



BEMIDJI

STATE UNIVERSITY

A magazine for alumni and friends
FALL/WINTER 2022



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UNIVERSITY



NORTHWEST
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COLLEGE





PRESIDENT JOHN HOFFMAN

It is early January as I write my first welcome for Bemidji State University magazine. Before me are stunning frosted pines and ice fishing tents spotted across Lake Bemidji. The beauty alone is reason enough for my wife, Joy, and I to pinch ourselves, making sure it's real and not just a dream. But the best of the dream is in the people that have made our welcome warm and bright.

None are more impressive than our students, and this issue features three outstanding students. Amanda Wallis-Martin is doing her part to fight our nation's substance abuse epidemic by enrolling in our addiction certificate program more than 20 years after earning her bachelor's degree. Bemidji native Toby Glen is embracing the opportunities presented by our natural environment while balancing a career at Bemidji Steel. And Rumor Flatness, another Bemidji native, is excelling on the courts with our women's basketball program while participating in our groundbreaking cancer research team.

The fall semester proved to be a great one for Beaver Athletics. Nationally, 2022 was the 50th anniversary of Title IX, and I quickly learned how many of the pioneers in women's athletics have ties to Bemidji. For example, I invite you to read the feature story on alumna Lynn Dorn. A nationally renowned leader in the world of intercollegiate athletics with decades of experience at North Dakota State University, we caught up with Lynn to recap her career in the context of Title IX.

Later, you'll get a chance to meet our new athletic director Britt Lauritsen through a brief Q&A feature. I met with Britt during her interview process before I had officially started my duties as BSU president, and it's clear that Beaver Athletics is in the capable and talented hands of a rising star. You will also see highlights from historic seasons for women's soccer and men's football and read about additional successes in golf, cross country, indoor track, and basketball. Roll Beavers!

Of course, the BSU experience extends beyond athletics into remarkable academic experiences, a resurgence of programs in music and the arts, the rich diversity of our people and connections to Bemidji and Northern Minnesota. We are currently busy in our "season of planning" and preparation for upcoming seasons of action and acceleration as described in the article about my arrival. These are exciting times at BSU, and I look forward to meeting you when you come home for a visit!

Go Beavers!

Dr. John Hoffman

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A NEW PRESIDENCY BEGINS



Q&A WITH BRITT LAURITSEN



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JOHN HOFFMAN

Leading University in the Pines Toward Its Future

By Carissa Menefee

The University in the Pines has a new leader.

On July 1, 2022, Dr. John L. Hoffman was named the 12th president of Bemidji State University, and the fourth to also serve as the president of Northwest Technical College. Early on, he defined his approach for leadership as a series of seasons — background, listening, planning, acting and accelerating.

SEASONS OF BACKGROUND AND LISTENING

Hoffman's seasons of background and listening began March 16, when the system's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the chancellor's recommendation that he be hired. That announcement capped the system's national search for a successor for President Faith C. Hensrud, who retired after six years at the helm.

During the search, Hoffman's most recent experience as vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston drew the attention of Minnesota State system chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

In that role, Hoffman's responsibilities ultimately encompassed academic and student affairs and enrollment management. He implemented multi-faceted student success programs, which were credited for helping the Crookston campus increase its student success and retention rates and to reduce first-year retention rate disparities between the university's Black, Indigenous and students of color and their white counterparts.

This work directly paralleled Minnesota State's Equity 2030 initiative, which calls on the system's 35 colleges and universities to eliminate equity gaps for students of color by the year 2030. It's an aggressive initiative which Malhotra describes as "a moral imperative", and he identified Hoffman as the ideal presidential candidate to lead this work in Bemidji.

"Personally and professionally, Dr. Hoffman is strongly committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and he fully understands Equity 2030 as a unifying framework and organizing principle of student success," Malhotra said in his announcement of Hoffman's hire. "He exhibits through his work great leadership traits and has prepared himself well through both experience and expertise to assume the presidency of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College."

