

HORIZONS



Mama Carol

*Finding
Life's Purpose among
the Street Kids of Zambia*



COVER STORY (Page 8)

Carol McBrady quit her job, sold her house, and moved to Zambia, Africa, where she's providing aid and lots of love to street children.

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HORIZONS

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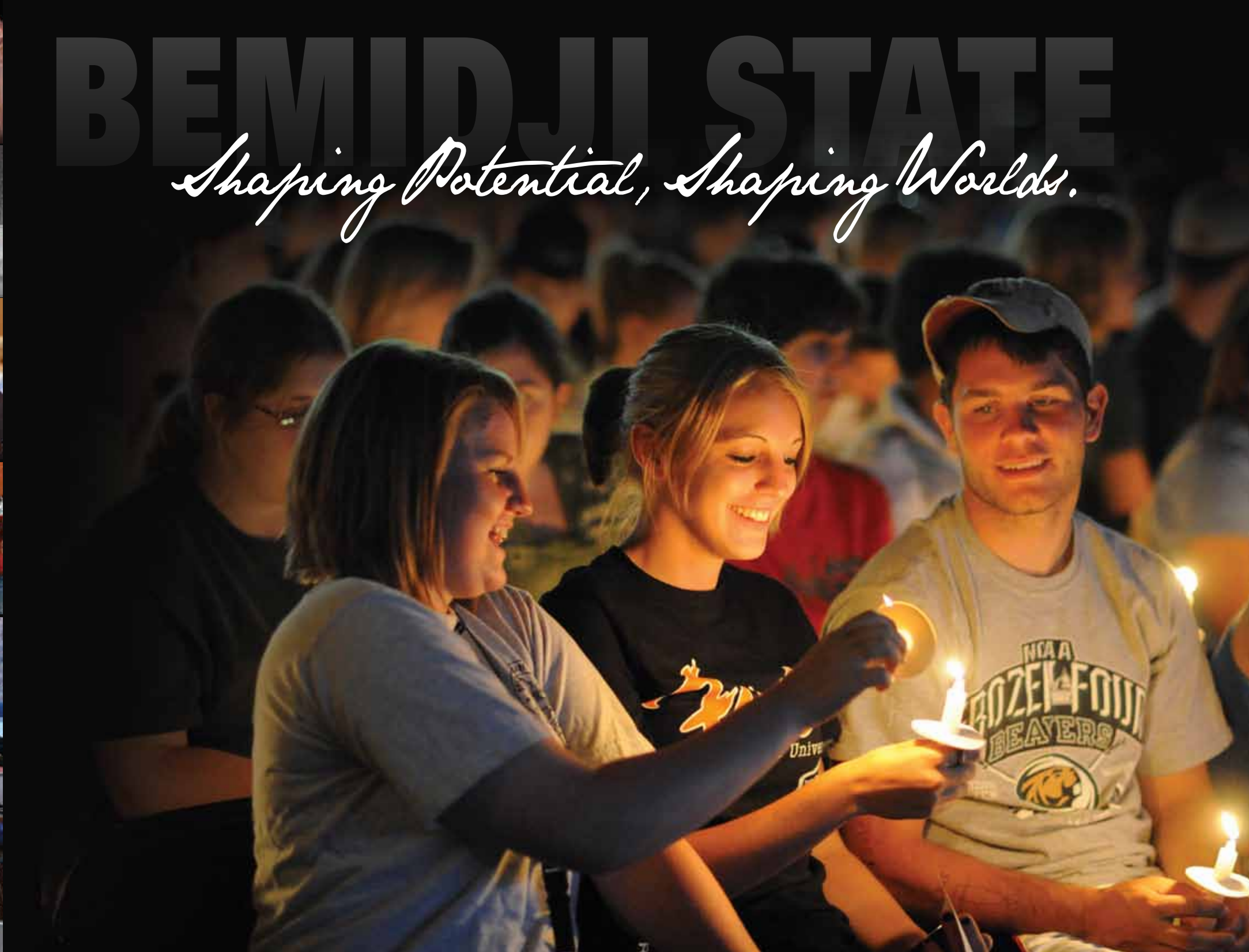
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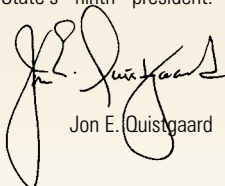
BEMIDJI STATE

Shaping Potential, Shaping Worlds.



This issue of HORIZONS is the first of its kind for Bemidji State since the publication was changed to a magazine format in 2006. The stories focus on a single topic – community service. Readers will meet an impressive group of individuals from campus, the community, and around the world who enliven the University’s vision of shaping potential and shaping worlds. Their stories are representative of the many ways the BSU family is touching others. I am so impressed with the level of activity and depth of engagement. Their actions fit well with Bemidji State’s three signature themes of multicultural/international understanding, environmental stewardship, and civic engagement. The University continues to embrace the importance of preparing graduates who think and act beyond “self.”

As the University prepares for a new president on July 1, I’d like to thank you for your support of this outstanding institution. It’s been a pleasure and an honor to serve you as Bemidji State’s ninth president.



Jon E. Quistgaard

Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference

In April, nearly 200 Bemidji State students showcased academic work during a day of presentations, performances, exhibits, and poster sessions at the University’s 11th annual Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference. In total, the conference featured more than 100 presentations and poster sessions, three art gallery exhibits, a ceramics show, and the annual Beaver Film Festival.

This year’s keynote speaker was noted forensic scientist Brent Turvey, senior partner at Forensic Solutions, LLC. Turvey’s lecture, “Forensic Criminology: Education, Ethics and Careers,” introduced students to the broad range of professional possibilities available in forensic sciences.

Brent Turvey, conference keynote speaker



Susan Carol Hauser



Dr. Louise Jackson



Dr. Janice Haworth

Hauser Wins \$25,000 Poetry Award

In March, Susan Carol Hauser, chair of the English department, won a \$25,000 Loft Award in poetry from the Minneapolis-based McKnight Foundation. Hauser was one of four recipients in the poetry and spoken-word category. Retiring this summer after a 30-year career with the University, Hauser plans to use the award for travel and other activities related to her writing.

Hauser is the author of 12 books, including *Outside After Dark: New and Selected Poems*, nature books on poison ivy, ticks, wild rice, and maple sugaring; and a volume on writing. She received Minnesota Book Awards for *Wild Rice Cooking: History, Natural History, Harvesting and Lore* and for *Meant To Be Read Out Loud*.

Two BSU Profs Awarded Fulbright Scholarships

Two Bemidji State professors have been awarded Fulbright scholarships for the upcoming school year: Dr. Louise Jackson, professor of psychology and director of the women’s studies program, and Dr. Janice Haworth, associate professor of music.

Jackson will be a guest lecturer at Comenius University in the Slovak Republic during the 2010-2011 academic year. Besides teaching courses on counseling, counseling supervision, and family therapy, she will help the university develop a graduate curriculum in counseling psychology. In 2001, Jackson also received a Fulbright grant to teach at Tallin University of Education Sciences in Estonia.

Haworth will be a guest lecturer at the Institute of Fine Arts in Guinea, West Africa, next year. She will teach both research and teaching methods courses. While there, she also will learn to play local African drums and use a new notation system she helped create to conduct research on West African drum music.

Bemidji State University faculty have won five Fulbright grants since 2000.

Lighting Grant to Reduce Usage

In February, Bemidji State received a \$25,000 grant from Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon to install energy-efficient lighting in Deputy Hall, the Bangsberg Fine Arts Complex, and the BSU Gymnasium. Using high-efficiency technology, the lights will reduce energy consumption and operating costs while alleviating some safety concerns associated with these buildings. Besides their academic use, these visible, high-traffic campus facilities host a variety of public activities, so efficient, yet bright lighting is needed. The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, funded the grant.

Retired Prof and Initiator of BSU Fight Song Dies

Dr. Ron Gearman, a member of the BSU music faculty from 1946-77, died in March at the age of 90. Gearman taught a variety of music classes and was chair of the University’s Division of Fine Arts. In addition to his enduring impact as an educator, mentor, and friend to three decades of BSU music students, Gearman also made a lasting contribution to the University when he oversaw the writing of “Go, Bemidji Beavers,” the school’s fight song. The song was penned by students in one of Gearman’s advanced harmony courses. In his book, *The History of Bemidji State University’s Music Department*, Gearman wrote that students suggested lyrics and music, voted on their favorites, then crafted the final piece, phrase-by-phrase, on a blackboard.

Presidential Semifinalists Named

Five semifinalists for the president’s position at Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College were announced in April. The semifinalists are: Dr. Linda T. Krug, on sabbatical after an 11-year tenure as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Duluth; Dr. Betsy Vogel-Boze, senior fellow at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; Dr. Jason A. Laker, associate vice principal and dean of student affairs at Queen’s University (Ontario, Canada); Dr. Philip C. Williams, president of the University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL); and Dr. Richard A. Hanson, interim president at North Dakota State University. Dr. James McCormick, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is expected to recommend a finalist to the board of trustees at their May meeting.

Bemidji State Hosts IRS’ Adrian Project

BSU accounting students hunted for financial crime perpetrators during a March hands-on seminar called The Adrian Project, which was hosted by the College of Business, Technology and Communication. The project, a collaborative effort with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), turned student teams into special agents for the day. Coached by experienced IRS special agents, the teams identified and attempted to solve a finance-based crime scenario involving an informant, played by BSU Vice President Bill Maki. The first Adrian event conducted at a Minnesota college or university, the activity was thought to have drawn the largest student group participation of all Adrian projects held nationwide.



Leadership Center Opens

In February, Bemidji State unveiled the Excellence in Leadership Center, housed in the Hobson Memorial Union. The center, a partnership with the Bemidji community, was developed to further the University’s civic engagement signature theme. The mission of the student-led center is to develop active citizenship through social and environmental outreach; increase opportunities for collaboration between students, faculty, staff, and the community; embrace diversity; and foster common ground through education, interaction, and a shared vision.

Students Successful

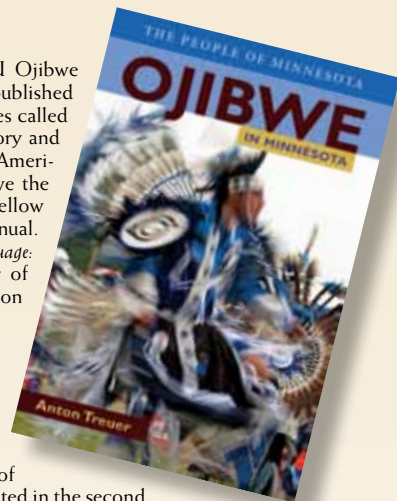
at Nationals Bemidji State students were successful at two national competitions held in March. BSU design technology seniors Joshua Munchow of Pine City and Michael Latzke of Robbinsdale took first and third place respectively at the Association of Professional Model-makers conference in Boston. Munchow’s model, “Tri-Axial Tourbillon Mechanism,” won the grand prize, netting him a \$500 scholarship and a 3-D desktop printer for the University.

Also, a BSU sales team of seniors Tony Heitalati of Aitkin and Robyn McBrady of Hewitt competed at a national event in Atlanta. They tied for 29th place, with McBrady advancing to the quarterfinals. Competitors delivered two, 20-minute sales presentations to an individual buyer. Professionals viewing the presentations via streaming video evaluated their sales calls. BSU earned its trip to Atlanta by winning regional competition at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire last November. At that event, senior Amy Lytle of Bemidji won the individual championship for the second consecutive year, while McBrady finished second.

Ojibwe Book Published

Dr. Anton Treuer, BSU Ojibwe language professor, has written *Ojibwe in Minnesota*, which was published recently by the Minnesota Historical Society as part of a series called The People of Minnesota. In addition to tracing Ojibwe history and cultural practices, the book discusses sovereignty and Native American identity. Treuer is known worldwide for his efforts to save the Ojibwe language. In 2008, he was named a Guggenheim fellow and received funding to develop the first Ojibwe grammar manual. He has written several other books, including *Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales and Oral Histories* and *Omaa Akiing*. He is editor of *Osbkaabewis Native Journal*, the only academic journal focused on the Ojibwe language.

View a Minnesota Public Radio interview with Treuer on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy8RYkyC1UI



Cedar Apartments Win

Do-It-In-the-Dark Challenge During November of 2009, students living in Bemidji State’s residence halls participated in the second annual Do-It-In-the-Dark energy conservation challenge. Residents of Cedar Apartments won the competition, reducing the building’s November energy use by 10.3 percent from the previous month. Among the six halls, the average reduction was 7.7 percent, helping the University save nearly \$1,000 in energy costs that month.

The competition, sponsored by Bemidji State’s Students for the Environment Club, urged residence-hall students to do as much as they could to reduce energy consumption. Students were asked to turn off lights when leaving a room, turn off and unplug electronics when not in use, use cold water when washing clothes, and line-dry clothes when possible.



Hockey Coaches Earn Conference Honors

Head coaches of both the men's and women's hockey teams earned Coach of the Year honors this season. Women's hockey head coach **Steve Sertich** was honored in March as the 2010 Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Coach of the Year after leading the Beavers to a first-ever appearance in the conference finals. He was also inducted into the Minnesota High School Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame this spring.

Before coming to Bemidji State in 2006, Sertich coached five boys' and girls' high school teams, including at Roseville where he led his teams to several state tournaments. Since becoming women's head coach at BSU, he has posted more wins than any other head coach in the program's history and has coached two Olympians. In 2007, he became the vice president of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth, MN.

