovative research. But his path didn't come without some difficult decisions. While at Bemidji State, Tsang was accepted into medical school for a combined M.D. and Ph.D. program. Although it offered an excellent opportunity, Tsang felt the duplicity might compromise his ability to do significant work.

"It's very difficult to be an outstanding scientist and physician at the same time," he says.

Tsang decided to pursue research, studying biochemistry and pharmacology with an emphasis on human reproduction. After finishing the program, Tsang continued pursuing his interest in reproduction through a post-doctoral fellowship in women's health.

## Searching for Causes

Today, one focus of Tsang's research relates to fertility and its decline in Canada and other developed countries. Through work in his lab, he is exploring various conditions that inhibit ovulation to better understand the biological, molecular, and genetic basis of infertility. From there, through a network of international partnerships, Tsang hopes to create awareness and a far-reaching impact.

Tsang also is conducting groundbreaking research on ovarian cancer. Because there is no screening available for this

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Tsang and his research team search for answers to related infertility and ovarian cancer.



## A Daily Question (continued from page 10)

cancer, as there is for breast and cervical cancer, it is difficult to recognize its early stages when cancer is most successfully treated. By the time a woman knows she has the disease, it has already spread. While ovarian cancer is less common than other cancers, it carries a higher mortality rate due to the early detection problems.

Tsang is working to change the outcome by studying chemo-resistant tumors in an attempt to detect why these cancerous cells live. So far, his lab has found that certain genes are activated in chemo-resistant tumors, preventing the cancerous cells from dying. The finding holds promise for the possibility of a treatment through gene or molecular therapy.

"This is very exciting, as it will have a major impact on women's health and human health," Tsang says. "We now may be able to change a chemo-resistant cell back to a chemo-responsive cell."

### Furthering Collaboration

Besides addressing life-creation and life-saving treatments, Tsang is working to transform women's lives globally by forming an international women's health center. The proposed center, which would be based in Ottawa, will marry international efforts in cancer, infertility, pregnancy complications, sexually transmitted diseases, and environmental effects on reproductive health. Currently searching for appropriate facilities, including five laboratories, he estimates that the center will open in about two years.

"This center will be an opportunity for academic exchanges and research collaboration," Tsang says. "We will have endowed scholarships that will pro-

vide support for Canadian and international students, as well as two endowed chairs, allowing us to recruit the best researchers in the world."

### Seeing the Continuum

Tsang cites two aspects of his career as having the most meaning. The first is research. Being part of a hospital research institute, Tsang and his team are constantly pushed to conduct translational research, which leads to innovative offerings for patients. Such research uses the knowledge gained in the laboratory to benefit patient care, whether it's new diagnostics or new treatments.

It's in the translational nature of his work – where something started in his lab comes to fruition in the clinic – that Tsang feels the reward of his research efforts. "That is the most gratifying part," he reflects. "You can see the continuum with translational research."

The second most satisfying aspect of Tsang's work is the nature of academic medicine where he can be a mentor rather than a supervisor. He enjoys the sense of connection and shared achievement with those he's mentored – even when they surpass his own professional achievements.

"I want to do things that have an impact," he notes. "For me, when someone who worked in my lab finds success, it is very gratifying. When they do better than I do, that's the most exciting part. I can then say I made a small contribution."

Tsang's philosophies on making a difference and mentorship were, in part, formed at Bemidji State where he found the people to be genuine and the environment stimulating and supportive. He also credits Bemidji State with having a personable, approachable culture that permeates its administration and faculty.

"Bemidji State looks at the student as a person, not a number," he says. "So you can develop relationships with professors and staff. They want to bring the best out of each individual. Those are the characteristics of Bemidji. They are a breath of fresh air."

In a word, Tsang sums up the experiences he had at Bemidji as "precious," influencing him to live benevolently in many ways. Ask him why, and the answer is simple: "Because that is what life is all about."

**HORIZONS**



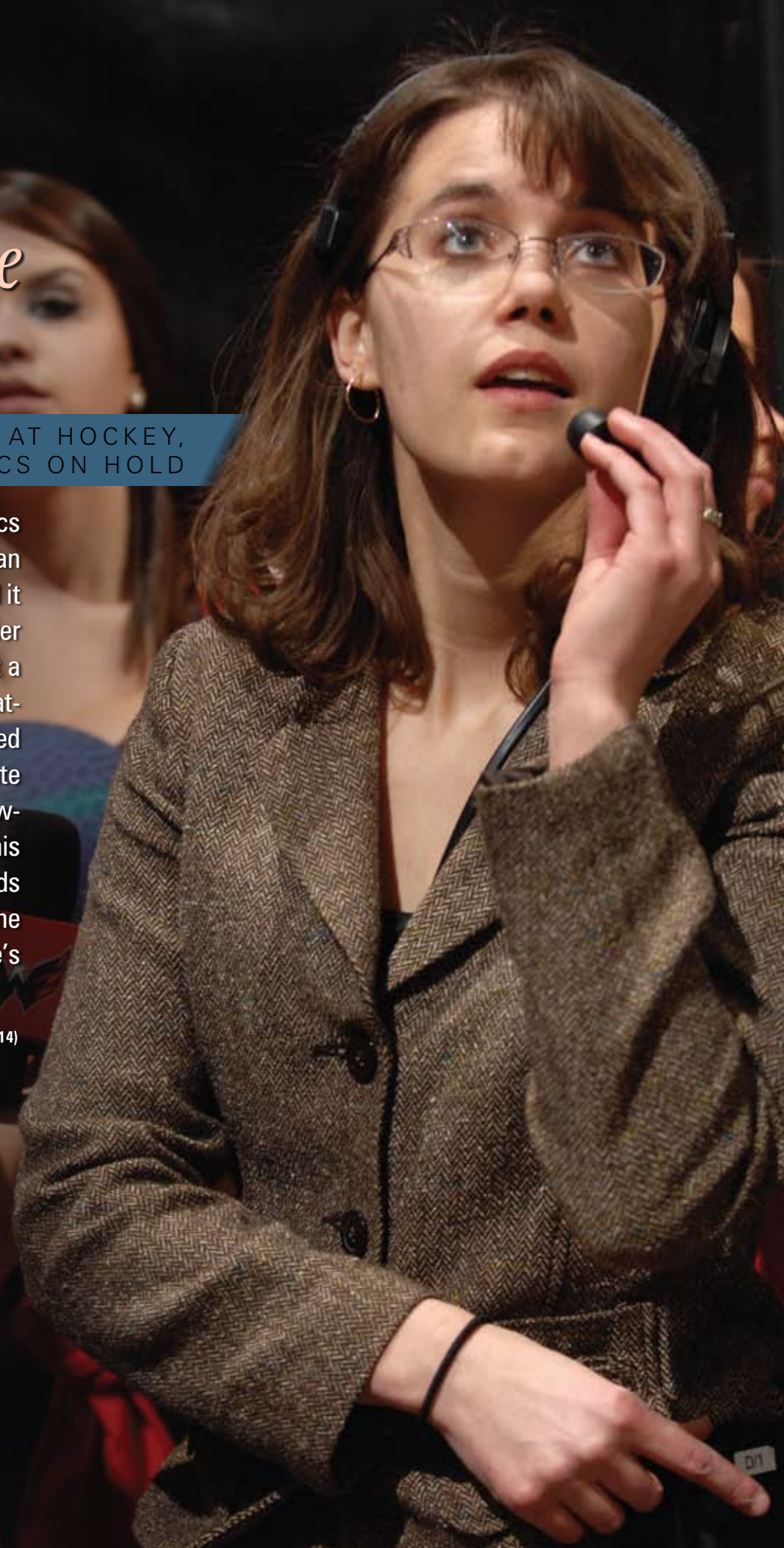
Tsang relishes the sense of connection and shared achievement found in a hospital research environment.

## In the Game

GRAD TAKES SHOT AT HOCKEY,  
PUTTING POLITICS ON HOLD

For Rachel Becker, politics is a passion that she can trace to family ties. And it was politics that drew her to Washington, DC. But a second passion, incubated from an unexpected source at Bemidji State University, currently powers the interests of this 2006 graduate who holds a front office job with the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals.

(Continued on page 14)







*"I guess I'm drawn to the changing environment of both politics and special events. It's like trying to catch a moving tide. You have to be on your toes and paying attention to what's going on."*

**Rachel Becker**

**(Continued from page 13)**

A political science major who served as an intergovernmental relations assistant for the Minnesota Secretary of State, Becker moved to the nation's capital to work as an events coordinator for the National Association of Secretaries of State.

"My grandmother introduced me to politics, and, in high school, I realized it was something I really enjoyed," Becker says. "I enjoy trying to make a difference in people's lives, and one way you can do that is with legislation."

Not one to sit on the sidelines, Becker was very involved in politics at BSU, serving as a student senator and legislative affairs chair, as well as co-founding and presiding over the Political Science Club. She even spent a spring break as a page at Minnesota's state capitol.