Additional accomplishments in Crookston include overhauling enrollment management functions which, pre-COVID, increased new student enrollment, increased yield, reduced summer melt, and increased proportions of students of color, low-income students, and first-generation students. He also helped to implement programs which led to significant increases in core learning outcomes for all students.

Hoffman says he intends to build upon these accomplishments during his work in Bemidji.

"My past experiences have shaped me into the leader I am today," he said. "I am ready and energized to lead these institutions into the next chapters in our story as we focus on enrollment management, retention and diversity."

His seasons of background and listening included a lengthy series of meetings and listening sessions with campus and community leaders, along with faculty, staff, employees and students from both institutions in the weeks leading up to his July 1 start date.

SEASON OF PLANNING

The fall semester has served as Hoffman's "season of planning," as he has laid the foundation for his presidency and begun work on future planning for both institutions.

In October, he was formally inaugurated into the presidency during an on-campus ceremony which included greetings from the Chancellor, the chair of Minnesota State's Board of Trustees, and a video featuring words of welcome from students and employees from both campuses.

Pebaamibines, associate professor of Indigenous studies, delivered the opening invocation and encouraged Hoffman to

allow forgiveness and unity to guide him during his leadership.

"Allow the spirit of forgiveness to be the guiding principle as you take on your new role as our leader," he said.

He shared a metaphor of eagle feathers — one white and one brown — and explained that they represented the diverse people Hoffman had been called to serve as president.

"You are going to be bridging a gap between those two," he said.

After being officially invested into the presidency by Chancellor Malhotra, Board Chair Roger Moe delivered the oath of office.

Following the oath, Hoffman received an inaugural beaded medallion, crafted especially for his inauguration, from Chrissy Downwind, executive director of BSU's American Indian Resource Center. Downwind said her role in the ceremony was to demonstrate how BSU and NTC aim to reconnect with the region's Indigenous communities.

"Dr. Hoffman has acknowledged that our

campus sits on ceded lands of the Ojibwe and Dakota people," she said. "His work in Bemidji these last three months speaks to the passion he has and his goal to make this journey here in Bemidji one that's going to reconnect (us) and acknowledge the wrongs."

The presentation of the medallion was followed by an honor song performed by James Cloud III from Red Lake Nation's P. Town Boyz, accompanied by Indigenous dancers. The dancers included BSU alumna Patricia Bugg from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe of South Dakota; Whitney Spears from Red Lake Nation, Oglala Lkator and Cheyenne River Lakota; and Daniel Isham from Bois Forte Band.

The dancers were a surprise for Hoffman, who reveled in the beauty of the song and dance before delivering his Inaugural address. After thanking loved ones who have helped him on his journey the BSU and NTC presidency, Hoffman illustrated three things that he believes set BSU and NTC apart from other institutions — and a fourth that makes them, in his words, "truly remarkable."



"Value starts with our values," he said. "And the cornerstones of our values are student success, diversity, equity and inclusion."

To close, Hoffman called back to a performance by the Bemidji Choir, under the direction of Dr. Dwight Jilek, associate professor of music, earlier in the ceremony. After consulting with Jilek on the choir's musical choices for the ceremony, Hoffman challenged BSU students to select a piece which both spoke to them and included the messages they wished for the inauguration to convey. They selected "Flight Song," a 2015 composition by Kim Andre Arneson. "I said (to Dr. Jilek), ask the students what

is the lyric that they would have be a part of setting forth our future?" Hoffman said. "Each member of the choir has a hidden song — and it is the conductor drawing out the song, as our faculty draw talent out of our students. As they begin to sing, they engage the world.

"So what is our vision of the future?" Hoffman asked.

"Let us sing."

Seasons of Acting and Accelerating

Hoffman's first semester as president has focused on listening to those around him, connecting with the community and

developing his strategic plan to lead BSU and NTC into the post-pandemic era. He has embraced and highlighted the alignment between BSU and NTC and welcomed Dr. Ketmani Kouanchao as NTC's new executive vice president for academic affairs.

