

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2011

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION FOR
BSU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



THE BUSINESS OF GIVING BACK

*BSU alum sees potential in
those needing a second chance.*

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

HORIZONS

THIS ISSUE *Winter 2010*

HORIZONS is produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing, Alumni Association, and BSU Foundation at Bemidji State University. It is published three times per year and distributed free to BSU alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. Direct comments to horizons@bemidjistate.edu or 1-888-234-7794.

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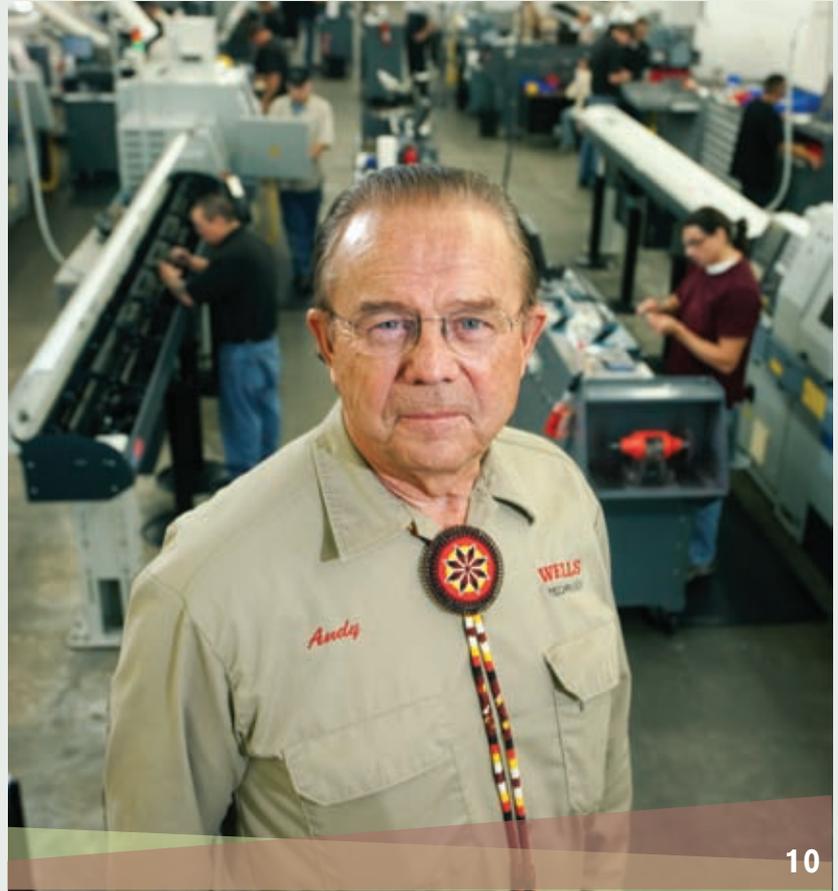
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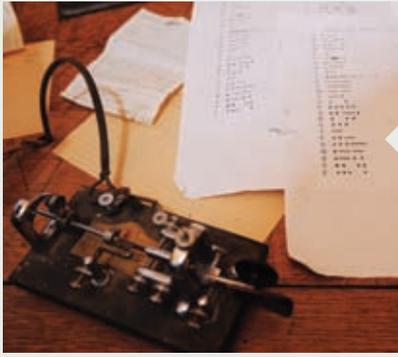
A successful inventor, manufacturer, and educator, BSU graduate Andy Wells launched Wells Academy to provide paid apprenticeship training and an avenue to jobs for those needing a second chance.

Editor's Note: *Horizons* has been given a design makeover with changes in type styles, photo placements, and page layouts. It's the first major re-design since introducing the magazine format in 2006. Let us know how you like the changes by emailing us at horizons@bemidjistate.edu or sharing your comments on BSU's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/BemidjiState>.



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FROM PRESIDENT R. HANSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of *Horizons* includes the BSU Foundation's annual report, which contains some very good news. In 2010, the foundation's assets grew to an all-time high of nearly \$14.9 million, with annual revenue reaching a record-setting \$3.4 million.

Such growth is more critical now than ever before. As you know, state funding levels in support of BSU are projected to continue declining. These dollars currently make up about 32 percent of Bemidji State's operating revenue. The majority of BSU's operational revenue stream, about 60 percent, comes from tuition, with another 8 percent derived from external funding, including donor gifts. We are committed to holding the line on tuition in the coming years, allowing BSU to remain accessible to a broad range of students. That means we must cultivate and grow outside funding sources.

As you'll see in the report's donor and recipient stories, scholarships and other gifts truly transform our students' lives, opening doors, creating opportunities, and fulfilling dreams that may have been unattainable otherwise. Please accept my sincere thanks to all of our generous alumni, donors, and friends — your gifts of time, talent, and funds provide fabulous support for our students. We promise to be good stewards of your gifts.

Other great news this fall included our enrollment. Our fall freshman class was the largest in years with approximately 860 students. Total enrollment reached more than 5,360 students, the largest in nearly 20 years. Faculty members continued to distinguish themselves. For example, Dr. Anton Treuer garnered state and national media coverage for his efforts to preserve the Ojibwe language. Our Fulbright scholar, Dr. Janice Haworth, began her teaching-research commitment in Guinea, West Africa. The BSU hockey teams, both members of the WCHA this season, moved to their new home at the Sanford Center, and the BSU soccer team made the conference playoffs.

These are but a few of the many successes experienced fall semester at Bemidji State University. The stories in *Horizons* reflect additional achievements.

Best wishes for the new year,

» 1 The *Butcher of Baraboo* performed

This fall, Bemidji State's theatre program presented *The Butcher of Baraboo*, a dark comedy by Chicago-based playwright Marisa Wegryzn, who attended the play's first performance and participated in a discussion session afterwards.

» 2 Wakonabo awarded Student of the Year honors

In October, the Minnesota Indian Education Association named Bemidji State junior Gabriel Wakonabo, an English major from Bemidji, the organization's 2010 Outstanding Post-Secondary Education Student of the Year. Starting BSU in 2000, Wakonabo spent six years with the Marines, serving two tours in Iraq and earning a Purple Heart before returning to the University in 2007 to complete his studies. He's active in the BSU Veterans Club, the Council of Indian Students, and the Student Senate. A



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campus coordinator for the Minnesota State University Student Association, he also helped found the Greater Bemidji Veterans Support Group.

» 3 Murphy essay published in new history book

History professor Dr. J. Thomas Murphy's essay, "To Sound My Trumpet: Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota, and the Rise of a National Identity," was published in *The State We're In: Reflections on Minnesota History*. The book, edited by Annette Atkins and Deborah L. Miller, features works by 24 Minnesota historians with the selections culled from more than 100 essays and other works written as part of the statewide celebration of Minnesota's 150th statehood anniversary. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society, the volume includes topics as varied as baseball at Native American boarding schools to memoirs of growing up in Marshall.

» 4 Art students exhibit at Neilson Place

BSU visual art students are showing works in a local art exhibit called "Pathways: The Art of Bemidji State University." The exhibit, which opened in early November and remains in place through January, is located at Neilson Place, a long-term care facility in Bemidji. The show, which features nearly 70 works by 35 different artists, includes first-time exhibitors, advanced students, and recent graduates who continue to show their work in the region.

» 5 Campus facility upgrades completed

New windows were installed in Bangsberg Hall this year as part of nearly \$4 million in campus-wide renovations and upgrades. Other completed projects included: an on-campus emergency alert system and secure-door access to the residence halls; upgrades for the

Treuer also was featured in a public television documentary, "First Speakers: Restoring the Ojibwe Language," that aired statewide in late November. Throughout the fall, he spoke at events, was interviewed by state and national media, and held book signings across the state.

President's Student Commission selected

BSU President Dr. Richard Hanson has named 14 students to the 2010-2011 President's Student Commission. This group suggests ways to improve the University by researching solutions to an issue identified by the president. This year, the commission is exploring the University's role in ensuring that students understand their chosen vocations and are employable when they graduate. The commission will also investigate how vocation and

Laurel House to go green

Plans are under way to renovate Bemidji State's Laurel House as a model residence for environmentally sustainable construction practices that could be replicated eventually in future residential projects. Once refurbished, the currently vacant house will be home once again to BSU honor students and serve as a live-in laboratory for reducing utility usage.

Bemidji State is working with MJ Architectural Studios, Zetah Construction, and Northwest Technical College on design plans and budget estimates.

The project aims to use renovation practices that reduce environmental impact while being practical and affordable. "We envision this project being a showpiece for the campus, community, businesses, and schools by featuring affordable green practices that anyone could implement," notes BSU sustainability coordinator Erika Bailey-Johnson. "The renovation will demonstrate practices for reducing impact on the environment, lowering operating costs, and saving money over the home's lifetime."

Some of the home's new features will include energy efficient windows, siding, lighting, and appliances. Finishes selected for floors and walls will also have no or low emissions from volatile organic chemicals, or VOCs. With water conservation in mind, the project will use rain barrels to collect water for irrigation and create resource-efficient landscaping. Local materials will be used as much as possible.

The Laurel House project will be a gold-level remodel, the highest designation in Minnesota GreenStar's certification program. The statewide residential building organization assists in creating a sustainable future in the construction industry.

For more information or to become involved in the project, please contact BSU's Sustainability Office at 218-755-2560.

AN MJ ARCHITECTURAL STUDIOS RENDERING.



» 3

» 4

» 5

» 6

Hobson Memorial Union elevator and for various campus freight elevators to meet new code requirements; installation of a new Bemidji Avenue LED marquee; replacement of the all-purpose floor in the Gillett Recreation and Fitness Center; a new roof for Hagg-Sauer Hall; and plumbing upgrades for the University's swimming pool.

» 6 Treuer's book a "Best Read" for 2010

Languages and ethnic studies professor Dr. Anton Treuer had his book, *Ojibwe in Minnesota*, named Minnesota's "Best Read for 2010" by The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. The book was released in March and was followed by four more books this fall, including *The Assassination of Hole in the Day* and *Aaniin Ekidong: Ojibwe Vocabulary Project*, which he co-edited. He also co-authored *Awesiinyensag: Dibaajimowinan Ji-gikino'amaageng* and *Indian Nations of North America*.

employability are tied to the overall BSU experience.

Nominations for commission membership were solicited in the fall from faculty, staff, and students. Commissioners must possess and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 and serve on the commission for one academic year.

BSU enrollment highest in two decades

Bemidji State's enrollment numbers for fall semester showed the largest gain in nearly two decades. Head count enrollment on the 30th day of classes was 5,365, a 3.8 percent increase over the fall 2009 figures, putting BSU on pace for its largest enrollment since a headcount of 5,393 in 1991. Fueling the increase was an 864-member freshman class, nearly five percent larger than the 2009 freshman class.

READ MORE ONLINE @ www.bemidjistate.edu/bsutoday

EARNING ACADEMIC HONORS»



Football lands three on All-NSIC first team

Brian Leonhardt, **Andrew Schultz**, and **Rob Wills** earned First-Team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) honors at the end of the 2010 season. Leonhardt, a junior tight end from Blaine, was second on the BSU team in receptions and receiving yards and scored three touchdowns. Schultz, a senior wide receiver from Grand Forks, ND, led the Beavers in catches and receiving yards while adding four touchdowns. Wills, a senior defensive end from Roseville, led BSU in tackles-for-loss and sacks. The trio headlined a group of 16 BSU football players earning All-NSIC honors this year.

In addition, Wills and junior safety **Brody Scheff** from Waconia were named to the Second-Team Daktronics, Inc. Super Region #3 defense.

The team finished 7-4 overall and tied for fifth in the NSIC with a 6-4 league mark.

Olson named Honorable-Mention All-NSIC

Baudette native **Nicole Olson**, a senior middle blocker on the BSU volleyball team, earned Honorable-Mention All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) honors for the second consecutive season. Leading the Beavers in kills, total attacks, hitting percentage, and blocks, she ranked among the conference's top 10 in kills and points per game.

Under first-year head coach Wayne Chadwick, Bemidji State recorded its best win total since 2003, going 12-16 overall with a 6-14 mark against the NSIC.



BRIAN LEONHARDT BRODY SCHEFF ALYSHA DOMIANO

Three Beavers earn Academic All-District laurels

Three BSU student-athletes earned spots on the ESPN College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Team this fall. All three were named to the District V Second Team for their respective sports. Academic All-District honorees must be starters or important reserves with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.30.