"I guess I'm drawn to the changing environment of both politics and spe-

cial events," Becker says. "It's like trying to catch a moving tide. You have to be on your toes and paying attention to what's going on."

Now pursuing her hockey passion as the Capitals' game entertainment coordinator, Becker enjoys the same ever-evolving environment. "It's a constantly changing atmosphere where you have to anticipate what's going to happen next, with the game and with the fans."

As coordinator, Becker and her director handle the video board, color guard, spirit squad, anthem presentation, and other game-day activities. Responsible for what goes on outside the game itself, her job is to make certain the fans have a good time whether the Capitals win or lose.

Interestingly, the Park Rapids native grew up by a lake and played all kinds of sports, but never attended a hockey game prior to her arrival on campus. After attending only one BSU hockey game, she was hooked. "At Bemidji State, you can't help but fall in love with hockey," she notes as she talks about her fervor for the game.

Becker's energetic spirit and passion for being involved are apparent in her accomplishments in both the political and professional sports arenas. She possesses a life philosophy of living every day to its fullest. "Life is about finding passions and pursuing them," she says.

Some of that perspective stems from her time at Bemidji State. Whatever interests she pursued – politics, hockey, Swing Dance Club, Frisbee Club, and more – she found herself surrounded by people encouraging her to try, to do, and to live.

Although Becker started at Bemidji State with a plan to leave after two years, the engaging, interactive environment convinced her to stay. "BSU

has a way; once you're there, you're hooked," she recalls. "I decided there was nowhere else I'd rather be."

Specifically, Becker was impressed by her professors' personal approach of knowing her by name and the entire University community's interest in helping her succeed. "Even the president was readily accessible to students," she recalls. "You don't hear that about too many colleges."

Looking ahead, Becker intends to pursue a career in professional sports, preferably hockey, but will always partake in politics. "Politics is a part of everyone's lives, so I will always pay attention to what's going on and be physically engaged," she predicts. "But for a while at least, it's not the career path I'm on. Someday I may return to it – producing large-scale events or even running for office."

The essence of Becker's passion is her desire to make things happen. She seems to relish the challenge that new, less-than-perfect situations present to her. "I really enjoy production, making something out of nothing. I love it," she acknowledges.

The DC environment is ideal for her to view every day as an adventure as she broadens her experiences in professional sports and politics. "I love to sit down at lunch and talk about hockey trades or how the players are performing on the ice," she says. "And living in DC. is an amazing experience politically. You can't help but think of all that has happened before us. It is sobering and inspiring.

"When you take that attitude of living your life passionately, it doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing, you're going to enjoy what's around you."

**HORIZONS**



**Coach Tom Serratore listens as BSU alumna Rachel Becker gives the Beavers a personal tour of D.C. prior to their Frozen Four game against Miami of Ohio.**



TO Watch

Say hello to Isaiah, Stephanie, and Jacob.

Lessons learned in and out of the classroom have shaped their lives.





Isaiah Hahn

During a spring internship at Bemidji High School, Isaiah Hahn experienced a life-affirming revelation in an adaptive physical education class. "Students with Down syndrome may know they're different, but they live life as it comes to them," he says. "They love life every day."

That zest for life is something Hahn takes to heart. He remembers the day in 2001 when a doctor said he had Crohn's disease, an incurable inflammatory condition of the digestive system. An active freshman at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop High School, he still wanted to experience everything, including playing football, basketball, and baseball.

"Crohn's provided some obstacles, but hasn't deterred me from doing anything I want to accomplish," says Hahn, now a senior at Bemidji State majoring in physical education and health education. "I learned to take nothing for granted. I watch what I eat, manage my stress, stay active, and cherish good health."

That approach enabled Hahn to compete throughout high school and enroll at BSU, the only school he considered because of its outdoor opportunities.

Initially an aquatic biology major, he shifted to physical education and health his sophomore year because he loves working with young people and everything that offers physical release, especially fishing and weight lifting.

He has kept an up-tempo pace when it comes to curricular or extracurricular interests. A Physical Education Major of the Year Award recipient, he has worked with Upward Bound and Camp Courage students, lobbied the Minnesota Legislature to support physical education activities in schools, attended professional conferences, served as a Northern Plains Vision of Sport camp counselor, volunteered to coach in Bemidji schools, and helped at the Special Olympics.

"He is who he is, and what you see is what you get," said Dr. Donna Palivec of the BSU physical education, health, and sport department. "He is relentless in his pursuit of whatever needs to get the job done by his standards, which he sets high."

This pursuit found him enrolling in a yearlong student-teaching option, where he taught middle school kids for half a year before splitting the remaining time between elementary and high school students.

"It was my best decision and gave me broader experience that hopefully will help me get my dream job," Hahn admits. "I'll be certified in K-12, but would really like to work with elementary grades. I love their energy and activity levels."

His dream job would land him in a northern Minnesota school district, where he could continue experiencing life to the fullest.

HORIZONS

Stephanie Peterson has spent time at BSU balancing lessons she's learned in and out of the classroom. A chemistry major, with aspirations of a doctorate, and a leader on the women's basketball team, Peterson's pursuit of equilibrium is a necessity, not an option.

Fortunately for the fifth-year senior from Bismarck, ND, knowing what she has wanted has kept her focused. Although recruited to play center on the basketball team, she placed her priority on her studies.

"I wanted to get into chemistry and continue playing basketball," Peterson says of choosing BSU over seven schools in three states. "I liked BSU's chemistry and basketball programs, the smaller size, and the outdoors. School has always come before basketball, but I wanted to excel in both."

Her game plan is working.

A four-year basketball standout, she became the second woman in Beaver history to score over 1,100 points and snare more than 850 rebounds. During her last season in 2007-08, she was team captain, led the squad with seven double-doubles, and earned an All-NSIC Honorable Mention award.

She graduated this spring as a member of the Honors Program. Along the way, she earned a spot in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, served as Chemistry Club president,

presented research at the Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference, and participated in a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the University of South Dakota.

"I learned a lot about life from basketball," Peterson says. "Life is a roller coaster with good times and bad times. Chemistry has taught me what I need to know and do in the discipline and research. My biggest lesson of all was confidence."

Her rising confidence is evident to Dr. Keith Marek, her chemistry advisor, who saw almost all her home games as the public address announcer for basketball. "Her confidence has definitely grown during her years at BSU," he notes. "She is currently applying to, and getting accepted into, graduate programs that she would not have considered five years ago."

Marek also feels that her basketball experience will benefit her in her advanced studies, which she hopes will lead to a career as a pharmaceutical researcher.

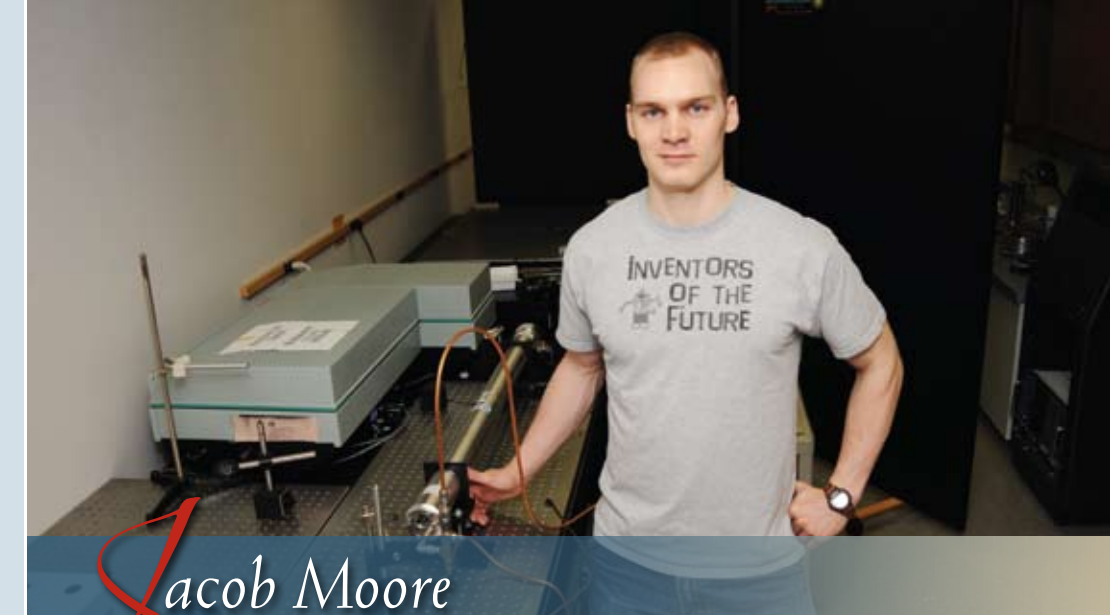
"Another attribute she learned from basketball that will help her in graduate school is resiliency," he says. "A research project, much like a broken play in basketball, does not always work as planned, and you need to be able to adapt to the situation."