During the spring semester, Hoffman and his Cabinet will engage in a process to develop new strategic plans for both institutions, moving from the seasons of listening and planning into seasons of action and acceleration.

During a late-semester presentation to campus, Hoffman shared his view that strategic planning achieves the best outcomes when those plans can impact

the day-to-day activities of an organization's front-line employees. His goal is simplicity — a brief plan with three strategic priorities that can encompass both BSU and NTC, with campus-specific workplans developed to support that unified vision.

In pursuit of this vision, Hoffman is assembling a strategic planning workgroup which will include representatives from bargaining units, faculty, staff, students, community members and alumni. The group will establish and refine the framework for the three strategic priorities which will be presented to the campus for consultations and feedback. Hoffman will meet with this group early in the spring semester and intends to unveil a strategic plan in May

2023.

"This is not going to be all of what we do," Hoffman said. "But it should be the heart and priority."

This planning work will help guide both BSU and NTC through an environment where both institutions are still experiencing post-pandemic enrollment declines. That enrollment decline, combined with a state funding model which has not kept pace with institutional needs, adds urgency to a planning process that will help Hoffman navigate what promises to be a challenging period for both schools.

Hoffman said the plans will reinforce his vision of the strengths of both BSU and NTC

— the people, place, programs and value he spoke to during his inaugural address as cornerstones for both institution's futures.

"We have difficult decisions to make, but our end goal is value," he said. "We've got amazing people, we're situated in an exciting location, and we have some exceptional academic and co-curricular programs. Our diversity, equity, inclusion and a growing collaboration with our American Indian peers are clear strengths for us. As we work to address equity gaps and promote inclusive outcomes we shift to a mindset where we are learning together and from one another. This is a significant opportunity."



BSU adds new academic programs

BSU has recently added new academic programs in environmental communication and accounting systems & analytics.

BSU's interdisciplinary environmental communication degree is the first of its kind in Minnesota State. The program, which offers major, minor and certificate options, will help students develop an in-depth understanding of environmental issues and strategies for communicating those issues with diverse audiences. The program combines courses in science, mass and interpersonal communication, social and cultural issues and political science.

The 28-credit accounting systems & analytics certificate program will give students hands-on experience using the software tools used for audits and taxation, and strategies for preparing accounting analytics reports. The certificate is meant to support a growing need for financial analysts, a field expected to grow by 6 percent over the next decade.

InPSYT program receives \$250,000 grant

BSU's InPSYT program, which supports Indigenous students majoring in psychology, received a three-year, \$250,000 grant from the Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation. The funds will be used to help the program increase enrollment, retention and graduation of Indigenous psychology majors at BSU, and also provide them with support resources as they graduate and transition into the workforce or graduate education programs. InPSYT launched in August of 2021 with a cohort of six students.

BSU additions program awarded \$100,000 grant

BSU's Department of Social Work was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to train and support students pursuing the university's addictions certificate program. The grant will support up to 15 student scholarships and stipends, faculty staffing needs and program marketing expenses to grow the number of licensed alcohol and drug counselors in the workforce, particularly rural Minnesota.

Opera Night Returns

Under the direction of Associate Professor of Music and Director of Opera Theater Dr. Cory Renbarger, Opera Night returned to BSU, November 18-19 in the Beaux Arts Ball-room. The event included classic opera performances and other songs from Broadway performed by BSU students and music faculty. Baritone Nathan Peterson-Kindem, who is a contracted singer with Minnesota Chorale and a section leader at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis, was a guest performer.



BSU to host Institute for Indigenous Education & Practice

President John Hoffman announced Bemidji State University as the site for Minnesota State's new Institute for Indigenous Education & Practice in October. The institute, which is to be housed in BSU's American Indian Resource Center, will create and distribute resources for all Minnesota State faculty and staff, support campus-specific action plans to support Indigenous students and explore strategies for providing additional financial support to Indigenous students. The institute plans to launch at least two communities of practice before the end of 2023.