- Football: **Brian Leonhardt**, sophomore, tight end, Blaine
- Football: **Brody Scheff**, junior, safety, Waconia
- Soccer: **Alysha Domiano**, senior, defender, Dayton

Ellefsen, Domiano garner post-season soccer honors

Forward **Ashlee Ellefsen**, a senior from Hugo, and defender **Alysha Domiano**, a senior from Dayton, were the most decorated BSU soccer players of the highly successful 2010 season. Ellefsen was tabbed Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Offensive Player of the Year and was a Daktronics First-Team All-Central Region honoree. Domiano earned Second-Team All-NSIC honors and was a Second-Team All-Region selection. Both were also named to 2010 NSCAA/Performance Subaru All-Central Region teams, with Ellefsen earning a first-team spot and Domiano a second-team one. The duo guided BSU to a school-record 14 victories in 2010, which included a first-round NSIC playoff victory over Augustana. The team finished 14-4-1 overall and 9-3-1 in the NSIC.



ASHLEE ELLEFSEN

FALL SPORTS RECAPS

CROSS COUNTRY finished 10th at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Championships in November, led by a 10th-place individual finish by **Kristi Buerkle**, a senior from Stacy. Buerkle was BSU's lead finisher in every race this season ... Under first-year head coach Ekren Miller, **MEN'S GOLF** finished 10th in the fall portion of the NSIC Championships. **Justin Johnson**, a junior from Roseau, and **Jordan Priem**, a sophomore from Long Prairie, were BSU's leading individuals, tied for 23rd place overall. Johnson later won the Twin Cities Classic, shooting two-under-par in the 54-hole tournament ... **WOMEN'S GOLF** also finished 10th during the fall portion of the NSIC Championships. **Marissa Mackedanz**, a senior from Paynesville, paced the Beavers with a 177 to tie for 38th place. **Lindsay Morgan**, a sophomore from Crookston, was BSU's top finisher in the team's two events leading into the championships ... Both men's and women's golf wrap up the NSIC Championships during the spring portion of the tournament in April.

BEAVERS EXCEL ACADEMICALLY

Bemidji State had 31 student-athletes selected to the 2010 Fall Academic All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Team, including 12 student-athletes from football, nine from women's soccer, and five from each of the women's cross country and volleyball teams.

THE BUSINESS OF **GIVING** BACK

ANDY WELLS WITH APPRENTICE LARRY STILLDAY



In the corner of his shop, Andy Wells, inventor and manufacturer, has a pile of stuff that doesn't work. Yet, the inventor and founder of Wells Technology in Bemidji doesn't let failed inventions phase him.

"Among a stack full of stuff that doesn't work, I've got one that does, and that one is a product of all the others that failed," says the 1969 Bemidji State graduate. "That's what I keep doing — moving forward, looking for ways to make things better, and letting go of the past."

His unflappable spirit has helped grow Wells Technology from a 1989 start-up with \$1,800 in seed money to a successful manufacturer of industrial tools and fasteners. The company, whose clients include Coca-Cola, Boeing, and Oshkosh, now generates about \$54 million in annual revenues.

Wells also holds patents for some of his inventions. Among his creations are the Airblade, an ergonomic, air-powered knife for reducing carpal tunnel injury, and the Stir-Matic, an ergonomic food mixing aid.

For Wells, however, the work he does for his customers, employees, and the community marks his success more than the patents or his company's bottom line.

{ continued on next page } ►



Bottom left: Wells' employee and former apprentice John Fairbanks. Below: President Barack Obama speaks directly with Andy Wells at a White House reception following a ceremony honoring 2009 National Small Business Award Winners. Bottom right: Wells on the manufacturing floor at Wells Technology.



{ continued from page 5 }

“That’s always been my focus, to try to create good for customers in terms of business and then share the rewards with the community,” he says. “It seems to me whenever we help our community in some way, we strengthen the links in the chain of American society, and that makes America stronger.”

EARLY LESSONS

Growing up on a farm on the Red Lake Reservation, Wells’ family struggled to make ends meet. Poor as they were — his family of four shared a 240-square-foot home — he learned at an early age the importance of community and helping without the expectation of being rewarded.

“I watched my father go out and help other people in the neighborhood. He would say, ‘There’s always a way it comes back,’” says Wells. “I feel the same way. It’s what you do for other people that really counts and adds value to our society and world.”

When Wells went to college at the urging of his first employer, he found a friendly environment at Bemidji State that broadened his perspective.

“Coming from a reservation, we’re not exposed to the bigger world; there’s not a lot of awareness of what the country or

world is like,” says Wells, who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in industrial technology and physics. “The college played an important role to build not only a background in knowledge and awareness, but also social structure, in interacting with people.”

These early lessons stayed with Wells, and, as his company became increasingly successful, he began to think about how he could give back.

“As you get older, you start thinking more about the value we really bring to our community and country,” he says. “And the value really is in helping other people.”

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Observing the community, Wells saw a problem: Far too many bright, capable men and women were dropping out of school. In typical inventor fashion, Wells devised a solution to reach out to those who may have stumbled or failed, and offer them a much needed second chance.

In 2005, he founded the Wells Academy, a non-profit organization providing technical training through paid apprenticeships. Graduates of the academy — some arriving at the school after time spent in jail and

others coming from impoverished or rough backgrounds — advance to work at Wells Technology or other manufacturing companies around the country.

“I’m not afraid of failure because I have a lot of practice at that,” says Wells. “That’s the same with people. I’m not so concerned about the past as I am the future, the potential they have and how they want to use it. I know there are going to be some failures, both in the past and in the future, but I’m willing to look past the failures to find the successes.”

Although the program trains apprentices from all backgrounds, Wells has a special relationship with the American Indian community, where unemployment can reach as high as 70 percent in some areas.

“Because I’m Native American, I understand those who come from that culture in terms of their values and some of the challenges they have to overcome,” he explains. “I don’t look at them and think they’re not capable; I actually see opportunity. I just see they have not had the chance to really discover their true potential.”

To date, the academy has graduated 16 students, and Wells has found his own reward in seeing the disadvantaged succeed. “It’s fun to develop a successful program where those who don’t fit into



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

public education may find something here that will fit for them," he says.

Wells isn't the kind of person or boss who is eager to laud his own achievements. He sees himself on equal footing with his employees, whom he views as working *with* him rather than *for* him.

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL

Despite his modesty, he has garnered state and national recognition for his success. In 2009, the United States Small Business Administration recognized him as one of the nation's outstanding small-business persons. He traveled to Washington, DC, to accept his award.

On the afternoon of May 19, Wells and the other honorees arrived at the White House where they expected to hear a senator or official speak to them. After passing through security, a volunteer escorted Wells to the East Room ahead of the group and showed him to his reserved, front-row seat.

"In just a couple minutes, everybody else came in," says Wells. "We heard this voice over the public address system announcing, 'Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.' And out comes President Obama from one of the side

doors. It was really awesome. I was standing just four feet away from him."

During his remarks, the President spoke directly to Wells, praising him for a job well done and for his business success. After his speech, President Obama shook Wells' hand and thanked him for helping customers, growing his business, and remembering the community from which he came.

"While I was standing there I thought to myself, I'm that guy who was a kid on the Indian reservation, trapping out in the swamp and cutting wood to earn enough money to help our family buy clothes, and now here I am talking to the most powerful person in the world," recalls Wells.

While the presidential visit was certainly a career highlight for Wells, he still defines success in terms of the good he can do for others.

"We're able to help people have employment, so they can provide with dignity for their families and a sense of purpose for themselves," he says. "It's a great honor to still be able to do that at 67 years old and find each day a little bit more enjoyable because of this opportunity to help others." ■

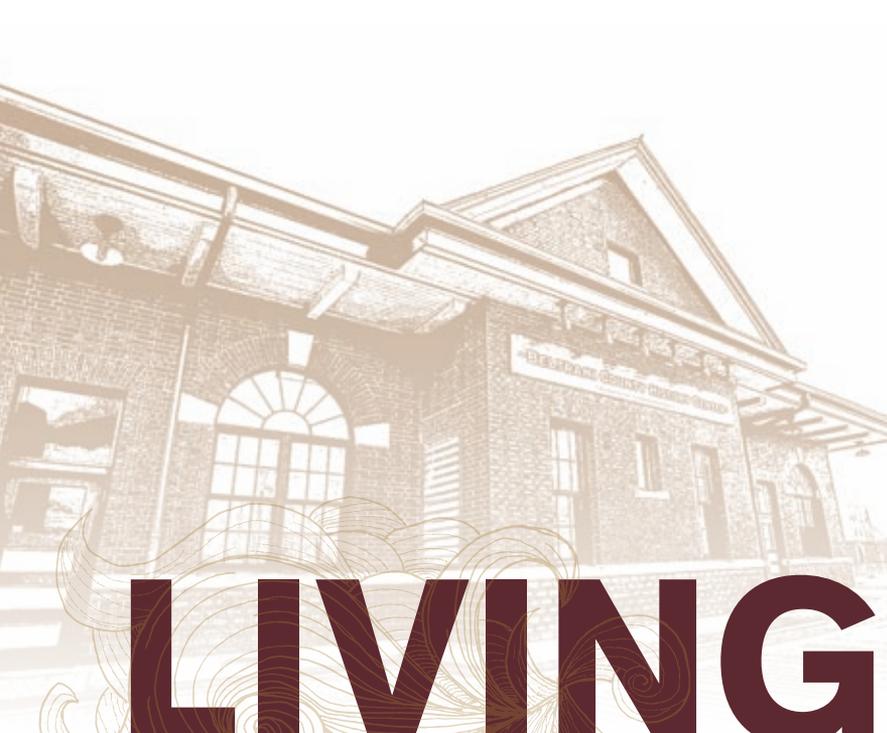
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ANDY WELLS

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GIVING  Back



LIVING HISTORY

Northern Minnesota's History Comes to Life

“We have people come here from the Smithsonian and the Minnesota Historical Society, and they’re just in awe of what we’ve done on our shoestring budget.”

PRESERVING THE PAST

Fourteen years after taking over as director of the Beltrami County Historical Society, Wanda Hoyum plays a pivotal role in bringing the county’s history to life every day.

“We have people come here from the Smithsonian and the Minnesota Historical Society, and they’re just in awe of what we’ve done on our shoestring budget. You won’t find any other building, any other caliber of exhibits anywhere from here to the Canadian border,” says Hoyum, a 1996 Bemidji State mass communication graduate.

As the historical society’s sole full-time employee, Hoyum is responsible for marketing, research, fundraising, community outreach, facility coordination, and crafting the history center’s newsletter. Her hard work has helped build the Beltrami County Historical Society into one of the premier organizations of its kind in northwest Minnesota.

“I really am an anomaly in my field. Most historical society directors have degrees in history,” she says. “My background really has paid off here for me, the society, and the board because I’m able to wear all those hats.”

Her budget may be of shoestring proportion — especially in this economy — but Hoyum’s enthusiasm for history is golden. With the help of a dedicated cadre of volunteers, a single part-time employee, and up to two BSU interns per semester, Hoyum hosts a wealth of educational events, exhibits, and programs throughout the year, including those that bring history to the streets.

“We really want to preserve our history, and then disseminate that information to the public in an educational but entertaining way,” she says. “I think that’s very important to take history outside of this building and go to the public, go to the community.”

Hoyum arranges popular historic downtown and cemetery tours, relying on her writing background to create scripts that volunteers perform at predetermined stops. “It’s a great way to learn about history,” says Hoyum, who most recently teamed up with local RP Broadcasting manager Dan Voss to host the Ox Trot Historic Pub Crawl.

“The Ox Trot was an embellishment of the history tours and the cemetery walk, but this time we added liquor,” she says. “Oh my goodness, what a difference.”



L-R: Historical Society displays. Bottom: Hoyum with BSU intern Cassandra Anderson.



like it. Hoyum made up her mind quickly. "I absolutely loved it," she says. "I was so excited that when I went home I told my husband we absolutely had to come up with the money so I could graduate in four years, and that's what happened."

FROM STUDENT TO HISTORICAL PRESERVATIONIST

The connections Hoyum made during the course of her four years at BSU began to open doors for her after graduation. "I worked for MPR in Bemidji for almost two years, and the day I graduated, their newscaster went on maternity leave. They asked me to run this office for six weeks," she says. "It seems to be my life story, people just give me the keys to their doors."

The next key Hoyum received was certainly for a fixer-upper. She took over as part-time director of the Beltrami County Historical Society in 1996, and – with her recently minted degree in hand – immediately began envisioning changes.

For starters, the historical society was located seven miles out of town on county fairgrounds property. Also, the board had little visibility with the city, county, or the public it aimed to serve.

Hoyum used her classroom marketing experience, writing ability, and media contacts to develop a network of support for her first priority – finding the historical society a new home.

When Hoyum learned downtown's Great Northern Depot was about to be demolished, she rallied her board and the community to raise the \$2.4 million needed to restore and preserve the structure. "This building is really significant," she says. "It's the last depot built by James J. Hill. It's also one of 12 sites in Beltrami County on the National Register of Historic Places."