That's a lesson Peterson will gladly apply to her academic future.

HORIZONS



Stephanie Peterson



Jacob Moore

Growing up in northern Minnesota, Jacob Moore knows it is important when traveling on snow-packed roads to have an alternative route planned, just in case road conditions deteriorate. He used that same sort of practicality when lack of funds blocked his way to college.

The McGregor native hoped to study science after graduating from high school in 2001. Unable to get financing together, he joined the Air Force to experience the world and eventually pay for his college education.

While this path to a bachelor's degree isn't unusual, his next destination is uncommon. He hopes to return to the Air Force as an officer.

"It's not a normal career progression, this in-out-and-in again path," he says. "Most would stay in, get their degree, and then go for a commission."

What happened in the Air Force and at BSU propelled him to take this alternative route.

In the service, he worked in aircraft structural maintenance. On one assignment, his team developed and implemented a repair plan for an F-15 damaged by a canopy that had mistakenly ejected prior to takeoff.

"It landed just above the engine compartment, and a repair wasn't in the manual," he recalls. "It was actually a lot of fun to come up with a good strategy to fix something in the allotted space and time."

Once the manufacturer's engineers approved the plan, the group fixed the plane and eventually got it flying again. For Moore, the process confirmed the strong connection he saw between structural maintenance and physics.

He resumed testing that connection when he enrolled at Bemidji State after his Air Force service.

"His real world engineering experience before coming to college has given him a perspective most students don't have yet," says Dr. Stevens Johnson, a physics faculty member who is Moore's advisor.

"For the most part, you can apply engineering physics to a problem you see in your day-to-day life," Moore explains. "I'm studying how you can use math as a tool and use physics to design or build things."

Moore, who served one tour in Iraq, credits his BSU professors for engaging him in the subject. "They have an enthusiasm for physics that involves students and keeps classes interesting," he says.

Moore has maintained his military ties while at BSU by serving with the Minnesota Air National Guard unit in Duluth, which means he still often faces troublesome travels during the winter as he heads east from Bemidji once a month. But wintry roads don't worry Moore, who has few qualms about taking alternate routes.

HORIZONS



# ON A *Learning Journey* STUDENT DEVELOPMENT OPENS AVENUES FOR SUCCESS

**T** Tyler Smith arrived on campus last fall as a freshman on academic probation, in part because he struggles with math and test anxieties. Since his arrival, he's barely had time to worry about his academic status, thanks to his willingness to take advantage of a Bemidji State support system focused on student achievement.

On his second day at BSU, Smith met with an Advising Success Center adviser, and they outlined strategies for achievement. He followed through with the plan, and his efforts paid off. A Ramsey native, Smith finished his first semester with 18 credits and a B average. He's now aiming to make the Dean's List.

Smith is part of the first freshman class entering BSU under the Learning Journey Plan, an effort guided by Bemidji State's Division of Student Development and Enrollment. The plan provides a variety of learning experiences in and outside the classroom to help students achieve their educational goals.

"Learning is a central function of our stellar academic programs, but there's also a broader opportunity to think intentionally about learning outside the classroom," says Dr. Lisa Erwin, vice president of student development and enrollment.

The student development offices at BSU respond to mounting evidence that the activities students pursue in college – from athletics and the arts to clubs and community service – are as significant as what they learn from their coursework. Taking a holistic and collaborative approach, the division helps students navigate their learning journeys, encouraging them to take

*"Learning is a central function of our stellar academic programs, but there's also a broader opportunity to think intentionally about learning outside the classroom."*

**Dr. Lisa Erwin**

responsibility for their personal well-being, broaden their interests and experiences, and access services when faced with challenges.

The initiative involves 16 service areas within the division, including the Advising Success Center, First Year Residential Experience (FYRE) program, Postsecondary Readiness Experiential Program (PREP) School, and the federally funded TRiO programs. These four programs are uniquely positioned to help students transition to

college life while mastering academic challenges.

Smith, along with Krysta Ryant, Ben Eng, and Teresa Steinbach, typify how students use such services to enrich their BSU learning experiences. Although their stories vary, all found that getting involved and building relationships influenced their accomplishments.

## On Duty for Learning

For Smith, investing heavily in academics became a key priority in reaching his goals. In his first semester, he met with an algebra tutor three times a week and regularly with his Advising Success Center adviser, Mary Ward, who also directs the center.

"She gave me her input on how to fix things when I needed help," says Smith. "And she was interested in other aspects of my life that might

affect academics, so I felt real confident talking with her."

The center provides supplemental advising, academic planning related to career choices, and peer tutoring. Center staff also coordinate orientation and the First Year Experience (FYE) program.

Following the career path of his father and older brother, Smith plans to become a police officer. A criminal justice major with a minor in psychology, he is already emerging as a leader. His academic diligence and involvement in FYRE made him a strong candidate as a resident assistant, a position he'll assume next year to mentor a new freshman class.

"It makes me so proud," says Ward, who enjoys watching students like Smith discover their potential. "You just open the circle of possibilities for them, and pretty soon they become their own advocates."

## Building Relationships

In high school, Krysta Ryant's signature creations were her designer duct tape handbags. "People were always amazed by them," says Ryant, who is considering a design technology degree as a professional outlet for her creativity.

As a FYRE resident, she lives on one of nine floors in Oak Hall devoted to the program. Each floor has two residential assistants and two peer academic assistants who, as upper-level students, mentor freshmen. FYRE offers orientation programs, social events, academic support, individual or group study space, and a first-year seminar class. The program quickly engages freshmen, which is why Ryant signed up.

"It just sounded like fun," reflects Ryant, who grew up in Mahanomen and gradu-

*"The more involved and connected students are with the University, the more likely they are to stay and be successful. Students need to know that someone cares."*

**Loralyn Kuechle**

ated with 58 students in a high school where everyone knew her. FYRE helped her ease the butterflies of the first days on campus and start building a new network of friends and familiar faces.

Because FYRE students are kept active, they have little time to be homesick, observes Loralyn Kuechle, residence hall director. The program, while fos-

tering social engagement, also encourages students to join study groups and work with peer academic assistants, so their studies remain at the forefront.

"The more involved and connected students are with the University, the more likely they are to stay and be successful," says Kuechle, noting the first six weeks of a freshman's experience is a critical time. "Students need to know that someone cares."

Slated to be a FYRE resident assistant next year, Ryant is busy this year with Varsity Singers and just about everything FYRE has to offer.

**(Continued on page 20)**

*T* Tyler Smith

*K* Krysta Ryant





Ben Eng

(Continued from page 19)

### Soaring above Disabilities

Eagan native Ben Eng has always been adventuresome: sailing the Florida Keys, canoeing the Boundary Waters, and performing with his high school theater group in Scotland. He also has been civic-minded, earning distinction as an Eagle Scout, serving on his hometown teen advisory board, holding summer jobs with the city, and organizing a city park tree-planting project.

Most would assume he is an ideal candidate for college, but Eng notes that not everyone believed he was. In third grade, he was diagnosed with mild Tourettes, a neurological disorder that causes him to have mild, non-verbal, facial and hand tics when he is under stress. Even more challenging has been his dysgraphia, a learning disability that affects Eng's fine motor skills and his handwriting, which he describes as chicken scratch.

*"Ben has been a real advocate. Students with disabilities are often discouraged from attending college. We need to show these kids that they can do it."*

Kathi Hagen

Yet, Eng always planned to attend college, working a little harder than most to make sure that he could. As a high school junior, he enrolled in Bemidji State's PREP School for prospective students with disabilities. Immersed in the weeklong college experience, Eng lived in a residence hall and took simulated college courses. Last summer, he returned to campus as a PREP School mentor and plans to do so again.

"It's a great thing for students with learning disabilities to see if they can handle college," explains Eng, who says knowing that services are available makes higher education seem more

attainable. He'd like to see the innovative BSU program expanded to other institutions so more students would have access.

"Ben has been a real advocate," says Kathi Hagen, disabilities services coordinator and PREP co-director. "Students with disabilities are often discouraged from attending college. We need to show these kids that they can do it."

Eng is proof of that. He plans to pursue a degree in theater or business in hopes of becoming a theater business manager. At BSU, he's already joined Bemidji Choir Men's Chorus, Swing Club, and theatre where he was the master electrician for the spring production. Next year, he'll also be a peer academic adviser with FYRE.

### Providing a Roadmap

Teresa Steinbach is an academic achiever. She graduated from BSU in 2007 with a 4.0 GPA and a double major in psychology and applied psychology. She graduated from International Falls High School as class salutatorian. Both she and her sister were the first in her family to earn four-year college degrees.

At BSU, Steinbach participated in TRiO, a program designed to increase retention and graduation rates of low-income and first generation students as well as those with disabilities. In addition to academic advising and tutoring, TRiO offers courses in college orientation, career planning, and study skills.