Men's hockey head coach **Tom Serratore** was named College Hockey America (CHA) Coach of the Year for the fifth time in the last seven years. His team earned a berth at the Midwest regional semifinals, where they lost to Michigan in the first round. It was the team's fourth trip to the NCAA Division I tournament since 2005. Last season, Serratore guided the team to its first NCAA Division I tournament win and its first Frozen Four appearance. He's directed BSU to championship-game appearances in the CHA tournament four consecutive seasons, from 2003-06, setting a league record for consecutive appearances. Under Serratore's leadership, the Beavers earned their way to CHA tournament championships in 2005, 2006, and 2009, becoming the first CHA program to garner back-to-back appearances in the NCAA tournament. In the past seven seasons, his teams have earned a record of .500 or better.



Steve Sertich Tom Serratore

WINTER SPORTS

Champions On and Off the Field



Seth Haake Jessie Althoff Zuzana Tomcikova Montana Vichorek Matt Read Kristi Buerkle Zach Preble

Men's Basketball

Seth Haake, a senior from Eden Prairie, was named Second-Team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference in March. He finished second in the NSIC and 55th nationally in scoring. He averaged 18.6 points per game, finishing his BSU career as the 10th-leading scorer in school history with 1,202 points. Haake helped lead the Beavers to a 12-15 overall record and an 8-12 mark in NSIC play. The 12 wins were the most for a BSU team since 2006.

Women's Basketball

In March, center **Jessie Althoff** from Becker was named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference All-Freshman Team. Althoff averaged 10.1 points per game during her rookie season, leading a Beaver offense that ranked 58th nationally in scoring. She was the first BSU player named to an All-NSIC team since 2008. Althoff helped guide the Beavers to a 12-15 overall record, including a 6-14 mark in NSIC play. BSU's 12 wins marked a nine-game improvement over last season.

Women's Hockey

Bemidji State women's hockey capped an historic season with the program's first-ever berth in the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF. The Beavers won a three-game playoff series against St. Cloud State, two games to one, picking up their first WCHA playoff victories. The Beavers finished with an overall record of 12-19-7, their most wins since winning 12 games in 2001-02. Sophomore goalie **Zuzana Tomcikova** was named WCHA Co-Player of the Year and sophomore defender **Montana Vichorek** earned Third-Team All-Conference honors. BSU's Tomcikova goaltended for her Slovakian team in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

Men's Hockey

For the second consecutive season and the fourth time since 1999, Bemidji State reached the NCAA tournament in men's ice hockey. The Beavers were seeded second in the Midwest region, receiving an at-large bid after winning the College Hockey America regular-season championship. The Beavers, who were ranked as high as fourth in the nation during the year, finished their season 23-10-4 after falling to Michigan in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Six Beavers earned All-CHA honors.

Three Athletes Earn All-America Honors

Three BSU student athletes earned All-America honors recently: **Matt Read**, men's hockey; **Kristi Buerkle**, indoor track and field, and senior **Zach Preble**, indoor track and field.

A junior forward on the men's hockey team, Read was named Second-Team All-America by the American Hockey Coaches Association. He also was named the College Hockey America Player of the Year in March. The Ilderton, Ontario, native is the 56th BSU men's hockey player to be named to an All-America team and only the second player since the team moved to NCAA Division I in 1999.

For the fourth consecutive year, at least one member of BSU's indoor track and field team has earned All-America honors. At the 2010 NCAA Indoor Championships, held in Albuquerque, NM, in March, Buerkle, a junior from Stacy, and Zach Preble, a senior from Coleraine, finished second in their respective events to earn All-America distinction. Buerkle finished second in the 400m dash with a school-record time of 54.76 seconds, and Preble finished second in the heptathlon with a school-record 5,245 points. Heading into the 2010 outdoor season, both Buerkle and Preble also were named pre-season Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Outdoor Athletes of the Year.



Bucky entertains young fans.



A Mission of Healing

On July 20, 2006, Mark Backlin's life changed forever.

Backlin (BSU '79), his wife, and their two teenage children were driving west on Interstate 80 through Kearney, NE, on their way to a family gathering in Minnesota. ■ "We were passing a vehicle on the right; he lost a very large piece of furniture off the side of his trailer in front of my car," says Backlin. "I swerved to avoid it, and, in the process, we rolled our car six times." ■ Both kids suffered broken bones. Backlin, unconscious for nearly eight hours, was given only a 20 percent chance to live. His wife of 21 years, Judith Lombeida, had been ejected from the car and died instantly.



Left: In a 2007 trip to Ecuador, Mark Backlin furthered his wife's dream. Below: Lombeida on an early service journey. Top right and lower right: A 2008 dental mission.

ALUM CONTINUES WIFE'S DREAM

A MISSION OF HEALING

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"My wife was the most amazing lady. These missions provide an immense sense of connection with her and keep her legacy alive through what she used to do."

Mark Backlin

The day after the accident, Backlin and his children convened in his hospital room. Bruised and broken, they clung to each other, determined to get through the horrific loss together. They were equally determined to find a way to honor Lombeida – an Ecuadorian native and neurologist in the U.S. Air Force – and the extraordinary life she lived.

"We're on a journey," Backlin recalls telling his kids that day. "It's not an easy journey, and it's going to be a long, hard road. You'll get through it. You will get through it."

With those words, his course was set. Over the next year, Backlin, a federal serviceman in the U.S. Air Force, created the Judith Lombeida Medical Foundation (JLMF). Besides honoring her memory, he was fulfilling his wife's

dream of starting such a foundation. The foundation has already enabled Backlin to lead five medical missions to some of the poorest and most medically neglected areas of Ecuador.

Reconnecting with Roots

Although poor, Lombeida's parents encouraged education. Their encouragement eventually led her to the United States with dreams of becoming a librarian. She soon discovered, however, a passion for medicine.

After medical school and a residency in Texas, Lombeida moved to Washington, DC, to fulfill a fellowship at Georgetown University. While there, she joined the United States Air Force as a neurologist at Andrews Air Force Base and began reconnecting with her roots.

"She started to work with Air Force attachés from Ecuador; it was a natural connection," says Backlin. "She helped these guys quite a bit and built quite a reputation for herself there. That set the basis for her future trips."

Even as she cared for her patients in the U.S., Lombeida worked tirelessly to bring medical relief to the poorest parts of Central and South America. She organized four U.S. Air Force-led medical missions to Chile, Peru, El Salvador, and Ecuador, with teams treating up to 7,000 patients in a two-week period.

Her efforts, and natural ability to work cross culturally, earned her respect in

the U.S. as she advanced in the Air Force. She also received one of the Ecuadorian Air Force's highest honors, the Estrella de las Fuerzas Armadas de Ecuador (Star of the Armed Forces of Ecuador), a medal typically reserved for retiring generals. Lombeida remains the only female to receive the decoration.

In April 2006, Lombeida completed what would be her last mission to her home country. In all, nearly 40,000 patients throughout Central and South America received medical care thanks to her.

Renewing the Mission

With his arm still in a plaster cast, Backlin flew to Ecuador seven weeks after the accident to deliver the tragic news to his wife's 96-year-old father. On the return flight, he reflected on his wife's passion for medical mission work and began planning the JLMF, which he formed after returning home to Colorado. Fundraising and assembling a medical team soon followed.

"I got donations started from people who knew her," says Backlin. "We knew an Ecuadorian Air Force general who Judith had helped in 1992 in Washington, DC. He helped me connect with the chief of staff of the Ecuadorian Air Force, along with a surgeon who was on her last mission in 2006."

In December 2006, Backlin returned to Ecuador, making a presentation to the country's Air Force and seeking support for JLMF, which he obtained. While in the country, Backlin, his children, and Lombeida's Ecuadorian family also held a funeral for her.

"It was an incredible high and low during those two weeks of Christmas in 2006," he says. "We went through this

whole high of getting the mission set in stone; then the next week, we had her funeral."

Less than a year later, JLMF set out on its first mission to Ecuador. The team included Backlin, his children, and a group of volunteers – many of whom had known and were inspired by Lombeida.

"This was a huge mission," recalls Backlin. "We saw 2,500 patients in five days. It involved the people who knew her – just a phenomenal number of people."

In the regions surrounding Lombeida's hometown, the team administered medication, treated minor wounds, and delivered a baby. The Ecuadorean Air Force followed up on those the team couldn't treat.

In the two and a half years since that first mission, the JLMF volunteers have treated more than 6,000 Ecuadorians through clinical, surgical, and dental trips. The volunteer teams – often collaborating with local missions and the Peace Corps – establish clinics and pharmacies in remote areas of the country or occupy existing surgical centers, with patients brought to and from the sites.

Touching Hearts

Between missions, Backlin raises funds for the foundation through the United Way, private donors, and an annual golf tournament in Colorado Springs, CO. The Bemidji State University music major also uses his skills as a composer to garner financial support for the JLMF.

"If people want a song for \$200, I'll compose a song and send it to them," he notes. "When you can touch people's hearts through music, which is



what I like to do, it's very powerful for them and me."

When it comes to recruiting medical professionals, Backlin hasn't missed a beat, even though the volunteers must pay their own travel and lodging expenses. "I have found that if you provide an avenue for people to volunteer, they will come do it," he says. "What I do is provide that avenue."

For those who loved, respected, and admired Lombeida, the foundation bearing her name is a constant reminder of her caring spirit and concern for those without ready access to medical care. On each mission to Ecuador, Backlin and his children carry her memory with them and honor her by serving the people she loved.

"My wife was the most amazing lady," he says. "These missions provide an immense sense of connection with her and keep her legacy alive through what she used to do."

HORIZONS

For more information on the JLMF go to: www.jlmf.org



Judith Lombeida





Mama Carol

As dusk drapes the capital city of Lusaka, Zambia, the street children—some as young as five, many orphaned, abused, or runaways—seek shelter in the city's shop fronts, open markets, and empty buildings. An estimated 75,000 strong, they're casualties of poverty, AIDS, child trafficking, and drugs. While their futures appear hopeless, a variety of organizations and individuals are determined to re-route their destinies. One such individual is BSU alumna Carol McBady, a 1982 social work graduate.

A Rebellious Beginning

When Carol McBady chose Bemidji State University, rebellion was one of her motives. She wanted to be as far away as she could possibly afford from her Maple Lake home. Little did she realize it was a first step that would lead her 8,500 miles from home to Zambia, Africa, where she would become a mother and counselor to street children in a country estimated to have over half a million orphans because of HIV/AIDS.

Thirty years later, the rebellious teen is a feisty 50-year-old, known as Mama Carol, with a reputation so respected that she walks safely in slums where police and soldiers won't go.

McBady rents a five-bedroom home secured with a concrete block fence and locked gate, typical for her Lusaka neighborhood. Salvation Home's bunk beds are usually filled to capacity with 32 children, two per bed. Meals are nshima (corn flour mush) and vegetables. Evening electricity is sporadic. Money is always tight. Action for Children-Zambia, the organization McBady started in 2005, is always at the mercy of donors' generosity, but McBady is at peace.

"Most people spend their whole lives looking for that 'thing' to make them happy and bring satisfaction," she says. "I am so blessed to have found my purpose in life."

McBady discovered her purpose nearly a decade ago when she handled a mid-life crisis by going to Africa during summer vacation from her school social worker job. Her goal was to do mission work and to hold AIDS babies. She ended up discovering something about herself.



"Mama Carol" with some of her many children.

"Most people spend their whole lives looking for that 'thing' to make them happy and bring satisfaction. I am so blessed to have found my purpose in life."

—Carol McBady

"There just aren't too many 42-year-old women who could walk into a foreign country and mother the street children. I could," McBady recalls. "During my first trip, I realized that I could do this – comfort and play with the street kids, bringing joy and laughter, hugs, and lots of love into loveless lives."

Her unique background gave her the skills needed to help the children without fear of them or the situations they faced.

An Unpredictable Path

McBady's path started in Maple Lake, where being involved was part of community and family life. The sixth child in a family of five daughters and three sons, she was involved in her church and was influenced by nuns in the St. Joseph of Carondelet order and by Benedictine sisters who taught the McBady children. The family's

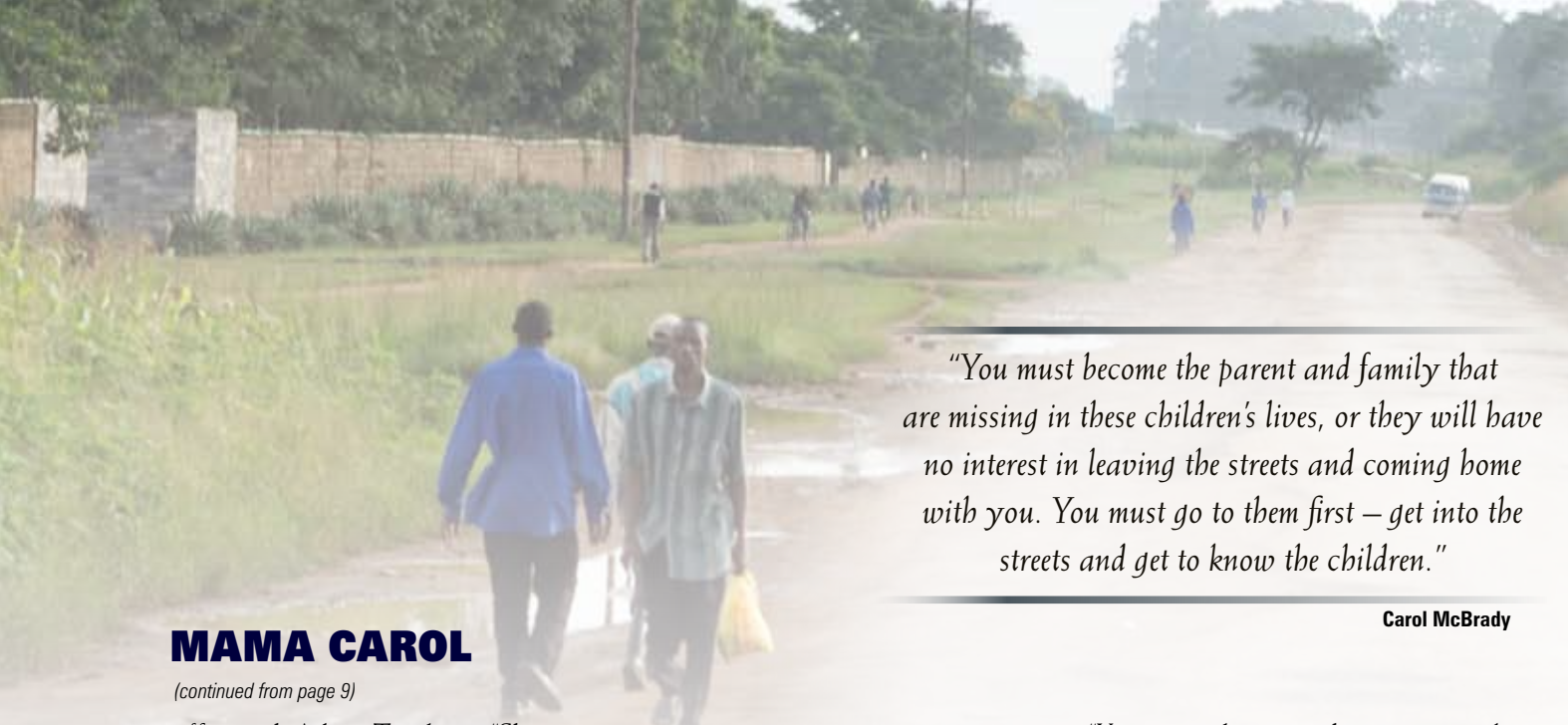
commitment to helping neighbors, whether it was painting a house or sharing garden bounty, also gave root to her sense of service.