The depot, located on Minnesota Avenue not far from Bemidji's famous statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox, became the new home of the Beltrami County Historical Society and History Center in 2001, making it a central player in the revitalization of downtown Bemidji.

"We're a big part of the economic development of this county," says Hoyum. "We are a tourist destination."

LASTING LINKS TO BSU

Hoyum, who currently sits on BSU's mass communication advisory board, continually draws on the connections she made during her college days and readily credits her education for her current success.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for my great education at BSU and the wonderful professors that I worked with," she says, recalling how professors guided and pushed her to strive for more throughout her time on campus. It's a prime reason she continues being involved with her alma mater.

Hoyum also gives back through an internship program for current BSU students that she created immediately after joining the historical society. "It's a win-win situation," she says of the arrangement, which brings much needed help to the center while providing priceless experiences for the undergraduates.

"I always tell them, 'Stick with me, I'll make you famous.'"

In fact, several of Hoyum's interns have gone on to accept director or administrative positions at historical societies across the country. Perhaps not making them famous, she surely has expanded the likelihood that other areas of the country will also experience the thrill of history coming to life. ■

One hundred pub-crawlers arrived on the evening of September 24 to sample downtown's finest brews and delectables while learning about the historical significance of each stop. In the end, the Ox Trot raised \$2,500 for the historical society, and plans are to make it an annual event.

With each event, Hoyum aims to bring the history of Beltrami County to life—whether that means delving into past centuries or simply reflecting on what happened last week. "People have a tendency to forget that today is history," she says. "The tagline I use for everything here is, 'Today is a page in tomorrow's history books.'"

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Hoyum's own career path is as telling as the local historical facts she uncovers. When she walked into her first class at Bemidji State, she already had a degree in agriculture, a husband, a 40-acre hobby farm, and a career comprised of odd jobs she'd accepted since moving to Bemidji in 1982.

She readily admits that she wasn't certain if returning to school was for her. "I was an older than average student, and I really did not want to go back to school," says Hoyum. "My husband had gone back to school, and he just kept after me."

She finally agreed to try BSU for a couple days, but warned she'd quit if she didn't

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BRINGING DARKNESS TO LIGHT

PROFESSOR'S LIFETIME OF WORK ADDRESSES COMPLEXITIES OF SEXUAL ABUSE



Nursing professor Dr. Riki Scheela finds truth in the words of 19th century poet Victor Hugo: "If the soul is left in darkness, sins

will be committed. The guilty one is not he who commits the sin, but he who causes the darkness."

As an expert on sexual abuse and the treatment of adult male sexual offenders, she has witnessed the soul's darkness. While she makes no excuses for the atrocities committed by sexual offenders, she also believes in the transformative power of healing.

"The people who are kind of lost souls are the people who call out to me," notes Scheela as she explains this aspect of her career. "I've always wanted to advocate for the people who are considered the worst of the worst."

Yet, Scheela didn't set out to be a specialist in sexual abuse. She started her career

with a string of traditional nursing roles: medical surgical nurse, school nurse, public health nurse, and hospital in-service director. Her goal, though, was also to become a teacher. "I've always wanted to teach," says Scheela.

In 1983, she got her chance when Bemidji State University was starting its nursing program. Scheela joined the faculty and went to work on her second master's degree, this one in psychiatric and mental health nursing. A year later, she also joined a mental health center in Bemidji where she continues to work as a part-time therapist for sex offenders.

Her life reflects the vastness of career options possible for nurses today. Scheela has conducted extensive research on the treatment of sex offenders, their victims, and families as well as given dozens of presentations worldwide. She also teaches on the topic. One of the most popular BSU courses is an elective she offers on sexual abuse. Attracting students from a variety of fields, the course always has a waiting list,



DR. RIKI SCHEELA AND PHOTO OF "HER" SHOESHINE BOYS.

and those taking the class are cautioned about the weighty subject matter.

Scheela shares her experiences with undergraduates to help them understand and appreciate the complexities of issues. "My goal in the sexual abuse course is not to convince students of any political view or present simplistic solutions that won't work," says Scheela. "When we look at case studies, most students come away with more questions than answers."

Scheela describes her work with sexual offenders as a privilege, although she knows that many may be repulsed by the idea. She, too, felt trepidation when first agreeing to the work. Those fears soon gave way to compassion, however, during her first group session as one man described the horrendous abuse he had suffered as a child and another tearfully read an apology he'd written to his victim.

"Working with sex offenders is a way of making the community safer," explains

out of the damaged parts" to rebuild themselves. "It's a difficult and painful process, and some choose to go to prison rather than do the work," notes Scheela. Fewer than five percent of the offenders who successfully complete the program become repeat offenders.

When she retires from BSU this spring, Scheela will leave behind 28 years of teaching. Having chaired the BSU nursing department from 1999 to 2007, she helped the program blossom from a single, two-year RN-to-baccalaureate completion option to one that now includes a four-year degree track as well. Until recently, the program had a faculty of four; today it has 13 faculty members and more than 400 pre-nursing and nursing students.

Scheela. "They don't want to hurt someone again, and so many of them have been abused themselves. They've done terrible things, but they're not terrible people."

Her "remodeling" approach to treatment, in which offenders take responsibility for their actions and develop new ways of being, has become a model of effectiveness. Some offenders describe treatment as "a ripping

Of all her experiences, one of the most rewarding was a nine-month sabbatical working with street children in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 1998. There she became close to six shoeshine boys, sharing meals with them and learning about their lives. The boys, who left nearby villages, lived a meager existence so they could send money to support their families.

She tried without success to find them on a return trip to Vietnam last year. She plans to try again. Their smiling faces beam at her from a framed snapshot in her office, and they're always close to her heart. "What impressed me was their resilience," says Scheela. "They could be happy with so little, and they took care of one another. They were like my children, and I'd give anything to find them."

For now, Scheela is grateful for career opportunities that enabled her to teach at BSU, work with sexual offenders, travel, and become part of the lives, for a short time, of the shoeshine boys. "I've just been so lucky that so much ties together — to practice, to teach, and to do research," says Scheela. "It's been a wonderful experience." ■

"Working with sex offenders is a way of making the community safer," explains Scheela. "They don't want to hurt someone again, and so many of them have been abused themselves. They've done terrible things, but they're not terrible people."

POST A COMMENT
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Crystal (Middendorf) Rayamajhi came to Bemidji State University to study psychology and eventually become a marriage counselor. That plan was diverted after she took an environmental studies course. She soon realized that she'd rather help mend the earth than counsel couples.

The Sauk Centre native takes a practical approach to environmental sustainability. Instead of dwelling on daunting statistics, she focuses on helping people take action. "Even if the human population fails, I think life will rebound," reflects Rayamajhi, an honors student who will graduate in May with a double major in psychology and environmental studies with an emphasis in policy and planning. "What we need to ask is: 'What kind of society do we want to have right now?'"

Her action-oriented mindset produces results. President of the Students for the Environment as a sophomore, she mobilized support for a student fee to fund campus environmental initiatives such as reducing campus energy consumption and increasing recycling efforts. Recently, as part of her work for the BSU Sustainability Office, she launched a reusable bottle campaign to install filtered water stations on campus for easy refills. She also organized a campus free store where donated household items are recycled and given at no charge to students who need them.

"We can preach that it's good to be green, but we also need to give people opportunities to change behavior," she says of her initiatives.

Rayamajhi has been a peer academic counselor, dance instructor, Festival of Nations leader, participant in the dance follies, and fan of kayaking, ice climbing, and hiking in the Grand Canyon through the Outdoor Program Center.

Last May, she married Manoj Rayamajhi, a BSU nursing student from Nepal. After a December trip to Nepal, she is concentrating on her honors thesis — the historical roots of environmental values — and finding a job.

"No matter what Crystal does, she will become a leader in her community," says Erika Bailey-Johnson, Bemidji State's sustainability coordinator. "Her enthusiasm is contagious."

Rayamajhi's double major appears to match perfectly with her goal of helping mend the earth. "I want to work on things that make long-term changes in sustainability, things that make people hopeful," she says. "There's a lot of potential out there."

Daniel Men Daniel Men's father nicknamed him "Firecracker," because he was always burning with curiosity. Men wanted to know how things worked — his bicycle, his father's watch, a camera flash, and more. He would take them apart then put them together.

"Fortunately, I was able to get my bicycle together again," quips Men, who, still curious about how things work, acknowledges his love of learning.

"I like to ask questions, find solutions, or just to sit quiet and observe things around me."

In December, he graduated from Bemidji State University with a bachelor's degree in prototype engineering technology and a minor in industrial technology. He had already completed a model-making program offered collaboratively with Northwest Technical College in Bemidji.

In January, he joins Radio Flyer in Chicago as a prototype engineer. As a summer intern at the legendary toy manufacturer, he built a prototype for a Walmart tricycle and enjoyed watching kids test new products. "I want to build products that make people happy. That's my goal," says Men.

As a child, Men grew up above a camera studio in Hong Kong. His father, a businessman, moved the family to Taiwan, China, the Philippines, and eventually to Montclair, CA,



CRYSTAL RAYAMAJHI

SENIORS TO WATCH

when Men was 16 years old. Lacking confidence in English, Men turned to photography, escaping to the high school darkroom where he didn't have to speak.

After graduating from the Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa, he joined a photography company, and six years later started a photography and graphic design firm with a friend. Through his business, he helped Chinese manufacturers connect with U.S. and Italian companies. One manufacturer offered him a job in product design, but Men wanted more knowledge. That's when he decided to attend BSU, where he could pursue a bachelor's degree in prototype engineering technology.

"It's been worth it," Men says of his decision. "The instructors are very experienced, and we have a lot of machines that are very advanced. This will be good for my career."

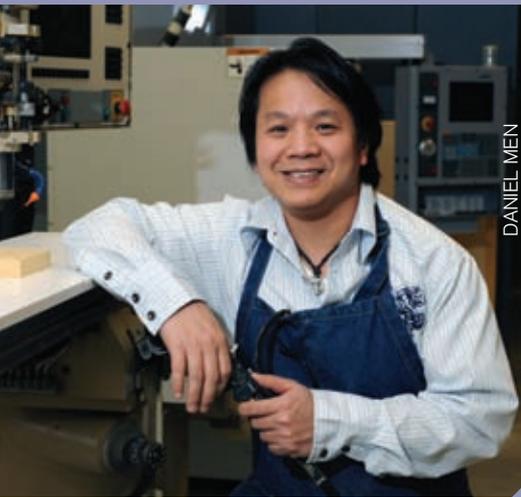
While at BSU, Men worked as an industrial tech lab supervisor and with KBSU-TV. He also learned to downhill ski, scuba dive, and kayak. He is grateful for the support of his family and his professors, especially the personal time many of them spent sharing their expertise.

"He is a good student, a nice fellow, and eager to learn," says Dr. Gerald Nestel, technological studies professor.

For Men, who views work as play, his BSU education creates new possibilities. "I can't wait to get back to work," he says with a grin.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

BSU is helping stellar individuals prepare for the future — here are four destined to do great things.



DANIEL MEN



UZOMA NWOKORO



JACOB CONVERSE

Jacob Converse At 6'6" tall, Jacob Converse stands out in the crowd and on the rugby field. But what makes him a stand-out senior at Bemidji State University is his involvement in the campus community.

Converse will graduate this spring with a double major in Spanish and political science. He's a residential hall assistant, a Spanish tutor, member of the Spanish Club, and captain of the BSU rugby team. A friend introduced him to the sport as a freshman, and Converse was hooked.

"Rugby is continuous play. It's so much of a team experience, and I just love it," says Converse, who enjoys the camaraderie as much as the game. As a club sport, the team is self-coached and student-administered. BSU finished third in the 2010 state championship, advancing in a league of Division III college teams.

From Brainerd, Converse graduated from nearby Aitkin High School where he played sports, but gravitated more to the arts: jazz band, concert band, one-act plays, and the speech team. He also discovered an aptitude for language.

"I initially came to BSU to be a Spanish teacher, but as I took classes, I really got into political science," says Converse. "I enjoy learning how different countries interact with each other, especially how countries with divergent views work together on common goals."

He admits it was hard to choose "just two" majors because so many areas of study fascinate him. His senior thesis is one way to explore those interests as he focuses on factors that contribute to environmental consciousness in various countries. He sees graduate school as another way to continue exploring his interests. He hopes to pursue a master's in international studies or policy, possibly pursuing a foreign affairs career so he can travel, use his language skills, and shape policies to improve people's lives.

"Jacob is a good student, a leader in the classroom," says Dr. Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, associate professor of languages and ethnic studies. "He has a passion for the language, and he loves to interact with people."