"My parents didn't go through college, so having another adult to turn to about college was a big help," recalls Steinbach, who appreciated tips on choosing courses and balancing her workload.

While selecting a major, Steinbach gained insights about her values and priorities from the career-planning course. She also discovered that she often was more knowledgeable about scholarships, support services, and other opportunities at BSU than some of her non-TRiO friends.

That doesn't surprise Phil Dahl, Steinbach's TRiO adviser. He works with approximately 200 students every year. Like Steinbach, many have tremendous potential, but need some guidance to navigate their college experience.

"We need to empower students," says Dahl, noting that he initially dropped out of BSU in 1968, largely because, after graduation from a high school class of 14, he was overwhelmed by the Bemidji State campus. "I didn't want to play the fool or ask questions. I still see students today leaving for the same reason I did. My job is to help them understand the system and give them a roadmap."

Steinbach followed her roadmap well. She sang with the Varsity Singers and worked as a lifestyle educator. As a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma National Scholastic Society, she traveled to California, Pennsylvania, and New York. She also completed an internship with TRiO where she assisted with teaching, advising, and research.

Now employed as a claims representative with the Social Security Administration in Bemidji, Steinbach remains a TRiO advocate. "Students need to feel like someone cares about their success."

# Learning Journey

*"I still stay in contact with TRiO. Students need to feel like someone cares about their success."*

Teresa Steinbach

### Challenged to Excel


In implementing the Learning Journey, BSU draws on a national study of planned success in higher education. The findings demonstrate that those colleges most effectively engaging students in diverse experiences have the highest success rates in key achievement areas, including retention and graduation. Starting early with students also matters, which is why BSU emphasizes the importance of the Learning Journey early in students' college careers. They know right away that their academic success is important.

"We want our students to know we are committed to their learning experience in every facet of the University," explains Erwin. "We teach students what it takes to be successful."

Steinbach agrees. From her experiences with TRiO to her interactions with professors,

Steinbach felt challenged to excel. "Having that support, especially in the first two years, can really make a difference," she recalls.

Erwin believes BSU is well positioned to support students, in part, because faculty and staff understand how to motivate and engage students. Also, BSU's size offers advantages. "We're small enough that students aren't just a number," says Erwin. "Yet, we're large enough that students have a wonderful array of opportunities." **HORIZONS**



Teresa Steinbach



# Walking the Walk

ROSENBROCK INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



**D**r. Patricia Rosenbrock remembers her mother, a beauty shop owner, often spending her day off each week washing and styling the hair of women in prisons and nursing homes. Her mother recognized the importance of “looking good” to the women’s self esteem.

As a child, Rosenbrock thought little of her mother’s actions, but later came to appreciate her commitment to the well being of women. In her own way, Rosenbrock, professor emerita of physical education, health and sport at Bemidji State University, followed her mother’s lead.

*“When you honor me, you honor all the women on whose shoulders I stand: my mother, my mentors, those who fought to give me the right to vote, those who marched for workers’ rights, those who demanded the opportunity to participate in sport.”*

**Dr. Patricia Rosenbrock**

“She taught me that if you truly want to change something, it’s not enough to talk the talk,” says Rosenbrock. “You must walk the walk.”

Rosenbrock heeded her mother’s lesson well. In February, she was inducted into the Northwest Minnesota Women’s Hall of Fame for helping women excel in academics and athletics. Throughout her career, Rosenbrock has worked tirelessly to assure that women have the same kind of opportunities that are extended to men.

“I am a fortunate person who was inspired by strong women who walked both ahead of me and next to me,” Rosenbrock told supporters in her acceptance speech. “When you honor me, you honor all the women on whose shoulders I stand: my mother, my mentors, those who fought to give me the right to vote, those who marched for workers’ rights, those who demanded the opportunity to participate in sport.”

The sting of injustice struck Rosenbrock at an early age. She grew up in the 1950s playing baseball with the boys on the playgrounds in Carson Valley, NV. When she was about 10, the boys invited her to the Little League baseball tryouts. She went, only to be stunned when the coach informed her that Little League did not include girls.

“That incident is one I could never forget,” says Rosebrock, who grew up too soon to reap the benefits of the women’s athletic revolution that she would eventually help lead.

In 1969, Rosenbrock completed her master’s degree in physical education and landed a teaching position at BSU.

The timing was perfect. Title IX legislation banning gender discrimination in academics and athletics took effect in 1972, and BSU had just joined a women’s athletic conference.

“I got in on the ground floor when all these exciting things were happening for women,” says Rosenbrock, who coached 31 teams in three different sports in the first 20 years of her career. She was also among the first group of women officials, refereeing games and chairing the women’s athletic conferences.

Leaving BSU to earn her doctorate at the University of Iowa, she returned in 1987 to teach women’s studies, a program implemented as a minor in 1990. Rosenbrock immersed herself in women’s history, gaining a deeper appreciation for the tenaciousness of women who worked to gain rights that women today often take for granted.

Rosenbrock also served as director of the Women’s Center, a co-curricular program to support women and create dialogue on issues such as domestic abuse, date rape, and breast cancer. Under her leadership, the Women’s Center coordinated Women’s History Month activities, published the annual *Dust & Fire: Anthology of Women’s Writing and Art*, and co-sponsored the Northwest Minnesota Women’s Hall of Fame with the Northwest Minnesota Women’s Fund.

In a fitting tribute, Rosenbrock was inducted into the Hall of Fame before an audience of colleagues, former students and athletes, and many friends.

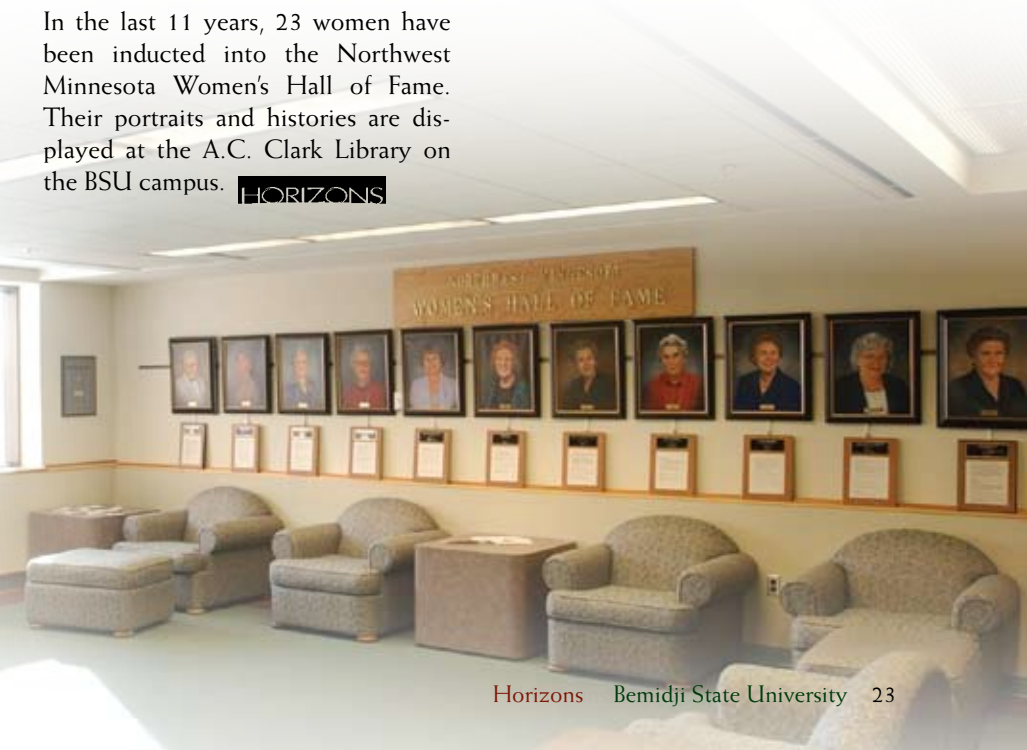


Her nominator, Dr. Christina Kippenhan, BSU professor of physical education, health and sport, credits Rosenbrock for heightening her own awareness about the importance of gender equity.

“She’s an inspiration to all of us,” says Kippenhan. “It’s not only what she accomplished, but also what the people who followed after her have accomplished. Pat has influenced so many people. Her life is proof that with passion, you can do amazing things.”

In the last 11 years, 23 women have been inducted into the Northwest Minnesota Women’s Hall of Fame. Their portraits and histories are displayed at the A.C. Clark Library on the BSU campus. **HORIZONS**

**The A. C. Clark Library at BSU is home to the Northwest Minnesota Women’s Hall of Fame.**





# Class Notes

**2008** Whitney Mostad of International Falls has been hired as a real estate and consumer loan officer at Border State Bank, which serves the communities of Badger, Baudette, Greenbush, Middle River, International Falls, Roseau, and Thief River Falls. The new job enables Mostad to return to her hometown ... **Britta Lundborg** had her jewelry and photography displayed at Hosanna Lutheran Church in her hometown of Forest Lake. Lundborg notes that her works reflect the majesty and mystery of the world, from the light touch of a daisy to images of raging waters ... **Ramsey Miller** is currently teaching grades 7-12 life science at Menahga High School. He also assisted with coaching seventh and eighth

To have your information included in **Horizons**, contact the **Alumni Association Office** (email: [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu); toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM).