A talented oboe player, McBady planned to major in music at BSU, but soon realized she was drawn to social work.

"The first week of my school social work class, I knew I had found the right career," McBady says. "There were some awesome teachers in the social work department, and each one of them gave me something that helped me become the person I am today."

Besides her classes, other BSU experiences helped shape her future path. As a resident assistant in 1B Oak Hall, which was coed and housed international students at the time, the small-town girl mixed with many cultures, which she loved. For two years, she also worked in the institutional research

(Continued on page 10)



"You must become the parent and family that are missing in these children's lives, or they will have no interest in leaving the streets and coming home with you. You must go to them first – get into the streets and get to know the children."

Carol McBrady

MAMA CAROL

(continued from page 9)

office with Arlene Tangborn. "She was a phenomenal role model who helped me to grow from a girl into a confident, professional woman," McBrady says.

After graduation, McBrady held a variety of jobs where she helped troubled children and teenagers. As an Anoka-Hennepin School District social worker, for instance, she regularly dealt with tragic cases, including a case of a seven-year-old raped by her father and another incident where a nine-year-old was beaten and locked in a closet by grandparents. During her career, she also worked at a battered women's shelter and with Native American youth.

Along the way there were personal struggles as well: two miscarriages, a stillborn birth, a husband diagnosed with mental illness, a divorce, and the death of her father who greatly influenced McBrady with his gentle spirit and servant's heart.

"I tell you, this was a dark time in my life. It was my 40th year, and I had nothing," McBrady recalls. "Had I been able to see where it would propel me, it would have been so much easier. But God gives us faith, not foresight. I ended up selling my home and using the money to start Action for Children-Zambia."

Carol's departure for Africa didn't surprise her mother. "I think the attraction for her is being a mom there, and Carol can take charge when she needs to. She doesn't give up. She's compassionate, and she loves young people,



especially teenagers. She's got a lot of faith going on."

Besides faith, McBrady says she's guided by lessons learned from her unpredictable journey: All children long to play and be loved. Her unique set of skills, gifts, and experiences equip her to provide those to abused children.

"I learned that I can love the unlovable," McBrady says.

The Lusaka Streets

Because children from the streets are usually traumatized and often abandoned, effective treatment requires transcending traditional therapies, McBrady says. Many have been raped and physically abused and are dealing with health issues such as HIV, malaria, and drug addictions.

"You must become the parent and family that are missing in these children's lives, or they will have no interest in leaving the streets and coming home with you. You must go to them first – get into the streets and get to know the children."

Most organizations try to reach children new to the streets, helping them before they've become hardened and horribly addicted. McBrady, on the other hand, usually focuses on the sickest, some nearly dead. She has little fear of the dangerous streets where she searches for them.

"This small lady was my bodyguard," says Dan Balluff, a former Peace Corps volunteer from Maplewood, who makes documentary films about problem areas in Africa. In 2009, the five-foot tall McBrady and a Zambian social worker intern accompanied him on two trips into some of Lusaka's roughest areas. He watched in awe as children gathered in tight circles around McBrady while she dressed their wounds.



There's always time for play at Salvation Home.

According to Balluff, wherever he went in Lusaka, people knew and respected Mama Carol and the unique, long-term program she has developed for street kids.

Filming at the Salvation Home, Balluff recalls being impressed with the children. "It was amazingly peaceful," he says. "The kids were well behaved, like any nice family. She can handle abused kids."

Though McBrady is a loving mother, she has rules, says Paula Discher, a nurse from Eagle Bend, who spent six weeks with McBrady in 2008. Carol's rules are: no drugs, sex, or stealing. The rule against theft is an especially difficult rule for kids in survival mode. Breaking a rule results in eviction from Salvation Home.

Besides the stick, however, McBrady provides carrots, including a home with a mother figure, plenty of love, and as close to a normal family life as possible. It's an environment with regular meals, school, homework, chores, and play.

When there are fights and crises to deal with, McBrady relies on other tactics. "I turn into Mama Cena as the boys call it, after John Cena, one of their favorite WWF wrestlers," McBrady says. "They will look around and ask, 'What happened?' But it works. It's a language they know."

McBrady has one other important tool. She rises at 4:30 a.m. for quiet prayer time.

The Road Ahead

McBrady relies on social worker skills such as listening, behavior modification, and charting. She also uses instructional skills as she teaches case management models to the University of Zambia social work interns at Salvation Home. However, she's called upon to be much more than a social worker or teacher. Daily she finds herself being an advocate, nurse, mother, and, most recently, a farmer.

A nearby village gave her and her children 50 acres of land. Using only hand tools, some of the older boys cleared eight acres for maize and four acres for vegetables. An Irish group plans to help build housing for 32 children to live there. The farm represents an important step for the children's future by creating the opportunity to grow food, provide jobs, and generate income.

Though they call her Mama Carol, McBrady emphasizes she doesn't want the children dependent on her. She finds relatives to care for many of them. She arranges for their education. They are taught life and job skills so they can find work – often in the hospitality industry. She's connected with Lusaka business people, organizations, churches, and college students in her search for assistance. So far, Action for Children-Zam-

bia has rehabilitated more than 150 children and has an 80 percent success rate in keeping Salvation Home children from returning to the streets.

McBrady doesn't know what the future holds. She continues to be led by her faith as well as her belief that people have a responsibility to help abandoned children.

"I never went to Africa with the idea of changing anything," McBrady says. "There is just such a great need to help children left by society to live in rubbish pits and street corridors. I am blessed to be part of these children's lives."

HORIZONS

Action for Children-Zambia, a non-profit organization based at 20855 Kensington Blvd., Lakeville, MN 55044, is financially supported by donations. Go to www.afczambia.org for more information. Email McBrady at c_mcbrady@hotmail.com.

SPECIAL THANKS



Editor's Note: A special thanks to Jeff and Rita Nohner of Life Image, LCC, for photographing Carol and the people whose lives she's transforming. Traveling in Zambia at the time we needed photos of Carol, they generously revised their itinerary to help us. They are the brother and sister-in-law of Al Nohner, an alumnus and former BSU communications director, and his wife, Peggy, an alumna and retired BSU staff member.

To read about Jeff and Rita's Zambia experience, go to: <http://jeffandritasexcellentadventure.blogspot.com/2010/03/on-assignment-in-zambia-mama-carol.html>.

To see more photos, click on Zambia-Salvation House at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/jrnohner>.

For more information on Life Image, LCC, go to www.lifeimagelcc.com.





Their Dogs Wear Capes

ALUMS RAISE CAN-DO CANINES

"I figured we'd have fosters for a while, eventually getting our own dog, and then we'd be done. Little did I know how much we both would love working with this organization, it became part of all of our lives."

Dee Dee Heffernan

BSU alums Pat and Dee Dee Heffernan aren't superheroes, but if you're visiting their hometown of St. Paul, you may see them walking around with one.

The Heffernans, along with their two teenage children, are volunteer puppy raisers and foster parents for Can Do Canines Assistance Dogs in New Hope, a non-profit organization providing service dogs to people with a range of disabilities. The dogs, distinguishable by the bright red capes they wear, are trained to do everything from picking up dropped keys to sensing when a diabetic's blood sugar is dropping.

"They are definitely superheroes," says Shelly Hiemer, marketing and communication specialist for Can Do Canines. "Not only are the dogs providing a physical service for clients, but they're also providing loving companionship. That makes a big difference for people."

The dogs benefit too. Between 30 and 40 percent of the organization's service dogs are rescued from local animal shelters and trained as assistance dogs. "That works very well for both, giving the dog a second chance on life and giving the client a new life," says Hiemer.

Before they can begin their new lives, however, each dog must go through rigorous training. The process starts with a team of committed volunteer foster parents and puppy raisers like the Heffernans, both 1984 BSU graduates. They began fostering dogs through Can Do Canines, formerly Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota, in

1992 when Dee Dee came across an ad in her company newsletter.

"I really wanted a dog, and my husband was not quite ready for one," says Dee Dee. "We thought this might be a good opportunity to try having a dog in the home for a short time to see how it would work. Then we could also volunteer, which we really like to do."

Their first dog, a two-year-old American Eskimo named Max, came to live with them that year, and they were hooked.

"I figured we'd have fosters for a while, eventually getting our own dog, and then we'd be done," says Dee Dee. "Little did I know how much we both would love working with this organization, it became part of all of our lives."

Over the next 13 years, the family welcomed more than 15 dogs into their home, sometimes for a month, sometimes longer. While loving and training the dogs, they also developed a passion for Can Do Canines and began helping the organization in other ways.

"Their dedication has been phenomenal," says Hiemer. "They volunteer with all of our projects, including the Heel and Wheel annual walk-a-thon and the demolition and rehabbing of the building we just bought. Just about anything we ask, they'll do."

In 2005, the Heffernan family took the leap from foster parenting into puppy raising when their daughter, Katherine, decided to use the experience as a school project. Since then Pat, Dee Dee, son Samuel, and Katherine have raised four puppies. It's a long-term commitment that comes with its own rewards and challenges.

The primary role of a puppy raiser – apart from showering unconditional love on the dogs – is to start the puppies out on the right foot. They teach their young charges to stay focused and alert, listen to commands, and perform specific tasks. Eventually, each puppy needs to know how to retrieve dropped items, open and close doors, and do any number of specialized tasks on command.

Puppy raisers are also responsible for socializing the animals. The Heffernans take their puppies to church, the mall, the fire station where Pat works, sporting events, and anywhere and everywhere a client may someday want to go.

"As they get older, we work to get them around other dogs and people as much as we can, so they're used to being out," says Pat. "They need to pay attention to the client and learn to work through the distractions."

To make sure their puppies stay on track, the Heffernans have devised a system. They post a list on the refrigerator with tasks the puppy needs to work on each day. When the task is completed, they check it off the list.

"I love the way the Heffernans make it a whole family experience," says Hiemer,



noting that the list guides the family's daily interaction with the dog. "If the kids come home and the dog is there, and no one has worked on touches and nudges, they know exactly how many times they need to work on that."

Though puppy raising is a big commitment, the most challenging part often comes when a puppy that has become part of the family is ready to move on. Both Pat and Dee Dee agree that it is hard to say goodbye, but take comfort in knowing each dog has a special and rewarding life ahead.

"What's really neat is, if you see them later on when they're working, they always recognize you," says Pat. "As hard as it is to let them go, you know they're happy, you know they're working and doing good for somebody, and you know they haven't forgotten you."

HORIZONS

For more information about Can Do Canines, visit www.hsdm.org



Top left: Pat and Dee Dee Heffernan. Top right: Dee Dee works on service skills with foster dog. Left: Can Do Canines is a family affair for the Heffernans (l-r): Katherine, Dee Dee, Pat, and Samuel.



Just Say Yes

BUILDING COMMUNITIES WITH COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS

"It's really amazing to me how a little cup of coffee can mean so much to people when you sit down at a table and just talk. That's how I connected with town. I started with one person, and a big network just emerged."

Cody Nelson

As a Bemidji State student, Cody Nelson lived by a simple motto: Say yes to everything. This straightforward message is one the 2008 grad wants to pass along to current students.

"If someone gives you an opportunity, say yes to it," he advises. "You're only on campus for just a small piece of your life, and it's where you grow if you take advantage of it."

While at Bemidji State, the 24-year-old Crookston native was active in a variety of campus activities. He served as Student Senate president, started a green team to focus on sustainability, and worked in the computer store, to name a few. Nelson also made it his mission to venture off school grounds and engage with Bemidji's broader community.

"I thought that Bemidji State was kind of an island," he says. "I felt I had to network as much as I could, sharing ideas and saying to the community, 'There's a campus here with lots of excited kids that you can work with.'"

A way that Nelson built his network was through coffee chats with local community leaders. He and a group

of BSU classmates sought their advice on business practices, life lessons, and getting students more involved in the community.

"It's really amazing to me how a little cup of coffee can mean so much to people when you sit down at a table and just talk. That's how I connected with town. I started with one person, and a big network just emerged."