As a freshman, Converse participated in BSU's Open Borders, which pairs U.S. students with international students to live together on a designated residence hall floor. Today, his circle of friends includes students from Armenia, Sweden, South America, Moldova, Malaysia, and Africa. He introduces them to northern Minnesota, and they share their world with him.

"I love meeting people, getting my hands dirty, and getting experience," says Converse. "I didn't know that I would be so connected when I came here, but I love being involved."

Uzoma Nwokoro Although Uzoma Nwokoro left his homeland in 2003 to attend college in the United States, the poor of Nigeria still tug at his heart.

The eighth of nine children, Nwokoro grew up in a middle-class family in Lagos, Nigeria, the second largest city in Africa. He was a sickly child, underweight and frequently hospitalized with unexplained illnesses. In a country where so many children have nothing, not even enough to eat, Nwokoro was fortunate. His family could provide food, medical care, and a private education.

"Nigeria is a good country if you are wealthy; but if you live in poverty, you cannot picture how hard it is," explains Nwokoro. "Life there is just so hard."

Nwokoro followed a brother to Texas where he completed an associate's degree. Learning about Bemidji State's nursing program from friends, he headed north. While working full-time at a Bemidji group home, he completed a bachelor of science in biology and will finish a nursing degree this spring. He dreams of returning to Nigeria someday to open a clinic or work in a setting where he can help improve the lives of the poor.

"Once you work with Uzzi, you understand that he has a calling," says Dr. Jeanine Gangeness, chair of the nursing department. "He radiates a quiet intelligence and an inner peace."

Following graduation, Nwokoro plans to visit family in Nigeria. Then he hopes to find a job in a U.S. hospital or pursue a graduate degree in genetic nursing or anesthesiology. Like many college students, he needs to repay his student loans and gain experience before investing in his dream.

Although nursing is still considered a "female profession" in Nigeria, Nwokoro doesn't mind challenging the stigma. He's happy with his choice. "My mom just told me, 'Do whatever you want,'" says Nwokoro. "I like taking care of people."

And when he asks himself what he has to offer his country, he knows that he'll put to good use the knowledge and skills he gained at Bemidji State. ■

2010 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Gary L. Frazier '75 Dr. Gary Frazier earned double majors at Bemidji State, graduating in 1975 with bachelor's degrees in business administration and in history and social studies. He proceeded immediately to graduate school at Indiana University in Bloomington, earning an MBA in 1977 and a doctorate of business administration in 1979. Frazier began his career as an associate marketing instructor while still a graduate student at Indiana University. After completing his degree, he taught marketing for five years in the business administration department at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In 1984, he joined the faculty of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, where he remains today. Since 1993, he has held the Richard and Jarda Hurd Professor of Distribution Management chair, one of the school's most distinguished chaired professorships. He has written extensively, publishing over 40 articles in prominent, scholarly publications, including the *Journal of Marketing*. Recognized worldwide for his research on the organization and management of distribution channels as well as on marketing strategy, Frazier has been both a consultant and expert witness in numerous distribution-related projects for companies such as AT&T, Coca-Cola, Gillette, Hasbro, HP, Lipton, Merck, Microsoft, 3M, Nestle, Taco Bell, UPS, and Walmart. He and his wife, Kyoung, have two children and reside in Rolling Hills, CA.

Susan R. (Mattson) Halena '78 Susan (Mattson) Halena graduated from Bemidji State with a bachelor's degree in mass communication in 1978. A print journalist for the past 32 years, she's held 11 different positions with four Minnesota news organizations, primarily newspapers in Fergus Falls, Rochester, and St. Cloud. She is currently managing editor of the *St. Cloud Times*, a position to which she was promoted in 2006. Her duties include overseeing diversity initiatives in both staffing and news coverage. These efforts have garnered company and national awards for the newspaper. Halena's journalistic talents also have earned her more than 25 professional awards, including the presti-



GARY FRAZIER



SUSAN HALENA



RON JOHNSON



SCOTT PEARSON



TOM RICHARD

gious Gannett Information Center Supervisor Recognition Award, which recognizes management leadership, innovation, and creativity. She is also a two-time winner of the Employee of the Year for the *St. Cloud Times* newsroom and a finalist for the same award two additional years. Dedicated to her profession, Halena serves on the Minnesota Associated Press Managing Editors board of directors and is committed to training and mentoring future journalism leaders. Actively involved in her community, she has helped with the Salvation Army's annual bell ringing campaign and served on her church board. She and her husband, Wayne, have two grown daughters and reside in St. Cloud.

Ronald D. Johnson '75 Ron Johnson, a 1975 BSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in visual arts, has an expansive background in graphic design, advertising, and television broadcasting as well as in public service. While his early career experiences were in St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and St. Paul advertising agencies, his focus shifted to television broadcasting in 1979 when he joined five others to launch a new public television station in Bemidji. Thirty-one years later, Johnson is the design and promotion manager for that same station, Lakeland Public Television. Besides his Lakeland duties, he started a promotions company called North Country Concerts in 1984. For 16 years, he produced and marketed more than 60 concerts and community events featuring nationally known entertainers, such as Tammy Wynette, Johnny Cash, and Charley Pride. His community involvement has included serving on the Bemidji City Council, the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities board, the Headwaters Regional Development Commission, the National League of Cities telecommunications steering committee, and the Bemidji Regional Airport Authority. Johnson also served 10 years in the Minnesota Army National Guard and was a Bemidji mayoral candidate in 2010. He and his wife, Carol, have one daughter and live in Bemidji.

R. Scott Pearson '77 Scott Pearson, a 1977 Bemidji State graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration, was a four-year letter winner on the Beavers' track and field team. During his senior year at Bemidji State, Pearson was hired by an on-campus recruiter from Federated Insurance. Since then, he has spent his entire career marketing the company's business insurance products in north central Minnesota.

Currently a senior marketing representative, Scott is a member of the Federated Chairman's Council, a Distinguished Service Award winner, and a three-time recipient of Federated's highest marketing honor, the Pinnacle of Performance Award.

He is a member of several BSU organizations and event planning committees including Beaver Pride, the Bemidji Area Alumni Chapter, the Hardwater Classic, and the Family Friends Program, which hosts international students. Pearson's community involvement includes volunteering for Take A Kid Fishing, Let's Go Fishing, Fishing Has No Boundaries, and the Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival. He has served as audio technician at Trinity Lutheran Church for 28 years and is a co-founder of the Cass Lake Lake Owner's Association. He recently earned certification as a National Weather Services Skywarn spotter. He and his wife, Kate (BSU '78, '82), live in Bemidji.

Dr. Tom H. Richard '66 Dr. Tom Richard earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Bemidji State in 1966, a master's in mathematics from Colorado State in 1968, and a doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1971. He also completed graduate-level courses in computer science at Utah State in 1974 and at the University of Oregon in 1978 and 1981. Richard spent his entire career at BSU where he was known as an outstanding instructor who made learning fun. He was awarded Colorado State University's F. Max Stein Graduate Teaching Award in 1969 and earned BSU's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1985. He also was a highly successful grant writer, securing over \$700,000 in grants to improve mathematics instruction in northern Minnesota. His activities at Bemidji State included serving on the campus scholarship committee, the BSU Faculty Association board of directors, the BSU Alumni Association board of directors, the Beaver Pride advisory committee, and the BSU Foundation board of directors. For 29 years, he was the University's faculty athletic representative for men's hockey, a position he also held for women's hockey for a decade. He and his wife, Sandy, started the Tom and Sandy Richard Elementary Mathematics Scholarship in 2008 and currently serve on the University's Legacy Society advisory committee. Bemidji residents, they have two grown children and three grandchildren. ■

Nominations for Alumni Awards Sought

The BSU Alumni Association is seeking nominations for all of its award programs including Outstanding Alumni, Young Alumni, Athletic Hall of Fame, and Professional Education Hall of Fame. For specific award information as well as nomination forms and deadlines, click on "Alumni" tab at www.bsualumni.org.

IN MEMORIAM

WINTER 2011

Anna R. Abrahamson '93, Anchorage, AK
 Russell T. Arndts '57, St. Cloud, MN
 Florence E. (Anvid) Backberg '42, St. Paul, MN
 Elizabeth A. (Bieri) Bergdall '79, Cottage Grove, MN
 Reuben H. Brooks '67, Nashville, TN
 Nancy L. (Busch) Christenson '85, Alexandria, MN
 Dr. Harold B. Dreyer '52, Inver Grove Heights, MN
 L. Richard Grahek '66, Hibbing, MN
 Nelda G. (Lee) Gunderson '70, Chehalis, WA
 Daniel J. Hawkins '81, Solway, MN
 James A. Hemming '71, Duluth, MN
 Rodney D. Hobson '43, Stillwater, MN
 Glenn H. Hymer '49, Fremont, MI
 Raymond L. Jensen '62, Solway, MN
 Karen Kekkonen '65, Reseda, CA
 Diane L. (Jacobson) Lehse '66, Gonvick, MN
 V. Katherine (Carlson) Markle-Zimmerman '29, Winnebago, MN
 Thomas B. Millar, Jr. '54 & '70, Bemidji, MN
 Steven C. Mistek '00, Biwabik, MN
 William Mobeck '57, Harris, MN
 Grace E. Olson '60 & '70, Osakis, MN
 Carrie A. Ortiz '91, Bemidji, MN
 Lee G. Peterson '62, Grand Rapids, MN
 Jean M. (Peterson) Rolandson '51, Dillon, MT
 Marguerite C. Salonen '69, Granbury, TX
 Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Sauer '63, Bemidji, MN
 John J. Shereck '63 & '70, Bagley, MN
 Ethel E. (Kaiser) Sojka '33, Roseburg, OR
 Kathryn L. Sundquist '89, Chisholm, MN
 James J. Thomas '70, Eveleth, MN
 Arleigh Vilas, Sr. '92, Minneapolis, MN
 Vernon J. Wahlstrom '57, Park Rapids, MN

Consider Serving on Alumni Board

Looking for a way to re-connect with Bemidji State University? Consider serving on the BSU Alumni Association board of directors. By joining this dynamic group, you can help make a difference in the lives of students and alumni while supporting the University. For more information about board expectations and the selection process, visit the BSU Alumni Association website at www.bsualumni.org and click on the "Alumni" tab at the top.



The class of 1970 met Homecoming weekend to celebrate their 40-year reunion. Included in the photo, from left to right, is Allan Skinner, Janice Algoe, Dave Algoe, Bruce Lundsten, Lewis Lenz, Jim Donaher, Denis Sauter, Rick Willadsen, Gregg Hanson, Al Nohner, Elaine Hazard, and Carter Pettersen.

SAVE THE DATE

EVENTS FOR WINTER/SPRING 2011

Music Educator's Alumni Reception

Hell's Kitchen, Minneapolis
 Friday, February 18



BSU Athletic Hall of Fame Weekend

Friday and Saturday, February 18-19

Athletic Alumni Reception
 American Indian Resource Center
 Friday, February 18

Induction Banquet
 Hungry Bear Conference Center, Bemidji
 Saturday, February 19

Alumni and Friends Reception

Hosts: Dr. Tom and Sandy Richard, Mike McKinley and Deb Grabrian
 The Villages, Florida
 Wednesday, March 9



BSU at Twins Spring Training vs. Boston Red Sox

Picnic and Game
 Ft. Myers, Florida
 Friday, March 11



San Diego Alumni Pizza Party

Hosts: Tom and Joanne Heaviland
 Carlsbad, CA
 Thursday, March 24

Alumni and Friends Desert Weekend

Aquarius Casino Resort
 Laughlin, Nevada
 Sunday - Monday, March 27-28

Professional Education Hall of Fame Banquet

American Indian Resource Center
 Friday, April 22

Student Graduation Barbecue

David Park House
 Wednesday, April 27

50-Year Reunion, Class of 1961

Crying Wolf Room, Hobson Memorial Union
 Thursday, May 5

Golden Beaver Society Luncheon

American Indian Resource Center
 Friday, May 6

BSU Commencement

Friday, May 6

Contact the Alumni Association for more information:

☎ 1-877-278-2586 (toll free)

✉ alumni@bemidjistate.edu

🌐 www.bsualumni.org

CLASS NOTES»

Send your information to alumni@bemidjistate.edu or call toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM.

Note: Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted. Alumni names appear in bold.

'10 **Shelly Saksa** has accepted a fourth-grade teaching assignment at Rossman Elementary School in Detroit Lakes, where she lives ...