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
*Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.*  
*Alumni names appear in bold.*

grade football in the fall and with the wrestling program during the winter ... **Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack** has been nominated for the 2009 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. Hasbargen-Glowack, who teaches English and Spanish at Nashwauk High School, was nominated for the honor by the school principal and is one of 101 candidates vying for the statewide award. A graduate of UMD who earned a master's degree from Bemidji State, she has been a teacher in Nashwauk since 1998 ... **Steve Schreiber** is teaching elementary physical education and high school math in the Menahga school system. He, his wife, and young son live in Bemidji ... **Lindsey Imhof** coached junior varsity softball this spring and taught fifth grade at Mesabi East in Aurora. She currently resides in Biwabik.

**2007** Robert Stein of Sauk Centre is a graduate assistant at Bemidji State for the 2008-09 academic year. Stein is working with the Department of Technological Studies while studying for a master's in technical illustration and graphic design ... **Casey and Jessica (Kroschel) Fahey** ('00) welcomed a second daughter to their family in July. They recently moved to Hinckley, where she is an administrative assistant to the superintendent and board of education for a nearby school district, and he is the director of golf operations of a local course ... **Erin McMillan's** short story, *Crossing Cut Creek*, was featured

nationally in the New Voices series, an online compilation of works from *Granta* magazine. McMillan resides in Nutley, NJ, and is currently enrolled in the new M.F.A. Creative Writing Program at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

**2006** Heather Crabtree has received a master's degree through Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Crabtree lives in Davie, FL ... **Andrew Browers** of Cloquet was a graduate assistant at BSU for the 2008-09 academic year. He worked in the Department of English and is studying for a master's in English ... **Annie Glass** and Scott Kapphahn were married during an August ceremony in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. They live in Bemidji, where she works at the Beltrami County Law Enforcement Center, and he is employed as an agriculture program specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture ... **Ben Bruce** is serving as the school resource officer in the Mahnomen school district. He previously worked at the Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center in Bemidji. Bruce and his wife, Juel, live in Fosston ... **Ashley Slinden** and Jay Thissen were married last August in Litchfield. She is employed as a career planner, and he is a loan officer. The couple lives in Sartell.

**2005** Ricky Aulie of Crosby has accepted a position as a kindergarten teacher in Brainerd ... **Brice Vollbrecht** is the new conservation officer in Blackduck. Prior to accepting the position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Vollbrecht worked for the Blackduck Police Department ... **Dawn Michel** of Pequot Lakes has been hired as the first instructor for the medical assistant program on the Staples campus of Central Lakes Community College. Michel will coordinate the new academic offering, which prepares graduates for careers in healthcare support. She previously taught at Crosslake Community School.

**2004** Constantino Lemus has relocated from Toronto, Canada, to Managua, Nicaragua, where he is responsible for the Caribbean and Latin American regions in his engineering sales position for Sigma Systems. He also completed his executive M.B.A. program through Northwestern University's Kellogg Business School and York University's Schulich School of Business. He and his wife, Claudia, live in Managua ... **Jeff Jones** of Little Canada works as a special education para-professional for Roseville Area Schools. During the baseball season, he is a team leader for guest services with the Minnesota Twins.

**2003** Molly Aitken and Ryan Julin were married on January 31. Molly works in the Office of Admissions and Scholarships at Bemidji State, and Ryan is employed at Minnesota Limited Inc. in Big Lake ... **Eli Loven** and Lisa Schultz were married in Crosslake during a September ceremony. He is employed at R and R Schultz Custom Homes, and she is a third-grade teacher at Eagle View Elementary School. They live in Ideal Township ... **Lisa Wocken** and Kyle Ouradnik were married last May in Sauk Rapids. They live in Fargo, ND, where she works in the West Fargo school system, and he is employed by Executive Mortgage ... **Avery** and **Amy Nubson** operate the Nubson Design agency in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Avery also recently wrote and illustrated the children's book *Pandas Paint in Pajamas*. Information on the book is available at [www.overtmoonbooks.com](http://www.overtmoonbooks.com).

**2002** Darin Mosch works for Ten Rox Computer Program Corporation. He has a home-based office in Los Angeles, CA ... **Kari Larson** and Christopher Sprenger were married September 6 in Warroad. They both are employed by Marvin Windows and Doors. She is in the sales support technology department, and he works as an electrical engineer. They live in Warroad.

**2001** Kathleen Ann Furlong and Kent Michael Fredeen were married last May in Hibbing. She is a principle and art director of Pink Tie Design, a graphic design and advertising studio, and he is a safety representative for Hibbing Taconite Company. They reside in Hibbing ... **Becky (Zimmer) Larson** and her husband, Tony, announced the October birth of their second daughter. The family lives in Grand Rapids ... **Dan Jones**, who teaches English at Roseau High School, recently published the novel, *Riding Scared*. The book, written over a seven-month period last year, tells the story of a 14-year-old girl who runs away after her mother is killed by an abusive father. Jones has been a teacher for eight years, including five in Roseau where he lives ... **Travis Issendorf** is the new farm bill biologist in Big Stone County, where he educates farmers and landowners about the benefits and implementation of conservation programs. He worked previously for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, the Minnesota Conservation Corps, and the South Carolina Waterfowl Association. He lives in Litchfield ... **Courtney Lenz** and Juan Montoya III were married during a September ceremony in Cottage Grove. She is employed by Lifeworks, Inc., in Eagan, while he works at the Burnsville corporate office of Northern

Tool and Equipment. They reside in South St. Paul ... **Jay Ross** married Jesi Renner Boie last September during a wedding at a Lake Vermilion resort. Living in Brainerd, he is employed by the accounting firm LarsonAllen, and she works for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ... **Shannon Svalen** is an early childhood family education professional in Win-E-Mac schools. Her husband, **Jason**, was recently hired as a special education para-professional in the school system. The couple resides in Climax.

**2000** Cory M. Hendrickson of Blooming Prairie is a junior high social studies teacher who served as the B-squad and ninth-grade basketball coach for the Blooming Prairie school system, where he teaches junior high social studies ... **Erin Hanson** has been awarded a master of arts degree in education from Concordia University in St. Paul. She teaches kindergarten at Poplar Bridge Elementary in Bloomington, where she lives with her husband and two children.

**1999** Kim Cousins received a doctorate in higher educational leadership from the University of North Dakota in December. She began teaching graduate level classes in educational policy at UND in January after spending the previous semester at UM-Crookston. Cousins has a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a master's from BSU. She and her husband, Woodie, live in Gonvick ... **Beth Erickson** and Steve Probst of Iron River, WI, were married last October at Enger Tower in Duluth. Erickson, who received a master's degree in communicating arts from Northland College, is a communications officer for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. He is the assistant county forester for Bayfield County ... **John Pietila** of Minneapolis recently accepted a position as doctor for ACF Fiorentina, a professional soccer team in Italy. He and his wife, Leslie, previously ran a chiropractic business associated with the ARP Wave clinic in Burnsville. He also travels internationally to teach the In-Balance System, which he developed to accelerate healing and prevent injuries.

**1998** Brent Olson is in his 11th year teaching language arts at the Lewiston-Altura Intermediate School and serving as an assistant coach in football and track. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Lanesboro with their two young children ... **Matthew Tift** is a visiting assistant professor of music at the University of Iowa and an IT manager for development at Wisconsin Public Radio. He holds a doctorate in musicology from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. He and his wife, **Marnie Karger** ('99), have two daughters and live in the Excelsior.

**1997** Janelle Knott and her husband, Jason, are the owners of Ultra Limousine, a service available in northwest Minnesota and North Dakota. She has been an elementary teacher in the Win-E-Mac school system for eight years, and he works as an electrician. The couple lives in Red Lake Falls with their three children ... **Laurio Brown** is a co-owner of First Realty Rangewide in Hibbing. Brown joined the real estate company after working at Eveleth Taconite for 10 years, owning a small business, teaching, and selling lumber and office supplies. He acquired his real estate license in 2004 and broker's license last fall ... **Melissa Anderson** has opened a private

(Continued on page 26)

## Save the Date

### Twins vs. Cubs at Wrigley Field

Saturday, June 13  
Pre-game brunch at Goose Island Brewery — 10:00 a.m.  
Game time — noon

### Gordy Skaar/Wells Fargo Golf Tournament

Bemidji Town and Country Club  
Friday, June 19

### Alumni Night at the Dome / Twins vs. Yankees

Tuesday, July 7  
Pre-game party — 5:00 p.m.  
Game time — 7:10 p.m.

### Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament

Bemidji Town and Country Club  
Friday, July 17

### Legacy Society Banquet

BSU Campus  
Friday, July 24

### First National Bank / BSU Athletics

**Women's Golf Classic**  
Bemidji Town and Country Club  
Friday, August 7

### Ed Sauer Memorial Golf Tournament

Tianna Country Club, Walker  
Saturday, August 22

### Beaver Pride Walk for Women

BSU Campus  
Saturday, September 26

### Alumni Honors Banquet

BSU Campus  
Friday, October 2

### Homecoming 2009

It's Been Easy Being Green for 90 Years  
Saturday, October 3

For more information on each event, contact the Alumni Office at 877-278-2586 (toll free) or via email at [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu) or visit our website at [www.bsualumni.org](http://www.bsualumni.org).

## Education Hall of Fame

Five new members were inducted into the Bemidji State University Education Hall of Fame in late April.

The Education Hall of Fame honors University graduates who have demonstrated excellence in the profession and have been named either a teacher of the year or administrator of the year.

The 2009 inductees into the hall of fame were:

**Connie Bishop;** Plummer, MN  
Red Lake County Central Elementary School

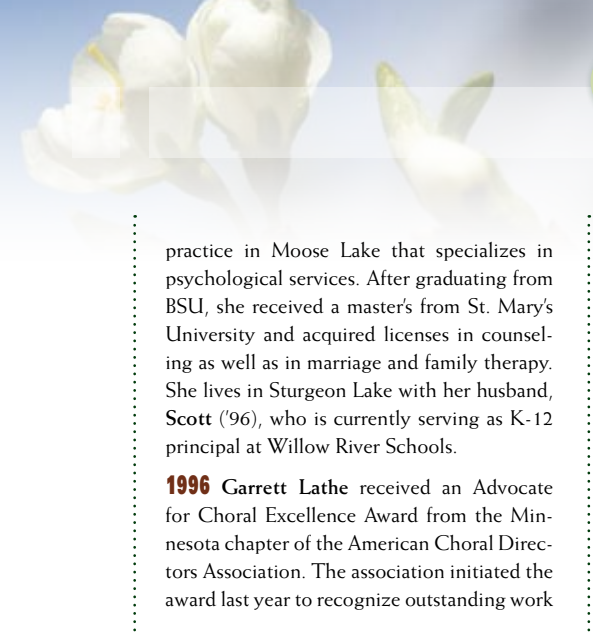
**Larry Guggisberg;** Roseau, MN  
Roseau Community Schools

**Christopher Mills;** Stephen, MN  
Stephen/Argyle Central

**Robert Nyberg;** Two Harbors, MN  
Two Harbors High School

**Terry Sunde;** Holdingsford, MN  
Holdingsford Junior/Senior High School





practice in Moose Lake that specializes in psychological services. After graduating from BSU, she received a master's from St. Mary's University and acquired licenses in counseling as well as in marriage and family therapy. She lives in Sturgeon Lake with her husband, **Scott** ('96), who is currently serving as K-12 principal at Willow River Schools.

**1996 Garrett Lathe** received an Advocate for Choral Excellence Award from the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. The association initiated the award last year to recognize outstanding work

## IN MEMORIAM

M. Fern (Ramsey) Birnstihl '30, Bemidji, MN  
Robert P. Bizal '77, Chisholm, MN  
Michael Bostic '68, Buffalo, MN  
Joan (Lundquist) Brinkworth '71, Brandon, Manitoba  
Elda J. Burtner '33, Bonners Ferry, ID  
Donald Bye (Faculty), Bemidji, MN  
Kenneth L. Dunnum '77, Fairfax, VA  
Ruth Egeland '49, Bemidji, MN  
Herbert M. Fougner '36, Cotati, CA  
Delores (Barstad) Gordon '59, Anoka, MN  
Dennis Grahek '63, Osceola, WI  
Merlyn J. Grell '59, Coleraine, MN  
Lorene (Polkinghorne) Haaversen '29, Bemidji, MN  
Verna (Barr) Haines '42, Phoenix, AZ  
Wayne L. Halvorson '70, Fosston, MN  
Richard R. Haugo '61, (Faculty), Bemidji, MN  
George W. Heglud '60, Emily, MN  
Catherine Kroeten '98, International Falls, MN  
Shirley K. (Kirchner) Larson '83, Tuscon, AZ  
Diana L. Loken '94, Eloy, AZ  
Lori K. Luoma '92, Eagan, MN  
Bernice L. (Arends) Majjala '68, Middle River, MI  
Ruby (Lundberg) McKenna '27, Wakefield, MI  
Darrell W. McKenzie '76, Fairmont, MN  
Keith E. Mooney '52 & '56, Redlands, CA  
Randall A. Nelson '69, Wadena, MN  
Steven J. "Andy" Nelson '78, Eagan, MN  
Hazel (Arnold) Nordquist '64, Bemidji, MN  
John "Jack" Ojala '75, Ranier, MN  
Colleen (Anderson) Olson '71, Starbuck, MN  
Olive M. Paulson '55, Park Rapids, MN  
Stephen D. Schluender '89, Pillager, MN  
Alice (Sexton) Schumar '32, Sebastopol, CA  
Charles V. Vig '58, Burnsville, MN

## Class Notes

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Alumni names appear in bold.*

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

serving choral art for a program or community. From Sartell, Lathe saw an age group in the community who was not getting a chance to sing, so he started an organization to accommodate their needs.

**1994 Mitch Berntson** and **Roy C. Booth** ('89) had a play they co-wrote released by Original Works Publishing of Los Angeles. The script, *Pairing Energy*, had been named Best One-Act Drama in a 2006 playwriting competition sponsored by Stepping Stone Entertainment of Kentucky. The play is Berntson's first to be published, while it is Booth's 42nd. Booth is a business owner who lives in Bemidji while Berntson resides in Bagley ... **Don Anderson**, chiropractic physician, provides care for patients at the Itasca Chiropractic Center in Grand Rapids. He has served the clinic for 10 years as a neuromusculoskeletal specialist. He also is a certified acupuncturist and provides nutritional counseling. He and his wife, **Sheila** ('93), along with their two children, make their home in Grand Rapids.

**1993 Gene Lunsetter** has been named the Teacher of the Year at Grygla School. Lunsetter is currently in his 10th year teaching K-12 music in the school district. He taught previously in Ponemah, Plummer, and Thief River Falls. He also toured with the country and bluegrass band, Back Behind the Barn Boys, from 1982 to 1990. He and his wife, Jacki, live in Thief River Falls ... **Ray Betton** has been hired as a special education teacher and as the first East Ridge High School football coach. He served previously as the head coach at Simley High School, where he had a 9-2 record last fall and an overall record of 24-16. His prior coaching experience includes assistant positions at Holy Angels and Minneapolis Washburn. He lives in Lakeville.

**1992 Tom Robertson** was co-winner of a Nancy Dickerson Whitehead Award for excellence in reporting on substance abuse. Robertson and Cara Hetland produced a comprehensive radio series for Minnesota Public Radio on the impact of fetal alcohol syndrome on children and adults. Robertson is a reporter and producer for MPR's Bemidji bureau, where he covers news across north central Minnesota. He lives in Bemidji with

his wife, **Helean** ('93) ... **Jennifer Pelowski** was among six recipients of the inaugural Advocate for Choral Excellence Award presented by the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Pelowski, who lives in Baxter, was cited for organizing fund raising and political action in the community to reverse a Brainerd school board and administration decision to make music cuts. The state organization instituted the award last year to honor individuals who performed outstanding work in serving choral art for a program or community ... **Rhoda Huglen** has retired following 45 years as a nurse in the LifeCare Medical Center in Roseau. During her lengthy tenure at the hospital, she worked in every department. She and her husband, Erling, reside in Roseau.

**1989 Krista Matison** had an exhibit of ink drawings entitled *Snips* appear in the Minnesota Gallery of the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids. The display featured seven- and eight-inch drawings based on experiences in her life. She operates Matison Design in Grand Rapids, where she lives with her husband **Thor** ('82) ... **Roy C. Booth** has been offered the opportunity to write three books in the *Abyss Walker* universe series by bestselling author Shane Moore. The books will be action-packed, high seas, sword-and-sorcery adventures. Booth is the second author franchised in the series. An award-winning playwright, he lives in Bemidji with his wife, Cynthia.