Rivera named inaugural director of civil rights and restorative justice

As inaugural director of civil rights and restorative justice at BSU and Northwest Technical College, Emelie Rivera will co-direct BSU and NTC's Center for Civil Rights and lead investigations involving Title IX and Minnesota State policy violations regarding discrimination and sexual and domestic violence. Rivera's past professional experiences include human services, investigations and judicial processes in state and tribal governments.



Alpha Zeta Chi named top new chapter

Bemidji State's Alpha Zeta Chi, a student-led chapter of the National Communication Association's Lambda Pi Eta honor society, was named Rookie Chapter of the Year at the association's national conference, November 19 in New Orleans. The annual honor is given to one chapter that was chartered within the previous three years and best exemplifies the national society's six areas of excellence.

La Venture given prestigious Fulbright award

Dr. Kelly La Venture, associate professor of business administration, was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Program award for her work promoting entrepreneurship in Cambodia. She collaborated with Young Entrepreneur Associate of Cambodia staff to grow an acceleration program for small and medium business in the country from Aug. to Sept. 2022.

La Venture has been recognized by the Fulbright program four times, twice for her work in the sub-Saharan island of Mauritius (2018, 2020-21), Cambodia in 2022 and for sharing her Fulbright experiences with kindergarten-through-college classrooms as part of the Fulbright in the Classroom program, also in 2022.

Hensrud granted president emeritus status

Dr. Faith C. Hensrud, who served as president of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College from 2016-2022, was granted president emeritus status by the Minnesota State Board of Trustees during its November meeting.

Hensrud was recommended for emeritus status by system Chancellor Devinder Malhotra, who commended Hensrud for her leadership at both BSU and NTC, commitment to Minnesota State's Equity 2030 initiative and engagement with tribal nations and tribal colleges.

She joins Dr. M. James Bensen, Dr. Jon Quistgaard and Dr. Richard Hanson as current presidents emeriti of BSU and NTC.



LEE



McDOWELL

BSU mourns loss of Dr. Art Lee and Betsy McDowell

Dr. Arthur "Art" Lee, beloved professor emeritus of history at Bemidji State from 1959-95, passed away Sept. 24 at the age of 91. He was the author of "University in the Pines," considered the definitive history of Bemidji State University, published in 1994 in conjunction with the university's 75th anniversary.

Betsy McDowell, one of the three founders of women's athletics at Bemidji State, the second-winningest coach in Beavers history and long-time professor of physical education, health and sports passed away Dec. 6 at the age of 89. She helped found the Bemidji State women's field hockey program and coached the team from 1969 to 1985, compiling a record of 338-80-18.





AMANDA WILLIS-MARTIN

After 20 years as a financial adviser and insurance agent, Amanda Willis-Martin decided it was time for a change and enrolled in Bemidji State University's addiction certificate program.

Willis-Martin first earned an undergraduate degree 20 years ago at the University of Minnesota, Morris. However, during that time she also took some classes at Bemidji State to fulfill her degree requirements and fell in love with the university. It was her first choice when she decided to go back to school.

"When I first received my bachelor's degree years ago, BSU was instrumental in helping me. They partnered with my university and let me take classes at Bemidji State. It's a great school and my experience on campus was one of the primary reasons I looked at attending Bemidji State now," Willis-Martin said.

When Willis-Martin was first considering changing her career she was looking into master's programs to become a therapist. After consulting friend Rebecca Hoffman, chair of BSU's social work department, she decided to explore Bemidji State's fully-online addictions certificate.

"I never thought I would be getting a licensed alcohol and drug counselor certification. It wasn't on my radar until Dr. Hoffman talked to me about it,"

Willis-Martin said. "Now that I have worked through the program, I think everyone should take some of the coursework. Our communities would be better served if we all had more knowledge on how substance abuse works."

As a nontraditional student, Willis-Martin said she appreciates how this program is preparing her for a career so different from her past experience.