In 2008, Nelson received the Jim Bensen Bemidji Individual Steward of the Year Award from the community organization, Bemidji Leads! Recognized for bringing the community and the campus together, Nelson noted that the real reward came this past February when Bemidji State's Excellence in Leadership Center officially opened its doors.

"With a mission to increase collaboration opportunities, the student-led center will be a model for developing and engaging students in civic leadership," Nelson says. "It will be a place where the students, University, community, and region are integrated."

Nelson recalls sitting around a table and dreaming about a place like the leadership center, and he couldn't be more thrilled that the dream is becoming a reality for current students.

"I'm proud that Bemidji State is putting its values truly on the forefront," says Nelson, "It's putting the signature themes out there. That makes me proud of campus and proud to be a Bemidji alum."

Since graduation, Nelson has transitioned into a job that also began as an undergraduate project. While on campus, he founded the University's Students Today, Leaders Forever

(STLF) chapter, an organization initiating "pay-it-forward" road trips for students from middle school to college.

As manager of the high school program for the Minneapolis-based nonprofit, Nelson now organizes trips geared for high school students and led by college students. This, he says, gives both groups a unique perspective on social issues – homelessness, poverty, and the environment – they may not recognize in their own towns and cities.

"We take students and expose them to social issues that actually exist in their own community," he says. "Then at night, we talk about it, asking, 'How are you going to make your community a better place?' It's uncomfortable; it's challenging; and it's high impact, but it makes a lot of change."

Working for a nonprofit has been a learning experience for Nelson. He now sees first-hand how integral volunteers and philanthropy are to making an organization run successfully.

"I'm realizing now that it's a responsibility of mine to give back to my campus," he says. "The reason I had such a successful education is because people who preceded me gave back. Now it's my turn, my responsibility, to do the same."

Nelson serves as a member of the BSU Alumni Association's board of directors and participates on its student affairs and recognition committees. Through

his work on the board, Nelson hopes to inspire other recent grads to support Bemidji State, even if they don't have the means to donate money. He envisions a network where these recent alumni can find non-financial ways to enrich their alma mater, whether by speaking to a class, volunteering on campus, or mentoring a current student.

"There are still active, energetic young people who are trying to make a difference and haven't forgotten about campus," he says. "We're just trying to pay back student loans right now."

As for the future, Nelson hopes to pursue a dual master's degree in public policy and business so he can eventually work in higher education administration. For the time being, though, he considers himself a student of life with a responsibility to both teach and continue to learn.

"I was a freshman at Bemidji State, and I graduated. Now I'm a freshman at life," he observes as he talks about finding ways to help others along their paths. "I'm always looking to meet more people and continue the coffee conversations." **HORIZONS**

For more information about Students Today, Leaders Forever, visit www.stlf.net



Nelson with students in San Francisco, CA, on one of many Students Today, Leaders Forever service trips.



SENIORS

TO Watch

Meet Corinne, Andrew, and Stephanie.
They're shaping their worlds by helping others.



Corinne Milien

Soon after learning that an earthquake had devastated parts of Haiti, Corinne Milien sprang into action, recruiting the Bemidji State athletic department to help collect clothing and cash for victims. In all, she raised an estimated 2,100 pounds of clothing and \$1,862 from generous campus and community donors.

It wasn't her first relief effort, but it was one of her most personal. Haiti is her mother's homeland, and the country is a frequent Milien family destination.

"What was hardest for me was watching the newscasts and hearing people calling out for help," says Milien, whose Haiti memories are of spending time with relatives, and eating fried fish and sugar cane. More than a week passed before she heard whether her mother's six siblings and their families were safe. Relieved that they appear to be fine, she plans a trip to Haiti this summer to see for herself.

Even before the earthquake relief effort, Milien's talents as an organizer and leader were apparent. A student worker with BSU athletics, she organized events to build enthusiasm for the sports programs.

"The way she communicates and makes big ideas happen is beyond her years," says Jim Stone, BSU soccer coach. "She'll do well at whatever she wants."

Even with such accolades, Milien admits she wasn't a serious high school student and, at 17, she enlisted with the U.S. Air Force. While stationed in Germany, she coached softball and basketball before attending the U.S. Air Force Academy

Preparatory School in Colorado Springs.

"My dream job is to coach basketball at a military academy," says Milien. "Those are a special kind of athlete. The character that these kids present is unmatched even by athletes in the big-time programs."

This spring Milien worked the Big 12 basketball conference tournament, attended the Final Four as well as the first rounds of the men's and women's playoffs, and completed a national program aimed at recruiting minority women to professional coaching. With the prospect of a position with Pat Summitt's Lady Volunteers basketball team at the University of Tennessee next year, she plans to pursue a master's in sports administration if accepted into the program.

Milien embraces civic engagement. She organized a Hurricane Katrina relief effort and helped families displaced by fire in Colorado after she returned from Germany. Prior to BSU, she coached high school teams in Atlanta where one of her teams adopted a military family and another raised funds for breast cancer research. For Milien, coaching is about teaching values that players take beyond the court.

"Community service is a big thing for me," explains Milien. "I want to produce successful, productive young women in society. A big piece of that is helping others."

Milien leads by example.

HORIZONS

Andrew Spaeth spent his boyhood summers fishing in northwestern Ontario, an area he appreciates for its pristine beauty. He became alarmed, however, when he later learned that his outdoor paradise had been contaminated in the 1960s by mercury pollution, devastating the indigenous people there.

"This had all occurred before I came there, but I was exposed to it afterward," reflects Spaeth, who graduates from Bemidji State University this spring with a degree in environmental studies and a minor in applied public policy. "This stuff happens right in our backyard, maybe even in our vacation destination, and we don't even realize it."

Spaeth, from Montevideo, hopes to heighten awareness about environmental issues, as well as advocate for groups who are affected by environmental degradation. He believes that environmentalism and social justice go hand-in-hand.

"I'm passionate about the outdoors," explains Spaeth. "I want to ensure that my children and my children's children have the opportunity to be part of it."

In high school, Spaeth joined a grass-roots effort to clean up the Chippewa River watershed. For the past four summers, he worked as an outfitter in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. While there, he became inspired by the writings of the late Minnesota naturalist Sigurd Olson who helped pass the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Olson, he discovered a kindred spirit for a life of civic engagement.



At BSU, Spaeth has been active in the Student Senate, the Outdoor Program Center, campus Relay for Life, and several University organizations. He's been president of the Students for the Environment Club, co-taught a freshman orientation course, and mentored with Upward Bound, a program encouraging high school students to attend college. He also initiated a campaign to conserve water used in the residence halls and helped with a project to reduce campus food waste.

Thanks to undergraduate research opportunities, he's been able to meld his concern for the environment with his interest in social justice. In 2008, the *BSU Journal of Student Research* published his paper on the Northern Alberta tar sands and the industry's destructive impact on native people.

Spaeth spent this year grappling with a variety of higher education concerns as Student Senate co-president and board member of the Minnesota State University Student Association, representing the state's seven, four-year colleges. He was recently elected to serve as the association's chair for 2010-2011.

"Andy just becomes engaged," explains Erika Bailey-Johnson, BSU sustainability coordinator. "He's an excellent leader and makes a positive impact wherever he goes."

For Spaeth, leadership is about looking out for the well-being of others, always focusing on the issues with an eye for social justice.

HORIZONS



Stephanie Chuah

Stephanie Chuah, from Malaysia, was 14 years old when she decided to study psychology, a bold choice in a country where psychology is not highly regarded. Bright students there are expected to pursue more lucrative fields such as law or medicine, but Chuah has always been more motivated by her passion for justice than by personal wealth.

As part of a secondary school project, she learned that people with mental illness are often stigmatized in Malaysia and have inadequate treatment options.

"Something has to be done," explains Chuah, who is fortunate that her parents support her ambitions. Chuah transferred from a Malaysian university to Bemidji State University in January 2009 and graduates this May with a psychology degree. She plans to complete a U.S. work-study experience, attend graduate school, and eventually work in Malaysia's mental health system.

Chuah is also concerned about poverty and the plight of women. In Malaysia, she volunteered at a shelter for victims of domestic violence and with hunger awareness events.

"The more I learn, the more I see how things are interconnected," notes Chuah. "Where you have poverty, you have issues of social justice. It's not that people are lazy or lack morals. No one is born lazy; we all want to be something."

She's also honed her leadership skills at Bemidji State. As president of the

BSU International Student Organization (ISO), she launched a mentoring program to help arriving students adjust to campus life. She hopes to see U.S.-born mentors participate in the future to create more cultural interactions. She's also helped plan ISO trips, as well as social events for students and the community.

Through the BSU women's study program, Chuah helped with a regional hall of fame induction ceremony celebrating women's accomplishments. She also volunteered with the BSU theater program and served as artistic director of a staged reading for Women's History Month.

As she considers her future, Chuah deliberates whether to concentrate on clinical psychology or focus more broadly on ways to affect social change.

"Those questions tell a lot about her character," says Dr. Richard Hook, chair of the Department of Psychology. "She wrestles with the big picture and matters of social justice."

Chuah wants to make the world a better place. Her experiences, coursework, and mentors at Bemidji State inspire her to persevere.

"When you get involved, you see the change, and you become part of the change," observes Chuah. "The biggest thing for me is to keep learning and doing as much as possible."

HORIZONS



Carol Kelly and Juanita Rodriguez, board president of the Peoples Church, share a moment of laughter inside the multi-purpose sanctuary.

Alumna Carol Kelly, a Beltrami County public health nurse, and her husband, Pastor Bob Kelly, opened their hearts to the homeless when they unlocked the doors to the Peoples Church in 1998. This unassuming house of worship in the center of Bemidji welcomes everyone, particularly the poor.

"We didn't have any expectations. We didn't plan anything more to begin with than just to be friendly to people, be open, and have this church where people felt welcome. And also, that we would respect every spiritual faith, so anyone could just come and be present."

Carol Kelly

Embracing the Homeless

ALUMNA OPENS HEART AND CHURCH TO THE NEEDY

The Kellys mortgaged their farmland north of Bemidji to purchase the vacated church structure in an older neighborhood just a few blocks from downtown. Considered a mission outreach, the church is financially supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Most of the church's board members have been homeless or still are.

"We didn't have any expectations," Kelly reflects about starting the church. "We didn't plan anything more to begin with than just to be friendly to people, be open, and have this church where people felt welcome. And also, that we would respect every spiritual faith, so anyone could just come and be present."

Volunteers helped repair the building, and people started attending the informal Sunday worship services. Shaping a mission rose from the bottom up.

"If someone thought there was a need, and people thought they could help, they did," Kelly notes.

As a result, the mission widened. With a shortage of shelters for some of the area's most needy, Peoples Church began housing the homeless and assisting those transitioning from jail. Then members requested an Alcoholics Anonymous program, which connected the church with more people and more ideas for aiding one another. A physician serving on the church board created a bicycle ministry that provides bikes to those who cannot afford them. Then the church began using an old pontoon boat it owns for fishing outings on Lake Bemidji, giving participants, including some who had lived in Bemidji their entire lives, a first-time experience.

Now Kelly would like to start a front-line health clinic at the church. She already leads a holistic health ministry that offers basic counseling with a focus on body, mind, and spirit. The new clinic would refer patients to a primary care physician when needed, offer treatment or medications, update immunizations, do pregnancy testing, make prenatal care referrals, and provide education for a variety of chronic illnesses.

"Just to be connected with people in the health community is so important, just to have that friendly face," says Kelly.

Steps are being taken to start such a clinic. Nurses, doctors, and other pro-

fessionals have offered to join her if the church obtains the city permits necessary to start the clinic. Having earned a nursing degree at BSU in 1988, she now is working on a graduate degree to become a family nurse practitioner, which would broaden her service capabilities. The church and the ELCA have raised \$150,000 for building renovations, including clinic space. Overall, Kelly is hopeful the dream will come to fruition.

Several years ago, she joined a grassroots effort to create a dental clinic serving low-income patients in northern Minnesota. From that experience, she sees how providing basic services improves lives.