**1988 James Lawrence** received a National Institute of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award for his grant proposal "Identification of Alternative Substrates of Pregnancy-Associated Plasma Protein-A." An assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Lawrence received the three-year grant for nearly \$184,000 to work with scientists at the Mayo Clinic on a protein that is one of four markers in normal human pregnancy serum and is most widely known as a first trimester screening marker for Down's syndrome. He and his wife, **Theresa** ('92), live in Stevens Point, WI ... **Lester Liljedahl** has been named vice president at First National Bank in Bagley, where he was hired as a loan officer in 2000 and served as assistant vice president prior to his recent promotion. He has prior experience in agriculture and with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ... **Jerome Upton** of Duluth received the Choral Director of the Year Award last fall from the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. The director of choirs at Duluth East High School, he conducts five curricular and two extra-curricular

ensembles. His groups have made frequent appearances at state, regional, and national music conventions. Last year his Choralaires represented the city of Duluth in a worldwide cultural arts festival in Sweden that featured musicians and dancers from 11 different countries. He also remains active as a vocalist in several regional ensembles and as a conductor of community-based choirs ... **John Wiskow** has joined the staff of Border State Bank in Greenbush. Wiskow was formerly the co-manager of the Roseau Ace Hardware, where he worked in all areas of the store, including the Roseau Farm Service. A resident of Strathcona, he is a life member of the Northland Steam Threshing Bee ... **Todd Stokke** is currently in his 19th year of teaching fifth grade at the intermediate school of the Lewiston-Altura school district. He and his wife, Ann, live in Winona ... **Gary Ryhti** has retired after serving the citizens of Menahga as a police officer, including the past 10 years as chief. From the Iron Range, he was laid off during a 1980s recession and was convinced by co-workers to use his experience as a military policeman to go into law enforcement. He started as an officer in Menahga after graduating from BSU and was named chief in 1998. He resides in Menahga with his wife, **Mary** ('73).

**1987 Tom Hanson** received an Avaya Leadership Award. Avaya, a global company with more than 17,000 employees in 30 countries, manufactures telephone systems and communications software. Avaya presented 19 leadership awards last year. Hanson was the only product manager among the honorees, which included individuals from Germany, the Netherlands, South America, and Australia. He was cited for his work with research and development staff as well as bringing products to new markets. He and his wife, Lori Hobkirk, live in Boulder, CO.

**1986 Nanette Jerome** has completed a graduate degree in special education and is a work-based learning specialist in the Anoka-Hennepin School District. She and her husband, **David** ('87), live in East Bethel and have two college-aged children, including a son attending BSU ... **Jill (Glawe) Radley** has been named a liaison in the Family Support Network of the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias. Liaisons in the network provide outreach, support, and information to families affected in their region by ectodermal dysplasias, a rare genetic disorder affecting hair, teeth, nails, and sweat glands. Radley teaches at Fort Thomas High School in Fort Thomas, AZ, and lives in Thatcher, AZ, with

## Class Notes

her husband, Howard, and one son ... **Diane Koschak** of St. Paul was named the Elementary Educator of the Year by the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce for her work at Valley Crossing Community School. She has been a vocal music educator for 22 years, including 12 years at Valley Crossing. She was honored for bringing the arts to life for young learners and for providing opportunities where they gain self-confidence and cooperation while performing. She is also a member of the school's peace committee. Koschak is active in several metro vocal ensembles, including the Minnesota Chorale ... **Chris Fettig** served as the guest conductor at the 49th annual Fall Choral and Orchestra Festival in Crookston last fall. The festival featured vocal and instrumental groups from Crookston and East Grand Forks. Chris and his wife, Tiffany, reside in Bemidji ... **Drey Bradley** has been named head boys' hockey coach at Eastview High School in Apple Valley. Bradley teaches and coaches golf at the Academy of Holy Angels High School in Richfield. He and his wife, **Karen** ('85), live in Eagan ... **Brian Maciej** is the owner of Lime Valley Advertising, which received an award from Service Industry Advertising for communication excellence this year. The award recognized the company's contribution to marketing and advertising. Maciej lives in Mankato.

**1985 Judi Hebert** of Allen, TX, is the district human resource manager at Bed Bath and Beyond for the Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, area.

**1984 Nancy Noben-Trauth** was awarded the 2008 Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence from the medical students at George Washington University in Washington, DC, where she was course director of medical immunology. She has since accepted a position as assistant director of biological sciences at the University of Maryland. She and her husband, Konrad, live in Rockville, MD ... **Michael Porter** is directing the master of business communications program in the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He and his wife, Anna, live in Bloomington.

**1982 Debbie Drinkard Grovum** created and directs the Northwest Technical College Transition Institute in Bemidji. In this capacity, she works with employers as well as employees who are 50 or more years old to provide resources in the areas of life or career planning education and employment. A counselor at Northwest Technical College for 30 years, she and her husband, **Paul** ('90), make their home in Bemidji.

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# Outstanding Alumni

Nine Bemidji State University graduates will be honored as 2009 Outstanding Alumni at the Alumni Honors Banquet on Friday, October 2, as part of Homecoming weekend. The alums, their current professions, and hometowns are listed below.

**Paul A. Hedtke '81**  
Sr. Director Business Development,  
Qualcomm, Inc.  
San Diego, CA

**Kevin L. Jackson '85**  
Program Director/Sports Director,  
Paul Bunyan Broadcasting  
Bemidji, MN

**Gordon J. Johnson '71**  
Music Director/Symphony Conductor,  
Great Falls Symphony Association  
Glenwood, MT

**Michele M. Leonhart '78**  
Acting Administrator,  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency  
Arlington, VA

**Adele P. (Levchak) Munsterman '74**  
Spanish Teacher,  
Fridley High School  
Brooklyn Park, MN

**Col. Gregg P. Rice USAF Retired '69**  
Retired, U.S. Air Force/Retired  
Commercial Pilot  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Linda K. (Christofferson) Shadiow '69**  
Program Director/Professor,  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ

**David L. Sorensen '72**  
Retired Vice President,  
General Mills Corp.  
Minneapolis, MN

**Dr. Ranae D. (Erickson) Womack '87**  
RN, Retired Professor/Administrator,  
Bemidji State University  
Bemidji, MN





# Class Notes

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**(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)**

**1981** Mike Turnbull guided his Hibbing Community College women's volleyball team to a third-place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament last fall. His wife, Pam ('83), is the innkeeper of the Mitchell-Tappan House, a bed and breakfast they operate in Hibbing. The couple has two grown children ... **Sherilyn Klaassen** of Adrian serves as the librarian at Adrian Elementary School, where her hearing dog Hogan has become a favorite among students. Diagnosed at age five with a hearing impairment that would progressively deteriorate, she trained Hogan over the summer of 2008. The hearing dog provides assistance and security for Klaassen by alerting her to door knocks, phone calls, warning signals, and other sounds.

**1980** Ellen Adams is celebrating more than 40 years of working with students. She followed 11 years with the Head Start program in Bois Forte with 29 years of teaching at the Bug-O-Nay-Ce-Shig school near Bena, where she currently teaches kindergarten. She lives in Cass Lake ... **Sally (Colehour) Myrom** has completed her seventh year working as a development specialist for the Girl Scouts. She and her husband, Gary, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The couple resides in Redwood Falls and have two daughters and two grandchildren ... **Gregg Lillejord** and **Ron Sween** ('79) are partners in Northshore Wood Products, which they founded in 1979. The company is based in Duluth and produces custom-made furniture and home decor, including a line called Birchmont. Lillejord and his wife, Inez, as well as Sween, reside in the Duluth area.

**1979** Joy Morgan Dey collaborated with illustrator Nikki Johnson to create the children's book *Agate*, which relates a story about a moose who seeks the strength of his friends. *Agate* became an instant bestseller, earning the Midwest Bookseller Association's Choice Award as the best children's picture book of 2008 and an Independent Publishers Book Award. *Agate* was Morgan Dey's writ-

ing debut, but she previously had served as graphic designer on such books as *Nightlight*, *Old Turtle*, and *The Quiltmaker's Gift*. She, her husband, and three children live in Duluth ... **Randy Fulton** has added Midwest Events to his company Vacation Sports, a business he owns in White Bear Lake. Vacation Sports was formed in 1992 to provide rental equipment to a growing population seeking biking, sailing, kayaking, and other sporting activities. It has evolved into the top producer of multi-sport and running events throughout the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. The acquisition of Midwest Events with its online, print, and in-house communication vehicles will enable Vacation Sports to become a one-stop shop for runners, race directors, and multi-sport athletes to create or seek information on events across six Midwestern states. Fulton and his wife, **Maureen McCall** ('74), live in White Bear Lake ... **Esther Bogda** is the new human services director for the Leech Lake Reservation. She brings experience in education, school administration, mental health therapy, Indian Health Service program management, social work, and counseling to the new position. She and her husband, **Ted** ('74), live in Bena.

**1976** Clark Johnson was honored for promoting choral music in schools and his community with an Advocate for Choral Excellence Award presented by the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. A resident of Mantorville, Johnson is the vocal music teacher and choir director at Kasson-Mantorville High School. The Minnesota organization presents the award to individuals who perform outstanding work in choral art ... **Don**

Stob has retired from his position as lieutenant in charge of court security and transports for Mille Lacs County, a position he held in the Sheriff's Department since 2000. He had served as a deputy since 1987. Prior to that, he spent more than 10 years in law enforcement in Nashauk. He and his wife, Julie, live in Milaca.