Angela Koppendrayer has been hired as an elementary teacher in Milaca schools. She and her husband, Tony, have two children and live in Milaca ... **Courtney Snyder** will be teaching fifth grade at Twin Bluff School in the Red Wing School District. Her previous teaching experience includes the same grade assignment in Ellsworth Middle School. She makes her home in Hager City, WI ... **Brittany Bothman** accepted a position as a kindergarten teacher at Bonner Elementary School in the Stewartville School District ... **Seth Potter** of Hutchinson is teaching physical education at the middle school in Delano ... **Karen Schulte** will be teaching fifth grade for Cedar Mountain School in Morgan. She, her husband, and three children live on a farm south of Bird Island ... **Andrew Spaeth** of Montevideo has been appointed to the search committee that will help identify the new chancellor for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Spaeth is currently the state chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association and is preparing for graduate school.

'09 **Josh Voller** is a paraprofessional at Rippleside Elementary School in Aitkin, where he lives. He also coaches the football team's linemen and junior varsity squad ... **Frank Jones** is working as a body builder and fitness model in the Twin Cities area. An all-natural body builder and model, he was recently featured on the cover of *Physique Magazine* and appeared in a recent issue of *Muscle and Body Magazine* ... Army National Guard specialist **Marie (Mastin) Skoblik** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, CO. Her nine-week training encompassed a variety of topics, including Army history, combat skills, tradition, and core values ... **Jess Lubbers** of Sauk Centre will teach seventh- and eleventh-grade English in the Eden Valley-Watkins school system ... **Rebecca Taray** will teach at the elementary level this year in the Pine River-Backus School District. She lives in Backus ... **Michelle Andres** of East Gull Lake has been hired as a reading recovery/Title I teacher at Garfield Elementary School in Brainerd ... **Spencer Wagner** has been appointed a fertilizer and pesticide specialist for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. His new position includes administering the department's fertilizer registration and licensing programs, coordinating anhydrous ammonia licensing, and assisting with pesticide registration ... **Katie Prettyman** has begun teaching English at Falls High School in International Falls, where she resides ... **Paula Wolfe** is the new EBD teacher in the Albrook School in Saginaw. Her husband, Tony, is in the Air National Guard. They have three children and reside in

Culver ... **Janalee Kraetsch** brings over 14 years of education experience to her new position in early childhood special education for Jackson County Central Schools in Jackson. She lives in Magnolia ... **Sean Roff** will be teaching middle school physical education in Delano this year. He is moving from Champlin to Rogers.

'08 **Ashleigh Buck** was one of two artists whose works were selected to represent the Five Wings Arts Council Region in the Minnesota Regional Arts Councils Combined Exhibit. From Breezy Point, Buck created a triptych of encaustic on clay pieces for the statewide show, which was displayed at the Lake Region Arts Council Gallery in Fergus Falls ... **Allison Barta** has published her third volume of books on Irish cable knitting. Each of the books includes several knitting patterns incorporating techniques to construct scarves, mittens, ponchos, afghans, wraps, and other items. Barta's third volume features special Irish Ceili dancing patterns. She also designed a Norwegian sweater pattern for the American Birkebeiner Ski Race in Hayward, WI. A resident of Cass Lake, Barta has been a substitute teacher in the Cass Lake-Bena Middle School and a staff member for the Fit 4 Life program where she taught crafts to school children ... **Collin Macheel** graduated with a master's degree in engineering geohydrology from the College of Engineering and Mines in Fairbanks, AK. Macheel is a geological engineer with Jacobs Engineering in Anchorage, AK, where he lives ... **Daniel Lawrence** works as a model maker at Populous, a sports architecture firm with offices on five continents. The company has built more than 1,000 sports stadiums and arenas around the world, including 50 for the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. The company is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, where Lawrence calls home ... **Kristine Sellner** is teaching visual arts for Cedar Mountain Schools in Morgan. Her prior teaching experience includes assignments in Springfield, Comfrey, and Sleepy Eye, where she lives with her husband, Marty, and three daughters ... **Jenna (May) Biermaier** has joined the staff at the Browerville School as a Title I teacher. She lives near Browerville with her husband, Tyler, and their young son ... **Robert Baril** recently opened for comedian Louie Anderson during shows at the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas. Baril has been performing stand-up comedy for the past year in Minneapolis, where he also hosted a show at the Brave New Workshop. He was a *Horizons*, Winter 2009, "Senior to Watch." ... **Matthew Grover** will

teach high school biology, anatomy, environmental science, and junior high science at Lake of the Woods High School in Baudette, where he lives. He previously taught in the St. Francis school system ... **Emily (Halla) Gedde** is a staff writer at the *International Falls Journal*. A former reporter for *The American* in Blackduck, Gedde will be handling news, feature, city government, and local school district assignments. She and her husband, Mike, live in International Falls with their young daughter ... **Airman Zachary Herding** recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He completed the eight-week program that included training in military discipline, Air Force values, and warfare principles.

'07 **Nathan Allen** works as a model maker at Populous, a sports architecture firm with offices on five continents and headquarters in Kansas City, MO. The company has built more than 1,000 sports stadiums and arenas around the world, including 50 for the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. Allen lives in Shawnee, KS ... **Lori Kemmer** has been promoted to loan technician at Bank Forward in Bemidji. She previously served as a personal banker for the company. Kemmer lives in Bemidji with her husband, Dean ... **Nancy McConkey** of Eden Prairie recently received a master's of social work from the University of Minnesota. She currently works at Christian Recovery Counseling in Golden Valley ... **Lisa Toft** will teach high school special education in the Pine River-Backus School District. From Nevis, she brings to her new position experience as the coordinator for a U.S. Department of Education mentoring grant ... **Marcus Bromenshenkel** is a Title I teacher in Sauk Centre public schools. His previous experience includes teaching in Korea for a year. He lives in Sauk Centre.

'05 **Tena (Johnson) Pettis** and her husband, **Preston ('oo)**, announce the addition of a son to their growing family, which also includes one daughter. Preston is a personal trainer at Lifetime Fitness in Woodbury, while Tena is the owner of the company, *tenacious*, a branding agency in the Twin Cities that specializes in designing images, planning marketing goals, and promoting the awareness of businesses. The family has their home in Oakdale ... **Emily Sladky** has been named Travelers Pathways coordinator to work in the student affairs area of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities. A cooperative educational relationship between Travelers and Metro State, the program enhances educational and career development opportunities for careers in insurance and financial services. Sladky lives in Minneapolis ... **Mike Palm** is the new fourth-grade teacher at Ellsworth Elementary. His previous experience includes teaching in the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo and Stephen-Argyle school systems. He lives in Luverne.

'04 Carmen Schmitz completed requirements to obtain a graduate special education license and accepted a special education position at the Cass Lake Area Learning Center. She lives in Bemidji ... **Nick Heisserer** was named the registrar at Central Lakes College, which has campuses in Brainerd and Staples. He most recently served as the interim director of the TRIO/Upward Bound program at the college, where he also taught business management courses and co-led the institution's non-instructional assessment initiative. He currently resides in Pillager ... **Brenda Wolf** is a nurse practitioner with Clearwater Health Services. Wolf, who completed a master's degree in the family nurse practitioner program at the University of North Dakota, is seeing patients at the Bagley Clinic. She and her husband, Steve, have seven grown children in a blended family and live in Laporte ... **Dan Daniels** is the new industrial technology instructor on the Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley middle and high school teaching staff. He had taught in Isle for the past three years and was also in business for four years. He and his wife, Julie, recently moved to Chokio ... **Carolee Ann Oberstar** married Lorin Thomas last summer in Nashwauk. She is employed by NHS-North Star Specialized Services, which provides progressive, comprehensive, individualized services for persons with disabilities through residential and outreach programs. The groom is employed by Range Center-Logan House. The couple resides in Hibbing ... **Becky Litzau** of Glencoe is the new K-5 music teacher at the elementary school in the Norwood Young America district ... **Tim Honek** has been hired as the K-6 special education teacher in Ellsworth. Honek previously taught fifth grade in Fosston. He lives in Luverne with his wife, **Jennifer (Goenner, '05)**, and their two children ... **Jason Philipp** completed a seven-week trip canoeing the Red River to Hudson Bay in Canada this summer. Philipp, who quit his job at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR, to make the trek, has continued to travel and will soon be on his way to Germany for three months. He undertook the journey with **Nathan Ziegler ('03)**.

'03 Bryan Lindsay has joined the Trenti Law Firm in Virginia. While he practices in all legal areas, he will focus on business, employment, real estate, and personal injury law for clients across northeast Minnesota. Lindsay and his wife, Kristen, live in Chisholm with their son ... **Kevin Krigbaum** finished second in the annual Birchmont Golf Tournament in Bemidji. It was the first championship final for Krigbaum, who lives in Maple Grove with his wife, **Jeanne (Larson)** ... **Nathan Ziegler** completed a seven-week trip canoeing the Red River to Hudson Bay in Canada this summer. Ziegler quit his job working at People to People in Spokane, WA, to make the trek. Upon returning, he accepted a social studies teaching position in Spokane. He undertook the journey with **Jason Philipp ('04)**.

'02 Aaron Nelson is the assistant principal at Roseau High School after serving as a history teacher and driver's training instructor for the school district. A former Roseau Teacher of the Year and one of ten finalists for the statewide honor, Nelson taught in Randolph prior to moving to Roseau, where he lives ... **Bekki Babineau** has been named campaign director for the United Way of Greater Duluth. She moved to the position after directing the annual giving program for the BSU Foundation in Bemidji. In her new position, Babineau oversees and leads the nonprofit's fundraising campaigns, including donor growth, company coordinators, special events, and sponsorships. She and her husband, **John ('00)**, have a home in Cloquet ... **Joe Broking** has accepted the position as president of the Itasca Economic Development Corporation. Prior to moving to his new job, he was the director of operations at Terex/ASV Inc. and the director of financial accounting for Stora Enso, with offices in the United States and Finland. Broking resides in Grand Rapids with his wife, Kelly, a son, and a daughter.

'01 Elise Durban received the Spirit of Minnetonka Award presented annually to the city employee whose actions and accomplishments embody Minnetonka's shared values. For the past four years, Durban has been the community development supervisor, working on housing, redevelopment, and economic development activities. She has been employed by Minnetonka for eight years. Durban lives in Minneapolis with her husband, James ... **Susan (Diffley) Haasken** and her husband, Nathan, announced the July arrival of their first child, a girl. Susan had worked as a sales specialist for GE Capital Fleet Services but will be a stay-at-home mom for a while. Nathan works as an insurance agent and appraiser for Chestnut Realty in Chaska. The family makes their home in Eden Prairie.

'00 David Cowan has worked in distribution for Target Corporation in Los Angeles, CA, and Minneapolis for the past five years. Currently working in distribution process operations at the Target headquarters in Minneapolis, he recently completed an MBA program through Hamline University and will be lecturing on supply chain and operations management at business schools in the Twin Cities. He and his wife, Elena, live in Woodbury ... **Christina (Carlson) Giles** recently published her first children's book, *How High Can You Fly*, which received an NABE Pinnacle Book Award for achievement in children's literature. Also the author of a book of poetry entitled *Reflections on Life's Lessons*, she lives in Lake Jackson, TX, with her husband and son.

'98 Marcella (LaVoi) Melby has earned a doctorate in teaching and learning with an emphasis in teacher education and a minor in math education from the University of North Dakota. Prior to beginning her doctoral program, she taught high school math at Red Lake County Central Schools in Oklee. She has

accepted a position as a math faculty member at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Melby resides in Oklee with her husband, Isaac, and two daughters ... **Karen (Gomall) Groth** is a long-term substitute in the fifth grade at Ulen-Hitterdal schools. She has one year of Title I experience and seven years with Head Start programs. Married to her husband, Ryan, she has four children and lives in Ogema ... **Steven Wymore** was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to the Minnesota Board of School Administrators. The superintendent of Lake of the Woods Public Schools, Wymore serves on the board that is responsible for licensing school administrators, approving higher education and continuing education courses for school administrators, and enforcing the administrators' code of ethics. Prior to accepting his current post in 2007, he held administrative assignments with Willow River schools and Hermann-Norcross schools as well as teaching positions in Grygla-Gatzke, Argyle, and Tolna, ND. He lives in Baudette with his wife, Carolyn ... **David LaCoe** has won a Pinnacle Award, the highest consumer banking employee achievement honor presented each year by U.S. Bank. He is the manager for the bank's branch in Grand Rapids, where he lives and also coaches the high school girls' basketball team ... **Rob Nudell** is the new K-12 principal of Frazee schools. Nudell brings 19 years of educational experience to his new post, including administrative assignments in Buffalo, Dassel, Barnesville, and Remer-Longville. He and his wife, **Karen (Wilkes, '89)**, are currently living at their lake cabin in Pelican Rapids with their two children.