"The addictions program has prepared me not only by giving me the physical resources I need, but a support system," she said. "The professors provided the encouragement to try something new and the education to do it. The psychology and social work departments partner well and give students a strong overview of what working in this field truly looks like."

Willis-Martin is currently an intern at Sanford Behavioral Health in Bemidji. She hopes to continue her education and eventually earn her masters as a marriage and family therapist. The addictions certificate will help her reach that goal by supporting her as she works with individuals and families who face substance abuse.

"Substance abuse is an epidemic. This program helps not only those dealing with substance abuse, but also those who are impacted by it - which is everyone," Willis-Martin said.

For many students attending Bemidji State University, the northern lake shores and adventurous landscapes take on a special meaning. For Toby Glen, it is home. Having grown up in Bemidji, the senior project management student knew he wanted to continue growing his roots at Minnesota's premier north woods university.

"I loved the idea of going to school in the town I've grown up in," Glen said. "I knew that BSU would be a great fit."

With an affinity for the outdoors and a strong connection within the Bemidji community, Bemidji State was his first choice for college.

"I enjoy the outdoor atmosphere that Bemidji State has come to embrace," he said. "Being on the lake and just minutes from a wide variety of other outdoor activities has been a favorite throughout my time at BSU."

As Glen was completing his senior year of high school, he planned to pursue a degree in environmental studies. However, after exploring the university's many programs, Glen became interested in project management, a field with promising career opportunities and that aligned with Glen's work style.

"I considered how much I really enjoyed collaborative work," he said. "I haven't looked back since; this degree is perfect for me and my future goals."

In 2020, Glen started his career by securing a position at Bemidji Steel, a metals company with a wide range of services and globally-sourced materials. Glen has worked his way up from fiber laser operator to value-added manager, where he does employee and job

scheduling and 3D design and modeling.

"What I have come to love about my job is that every day is something different," he said. "Some days its working with people in agriculture then the next aerospace, and the next precision manufacturing."

Glen said the management styles and techniques he's learning at Bemidji State paired with his on-the-job experience has contributed to his success in his position and within the industry. He was invited to travel with Bemidji Steel to Europe during summer 2021 to source materials for the company's new facility south of Bemidji. It was eye-opening, Glen said.

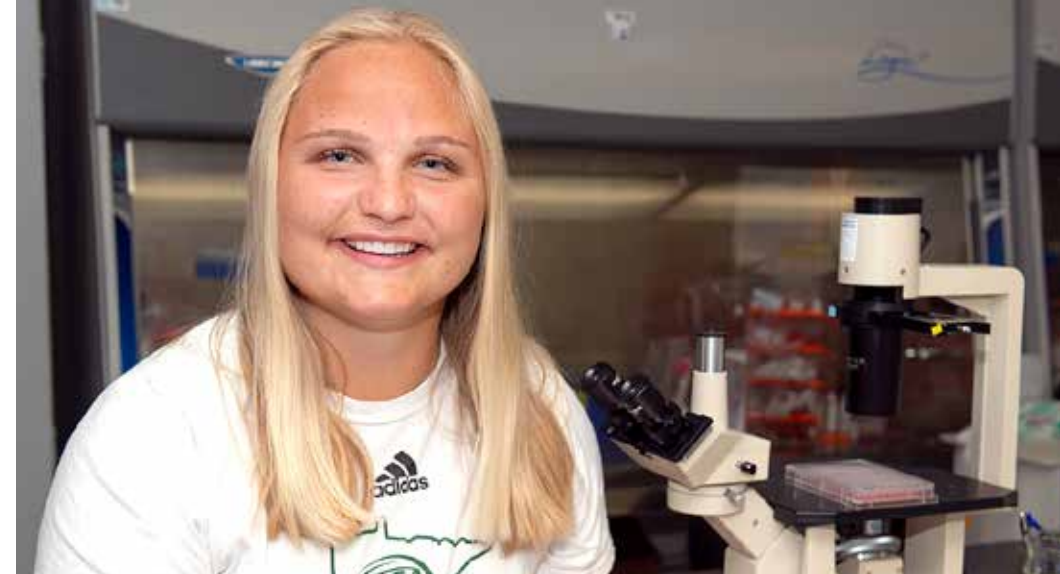
"You don't have to go to a city to get a good paying job," he said. "Jobs at companies such as Bemidji Steel are scattered all amongst upper Minnesota. Even if they do not have the same feel as a job in the cities, they still hold a lot of promise."