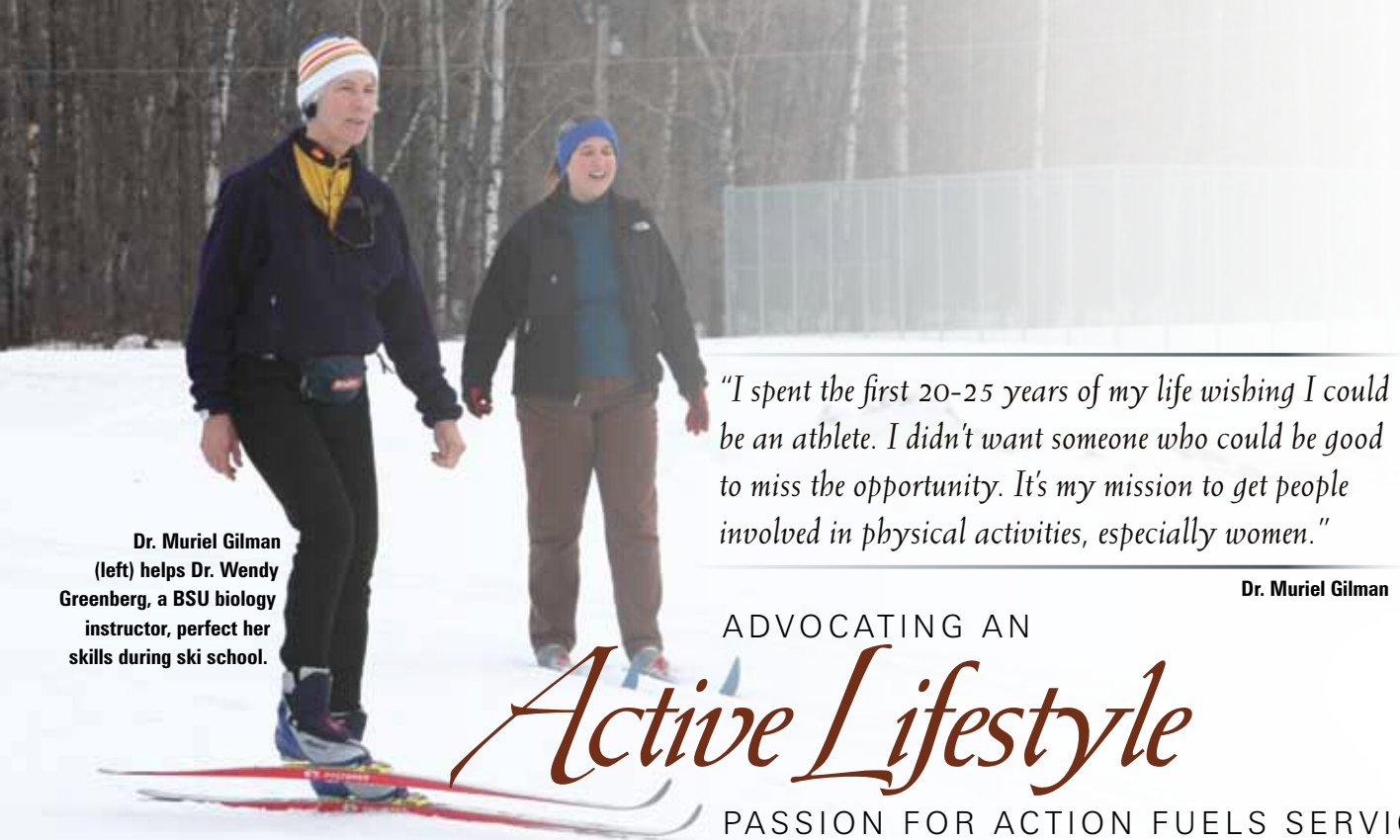
She has also witnessed the power of faith in changing lives. Believing in a preferential option for the poor – a view that God loves everyone, but is especially attentive to the poor – she finds evidence of that belief in the spirituality of the poor, their prayers, and their gratefulness.

"They're so thankful for what they have," says Kelly. "It's just amazing to watch. We have so much to learn from the people who come to Peoples Church."

HORIZONS

For more information about ministries at Peoples Church, contact Carol Kelly at 218-766-4503.





Dr. Muriel Gilman (left) helps Dr. Wendy Greenberg, a BSU biology instructor, perfect her skills during ski school.

"I spent the first 20-25 years of my life wishing I could be an athlete. I didn't want someone who could be good to miss the opportunity. It's my mission to get people involved in physical activities, especially women."

Dr. Muriel Gilman

ADVOCATING AN

Active Lifestyle

PASSION FOR ACTION FUELS SERVICE

Dr. Muriel Gilman is ardent about cross-country skiing. It's a sport that reflects her driving desire to get people moving, encouraging them to adopt active lifestyles by changing their approach to well-being.

A physical education, health, and sport professor, Gilman arrived at Bemidji State in 1975 as the University's first women's athletic trainer. A downhill skier at the time, she felt cross-country skiing was more fitting in Minnesota's north country. She quickly discovered hitting the trails was more than fun.

"I liked going fast on skis, and I was hooked," she recalls.

The sport became an integral part of her life. She raced regionally and nationally, winning the American Birkebeiner on her third try. She also became involved locally, serving 10 years on the Minnesota Finlandia Ski Marathon board, including one stint as president.

During this time, a deep-rooted longing emerged, one that would meld her athletic interests with her goal of helping people become more physically active.

"I grew up in an era when women couldn't compete," says Gilman, who

now teaches full time. "I spent the first 20-25 years of my life wishing I could be an athlete. I didn't want someone who could be good to miss the opportunity. It's my mission to get people involved in physical activities, especially women."

This determination led her to the Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club, which increased interest in the sport by improving trails. Having served on the club's board for years, Gilman matriculated to the organization's ski school, which has taught nearly 1,000 people to ski in its two decades of operation.

She first focused on getting parents to ski, particularly moms, in hopes of bringing kids into the sport.

"You're giving a family something to do on a winter afternoon instead of sitting inside," she explains. "The biggest kudos come when parents say their kids are having so much fun, or they let you know their kids are still skiing."

Her quest to steer people toward an active lifestyle continues to grow. Gilman is collaborating on a Headwaters Science Center exhibit encompassing human physiology, health, nutrition, and exercise. She also serves on the board of Beltrami Wellness Education for Long Life (B-WELL), and volunteers with an initiative called Active Living.

"I like to find ways people can be physically active," she says. "I'm not much on motors. I don't own many cylinders – six in my truck, one in a lawnmower I've replaced with a push mower, and the three chainsaws that actually contribute to my physical activity. B-WELL and Active Living want to make living an active lifestyle an easy choice by having trails, sidewalks, crosswalks, and anything else to move people without motors. It's a way to improve the health of our community."

Bemidji State has benefitted directly from the concept of Active Living with the expanded walking and biking trail along the lakeshore from Bemidji's Library Park to BSU.

Besides her commitment to service, she incorporates her volunteering spirit in the personal training courses she teaches. In those classes, her students run stretch and strength programs at the Bemidji Senior Center. "It's an extension of their education," she notes. "I want students to experience what it is like to work with seniors and diverse populations."

Experiences like these often fuel future lives of action and service. Gilman knows it's a winning combination.

HORIZONS

When Vance Balstad first observed a disabled angler casting off a pontoon into Lake Bemidji, he was snagged squarely in the heart. He's been hooked ever since.

The icemaker in BSU's John Glas Fieldhouse for 36 years, Balstad started helping at Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) over a decade ago. When he first volunteered, he had no inkling the experience would nab him hook, line, and sinker. After all, he had simply agreed to serve food and wasn't much of a fisherman. But the anglers sunk their treble hooks deep into his life.

A nonprofit organization, FHNB is dedicated to opening the outdoors for people with disabilities through fishing. Started in Hayward, WI, there are now 23 chapters in 11 states across the nation. The local Paul Bunyan Chapter was the second chartered.

During the last weekend of June each year, people with physical or mental challenges fish Lake Bemidji for a day-and-a-half of dragging lures and bait in search of perch, northerns, walleyes, or anything else that will bite their hooks. Some anglers have no arms or legs. Others don't speak. Most are ambulatory. Many have lost memories or are unable to hold thoughts. It's a

variety of people, from the wide-eyed five-year-old on a first-ever fishing excursion to the seasoned 90-year-old whose arthritic hands can barely crank a reel.

Guides are provided, as are rods, tackle, life jackets, meals, boats, pontoons, and anything else needed to make the experience fun. Half of the participants come from the local area with the rest from northern Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

"People with disabilities are no different than you or I," says Balstad. "They may not be able to take their fish off the line or bait their hooks, but the one thing they can do exactly like any angler is lie. Every fish is the biggest in the lake. Their disabilities don't get in the way of telling stories."

He's been involved in every outing since he donned his first cooking apron. He co-chaired the event for years, as did his wife and daughter. He's carried kids onto pontoons, helped Alzheimer patients cast lures, warned guides of approaching storms, tracked down volunteers, raised funds, and worked with the media. He also had a hand in starting FHNB chapters in Brainerd and Devils Lake, ND.

Many anglers come back to fish each year. And when they do, they are wel-

comed by nearly 170 volunteers, many of whom are returning as well because, like Balstad, they're hooked.

"If they can't talk, they communicate with their eyes, motions, hugs, and little actions," says Balstad. "One young fellow comes every year and sits in his wheelchair just fidgeting and sucking his hands. I asked his caregiver once, 'Does he even know he's here?' She told me he usually just sits in his chair and doesn't move. 'He's so excited, and that's how he shows it,' she said."

Balstad recalls another young girl who had been coming for about six years, who didn't speak or say a word. "She'd smile, and you'd see the joy in her eyes," he says. "Then last year, she came up to me and said, 'Thank you.'"

With stories as sharp as the barbs on any Northland Reed Runner Spinnerbait, it's easy to see why Balstad doesn't mind staying hooked. The people he meets keep him on the line.

HORIZONS

For more information about Fishing Has No Boundaries visit www.fhnbinc.org.

Hooked on Helping

ICE MAKER WARMED BY DISABLED ANGLERS

"People with disabilities are no different than you or I. They may not be able to take their fish off the line or bait their hooks, but the one thing they can do exactly like any angler is lie. Every fish is the biggest in the lake. Their disabilities don't get in the way of telling stories."

Vance Balstad

Vance Balstad catches both fish and hugs as a volunteer with Fishing Has No Boundaries.



Mending the Spirit

STUDENT VETERAN AIDS AND HONORS COMRADES

Sometimes memories of Iraq haunt decorated U.S. Marine veteran Gabriel Wakonabo with questions he can't answer, like why he survived the blast that killed five of seven comrades in the pre-dawn darkness of July 6, 2004.

Wakonabo's unit was patrolling a U.S. convoy route from Abu Ghraib to Fallujah when an anti-tank mine tore through the armored vehicle. In the aftermath, one report described Wakonabo of Bemidji as the luckiest. After six weeks, most of his bruises and lacerations healed, so he could resume his duties.

"After everything that happened, I had to put it all in a box and keep the mission in focus," recalls Wakonabo, who returned home to Bemidji with a Purple Heart when his tour of duty ended in May 2005.

But for Wakonabo, a junior pursuing degrees in English and American Indian Studies at Bemidji State, mending the spirit proved more challenging. From his perspective, being the luckiest made no sense. All of his comrades had promising futures, including one whose daughter was born just three days after his death.

"That was a life-altering experience having to deal with that loss," reflects Wakonabo, 23 at the time of the blast.

"All of those men were younger than me. That was really hard. It's an ongoing healing process for me. Not a day goes by that doesn't remind me of something they said or did."

Advocating for veterans is one way he honors their memory. At 28, he's the youngest active member of the Bemidji American Legion. He encourages younger veterans to join since most members are World War II veterans. He also serves on the community's Freedom Defenders Veterans Memorial board, speaks to various groups on behalf of veterans, and has helped coordinate a weekly veterans support group.

"We've had guys who hadn't touched on issues in some 30 years who are actually taking a stab at things that may have held them down," says Wakonabo, who feels an affinity with the struggles of many Vietnam-era veterans and appreciates their insights.

With about 140 veterans enrolled at Bemidji State, Wakonabo has found ways to aid his campus comrades, as well. He helps lead the BSU Veterans Club, last active in the Vietnam era. The group supports not only the veterans enrolled at BSU, but also their spouses and dependents. In addition, he advocates for support groups geared to women veterans, who often

shoulder more family demands than their male counterparts. Eventually, he hopes the campus-based club will initiate service projects to help members become community leaders.

He has found campus life teeming with opportunities. A Leech Lake Band enrollee, he has joined the Council of Indian Students and the Student Senate, where he is a voice for veterans and Native students. He enjoys learning about his cultural heritage – Ojibwe, French Canadian, Polish, and German. He also appreciates the diverse perspectives he is gaining from his double major and from writers like novelist Willa Cather or poet Sherman Alexie. He speaks a little Polish, is learning Ojibwe, and hopes to study abroad in Poland. At this pace, he admits that he may have to forego some opportunities.

"I haven't found much on campus that doesn't interest me," observes Wakonabo with a smile that comes more often these days. "There's so much to do in this life."

By reaching out to others, Wakonabo has found a more hopeful path, one that helps mend the spirit. **HORIZONS**

"All of those men were younger than me. That was really hard.

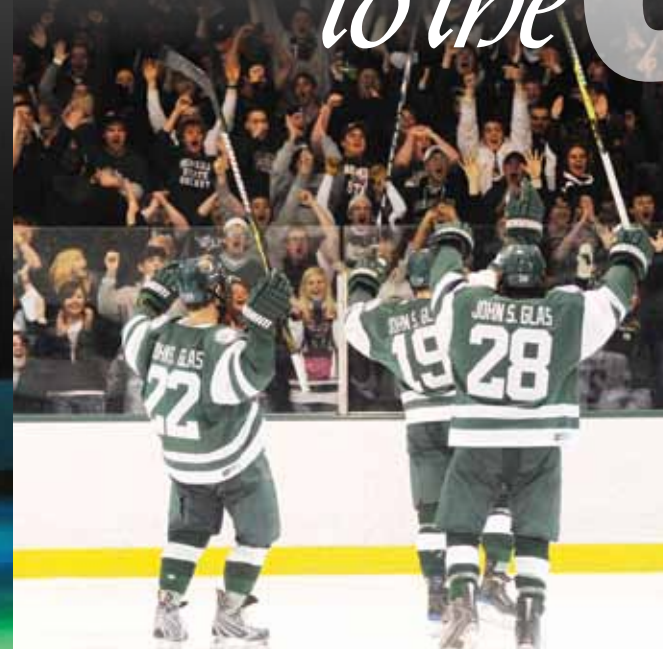
It's an ongoing healing process for me. Not a day goes by that doesn't remind me of something they said or did."

Gabriel Wakonabo



Farewell to the GLAS

Top: Alumni hockey members return to bid farewell. Background photo: Last men's senior night in the Glas. Inset: Crowd responds to one of the last goals in the Glas. Bottom: Women salute crowd after their final game in the Glas.



In fall 2010, the BSU men's and women's hockey programs will move to the new Bemidji Regional Event Center as members of the WCHA. The BSU women have been a member of the WCHA since 1999; the men join them on July 1.

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2010 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Rick Engh. A 1973 BSU graduate with a physical education and health degree, Engh was a four-year letter winner in wrestling and a team captain in 1970. A three-time Northern Intercollegiate Conference champion and a four-time All-America selection, he placed at the NAIA national tournament each of his four years and was a two-time BSU Open champion. With an overall record of 75-14-1, he set school career records in victories, pins, and points scored. He also set a single-season school record for points scored. Engh is a member of the NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association's NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame.