'97 Kevin Bird is the regional marketing manager and a pilot with Cirrus Aircraft, a Duluth-based aviation company that specializes in designing and building affordable, safe personal aircraft. Bird, who also serves on the industrial technology advisory board at BSU, and his wife, Jacky, live in Gilbert with their two children ... **Devlyn Brooks** has been named digital content operations manager for Forum Communications, a company headquartered in Fargo, ND. Working in the interactive media group, he will help develop and deploy digital content strategy aimed at engaging the public in the firm's newspaper and broadcast websites. He lives in Moorhead.

'95 Paul Hetland is the new city administrator in Cold Spring. He previously served as the city clerk and treasurer in Freepport. He and his wife, Mary, will live in Cold Spring.

'94 Robert J. Larson has been named a financial representative for Country Financial. Larson is now able to provide clients with auto, home, life, and long-term insurances; annuities and mutual funds; and college education funding options. He also offers investment management, retirement planning, and trust services provided by Country Trust Bank. Larson lives in Duluth with his wife, **Lisa (Crosby)** ...

{ continued on next page }

CLASS NOTES»

{ continued from page 17 }

► **Jodi Sandmeyer** is returning to classroom teaching after serving as a principal in the Nevis School District since 2002. The decision was prompted by the impending birth of her first child. Sandmeyer taught math and science courses in the district for eight years before being named the K-12 principal. Her role changed in 2006 when a principal was hired for primary grades, which left her in charge of the 7-12 grades. She lives in Bemidji with her husband, Shawn ... **Karen (Johnson) Stish** has been named the dean of enrollment management at Oak Hills Christian College near Bemidji. She previously served as an admissions counselor and as interim director of admissions prior to accepting her new position. She and her husband, **Scott ('93)**, have two children and live in Solway.

'93 **Gretchen Gehl** is in her 12th year of teaching at Sauk Centre Elementary School. She currently is assigned to the third grade. Gehl is also active in children's ministries and singing for the worship service at her church. She lives in Sauk Centre ... **John Klinke** is the new high school principal in the Cass Lake-Bena school system. Klinke has teaching and administrative experience in Bemidji as well as Red Lake. He and his wife, **Krista ('94)**, reside in Bemidji.

'92 **Susan (Lundin) Morris** is a stay-at-home mom for her young son and daughter. Her husband, Tom, is an applications engineer at Seagate, a firm in Longmont, CO, that strives to meet the needs of the fast-paced markets for computers, portable storage, and consumer electronics. The family recently moved into a new home in Mead, CO ... **Kim (Thomas) Goodwin** is a new principal in the Laporte School District. She previously was a school administrator in Bemidji, where she lives with her husband, **Paul ('08)** ... **Jodi Schultz** is the new manager of the Park Rapids Area Library. The former operator of a daycare and preschool, she lives in Park Rapids with her husband, **Brad ('91)**, and two teenage daughters.

'91 **Fr. Glenn Frerichs** recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination to the Catholic priesthood in the Winona diocese. Frerichs is the pastor of the Church of St. Agnes in Kellogg as well as the Church of St. Felix in Wabasha, where he resides. After completing studies at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, he served as an assistant pastor at a parish in Rochester and later as a pastor at parishes in Janesville and Waldorf ... **Lisa (Davis) Eischens** will be teaching math this year at Detroit Lakes High School. She previously worked for high schools in Warroad and Lake Park ... **Army Lt. Col. Curtis Anderson** deployed to Guatemala to support

Send your information to alumni@bemidjistate.edu or call toll free: 1-877-BSU-ALUM.

Note: Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted. Alumni names appear in bold.

disaster relief following the Padcaya volcano eruption and tropical storm Agatha. Anderson and other members of the relief task force transported nearly 165,000 pounds of supplies to victims of those disasters. He lives in Fayetteville, NC, with his wife, Faye.

'90 **Amy Rice** will combine two half-time positions for a full-time job working for the citizens and businesses of Chisholm. Currently the half-time events coordinator for the Chisholm Area Chamber of Commerce, she is the new half-time development and economic director for the city of Chisholm. She previously was a branch manager for American Bank. She and her husband, Todd, live in Hibbing ... **Robert Bestul** started this past summer as the principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Hibbing. A former teacher and coach in Hibbing, Bestul returned to the district from Floodwood, where he served as principal for the K-12 school. He also has administrative experience in Nashwauk-Keewatin schools. Bestul lives in Hibbing with his wife, Lisa, and three children.

'89 **Roy Booth** had a collection of one-act plays reviewed in *Shroud Magazine*. A play he co-authored with Bob May entitled *Beanie and the Bamboozling Horror Machine* was produced by Ragged Edge Community Theatre in Harrodsburg, KY. Booth also held a book signing at his business in Bemidji. He lives in Hibbing with his wife, Cynthia ... **Frank Herman** will return to his former position as director of the Learning Alternatives Community School in Spring Lake Park High School. Herman had served as the high school principal since 2006, but stepped back to his old position to continue work on his doctoral degree and spend more time with his family. A resident of Blaine, he also taught in Cambridge for 10 years ... **Patricia Stoll** has been hired by the technical department of AMSOIL as its business segment manager. She will focus on development strategy for the auto and light truck market. AMSOIL manufactures synthetic oil, premium synthetic lubricants, synthetic motor oil, synthetic engine oil, gear lube, gear oil, and greases. Most recently, she was the marketing services manager for Genesis Attachments, a manufacturer of heavy construction tools. Stoll resides in Duluth ... **Karen (Wilkes) Nudell** has two new part-time positions, one at Detroit Lakes High School as the due process facilitator and the other as the student intervention specialist in the Frazee school system. Prior to accepting the positions, she was special education coordinator for the Meeker and Wright Special Education Coopera-

tive. Her husband, **Rob ('98)**, is the new K-12 principal in Frazee. The couple and their two children are currently residing at their lake cabin in Pelican Rapids.

'88 **Peggy Eggert** was named the Blackduck Teacher of the Year. Her career spans 21 years, starting at the kindergarten level and continuing to her current assignment in a second-grade classroom. She and her husband, Dennis, have two grown children and five grandchildren. The couple makes their home in Blackduck ... **Michael Kennedy** has been appointed to a two-year term as chairman of the University of Minnesota Extension Services citizens' advisory committee. Kennedy has been an education specialist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the past eight years and previously served as the associate education director at the Raptor Center on the University of Minnesota campus. The advisory committee provides feedback to the extension service from different clients across the state. He lives in Two Harbors with his wife, **Amy Renne ('87)**.

'87 **Jean Uhlir** has retired from teaching first grade in Mahanomen, a district she had served by teaching various grades and combination classrooms since 1990. Her prior teaching experience came in Bagley. She and her husband, Davie, have three children and four grandchildren. The couple resides in Bagley ... **Lt. Col. Marie Cochran** has retired after serving in the U.S. Army since 1986, when she was commissioned in the Army Medical Service Corps. During her career, she served on bases in Germany, the United States, and Qatar. Her most recent assignment was at Fort Detrick, MD. She lives in Fairfield, PA.

'82 **Lloyd Stallkamp** was awarded professor emeritus status upon retirement from Montana State University-Northern, where he taught electronic engineering technology and served as the chair of the industrial technology department. He and his wife, Margaret, live in Havre, MT, where the university is located ... **Dr. Gary Canivez** was recently appointed an associate editor for *Psychological Assessment*, a journal of the American Psychological Association. For the publication, he will focus on child and adolescent assessment issues. He is a professor of psychology at Eastern Illinois in Charleston, IL, where he resides ... **Lenore (Preece) Siems** is a member of the music group Caleigh, which performed recently at the Ethnic Fest in Walker. Siems plays fiddle, viola, and mandolin in the three-person ensemble. She lives in Bemidji with her husband, **Dann ('80)**.

'81 **Dee Furfaro** is a member of the music group Caleigh, which performed recently at the Ethnic Fest in Walker. Furfaro provides percussion, bass, and lead vocals for the three-person ensemble. She lives in Pine-wood with her husband, **Michael ('79)**.

'80 Pete Friesen has been added to the resource staff for the *Hockey Source*, a television show designed to address specific needs of youth hockey. Friesen is the head trainer and conditioning coach for the Carolina Hurricanes of the National Hockey League and has worked with many of Canada's national sports teams and world-class athletes. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Knightdale, NC ... **Matt Shetka** teaches the eighth grade at the New Prague Middle School and is the head coach of the high school gymnastic team. He has been coaching varsity gymnastics for 30 years, compiling a dual meet record of 261 wins against 72 losses. His programs have won 11 conference championships, 14 section titles, one third-place state finish, six second-place trophies, and three state championships. He and his wife, Meg, live in New Prague ... **Jean O'Brien** is serving as president of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. A history professor at the University of Minnesota, O'Brien will lead the association as it supports scholars and others who work in the academic field of Native American and indigenous studies. The author of two books, she also previously served as chair of the Department of American Studies and the Department of American Indian Studies at Minnesota. She resides in Minneapolis ... **Dane Deutsch** was one of the featured speakers who helped kick off the new year for teachers of Byron, WI, and other area schools. Deutsch and his wife, **Katharine ('82)**, live in Rice Lake, WI.

'78 Rev. Craig Haberman has been appointed to serve the congregation of the Tracy United Methodist Church. Since 2001, he had been a pastor at the Grace United Methodist Church in Moorhead. Haberman and his wife, **Sharon (Whittman, '77)**, have two married sons and two grandchildren.

'77 Carol Kramer was named the Wyoming School Psychology Association Member of the Year. It was her third such award after also winning it in 2006 and 2008. Kramer is the school psychologist at Campbell County High School in Gillette, WY, where she lives with her husband, John. Kramer recently received a thrill of a lifetime when she and her husband were selected to join saxophonist Kenny G on stage during a concert. After the Grammy-winning artist serenaded the Kramers with a love song, he presented Carol with the soprano saxophone he used for the song ... **Gary Haglund** has retired from teaching science for 30 years at Paynesville Area High School. Primarily a biology faculty member, he also taught earth science courses. He also had classroom experience in Little Falls and Grand Rapids. He and his wife, Robin, recently sold their farm in Hawick and are moving to operate a five-cabin resort near Hackensack. The Haglunds have two adult sons and one granddaughter.

'76 Susan Alstrom was inducted into the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame for her accomplishments as a student-athlete at Bemidji State. After graduating, Alstrom became a teacher and coach, which included over 525 wins as volleyball coach at Buffalo Lake-Hector and Hector schools. She lives in Litchfield.

'75 Charles Robinson has retired as the city administrator for Forest Lake. Robinson had 33 years of experience as a city administrator when he announced his retirement. Prior to going into public service, he was an eighth-grade science teacher in White Bear Lake. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Pine City ... **April Larson** is a member of the music group *Caleigh*, which performed recently at the Ethnic Fest in Walker. Larson plays Celtic harp, keyboards, guitar, mandolin, and flute in the three-person ensemble. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Bagley ... **John Collins** is the mid-day disc jockey at KLKS radio in Breezy Point and recently served as emcee at the Two Rivers Music Fest talent contest. In addition to Breezy Point, he has been a DJ in Thailand, Montana, Alaska, and at other stations in Minnesota. He and his wife, Donna, live in Pine River ... **Charles Scanlon** of St. Paul coaches the Apple Valley High School boys' soccer team, which captured the 2010 state high school championship and capped a second consecutive undefeated season. His team's 47 consecutive victories is a state record. Scanlon also holds the state and national records for the most wins by a high school boys' soccer coach. A hockey student-athlete at BSU from 1971-1975, he played on teams that won three conference and three national championships. He earned an All-America selection in 1973-1974 and was named to BSU's "50 Legends in 50 Years" team in 2005 ... **Debbie (Kukowski) O'Shea** has embarked on a new teaching career after retiring with 28 years at Bagley Elementary School. O'Shea has accepted a two-year assignment to teach English to a kindergarten class at the American School of Kosovo in Prishtina. The assignment fulfills her lifelong dream of teaching in a foreign country. When not in Kosovo, she calls Bagley her home.

'72 Rev. Terry Tilton will be moving to Hibbing to serve the Wesley United Methodist Church. He most recently served the United Methodist churches in Breckenridge and Foxhome for 15 years and has prior experience in Eveleth, Gilbert, and Richfield. He is married to his wife, Cheryl.

'70 Joe Corradi recently retired from teaching social studies in the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo schools since 1970. During his tenure, he was also head girls' basketball coach and an assistant volleyball coach. He and his wife, Jean, live in Oslo. The couple has two children and four grandchildren ... **Chris (Bravinder) Correa** will be retiring as the Shakopee School District director of curriculum and instruc-

tion, a position she held for the past 10 years. A former high school Spanish teacher, she also coordinated the curriculum for the Westonka School District. She will continue as an adjunct professor in Hamline University's master of arts in education program. She and her husband, Alfonso, live in Chanhassen ... **Rob Nixon** has retired after teaching in the Princeton school system for 37 years, primarily as an eighth-grade science instructor. Prior to beginning his career in education, he worked in various capacities at the Long Lake Conservation Center near Aitkin. He resides in Minneapolis.