As Glen continues his career with Bemidji Steel, he is excited to not only see where his position at the growing company takes him, but to stay close to his roots.

"I look forward to being a part of a growing, prosperous company while still being able to enjoy all that the Bemidji area has to offer."



TOBY GLEN



RUMER FLATNESS

A pre-dentistry senior and women's basketball guard from Bemidji, Rumer Flatness knew she wanted to be a Bemidji State Beaver after her first tour on campus.

"I picked BSU because I loved the campus and the atmosphere here," she said. "I really enjoyed the conversations I had with the Women's Basketball team and the faculty were awesome about explaining academic opportunities. It felt like home from the moment I stepped on campus."

Soon after she committed to playing basketball at BSU, Flatness was recruited by Dr. Mark Wallert, chair of the university's biology department, to join the Wallert Cancer Research Team on campus. She started her research the summer before her freshman year and has been conducting cancer research at Bemidji State since.

"I ended up loving the research, I am following in the footsteps of many young BSU scientists," she said.

Flatness is researching the effects between ovarian cancer chemotherapy and a cancer protein called NHE1, which is known to hyper-activate cancer cells. The goal is to identify a drug that can slow or halt the production of NHE1 so that patients have a better quality of life during chemotherapy, she said. But Flatness is not the first cancer researcher on campus.

For the last 25 years, Wallert has guided undergraduates through real-world research experiences that have shown them what it means to be working scientists. Wallert began running his cancer research team at BSU for the first time in fall 2015.

"A lot of my role in this project is data collection, lab time and experiments coming together to write the paper. There were two girls who were a part of the research team before me who will also be a part of the final product."

The multi-year ovarian cancer research will culminate in a final research paper sometime during the 2022-2023 academic year, Flatness says.

Funding sources that support the research team include the Lueken Family Foundation, the Richard Beitzel Biochemistry Student Research Fund, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and various BSU faculty grants.

Flatness wanted to be a doctor when she started at Bemidji State, but changed her mind to pursue dentistry instead. Even though she changed her focus from medical health to dental health, Flatness continued to focus her energy on helping others. Set to graduate in Spring 2023, Flatness recently applied for dental school and dreams of one day becoming an oral surgeon.

CAMPUS Happenings

❶ Freshman Zhicheng He performs at Opera Night ... ❷ Women's hockey players help new students move into the residence halls ... ❸ Students participated in the annual Marketing Trade Show at Bemidji's downtown Mayflower Building ... ❹ Serving rice at the American Indian Resource Center's Day of Welcome ... ❺ De-Stress with Pets has become a popular Finals Week tradition ... ❻ Relaxing at the Gillett Wellness Center ... ❼ An August pool tournament in Birch Hall ... Ⓢ Convocation officially welcomed new students to campus ...

❶ A free Midnight Breakfast helps students prepare for Finals Week ... ❷ 2022 Homecoming royalty ... ❸ — Exploring opportunities at the fall Major & Career Expo ... ❹ An Ojibwe-themed exhibition of student work in Gallery X ... ❺ Dr. Mark Fulton leads BSU's Commencement march each spring ... ❻ Design Guild's interactive display at this fall's Beaver Organization Bash ...

❶ BSU's Blue Ice Jazz Band performed in early November ... ❷ Technology, Art & Design faculty work was on display at the Talley Gallery in October ... ❸ Fans anticipate a key moment in BSU's Homecoming football win ... ❹ A serious game of Spikeball outside of Tamarack Hall ... ❺ For the first time, BSU raised a Pride flag to commemorate National Coming Out Day.