After graduating, he spent two years at Fosston High School where he was the wrestling coach, assistant girls' track coach, and eighth-grade football coach. He then served two years as assistant wrestling coach at Cooper High School. Currently working in construction, he lives in Plymouth with his wife, Kristi Synstebly. He has two children.

Charlie Knott. A 1974 graduate, Knott was a standout football and wrestling athlete. The physical education and health major was a four-year letter winner and captained BSU's football team in 1972, earning All-Northern Intercollegiate Conference honors in 1971 and 1972 and an NAIA All-District selection in 1972. A three-year letter winner in wrestling, Knott was a three-time BSU Open champion. In 1971, he was runner-up conference champion and qualified for the NAIA national tournament.

Knott signed as a NFL free agent with the Dallas Cowboys in 1973 and the Minnesota Vikings a year later. After a brief professional football career, he began high school teaching and coaching. At Motley High School from 1976-1980, he led the football team to two conference championships and



Rick Engh



Charlie Knott



Frank Kopetka



Jim Lind



Jean Musgjerd



Joel Otto

two conference runner-up finishes, earning Heartland 6 Conference Coach of the Year in 1977 and 1980. Knott also coached wrestling at Motley High School from 1975-1981 and later coached both football and wrestling at Howard Lake High School. After he left coaching, Knott pursued a business career, earning the 1986 United States Rookie of the Year Award from ITT Life Insurance. He's been marketing director for Knott Enterprises since 1987. Residing in Howard Lake, Knott and his wife, Paula, have three children and four grandchildren.

Frank Kopetka. A four-year letter winner in basketball, Kopetka was named team co-captain and team Most Valuable Player in 1975. In his last three seasons, he led the Beavers in scoring and earned the team's single-game record, which was set at St. Cloud State in 1974. Earning All-Northern Intercollegiate Conference honors in 1973, 1974, and 1975, Kopetka was a 1975 Honorable Mention All-America selection. He has two of BSU's top 10 highest-scoring games for an individual and is the seventh-leading career scorer in BSU history with 1,272 points.

After graduating in 1975 with a degree in physical education and health, Kopetka embarked on a coaching and teaching career at Salk Junior High School in Elk River that spanned more than three decades. He coached boys' and girls' basketball, softball, and tennis at Salk Junior High. In 2008, he was inducted into the Elk River High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Now retired, Kopetka and his wife, Cindy, live in Rogers. They have two children.

Jim Lind. After a brief stint in the Navy, Lind graduated from Bemidji State in 1973 with a physical education and health degree. He played football for two years and, after graduation, coached football and wrestling at Underwood High School for two years. In his first year as head football coach, he turned a 1-8 team into a 7-2 Little Eight Conference champion.

He began coaching football as a graduate assistant at St. Cloud State University while he pursued a master's degree in physical education and health. He then helped coach football at St. John's University where he also served as wrestling coach for two years. After completing his doctorate at Brigham Young University, Lind became head football coach at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where he helped lead the Cougars to a Northern Intercollegiate Conference co-championship in 1984 and an outright title in 1986. He was named the 1984 NIC Coach of the Year and was the 1986 NAIA District 13 Coach of the Year.

Lind spent four years as head coach at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, before beginning a 17-year career as an assistant coach in the NFL. From 1992-1998, he helped lead the Green Bay Packers to six playoff berths and two appearances in the Super Bowl. In 1999, he followed Mike Holmgren to the Seattle Seahawks, where he spent one year as interim defensive coordinator and nine years as tight end coach. During his 10 years in Seattle, Lind helped guide the Seahawks to six playoff appearances and a 2005 Super Bowl berth. Lind retired from coaching after the 2008 season. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children and reside in Woodinville, WA.

Jean Musgjerd. A four-year BSU volleyball player, Musgjerd earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and health in 1985 and a master's degree in 1992. Her BSU athletic career included being a team captain for two years, a two-time All-Northern Sun Conference selection, a three-time NAIA All-District 13 honoree, and a 1984 BSU Most Valuable Player. She was named to all-tournament teams in 1983 and 1984, receiving BSU's Elsie Annis Award that same year. In 2000, BSU named her one of the top 30 female athletes in University history.

After graduating from BSU, Musgjerd coached high school volleyball for two years before returning to campus to earn a master's degree. At the time, she was an assistant volleyball coach and, for one year, served as head coach. In 1991, she became an instructor and coach at Rochester Community and Technical Col-

lege (RCTC) in Rochester, where she continues to reside. Musgjerd's volleyball teams have won two conference championships, earned a state title, and qualified twice for the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament. In 1994, she also became the college's head softball coach. Her softball teams have made 10 regional tournament appearances and qualified for three national tournaments. She's a two-time NJCAA Region 13 Volleyball Coach of the Year and a three-time NJCAA Region 13 Softball Coach of the Year. Besides coaching, Musgjerd is also the women's athletic director at the college and the NJCAA Region 13 women's director. In 2006, her coaching staff earned Regional Coaching Staff of the Year honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The following year, she was an assistant coach for Team USA at the World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand.

Joel Otto. He played BSU hockey from 1981-84, becoming one of the most decorated hockey players in University history. He played 122 games for the Beavers, scoring 89 goals and 115 assists to become one of only three Bemidji State skaters to record more than 200 career points. Earning First-Team All-Northern Collegiate Hockey Association honors in 1982, 1983, and 1984, Otto was a three-time All-America selection. He captained Bemidji State's 1983-84 record-setting team that completed an undefeated season, helping the Beavers capture their eighth of 13 national championships. Otto scored 75 points during that historic campaign en route to NCHA Player of the Year honors and the Division II Hobey Baker Memorial Award, given to the nation's most outstanding college-level player.

Otto's No. 24 jersey was retired in 2003, the first number ever to be retired at Bemidji State, and he was named to the school's 50 Legends for 50 Years Team in 2006, an honor celebrating Bemidji State's 50th year of intercollegiate hockey competition.

He left Bemidji State in 1984 to begin a 14-year NHL career, spending 11 years with the Calgary Flames and three with the Philadelphia Flyers. His teams reached the Stanley Cup finals three times, and he helped Calgary to a Cup victory in 1989. Otto also is a veteran of international hockey, playing for Team USA in two World Hockey Championships, two Canada Cups, and one World Cup. He played on the 1988 U.S. Olympic Team that finished seventh in Calgary.

Following his professional career, Otto spent two years as the assistant coach at the University of Calgary. For the past four seasons, he has served as assistant coach for the Western Hockey League's Calgary Hitmen. He and his wife, Kary, have two children and live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

HORIZONS



50-Year Reunion - Class of 1960

David Park House (reception) and American Indian Resource Center (dinner) Thursday, May 6

Golden Beaver Society Luncheon

Honoring graduates from 1960 and earlier American Indian Resource Center Friday, May 7



BSU Night With the Twins -

SOLD OUT
Target Field
Friday, June 11



MINNESOTA ZOO
Changing how you see the world

BSU Family Day at the Minnesota Zoo

Saturday, August 7



BSU Night at the Orpheum~Wicked
Join BSU alumni and friends for Broadway's hottest show!

Saturday, August 14
Ticket Deadline is May 14.

Alumni Honors Banquet

Friday, October 1
6:30 Beaux Arts Ballroom

Homecoming 2010 - Bucky Goes Back to the Future!

Saturday, October 2



Opening of the Bemidji Regional Event Center, Home of BSU Hockey

First series in the BREC
Friday and Saturday,
October 15 and 16

For more information on each event, visit www.bsualumni.org or contact the Alumni Office at 1-877-278-2586 (toll free) or via email at alumni@bemidjistate.edu.

1966-67 SWIMMING TEAM



Northern Intercollegiate Conference Champions
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics - 2nd place
13-1 composite season record

First Row (l-r): Kriang "Kris" Kiatfuengfoo, Bob Ross, Joe Jenckes, Nick Armstrong, Darrell "Dale" McNeal, Dave Smith, Jeff Johnson, Head Coach Don Palm. **Second Row (l to r):** Diving Coach Bob Leahy, Bill Hanmer, Wayne Patton, Don McIlroy, Tim Johnson, Gene Plombon, Chuck Kirsch, Joe Riddle, Len Hermanson. **Third Row (l-r):** Team Manager Dale "Pat" McCullough, Roger Soderstrom, Don Richter, Clint Moen, Steve Olson, Larry Douglas, Bob Borg, John "Nick" Robinson, Dick Heinzelman. **Not pictured:** Joe Proost, Henry See, John Tegg.

1978-79 SWIMMING TEAM



Northern Intercollegiate Conference Champions
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics - 4th place
9-1 composite season record

First Row (l-r): Asst. Coach Jim Koenig, Asst. Coach Duane Sorenson, Dave Thomas, Dan Elbers, Bill Gilman, Mark Storhaug, Bill Farrell, Mike Reacht, Joel Olander, Asst. Coach Tom Asplund, Head Coach Lee Albrecht. **Second Row (l to r):** Malachy McCarthy, Kevin McDermott, Carl Erickson, Pete Sarberg, Kion Hoffman, Dwight "Joe" Wildman, Dennis Prosen, Dick Seymore, Bruce Sha. **Third Row (l to r):** Ron Borsetun, Tom Hilton, Jeff Siverhus, John "Mitch" Miller, Steve Boss, Claude "Kelly" Lewis, A. "Bruce" Paakh, Paul Schaper, Greg Mayasich. **Not pictured:** Randy Hull, Bruce Hunstad, James Olson.

www.bsualumni.org

2009 Anna Parthun from Bemidji, served as a nurse on the Africa Mercy Ship docked in Lome', Togo, West Africa, from February 13 - April 10. She was a *Horizons* "Senior to Watch" in 2008 ... Barry Nelson of Chaska is auditorium manager for District 112's high schools located in Chaska and Chanhassen. His job entails coordinating auditoriums and theaters as well as training and supervising student technicians in sound, lighting, and technology ... Jessica Gravidahl joined the University of Minnesota Extension Service as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow. Originally from St. Francis, she will work with students at three schools in Crow Wing County to increase their academic performance as well as involve them in civic and 4-H activities ... Becca Clemens has been hired as the website coordinator at Echo Publishing and Printing, which produces newspapers in Pequot Lakes and Pine River. From Brainerd, she will be maintaining the pineandlakes.com and echolandshopper web sites. Clemens will also work with online advertising sales, marketing, and print advertisement design ... Isaiah Hahn is serving as an assistant coach of the Menahga High School girls' basketball team. He is a first year teacher and coach. Hahn was a Horizon's "Senior to Watch" in 2009 ... Caitlin Prelip has been hired as a Grand Forks police officer.

2008 Veronica Veaux was featured in television and website public service promotions for Minnesota TRIO. She is the registrar at Leech Lake Tribal College and is also pursuing a master's degree in business with an emphasis in American Indian entrepreneurship through Gonzaga University. She resides in Bemidji with her husband and three children ... Christopher Zempel graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, and is an Air National Guard airman 1st class. He is originally from Bemidji ... James Godwin has been named advertising manager for the Bemidji Pioneer. He previously worked for companies or banks in Minnesota and Indiana. He lives in Bemidji ... Emily Meyer of Crookston served as an adult leader on a five-day, community service road trip organized by Students Today, Leaders Forever, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit promoting service and leadership activities. Participants on the trip came from Crookston and Bemidji and spent a week working in towns across Missouri ... Steve Schreiber is the head girls' basketball coach at Menahga High School. From Bemidji, he has coached two years in the Menahga school system, but this was his first year as head coach. Schreiber was a Horizon's 2007 "Senior to Watch." ... Kevin Calkins and Rachelle Martin ('07) were married last August in Lindstrom. Rachelle works at the Freeman firm in Chicago, IL, while Kevin is employed by Nurturing Wisdom and Young Rembrandts in Oak Park, IL, where the couple makes their home.

2007 Eric Pilgrim is teaching at Park Rapids' Century Elementary School, which he attended as a youngster. Pilgrim, who lives in Menahga, is in his second year of teaching ... Ben Baratto of Breezy Point is the project manager and assistant estimator for Baratto Brothers Custom Builders, a company founded in 2002 and based in Crosslake ... Chuck Erlandson and his wife, Emily (Foster, '05), announce the December birth of their first child. Emily is a senior accounting analyst for Aon Benfield in Bloomington, and Chuck is a teacher in Minneapolis. The family lives in Mound ... Laura Sedlacek has been promoted to senior associate for Brady, Martz and Associates, an accounting and consulting firm with offices in Minnesota and North Dakota. From Warren, Sedlacek has been with the company for two years and passed the CPA exam last year ... Tara Grangruth married Chad Hokuf last fall in Bemidji. The couple resides in Bemidji where Tara is a service manager for Wells Fargo Bank, and Chad is an aircraft mechanic for Mesabi Aviation ... Jason Edens is the founding director of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), which he formed in 2001 to help low-income residents access solar heating systems. RREAL was named the 2009 social entrepreneur division winner of the Minnesota CUP competition, which attracted more than 1,000 entries for the statewide competition highlighting breakthrough ideas. Based in Pine River, RREAL helped change Minnesota law and secured funding so energy assistance agencies can offer solar heating systems to clients. To date, the nonprofit agency has installed 100 such systems across Minnesota ... Lori (Hardwig) Kemmer is a personal banker for Bank Forward in Bemidji, where she lives with her husband, Dean ... Luke Erickson is playing with the Rapid City, SD, Rush in the Central Pro Hockey League. The former Beavers skater is a Roseau native.