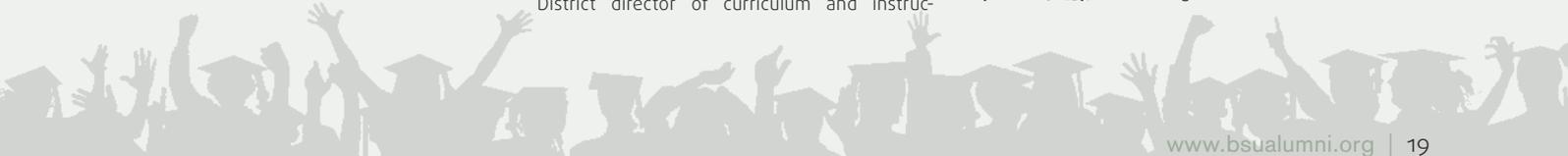
'64 Dr. James Belpedio was recently honored for teaching history and government at Becker College of Worcester, MA, for 35 years. During his tenure at the institution, he published over 40 articles and presented more than 30 papers at regional, national, and international conferences. He lives in Worcester, MA, with his wife, Lesta.

'59 Don Niskanen has retired from coaching the Bemidji State University men's golf team after 17 seasons. Niskanen, a four-time NSIC Coach of the Year, led the Beavers to four conference team titles and seven second-place finishes. He was selected to guide the BSU link crew following his retirement from the Bemidji School District in 1992. He and his wife, Janet, are living in Bemidji.

'56 Richard Green recently was invited to spend a week at Mallard Island on Rainy Lake where he and his wife, Janet, painted scenes as part of an Olberholtzer Foundation program to sponsor projects promoting the literature and arts, biological and ecological sciences, environmental education and conservation, American Indian language and culture, or wilderness exploration. Green is a retired art teacher who spent 35 years at Kennedy High School in Bloomington. Since retirement 15 years ago, he has continued to teach at local art centers. He also had a painting, *REFLECTIONS*, published in the book *Artistic Touch #4*.

'49 Douglas Leach retired in 1987 after serving as a teacher and administrator in St. Louis, MO, schools for 35 years. A resident of St. Louis for 49 years, he and his wife, Aldora, moved to Alton, IL, in 2001. He continues writing and editing a monthly newsletter for his WWII bomb squadron, a task he has performed for 14 years.

'46 Blanchard Krogstad has been named a Polk County Outstanding Senior Citizen. A faculty member at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Krogstad retired to Winger where he is a former chair and member of the board of First Care Hospital and Nursing Home, chairman and director of the East Polk Developmental Achievement Center, board member for Calvary Lutheran Church, and director of the Pathways Bible Camp. He and his wife, **Doris (Winkle, '45)**, live in Winger. ■



DONOR SUPPORT AT **RECORD HIGH**



ROB BOLLINGER
Executive Director for
University Advancement

Thanks to the private support of our donors, this past year was a record-breaking one for the BSU Foundation. Your investment enabled the foundation's assets to reach an all-time high of \$14,875,654, with a record-setting, annual revenue totaling \$3,377,114. For the year, the foundation's 288 endowments recorded an investment return rate exceeding 11 percent.

Scholarship support continued to ensure Bemidji State University remained accessible to bright, talented students facing financial challenges. In 2010, the foundation provided \$680,043 in scholarships to BSU students, making significant differences in their lives. Through this aid, donors are opening doors for students, providing opportunities for exploration and discovery, and paving paths to future success.

Besides the strong financial progress, we also experienced an eventful year on campus. In July, Dr. Richard Hanson became the 10th president of Bemidji State University, and, this fall, campus welcomed nearly 5,400 students, the largest total enrollment in almost two decades. In October, the BSU hockey teams moved into their new home – the beautiful Sanford Center on the south shore of Lake Bemidji.

Despite the many positive happenings on campus this past year, BSU faces significant emerging challenges as it responds to a substantial budget reduction because of a projected state budget shortfall of \$6 billion. With state financial support declining, Bemidji State must rely increasingly on tuition revenue and external funding, including donor support. Because the availability of scholarships plays the single greatest role in attracting new students (and more students means more tuition revenue), the commitment and generosity of our donors are even more critical as we look to the future.

As the articles in this issue of *Horizons* show, great things are happening at Bemidji State despite the challenging times. Thank you for your leadership and investment in BSU and for your commitment to our current and future students. Private support helps continue the significant progress being made.

Sincerely, *Rob Bollinger*



Alumni and foundation staff. Front Row: Tammy Mayer, Dawn Huseby, Geri Bang, Kelly Martinka. Back Row: Lisa Hofstad, Rob Bollinger, Joe Czapiewski, Jacob Bluhm, Linda Rasmussen, Marla Patrias, Janai Lampert.

CRAFTING LIVES

"I was grateful for the good, basic education I received at Bemidji State and how it helped me educate a lot of kids. I've enjoyed each and every minute of my involvement with BSU. And everything I've given to BSU has come from my heart." CAROLINE ANDRICAN



ANDRICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Born and raised in Hibbing, Caroline Andrican's world view was shaped by down-home values. Married to her singular sweetheart, Boris, for 52 years, she has filled her life with family, faith, education, work, friends, and Bemidji State University.

A 1953 graduate who spent 25 years teaching first and second graders, Andrican worked at a cooperative antique and craft shop that started in her basement before expansion required its move to a Hibbing storefront. She also helped at the Kitzville Body Shop, co-owned by Boris and where he still works every day.

In the midst of this schedule, she has found time for BSU, serving 19 years on the alumni board, including four years as president, and becoming a charter member of the Legacy Society, where she was a board member for four years. Caroline and Boris endowed a scholarship through the BSU Foundation in 1997.

"I was grateful for the good, basic education I received at Bemidji State and how it helped me educate a lot of kids," Andrican says. "I've enjoyed each and every minute of my involvement with BSU. And everything I've given to BSU has come from my heart."

A drunken driver threatened the steady rhythm of her life by causing an accident in 1998 that left her with massive injuries. With both legs and arms in casts, she

recuperated at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth where Dr. Clinton Moen, a 1969 Bemidji State graduate, took charge of the bedridden and shaken patient. "I was immobile for months, and I was down. He pushed me to fight to get back on my feet and become active again."

That push enabled Andrican to expand an idea tying several of her interests together to benefit BSU students. Always a crafter, she brought some items to sell on campus before Christmas, with proceeds earmarked for the Boris and Caroline Andrican Scholarship in Professional Education. "I've always sewn and quilted a lot, and this seemed a natural transition after I retired," explains Caroline, who works on table runners, baby blankets, dishcloths, and many other items every afternoon.

Started in a small basement room in the David Park House, the project now encompasses the building's entire first floor. She annually brings over 200 items, priced up to \$20, and sells nearly 80 percent of her inventory on the benefit's first day.

"Education is important to me," Andrican says. "The scholarship was set up to help others achieve the type of education I received and go on to succeed in this world."

Nick Furnstahl, the 2010-11 scholarship recipient, understands the beliefs that prompted Caroline to establish the scholarship and is especially grateful for the support. Even though his father and mother both work full-time in Ely, he still was caught in a bind many hard working families find themselves: They don't make enough to pay all college costs but make too much to qualify their children for financial aid.

"It's great to be chosen for any type of scholarship because every bit helps, but this one saved me," says Furnstahl, who was ineligible for financial aid programs he previously

had because his older sister had finished college, resulting in a reassessment of his family's financial status. "I always wanted to be a teacher and knew this year would be tough financially."

Knowing he wanted to teach didn't immediately translate into what he wanted to teach, however. Benefiting from a BSU practice that exposes education students to broad experiences, he observed classes in high school and middle school before finding his calling in elementary education. This fall, he student taught in Red Lake.

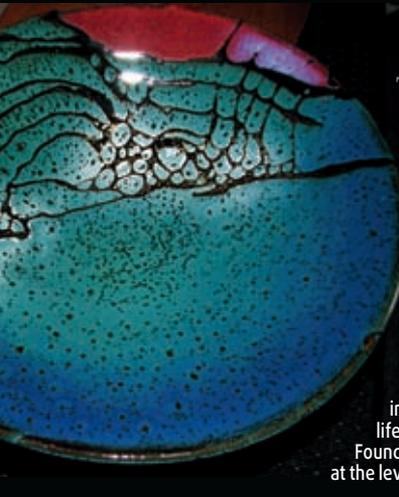
"I just loved it, especially the fourth grade, where students are old enough to understand higher concepts but young enough to get excited," Furnstahl explains. He plans to extend his elementary-level experiences by substitute teaching this winter and spring. He'll then pursue a full-time position for the fall.

"I want to become a teacher who influences students for the rest of their lives," he says. "I not only want to teach appropriate school lessons, but also life lessons students can use when they grow older — like honesty, caring, patience, and a hunger for knowledge."

It's exactly the foundation that the Andricans had in mind when they endowed a scholarship for education majors. ■



NICK FURNSTAHL



The PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

Chargers like the one on the left are "awards of distinction" created especially for the President's Society by Visual Arts Professor and Department Chair John "Butch" Holden. The award honors donors with cumulative giving of \$50,000 or more.

The President's Society recognizes the University's most generous contributors. Membership includes individuals, families, and organizations and is based on lifetime cumulative giving to the Bemidji State University Foundation. Members are recognized for gifts and pledges at the levels listed below.

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\$1,000,00

The George W. Neilson Foundation
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\$50,000 to \$99,999

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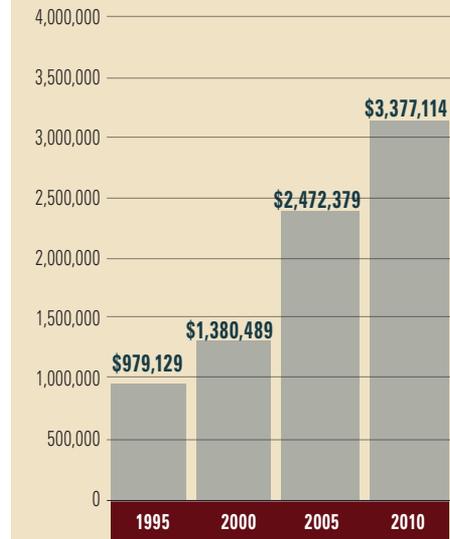
BSU FOUNDATION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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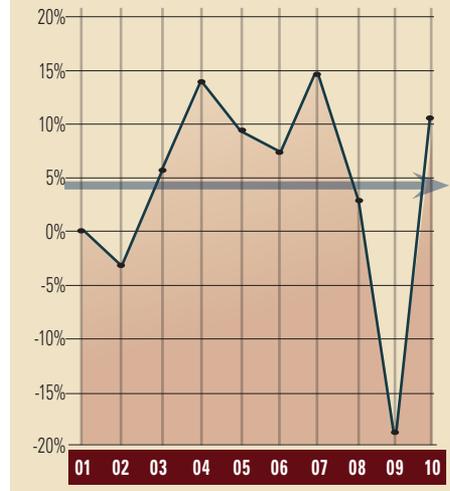
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Cash Contributions Received



Rate of Investment Return



— Annual Return
→ Ten Year Average

HOME^{AT THE} HEART OF CAMPUS

Living across the street from Bemidji State University, the John and Elfy Glas family came to consider the campus a second home. Now they are planning a donation to make their lifelong home part of the BSU campus.

The family is giving the University their house on Birch Lane, near the heart of campus where thousands of students see it daily as they trek across campus to the residence halls or Gillett Recreation-Fitness Center. John built the rambler two years after he was named the institution's business manager in 1939. It remained the family's home base until Elfy recently moved closer to her sons in Moorhead and Fargo, ND.

"Bemidji State meant a lot to John, and I thought it was a good idea to give BSU the property," says Elfy, who was also instrumental in establishing the John S. Glas Memorial Scholarship after his death in 1976.

John retired after serving the campus for 36 years in many administrative capacities, including vice president for administration, assistant to the president, and acting president. During a period of dramatic campus growth, his role shepherding construction projects through the halls of the legislature was legendary. In recognition for his work, the John S. Glas Field-house was named in his honor.

"Being so close to the campus, we practically lived there," says Boysen Glas,



GLAS HOUSE DONATION

GLAS AND FAMILY HOME

"Bemidji State meant a lot to John, and I thought it was a good idea to give BSU the property."

ELFY GLAS

the oldest of three sons raised in the house by John and Elfy Glas. "All the boys attended the Lab School when it was there. We played on campus, watched athletic practices, attended almost every athletic event, and participated in various activities. With the small campus, everybody knew who we were."