Q&A with BSU Athletic Director

Britt Lauritsen

Britt Lauritsen has just completed an eventful first semester as Bemidji State University's athletic director, with BSU's football and soccer programs making program-best runs through their respective NCAA championships. We asked her to share some insights into how her first year at BSU is going so far.

Q: What has this fall been like for you as a new AD?

"It feels like a fever dream because it's gone so quickly. We've had so many things going on, and I've had the opportunity to meet so many people and to get to know our coaches and student-athletes. It's constant overload for my brain and it's all of the things that I love — meeting people and building relationships. I haven't stopped since day one, but I'm also learning how to guard my own energy and recharge."

Q: What would you say are the next BSU programs poised for the kind of break-through we saw from football and soccer this year?

"I want to ask the question, 'Why not us?' That mindset shift is important, and a few are making that transition. Football has owned this idea of being 'Kings of the North.' When you own that, it builds a lot of buzz — and recruits look at that. They want to be a part of a program with some swagger. All of our programs are learning to lean into their own hype."

Q: As you lean into this idea of 'Why not us?', what support does the department need to take those next steps?

"Our more-successful programs finish in the upper third of their conferences while in the lower third in terms of scholarships. Normally that math does not check out. There comes a point when you're in a recruiting battle and can't match an offer — that hurts us. We need to aim for that upper third for scholarships in every sport. That breeds success."

"If we're able to offer \$1,000 more, \$1,500 more, that's the difference between winning or losing a recruiting battle. That's why I love Division II — at the end of the day, scholarships support a lot of people. It's not all going to one student-athlete."

Q: So small increases in support have the potential to make a program substantially more competitive?

"Absolutely. Being in the upper echelon of the NSIC translates to being in the upper echelon of NCAA Division II — and it's the same for Division I hockey. Oftentimes we recruit against Division I mid-majors. But when we have a coach who can identify talent and has the resources to make a competitive offer, we can separate ourselves. Add in our department's culture and what being in Minnesota's North Woods brings? There are students who crave what we have at Bemidji State. With support, we can bring in student-athletes who have the potential to completely change the landscape."

"When I walk into this office I remind myself that everything we do we have to do with love. If we can look back and say that the people in our programs felt like they were doing something they loved, then that's a win every single day — and that's all that matters to me in this department."

A longer version of this Q&A is available on our website.



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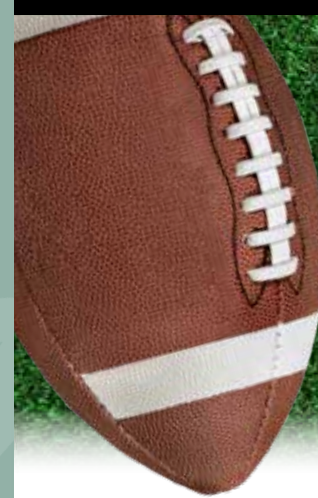
BSU SPORTS

Football, Soccer Cap Historic Fall Seasons

BSU's football and soccer programs continued their recent successes with program-best runs through their respective NCAA Championships.

FOOTBALL — After starting the season 0-2 with losses by a total of 4 points, the football team finished its regular season with 9 consecutive wins, then defeated Winona State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at Chet Anderson Stadium. BSU fell to Angelo State in a second-round road game.

SOCCER — After an 11-win regular season, BSU won the NSIC Tournament for the first time with a 2-0 championship-game win over Minot State. It advanced to the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals — its farthest national championship run ever — before falling to Ferris State with a Final Four berth on the line. BSU was ranked 9th nationally in the final United Soccer Coaches poll.



Dahl Earns Second All-America Award

Defender **Megan Dahl**, a senior from Rosemount, earned second-team All-America honors from the United Soccer Coaches, becoming the first two-time All-America honoree in Beaver soccer history. Dahl also repeated as the NSIC's Defensive Player of the Year after leading a Beaver defense which surrendered just 16 goals in 25 matches this year.