2006 Jenn Steinbrink is owner and operator of the Krazy Kiln, a studio and showroom she started in Crookston to showcase her work shortly after graduating from BSU. It has grown in three years, adding shops for other artists, hands-on classes, and parties or other clay-working activities for the public. For her innovation and creation of new economic activity, the area Chamber of Commerce presented Steinbrink with the 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year Award. She lives in Crookston ... Jeff Isaacson was a member of the U.S.A. Olympic Curling team that recently competed in Vancouver, Canada. Isaacson curled second on the team. He currently serves as a substitute teacher at various Iron Range schools and lives in Gilbert.

2005 Ricky Aulie married Rachel Peterson last summer in Crosby. Both are employed in Brainerd, Ricky at Riverside Elementary School and Rachel as a nurse at St. Joseph's Medical Center. The couple lives in Baxter ... Matthew Liapis and Katy Gehrke were married last summer in Walker. The groom is a drug and alcohol counselor at the Glenmore Recovery Center, and the bride is a senior at Bemidji State. They reside in Cass Lake ... Melissa Tomte married Paul Schumaier last October in Las Vegas, NV. Melissa is a mortgage processor at Fargo's Gate City Bank, and Paul works at Fastenal in Fargo. The newlyweds live in Moorhead ... Sherri Moe is the new director of the North Shore Dragon

Boat Festival held annually on the shore of Lake Superior in Grand Marais. Now in its seventh year, the festival raises funds for three community nonprofit organizations. Moe formerly was the school director for Oshki Ogimaag Charter School in Grand Portage.

2004 James Plese is teaching health and personal fitness at Chisholm High School. He previously taught in various districts on the Iron Range, including Cotton, Nashwauk-Keewatin, and Mesabi Academy. The head coach for high school track in Hibbing, Plese also assisted with Chisholm's cross-country team for the past four years. He lives in Hibbing with his wife, Jane, and their child ... Steven Gregory and Jodie Ziskovsky were married last summer in New Prague. The groom works at Office Max in Owatonna, and the bride teaches kindergarten in New Prague. They live in Jordan ... Melinda Scho-neck and Adam Halverson were married last June in Parkers Prairie. Melinda teaches elementary music in Mandan, ND, and her husband works at Eckroth Music in Bismarck, ND. The newlyweds live in Lincoln, ND ... Ryan Dennis is selling his pottery on the web-based craft fair Etsy.com. While his work features plates, bowls, and vases, his best-selling piece is a no-handle mug that has finger imprints for mobility. He and his wife, Karissa (Schneck, '03), live in Hallock with their young children ... Nicole (McDougall) and Frank Udovich ('02) announce the birth of a daughter last November. Both are employed at Kawishiwi Lodge and Outfitters in Ely, where they make their home ... Jeff Stotko currently resides in Chicago, IL, where he is a special agent for the Department of the Treasury.

2003 Alice Linda displayed her art in a show entitled "The New Rules of Femininity: A Show For My Daughter" at the Wild Hare Bistro and Coffee House in Bemidji. A painter, Linda lives in Bemidji with her husband, Mitchell Blessing ('04), and young daughter ... Kenny Newby of Bemidji is the dean of students at Kelliher schools. He earned a master's degree at BSU and is currently enrolled in a program to obtain a K-12 principal license ... Steve Booth was the recipient of a 2009 award from the Center for Academic Excellence sponsored by the Whitney and Elizabeth McMillan Foundation. He then donated a portion of the cash award to the Laporte Education Endowment Foundation and to the Laporte Parent Teacher Organization. Booth and his wife, Kristin, live in Laporte, where Steve teaches third grade ... Crystal (Abernathy) Comer has been appointed assistant registrar at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. Comer, who had been a credentials evaluator at Metro State until the recent appointment, has also worked in student affairs offices at Minnesota State University, Mankato; Northwest Technical College; and Bemidji State University. She lives in Shoreview ... Bridget (Luehmers) Stalboerger has been teaching at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School near Cass Lake for five years. She is currently team-teaching fourth graders, but also has completed assignments at the school in the first and third grades. Stalboerger lives in Bemidji with her husband, Jake, and young son ... Mark Gerber was recently promoted to partner at the Brainerd accounting firm B. Johnson & Associates, Ltd. A CPA, Gerber resides in Baxter.

2002 Brad Hollenhorst is in his second year as head coach of the girls' volleyball team at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle High School. A math teacher in the district, he previously taught at Sauk Rapids-Rice schools and in Haverhill, NH. He and his wife live in Little Falls ... Alix Johns and Scott Nichols were married last summer in Redwood Falls. She is an interactive designer at Colle+McVoy in Minneapolis, while he is a claims team supervisor for Federated Insurance in Edina. They live in St. Paul ... Lisa (Simonet) Sjogren of International Falls has been hired as an RSVP coordinator for Koochiching County by ElderCircle, a nonprofit based in Grand Rapids that provides programming and services to meet the needs of older residents. As RSVP coordinator, she will connect adults over the age of 55 with volunteer opportunities where they can apply their skills, talents, and life experiences to strengthen their communities. She previously had held several positions with the Backus Community Center.

2001 Kris Price is currently an application engineer at Douglas Machine. The company focuses on paperboard, corrugated, and shrink-film packaging solutions and is based in Alexandria, which he also calls home. He has three grown children ... Tessa Larson is teaching art and Spanish at Floodwood School after teaching several years at schools in the Twin Cities.

2000 Kara (Reese) Heggedal is the owner of Thirteen Sisters, a boutique in Greenbush specializing in unique fashions, accessories, jewelry, and gift items. In addition to managing the shop, she has worked in the human services area at Polaris Industries for the past six years. She lives in Greenbush with her husband, Erik, and three young children ... Keith Litke started BrokerBin.com shortly after graduating from BSU and has guided the e-commerce firm through 20 percent growth every year since it was launched. BrokerBin.com is described as an eBay-type company for computer dealers. It started with two employees and now has 30. He lives in Rochester, where BrokerBin.com is based ... Steve Leen is a manager in the tax department of Kern, DeWenter, Viere, Ltd., a firm with offices in Minneapolis and St. Cloud that provides financial and business consulting services to small or mid-sized organizations. He is active in community affairs and currently serves as the treasurer for the local Rotary Club. He and his wife, Penny, live in Sartell ... Kristina (Carlson) Sandau was honored as the Teacher of the Year for Jeffers Pond Elementary School, where she teaches third grade. Serving in the Prior Lake-Savage school district for five years, she has previous experience in St. Michael-Albertville and Brooklyn Center schools. She and her husband, Kevin ('98), live in Prior Lake.

1999 Sara Otto is serving as the vice president of development at the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota. Based in Minneapolis, the foundation serves people affected by the chronic autoimmune disease, raises awareness of lupus, and supports research into the cause and cure of lupus. Otto also earned a championship at the World Horseshoe Tournament in the women's class G where she went 15-0 during three days of competition in Springfield, IL. She currently

resides in Minnetonka ... Briana Swanson is an import/export logistics senior analyst with Best Buy. She lives in Hopkins ... William Haapala is the manager of a recreation and campground area in Mountain Iron. Recently widowed, he lives in Chisholm ... Richard McMillen married Amanda Westerlund during a September wedding in Hibbing. Richard works at U.S. Steel, while his wife is a pharmacist for Walgreens in Hibbing, where they reside.

1998 Adam McIntyre married Natalie Larsen during a July wedding in International Falls, where the couple lives. Adam is a painting contractor, and Natalie is employed in an area dental office ... Kevin Grover was named interim assistant superintendent for the International Falls school district. He had served previously in an administrative position at Falls High School. He lives in International Falls ... Annie Woog is an event planner and coordinator for the Crosslake Chamber of Commerce. She also has a painting studio in her Breezy Point home, which she shares with her three sons.

1996 Susan Nokleby was honored as the Minnesota School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the School Nurse Organization of Minnesota. A nurse for Bemidji schools for the past eight years, she supervises staff that serves 6,000 students in eight public and three parochial schools as well as six additional special programs. Besides her work, she is active in community affairs by serving on the Bemidji Diabetes Advisory Board, Dental Access Clinic Advisory Board, the Beltrami County Child Protection Team, and the Rural AIDS Action Network in the Bemidji area. She lives in Bemidji ... Jennifer (Nygard) Roberts recently celebrated her ten-year anniversary working for Sysco Corporation, a national food distribution company. She and her husband, Jack, live in St. Paul with a young daughter ... David Kobilka is teaching earth science at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, where he lives.

1994 Melanie (Yarrington) Rice changed the name of her business to reflect the broad range of services she has been providing clients since 2004. Formerly known as Melanie Rice Web Design, the agency is now Rice Creative Services with support for web site development, domain name registration, photography, and print media. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Walker, where the business is based ... Tiffany (Lemoine) Fankhanel and her husband, Jim, recently acquired Heartland Family Ford in Park Rapids, which they will relocate to their Park Rapids Chrysler Center. They also operate the Bemidji Chrysler Center and Honda of Bemidji, where the couple lives ... Brad Kennett is the new principal of Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls. Hired 16 years ago as the district's head hockey coach and an elementary physical education teacher, Kennett was the dean of students and athletic director prior to assuming his new post. He and his wife, Kris Johnson-Kennett, have two sons.

1993 Gretchen (Peterson) Halverson is working on a doctorate in leadership through the School of Education at the University of St. Thomas. The recipient of a master's in social

work from New York University, Halverson worked part time with the Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Social Workers while staying at home with young twin daughters. She also co-chairs Social Work Day at the Capitol in St. Paul, one of the largest social work lobbying events in the country, and sings with the Exultate Chamber Choir. She resides in St. Louis Park with her husband, Christopher, and their family ... Todd Dahl will seek a second term as Crow Wing County sheriff. Dahl was first hired in the Sheriff's Department in 1987 and served as a supervisor for 15 years prior to his election as sheriff in 2006. A recent graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, Dahl and his wife, Sue, live in Brainerd with their two children.

1992 Mary Hayes and her husband, Duane, were honored by the University of Minnesota Extension Service as the 2009 Ag Producers for Clearwater County. The couple operates the Paradise Valley Buffalo Ranch, where they have grown their herd of buffalo to 100 since starting the ranch in 1981. Mary is also in her 30th year of teaching at Bagley Elementary School. The couple has three grown children ... Chad Erdman is a social worker and case manager for Polk County Social Services. He has more than 18 years of experience working with the developmentally disabled population. Erdman and his wife, Jennifer, live in Crookston ... Michelle Nelson, a special education teacher at Washington Elementary School in Hibbing, will be among educators across the state vying for the 2010 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award. A veteran of 18 years in the classroom, Nelson joined the Hibbing district in 1999 and served special education students at all levels before focusing on K-2 students for the past five years. She makes her home in Hibbing ... Dr. Chad Schmidt is the new director of research and evaluation for Edina Public Schools. He previously worked with district principals, teachers, and staff to access, interpret, and analyze student learning data. He and his wife, Leanne (Palmer, '90), live in South St. Paul.

1991 Dr. Martha (Vondrka) Lystad received a doctorate in nursing through the University of North Dakota. She previously had earned a master's degree as a nurse practitioner through South Dakota State University. She has worked at the Greenbush Community Clinic since 2002 and is affiliated with the United States Army Reserve. She and her husband, Carter Novacek, live in Roseau with their three children.

1990 SharRay Feickert has retired as CEO of the Lakewood Health Center, which includes a hospital, clinic, care center, and nursing services in Baudette. Following nursing stints in Hawaii, the state of Washington, and the Twin Cities, she became the director of nursing at Lakewood in 1978 and, a few years later, was named assistant administrator before assuming the CEO position. She and her husband, Larry, also a retired hospital administrator, have six adult children and eight grandkids. The couple lives in Baudette ... Gerald White of Deer River provided the guest address at the fifth annual Honors and Recognition Banquet in Walker. White is the director of Indian Education at the Deer River

(Continued on page 28)

(continued from page 27)

School ... **Roberta Lord** has opened the daycare business, Birdie's Nest, near her hometown of Cass Lake. She operates the center, which has the capacity for 14 children, with her daughter.

1989 **Greg Benedict** is the Hibbing Police Department resource officer at the Hibbing High School. A patrol officer in the department for the past five years, Benedict will work with school administrators, counselors, parents, social workers, and county officials to address a variety of issues students face due to social or behavioral problems. He is the father of three boys and lives in Hibbing ... **Roy C. Booth** announced that his one-act comedy *Rodrigo Gets the Postmodern Blues* will be printed by Heuer Publishing of Cedar Rapids, IA. The play, which was first presented on the Black Box stage at BSU, is his 48th to be published and the fifth distributed by Heuer. Booth, who recently read from his works at DreamHaven Books in Minneapolis, also had his trilogy of one-act plays, *Theatre of the Macabre*, reviewed in *Shroud Magazine*. He operates Roy's Comics and Games in Bemidji and lives in Hibbing with his wife, Cynthia.

1988 **Jacqueline Frost-Hodry** is a school counselor with the Dakota Prairie School District in Petersburg, ND. She and her husband, Michael, live in Lankin, ND, with their young child ... **Gary Pearson** of Wadena was appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty to the state's Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board. Pearson is director of outstate ambulance operations and support for North Memorial Ambulance Service, which encompasses eight ambulance regions and 17 bases. He also is a member of the Minnesota State Trauma Advisory Council, the Minnesota Ambulance Association Board, and the Minnesota State Stroke Committee. He holds a master's degree from St. Scholastica where he is an adjunct professor in their management program ... **James Hecimovich** is the K-6 principal of Kingsland Public Schools in Spring Valley and holds the rank of Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. While serving as principal, he has been deployed twice: the first after 9-11 in the United States and again in 2004 to Kuwait. He is the father of two grown children and lives in Brownsdale with his wife, Heidi.

1987 **Sally (Moberg) Kerbaugh** is teaching first grade at Bendix Elementary School in Annandale. She previously taught at Annandale Middle School, Maple Lake Elementary School, and Southview Elementary in Waconia. She and her husband, Scot, moved to Annandale with their two children in 2007.