That connection became more solid when Boysen and his youngest sibling, Rich, both earned undergraduate degrees through BSU.

"The school provided our family with opportunities for a good life," adds Robert Glas, the middle son who graduated from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. "We were able to get good educations because of my father's job. We felt giving this back is something that should happen because the University can use it."

The University is currently exploring various options for utilizing it, including locating an appropriate campus office there or using it as transition housing for new hires while they seek a permanent residence. There are no plans to remove the 1600-square-foot structure at this time.

"This is a great example of a gift that is not immediate cash," says Rob Bollinger, executive director of university advancement. "Most people in charitable giving think about writing a check. Giving their home is something the family wanted to do for the long-term benefit of the University while providing a legacy for John and Elfy Glas."

It is a legacy that literally proves home is where the heart is. ■



ELFY GLAS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

BSU FOUNDATION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



The BSU Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a deferred or planned gift to the BSU Foundation. The society has grown from 43 charter members in 2002 to 190 members today.

Statement of Position	
June 30, 2010	
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	60,086
Investments	12,896,449
Accounts Receivable	24,780
Contributions Receivable	751,518
Prepaid Expenses	3,980
Total Current Assets	13,736,813
Property and Equipment	307,237
Other Assets	
Contributions Receivable	689,032
Remainder Interest in Real Estate	108,163
Cash Surrender Value Life Insurance	34,409
Total Other Assets	831,604
Total Assets	\$14,875,654
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	24,016
Annuities Payable, Current Portion	19,522
Accrued Interest Payable	3,203
Note Payable, Current Portion	1,899
Total Current Liabilities	48,640
Long-term Liabilities	
Annuities Payable, Long-term Portion	211,595
Note Payable, Long-term Portion	732,250
Total Long-term Liabilities	943,845
Total Liabilities	992,485
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	
University Fund & Quasi Endowment Fund	153,369
Alumni House Acquisition	-65,000
Plant Fund	307,237
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	395,606
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	2,873,924
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	10,613,639
Total Net Assets	13,883,169
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,875,654

- | | |
|---|--|
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EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES



ODEGAARD SCHOLARSHIPS

“I felt the need to repay my scholarship,” Odegaard says of the endowment that has grown to more than \$119,000 since it began in 1989. “My motivation was to repay what someone had given me, to provide a scholarship to the next group.”

DAVE ODEGAARD

Dave Odegaard knows first-hand the financial impact that scholarships can have on the life of a college student. As a first-generation undergraduate from Gonvick, he came to BSU in the early 1960s because of a Jolly Erickson Scholarship for athletics. The award covered his tuition while he competed on the football field and earned an accounting degree. After graduation, he joined the internationally known firm Deloitte where, with the exception of three years he spent as an Army officer in the late 1960s, he built his career.

While working, he started what would become a long tradition of giving back to Bemidji State by establishing the Chet Anderson Scholarship in honor of the faculty member who most influenced his time on campus. Odegaard and his wife, Brenda, initiated the scholarship and encouraged other athletes who played football under Anderson’s tutelage to donate as well.

“I felt the need to repay my scholarship,” Odegaard says of the endowment that has grown to more than \$119,000 since it began in 1989. “My motivation was to repay what someone had given me, to provide a scholarship to the next group.”

His perspective on the value of scholarships expanded as he progressed through the ranks of Deloitte before retiring as a partner in 2002. The accounting degree certainly contributed to his rise up the corporate ladder, but lessons learned beyond the college classroom also proved invaluable.

“The more I began to understand what happened to me in my life through sports and Officer Candidate School in the Army, I realized it was leadership training and experiences that made me successful,” he explains. “I was in a department that had some problems when I started at Deloitte. There were a lot of smart people at the firm, but I was seen as the problem solver, not because of my smarts but because of my leadership, my ability to make things happen. Within five or six years, I was put in charge of the department.”

Odegaard expressed this growing realization about success by creating the Chet Anderson Leadership Scholarship in 2007. He intended the award to bind athletics with the rewards of leadership and teamwork, which student athletes experience through competition and interaction with their coaches.

The current recipient, Barnum High School graduate Colleen McKay, certainly fulfills his intentions. As a sophomore, she returned to a basketball team that had three starters graduate and a large number of first-year players just starting their collegiate careers. McKay saw a void and stepped in to fill it.

“My sophomore year I worked really, really hard because we had to let the new players know we had high expectations,” she says. The coaches recognized her influence and work ethic by selecting her as a captain that year. Now as a senior, she remains the team captain.

“It’s a role I take seriously, both on and off the court,” notes McKay, who will complete her nursing degree this spring. “I try to lead by example, do well in my studies, and take care of business in the gym. It’s not always easy being a leader, because you have to do what’s right, and that’s not always popular. The main thing I’ll work on this year is focusing the team to decide what we want to get out of the season and to take ownership of that goal.”

Odegaard considers this approach to facing challenges as transferrable and essential to all majors. “There are a tremendous number of intelligent people graduating



from colleges today," says Odegaard. "Putting more emphasis on leadership on campuses is the way to go. It's important for graduates to see a problem, take ownership of it, be determined to fix it, and create a solution. That's my definition of leadership."

To expand leadership experiences at BSU beyond athletics, Odegaard was instrumental in establishing the President's Student Commission, a group of students from across campus who receive scholarships and are charged with developing solutions to problems facing the University. Each year, the commission addresses a topic identified by the president. The first commissioned group explored student engagement and the second identified factors influencing student affinity to the University. This year's group is exploring the University's role in ensuring that students understand their chosen vocations and are employable when they graduate. Students nominated for the commission undergo a highly selective screening process before the president names the members.

"Having people with different types of majors and backgrounds coming together to work on a task was an enriching experience," admits Tony Hansen, a senior English education major from Little Falls who served on the 2009-10 commission. "We were a unique committee, there for a specific goal — like a think tank at any large corporation confronting a problem. The challenges we faced were ones graduates will face in any field. It was a great experience, one I will use in schools when I work with teachers from different content areas."

Odegaard recalled a similar experience early in his career at Deloitte when management formed an advisory council consisting of young partners. Because of that experience, he felt Bemidji State could take a step forward in teaching leadership by emulating this concept.

"It's really a 'two-for' arrangement," explains Odegaard, who annually funds over 80 percent of the \$12,000 needed for commission scholarships. "It has a financial benefit and a leadership benefit. They are an elite group. They learn from each other and work with the president on real issues. It is a great opportunity to learn something about leadership."

Witnessing developmental as well as financial power of scholarships has brought the evolution of Odegaard's thoughts on the topic to full fruition. Perhaps now more than ever, he sees scholarships as a way to help promising students develop leadership skills essential for successful careers. ■



"I try to lead by example, do well in my studies, and take care of business in the gym. It's not always easy being a leader, because you have to do what's right, and that's not always popular. The main thing I'll work on this year is focusing the team to decide what we want to get out of the season and to take ownership of that goal."

COLLEEN MCKAY

ENDOWING SCHOLARSHIPS AND DREAMS

Sandy Niblick, the youngest of three daughters raised by Harvey and Loris Westrom, learned a lesson about dreams from her parents. She knows that dreams supported can ignite life-changing experiences.

"Mom and Dad were always willing to support my dreams, even if it scared them," Niblick says. "When, at age 31, I decided to ride my bicycle across the country, coast to coast, Dad promised that if I wanted to quit for any reason, at any time, he would drive out to get me at any place."

To honor Harvey and Loris' 50th wedding anniversary and their unwavering support, Sandy and her husband, Mark, surprised her parents by endowing the Harvey Westrom Education Scholarships and the Loris Westrom Nursing Scholarships at Bemidji State University. The significant gift, which has grown to more than \$110,000 since 2008, funds four awards — two in education and two in nursing — for juniors and seniors each year.

"In our family, it was important to support your dreams, and this was a chance to support the dreams of others," Niblick explains. "As a high school teacher, Dad inspired students to go on to college, and, as a nurse, Mom helped keep dreams alive. The scholarships are just another step in the process."

Harvey and Loris started at Bemidji State in the early 1950s. He graduated in 1957 with a teaching degree in chemistry. Loris found her dream sidetracked because BSU didn't have a nursing program at the time, so she



HARVEY AND LORIS WESTROM SCHOLARSHIPS

transferred but returned after becoming a registered nurse. Married in 1958, Harvey taught for 34 years, 31 of those in Bloomington, while Loris made a career out of nursing. Retiring in 1992, they began spending more time up north and now consider their lake house near Pennington as home.

Along the way, they raised daughters Barbara, the eldest now living in the Twin Cities; Deborah, a BSU alumna in Grantsburg, WI; and Sandy, of Bloomington. All three earned college degrees.

Sandy graduated from Minnesota State University-Moorhead in 1985 and began work as a chemistry technician for American Crystal Sugar. She moved to the Twin Cities to do computer programming in a marketing firm. She met Mark on a first-ever blind date arranged by friends. A lawyer and CPA, he worked his way up the corporate ladder to become the CEO of Midcontinent Communications. He has since retired, but continues to consult with the firm and chairs its board of directors.

"Mark and Sandy are very generous persons," Harvey Westrom says of the couple, who established similar scholarships at Indiana University, where Mark studied as an undergraduate. "Their situation is unique, and they have the resources to help others."

With BSU majors in fields that support two great challenges facing society today, Niblick felt the scholarships were a good fit that became stronger because of the family ties. "Bemidji State opened doors of opportunity for my parents. It extended their world and took them to places they only could dream about. Even Mom feels at home on campus, more now with its nursing program."

In 1985, Harvey received an Outstanding Alumni Award for his career achievements and his support of Bemidji State. After retirement, he continued being actively involved with BSU by serving two terms on

the alumni board. He and Loris are frequent visitors to campus for different alumni events, athletics, and activities, including meeting the students who receive the scholarships in their names.

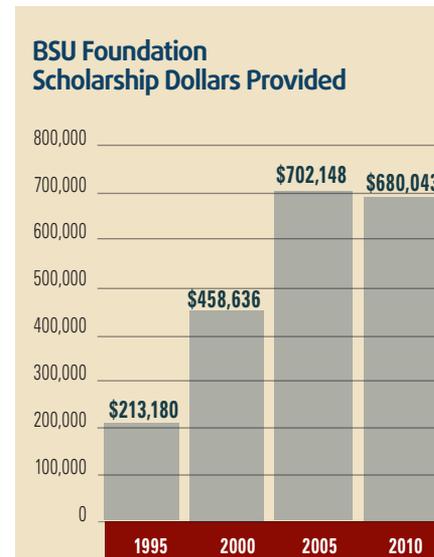
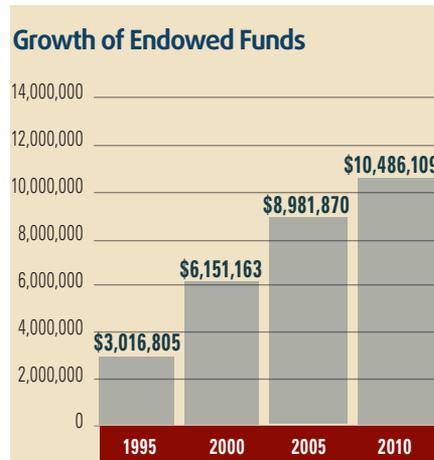
“We didn’t want to wait until Mom and Dad passed away to honor them,” Niblick says of the scholarships. “It’s nice that they can meet the recipients, who in turn can be inspired by what they see in the lives Mom and Dad have had. It is their legacy.”

It will be a legacy providing more than future scholarships. The gift also endows the fulfillment of dreams for generations to come. ■

“In our family, it was important to support your dreams, and this was a chance to support the dreams of others. As a high school teacher, Dad inspired students to go on to college and as a nurse, Mom helped keep dreams alive. The scholarships are just another step in the process.” SANDY NIBLICK



MARK NIBLICK, LORIS AND HARVEY WESTROM, SANDY NIBLICK





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CAMPUS CALENDAR

- Jan. 1** Summer Session class schedule, available online
- Jan. 10** Spring Semester classes begin

- Feb. 28** Summer Session class schedule, print version available
Summer Session registration begins

- Mar. 11-12** Early Childhood Mega Conference

- Apr. 6** Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference
- Apr. 8-9** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 13** Area schools' preview - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Apr. 15-16** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 17** *A Midsummers Night's Dream* 2 p.m.

- May 6** Commencement

ADMISSIONS

Campus Preview Days

Fridays: Jan. 21, Jan. 28
Monday, Feb. 21
Saturday, Apr. 2

Academic Advising and Registration

Freshmen

Fridays: Mar. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 15, Apr. 29, June 17, July 15

Transfer Students

Monday, May 9
Fridays: June 10, July 15