**1974** Kurt Marben was one of three judges named to hear arguments related to the U.S. Senate contest between Norm Coleman and Al Franken. Marben is an assistant chief judge in the Ninth Judicial District. He was appointed by Gov. Jesse Ventura to the Pennington County chamber in 2000 before being re-elected in 2002 and 2008. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Thief River Falls.

**1973** Dan Dressen sang the tenor solo on the composition "Lincoln at Ease" performed as part of the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra Family Concert last fall. A faculty member at St. Olaf College, he was featured on a work commissioned to celebrate the life and accomplishments of President Abraham Lincoln. Dressen lives in Northfield with his wife, Elisabeth Comeaux.

**1972** Peggy (Siegmond) Nohner retired after serving Bemidji State University for 36 years. Her final position was as administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Business, Technology, and Communication. Her previous assignments included work in the College of Arts and Letters, Office of Records and Registration, Department of Residential Life, Office of Admissions, and other campus areas. She and her husband, Al ('70), live in Bemidji and have two grown children, both graduates of BSU ... **Tim Fairchild**, the American Federal East Grand Forks Market Bank president, has retired following a 30-year career in the profession. He spent 15 years with American Federal in East Grand Forks and also worked at First Federal Savings and Loan, Midwest Federal Savings Bank, and Community National Bank, all in Grand Forks. His various service to the community included serving as a board member of the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Altru Health Foundation, president of the East Grand Forks Library Board, director and treasurer of the Grand Cities United Way, and president of the Bethany Lutheran Church Council. He and his wife, Marva, have three older children and live in East Grand Forks.

**1970** Terry Mejdrieh has published his fifth novel, *The Tranquility Child*, a mystery

and adventure novel set in 2011. Classified as science fiction, the story is constructed around impending threats to life. His previous works, all penned after 2003 and with a Minnesota setting, are *A Mammoth Resurrection*, *The Bog Lady*, *The Devil's Kettle*, and *Ghosts in the Heart*. Mejdrieh, who writes a weekly science column in the *Grand Rapids Herald Review*, taught science in both Hill City and Greenway before starting to write novels. He and his wife, **Darlene**, live in Swatara.

**1961** Norb Pastir has been inducted into the Minnesota Coaches Hall of Fame. From 1970 until his retirement in 1993 from Roseau High School, he guided the Rams baseball program to 317 wins against 144 losses. Along the way, he won 10 district and five section titles, was the recipient of six district or section Coach of the Year honors, and was named the 1990 TOPPS Company Minnesota Amateur Coach of the Year. He and his wife, Lollie, reside in Roseau.

**1949** Ted Olson was honored by the American Legion for 60 years of continuous service. Olson enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and eventually served as a medical corpsman on bases in California and New York. After his discharge, he pursued a career in education, first as a teacher and later as superintendent at Hendrum for 15 years and Clearbrook for 10 years. He and his wife, Norma, live in Clearbrook, a community where he served as mayor for 20 years.

**HONORARY ALUMNI** Ruth Howe received a Special Merit Award from the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Leadership, which recognizes pioneers in girls' and women's athletics. Howe is a retired BSU faculty member who coached basketball and tennis in addition to teaching health and physical education. She is a member of the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame. She was named an honorary alumna in 1992.

**OTHER NOTABLES** Ann M. Reed of Minneapolis spent part of 2008 touring Minnesota and asking individuals about themes and thoughts as part of her quest to create a song for the state's sesquicentennial. Reed has produced 15 albums and played countless concerts around the world. The musician has been honored by *Billboard* magazine, the National Association of Independent Recording Distributors, and the Minnesota Music Academy. Reed attended Bemidji State from 1973-1974.

**HORIZONS**



Session I, June 1-July 3

Session II July 6-August 7

For more information: [www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/summer](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/summer)

**Upward Bound**

June 7-July 16—Grades 9-12

Encourages success in high school and prepares students for postsecondary education. Contact Kelli Steggall: [ksteggall@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:ksteggall@bemidjistate.edu)

**Postsecondary Readiness Experiential Program**

June 21-27—High school students with disabilities

Focuses on academic skills, disability management skills, and life skills. Contact Kathi Hagen: [khagen@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:khagen@bemidjistate.edu)

**Instrumental MusicCamp**

July 12-18—Music students grades 7-12

Provides individual instruction in piano and instrumental music as well as experience in ensemble music making. Contact Del Lyren: [dlyren@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:dlyren@bemidjistate.edu)

**Wellness Adventure Camp for Kids (WACK)**

Aug. 3-6—Grades 3-6

Aims to get kids off the couch and living a healthy active lifestyle. This camp includes nutrition education, environmental stewardship, stress and relaxation techniques, and participation in a variety of physical activities. Register by July 24. Contact Jim White: [jwhite@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jwhite@bemidjistate.edu)

**Xtream Tech Gateway**

June 22-25—Middle school students

Sponsored by Northwest Technical College and 360° Center of Excellence-BSU/NTC. Contact Lisa Bruns: [lisa.bruns@ntcmn.edu](mailto:lisa.bruns@ntcmn.edu)

**Soccer Camp**

June 8-12—Ages 7-19

Introduces youth to the game of soccer in an enjoyable and challenging environment. \$125 Full Day; \$80 Half Day. Contact Jim Stone: [jstone@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jstone@bemidjistate.edu)

**Volleyball Skills Camp**

June 24-27—Grades 7-12

Focuses on skills and training. \$325/Overnight; \$250/Day Camper. Contact Laurie Bitter: [lbitter@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:lbitter@bemidjistate.edu)

**Volleyball Elite Camp**

June 29-July 2—Grades 9-12

Focuses on elite varsity and JV athletes. \$325/Overnight; \$250/Day Camper. Contact Laurie Bitter: [lbitter@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:lbitter@bemidjistate.edu)

**Northern Plains Vision of Sport Camp**

July 11-18

A sports camp designed for individuals with visual impairments. Contact James Mastro: [jmastro@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jmastro@bemidjistate.edu)

**Team Basketball Clinic**

June 26-28—High school boys and girls

Builds individual and team skills. Contact Matt Bowen: [mbowen@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:mbowen@bemidjistate.edu)

**Girls Basketball Camp**

July 19-22—Girls Grades 7-12

Works on individual and team skills, along with other drills, contests, and games throughout the week. \$195 Overnight; \$125 Day Camper. Contact Krissi Super: [ksuper@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:ksuper@bemidjistate.edu)

**Boys Basketball Summer Camps**

June 8, July 13, July 15—Boys Grades 4-12

Focuses on shooting and scoring. 9 a.m.-noon, \$25 each camp. Contact Jeremy Tiers: [jtiers@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jtiers@bemidjistate.edu)

Aug. 3-5—Boys Grades 1-6

*Bemidi Youth Developmental Camp*

Builds overall skills in a 3-day camp. 9 a.m.-noon, \$50\*. Contact Jeremy Tiers: [jtiers@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jtiers@bemidjistate.edu)

Aug. 3-5—Boys Grades 7-12

Develops advanced skills. 1 p.m.-4 p.m., \$50\*. Contact Jeremy Tiers: [jtiers@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jtiers@bemidjistate.edu)

\*\$10 discount to players who attended one of the shooting and scoring camps.

## READERS' VIEWS OF HORIZONS SOUGHT

To continue improving *Horizons*, we need your feedback. How do you like *Horizons*' stories? What about the photos? What would you change?

Share your thoughts by participating in the BSU/Alumni survey. The Alumni Office will be emailing the surveys. If you don't receive one, contact the Alumni Office for a copy. Call 1-877-278-2586 (toll free), 218-755-3989 or [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu).

Help shape the future of *Horizons*. Complete and return the survey as soon as you receive it.

*Thank you!*





**BEMIDJI**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699



## CAMPUS Calendar

**Summer Session I** Begins June 1  
**Summer Session II** Begins July 6  
**Fall semester classes** Start August 24  
**Homecoming** October 1-3  
Beaver Block Party Street Dance  
October 3, Downtown Bemidji  
Cost: \$5 per person/includes  
a 2009 Homecoming mug

### ADMISSIONS

#### JUNE

**Summer Sampler** - A taste of BSU Campus Life, Friday, June 12  
**Transfer AAR\***, Friday, June 19  
**Freshman AAR**, Friday, June 26  
**Summer Sampler**, Monday June 29

#### JULY

**Freshman AAR**, Friday July 10  
**Transfer Program**, Friday, July 24  
**Summer Sampler**, Monday, July 27  
**Summer Sampler**, Friday, July 31

#### AUGUST

**Summer Sampler**, Friday, August 14  
**Open Registration**, Friday, August 21

*\*Academic Advising and Registration (AAR)*

#### ADMISSIONS TOURS

Monday-Friday  
10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.  
First Saturday of every month  
11:00 a.m.