1986 **Brian Maciej** is president of Lime Valley Advertising, a full service agency located in Mankato. Lime Valley received two Service Industry Advertising Awards for communication excellence in the past year for producing the 2009 City of Mankato calendar and the Wow! Family Entertainment Center flagship brochure. The company has been honored for six consecutive years by the service industry through national competition that recognizes providers for their contributions to marketing and advertising. Maciej lives in Mankato.

1985 **Scott Bergman** teaches math in the Sauk Centre school district while also serving as head girls' basketball coach and assistant baseball coach. He and his wife, Roxanne, live in Sauk Centre and have one college-aged daughter.

1984 **Cindy Reuther** of St. Paul is the recipient of the Dream Maker Award presented by the Ann Bancroft Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports girls and women in realizing their potential. Reuther founded the Laura Jeffrey Academy in 2007, the only girl-focused charter school in Minnesota. The middle school, located in South Minneapolis, enrolls 150 girls for curriculum that includes arts, science, technology, math, and engineering. Prior to founding the school, Reuther was an organizational development consultant working with charter schools ... **Barb (Goehring) Stoflet** of Minnetonka was one of two Minnesota teachers honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching during ceremonies last January in the White House. Stoflet, who was also selected to introduce President Obama during the ceremony, has taught for more than 23 years, the past two on the sixth-grade level at Gatewood Elementary School in the Hopkins school district. She was among the 100 recipients of the award, which is the nation's highest honor for teaching in those fields.

1983 **Mary Paskvan** was named the Walker-Hacksack-Akeley Education Association Teacher of the Year for 2008-09. Paskvan has taught students in the second, third, and fourth grades since starting at WHA in 1989. She and her husband, Chris, have two sons and live in Akeley ... **Gregg Waldon** has been named chief financial officer of RedBrick Health, a Minnesota-based technology startup focused on reducing the health care costs of employers. Waldon has 25 years of experience in finance and accounting, including assignments as senior vice president and CFO of Soft Brands, a software provider for the manufacturing and hospitality industries. Waldon lives in Eden Prairie with his wife, **Karen (Brom, '87)**.

1982 **Ed LaTendresse** has been named a Titan of Taconite, an honor bestowed upon individuals who make significant contributions to the community of Hibbing. The vice president and general manager at Hibbing Taconite Company, LaTendresse is the first recipient of the award to emerge from the taconite industry since the tradition began in 1962. Other recipients were named from businesses, education, and service industries. The current chair of the Iron Mining Association, LaTendresse joined Hibbing Taconite shortly after graduation and served the company in 11 capacities before assuming his current post in 2005. An active community member, he has served the Hibbing School Board for four terms. He and his wife, Gayle, make Hibbing their home.

1981 **Dr. Randy Refsland** recently received a doctorate in educational leadership from Edgewood College in Madison, WI. He currently serves as superintendent of the Waupun Area

School District in Waupun, WI. He lives in Milton, WI, with his wife, **Elaine Bodven-Refsland ('83)**, who just completed her 21st year as a counselor for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections ... **Darlene (Wagner) Kersting** joined Lakewood Bank in Baxter as a residential loan originator. A CPA, she has more than 15 years experience in residential lending.

1980 **Robert Anderson** will be the Oneida Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, a five-year appointment that starts in fall 2010. Anderson is an associate professor at the University of Washington School of Law, where he directs the Native American Law Center. A widely-published academician, Anderson also served as a senior staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, an associate solicitor for Indian affairs in the U.S. Department of Interior, a counselor for the Secretary of Interior from 1997 to 2001, and a co-leader for the Department of the Interior Agency Review for President Obama's transition team. He lives in Seattle, WA ... **Randy Wilson** has announced he will be seeking a seat as a Republican in District 18 of the Minnesota Senate. Wilson has been the Glencoe mayor since 2005 and previously was a city council member from 1999 to 2002. He is a commercial property owner in the city, serves as a substitute teacher, and is an instructor for homebound students. He and his wife, **Kay (Warner, '82)**, live in Glencoe and have two children and one grandchild ... **Terry Ogorek** has retired as the head coach of Kittson County Central's football team. Heading the program for 30 years, he compiled a 207-92 career record and won two state championships. He lives in Hallock ... **Jerry Ness** is the superintendent of Fergus Falls schools. His educational experience includes serving as superintendent of West Central Area Schools in Barrett for 15 years and teaching in Herman schools for 10 years. He and his spouse, **Karen (Krieger, '79)**, live in Fergus Falls.

1979 **Patty (Nagle) Ward** is teaching special education in the Bertha-Hewitt school district. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Bertha and have three adult children.

1978 **Bruce Phelps** serves as music minister at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton. The former choral music director at Anoka High School and founder of the Two River Chorale, he combined his current choir for a fall concert with those from St. Philip's Lutheran Church, led by his daughter, and from the United Methodist Church of Anoka, directed by his son. Phelps lives in St. Paul with his wife, Candi ... **Michele Leonhart** has been nominated by President Obama to be the Administrator of Drug Enforcement with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Leonhart has over 30 years experience in law enforcement. She is married to Gene Johns and lives in Arlington, VA ... **Mike DeLong** performed the children's play, *The Secret Garden*, in Mequon, WI. DeLong played the role of a cantankerous old gardener in the production presented by the Acacia Theatre Group, a Wisconsin-based professional theater group that integrates art and Christian values. A pastor, DeLong previously taught English and performed in professional summer stock and independent films. He and his wife, **Susan (Lahn, '79)**, live in Brookfield, WI ... **Pamela (Fladeland) Rodriguez** has been named

president of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), an Illinois criminal justice advocacy and service organization. Rodriguez has served TASC in a variety of capacities since 1982, most recently as executive vice president. She will oversee a budget of \$20 million and a staff of 335 across 12 regional offices in Illinois. TASC advocates at state and federal levels for drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders. She lives in Oak Grove Village, IL.

1977 **Diane (Lepinski) Sharpe** is in her final year of teaching English at Bemidji High School. She and her husband, **Guy ('81)**, live in Laporte. They have two children and three grandchildren ... **Taunja (Basaard) Meers** is approaching her 25th year as a social worker at St. Cloud Hospital. She and her husband, **Kyler**, will have a spring filled with graduations as their oldest child receives a master's degree, their middle one earns a bachelor's degree, and their youngest graduates from high school. The family lives in Cold Spring.

1976 **Brad Hagen** of Buffalo is the director of choral activities at Delano High School.

1975 **Trudy (Kocinski) Rautio** was selected by *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* as the CFO of the Year for a large private company in the Twin Cities. Rautio is the chief financial officer for Carlson Companies and lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Kevin ... **Charles Scanlon** was named the ESPN RISE High School Coach of the Year and the Division I High School Boys' Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Scanlon led his Apple Valley team to a perfect 24-0 record this year. The team won its eighth state title, finishing as the fifth-ranked team in the country. Scanlon holds a state record with 518 wins in 34 years of coaching soccer. He and his wife, **Barbara ('74)**, live in St. Paul ... **Patricia (MacDonald) Almos** will be retiring in June following a 33-year career in education, the last 28 at the elementary school in Hinckley, where she resides with her husband, **Jack ('74)** ... **Edward J. Coyle** will retire this spring after a 32-year career of teaching social studies, health, and physical education at Kelliher High School. During his tenure, he also coached football and was the Knowledge Bowl advisor for almost 20 years. He has two adult children and lives in Blackduck ... **Dr. Gary Robinson** has retired after working 27 years as the only physician in New York Mills. Robinson, a former Navy corpsman with Vietnam and U.S. Navy Hospital experience, came to the Minnesota community after working two years in a Lansing, MI, clinic. Robinson continues to live in New York Mills with his wife, Pam.

1974 **Julie (Miller) Nagel** is a social worker with the Kandiyohi County Family Services Department. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have found life interesting and challenging with two children attending college at the same time. They live in Willmar ... **Nadine (Nordquist) Berg** performed at the Christmas meeting of the American Association of University Women in Hibbing. A singer and pianist, she teaches private voice and piano lessons and is the accompanist for the Hibbing High School choirs. She and her husband, Roy, reside in Hibbing ... **Gary**

Dahlberg was recognized by the Great Polar Football Alliance Conference for his contributions to football. A physical education teacher, Dahlberg retired in 2006 after serving since 1984 as the assistant coach at Deer River High School, where the team won 11 conference championships and 10 section titles. He and his wife, Tara, make their home in Cohasset.

1971 **Tyrone Hanson** has been named the Herman-Norcross Teacher of the Year. A music educator, Hanson has been at Herman-Norcross for 10 years and has prior teaching experience in Hoffman-Kensington, West Central Area Schools, and Greenbush. He lives in Hoffman with his wife, Shirley (Michael, '72).

1970 **Jim Meyer** will soon join his wife, Judy, in retirement after spending 39 years as an educator in the Rosemount School District. His wife recently retired after a 35-year career in nursing. The couple resides in Rosemount.

1967 **Sheryl (Ojakangas) Steele** is an LPGA teaching golf pro in Florida and Minnesota. She lives in Sanibel Island, FL, with her husband, Gene ... **Janice (Erickson) Brogger** of Le Sueur recently retired after 38 years of owning and operating a daycare business.

1966 **Andy Wells** spoke at a luncheon sponsored by the Northwest Minnesota Manufacturer's organization in Thief River Falls and later at an entrepreneurship seminar presented by the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. Wells is the chief executive officer of Wells Technology and lives in Bemidji with his wife, Carol.

1965 **Allen Rasmussen** has been appointed to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The board examines, licenses, and regulates dental health care professionals. Rasmussen is president emeritus of Rainy River Community College. He and his wife, Gail (Britten), reside in International Falls.

1961 **Bob Hazell** of Winnipeg, Canada, was a member of a men's softball fast pitch team voted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame. A successful basketball coach, he was elected to the Manitoba Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009 and had his senior men's team inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame for winning two national championships ... **Doug Dahl** participated in an athletic anniversary celebration held recently in Greenbush. Dahl, a former coach in the Greenbush-Middle River district, compiled 333 wins as the school's wrestling coach and is a member of the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame. He came to Greenbush, where he still lives, in 1964 after teaching in his native Canada.

1960 **Norman Hecimovich** was named the Presidential Volunteer of the Year winner and was also honored as the Minnesota Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Volunteer Award recipient. A retired educator and school principal, he spent over 42 years in the armed services and became ESGR chair for Minnesota's First Congressional District 15 years ago. He and his wife, Helen, live in Austin ... **Katherine (Johnson) and Keith ('58) Cariveau** find time in retirement to visit with their 10

grandchildren, travel, golf, garden, and volunteer. They have three grown children and reside in Livermore, CA.

1950 **Darrell Stave** has reduced his retirement activities after spending the past 21 years as a school volunteer and 11 years caring for injured or orphaned birds for the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He decided instead to remain at home in Baxter, keeping warm with his wife, Elizabeth. **HORIZONS**

IN MEMORIAM

Irene (Simons) Allen '36, Bemidji, MN
Arthur W. Anderson '51, Baudette, MN
Kathryn E. (Evans) Barks '49, Urbandale, IA
Vernon W. Becvar '76, Middleburg, FL
Calvin Bird, Sr. '02, Park Rapids, MN
Brett Bodway '86, Fargo, ND
Celeste Colson '60, Angle Inlet, MN
June M. (Rasley) DeWitt '70, Deer River, MN
Ruth E. (Skrutvold) Dreher '36, Northome, MN
Robert F. Farrell '54, Aitkin, MN
Thomas W. Finn '69, Grand Rapids, MN
Donald J. Fluke '61, Endwell, NY
Dr. Ronald Gearman (Faculty), White Bear Lake, MN
Richard F. Haberer '56, Park Rapids, MN
Valare L. (Sivertson) Hammer '51, Detroit Lakes, MN
Lucille E. Hanson '59, Wadena, MN
Laird R. Hensel '89, Bemidji, MN
Orville W. Jensen '53 & '55, Mankato, MN
Elizabeth I. (Erickson) Johnson '72, Henning, MN
Lee W. Johnson '85, Eveleth, MN
Donald E. Joslin '57, Bemidji, MN
Becky (Jackson) Kajmowicz '72, Thunder Bay, ON
Martin M. Kegg '76, Onamia, MN
Robert L. Kerzie '64, Chisholm, MN
James E. Kindsvater '81, White Bear Lake, MN
John J. Kovar '66, Longville, MN
William J. Lawrence '62, Bemidji, MN
Lonnie J. Lumley '74, Chesterfield, MI
Kent A. Maki '81, Britt, MN
Joseph A. Malone '78, Bemidji, MN
Jeanette M. Nelson '87, Grand Rapids, MN
Anton A. Oxta '64, Metamora, MI
Charles D. Patterson '50, Baton Rouge, LA
Joseph G. Proost '70, Minneapolis, MN
Norma D. (Cedar) Quaderer '70, Bemidji, MN
Clarice (Christenson) Smeby '44, McIntosh, MN
Claude D. Smootz '61, Esko, MN
Edna L. (Pearson) Stevens '42, Starbuck, MN
Wanda E. Westin '83, Staples, MN
Patrick Wippler '71, Saginaw, MN
John E. Wrolstad '62, Gulfport, MS



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Monday, June 21
Monday, July 12
Friday, July 30
Friday, August 6

Academic Advising and Registration

FRESHMEN	TRANSFER
Friday, June 18	Friday, June 25
Friday, July 23	Friday, July 23

CAMPUS Calendar

May Session May 12 - May 28

Summer Session I Begins June 7

Summer Session II Starts July 12

Fall Semester Begins August 24

Homecoming Weekend October 2-3
Beaver Block Party Evening street dance, October 2

Step into the Action!



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