DAHL

Beaulieu Led the Nation in TD Receptions

Wide receiver **Brendan Beaulieu**, a senior from Cottage Grove, set a BSU single-season record and led NCAA Division II with 19 touchdown receptions this year. The performance helped him earn All-America accolades from Associated Press, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the American Football Coaches Association.



BEAULIEU

Cobb, Kaplan Earn All-America Honors



COBB



KAPLAN

Junior offensive lineman **Ty Cobb**, from Mounds View, and senior linebacker **Zollie Kaplan**, from St. Louis Park, joined Beaulieu in earning All-America honors this football season. Kaplan was named to the first team by the Associated Press and second team by the Division II Conference

Commissioners Association, while Cobb earned second-team honors from both organizations.



Alt a Repeat Finalist for Harlon Hill Trophy

Junior quarterback **Brandon Alt**, from Cottage Grove, is a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to Division II football's national player of the year, for the second consecutive season. He led the NSIC with 3,864 yards passing and 38 touchdowns en route to league offensive player of the year honors.



Fall Sports Recap

BSU men's golf saw its fall season end with a pair of Top 3 finishes — second place at Winona State's Watkins Invitational and third at the Washburn Invite in Topeka, Kansas ... Women's golf finished a four-event fall slate with a 10th-place finish at the Mustang Invite in Marshall ... Cross Country ended one of its best seasons ever with a 25th-place finish at the NCAA Central Regional championship, shaving nearly a minute off of last year's average team time ...

Winter Sports

Indoor track set 14 personal bests and one program record at its opening meet in Duluth in early December ... Men's and women's basketball and hockey seasons are underway; follow these programs and keep up-to-date on all the latest Beaver Athletics news at BSUBeavers.com.





NO TURNING BACK

Photo: North Dakota State University Athletics

Dorn Talks Women's Athletics Before and After Title IX

By Eric Sorenson

Lynn Dorn '72 has a passion for sports that began at a young age thanks to a veritable "Sandlot"-like sports complex — complete with a softball diamond, football field and even a hockey rink with lights for dark winter nights — on a vacant lot near her family's Thief River Falls home.

She and the other neighborhood kids treated it like a second home. Pickup games in the summer and after school nurtured Dorn's competitive spirit from an early age.

"Our families supported our desire to play and we never thought twice about girls playing with the boys," Dorn said. "We played for hours on end as a neighborhood, boys and girls equally."

While it was common for children to have equal athletic opportunities on the sandlot, organized athletics painted a much different picture across the United States. Dorn recounts that throughout the country, and especially in her hometown, organized sports for girls and women at the high school level and beyond were quite different than today.

"I was unfortunate with the absence of any high school girl's athletics program," Dorn said of her high school experience in Thief River Falls. "We participated in the Girl's Recreation Association, which was an intramural program."

Some communities organized extramural leagues, where girls competed against other schools in their cities or schools in neighboring cities. These leagues were the predecessors to sanctioned high school girls' athletic conferences like the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

The state of athletics at Bemidji State was notably different from Dorn's high school experience. She participated in every sport offered to women on campus including basketball, golf, field hockey, tennis and volleyball. For the first time, she was part of teams that took on legitimate competition in the MinnKota Conference, one of the first women's intercollegiate athletics conferences in the nation. Even though they traveled to games in clunking vans, had no scholarship funding and dealt with a limited equipment budget, Dorn and her teammates made the best of the situation.

"We had a sisterhood that maintained itself through the joy of competing," Dorn said. Progress toward equality was jumpstarted with the passing of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, often referred to as simply "Title IX", which made discrimination based on gender illegal in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. On paper, it was a huge step for equality in women's athletics. On college campuses and within athletic departments, however, change was often slow.

"Resistance came from politicians, educators and athletic departments," Dorn said. "Some women (in athletics roles) lost their positions through pressure to resign, job reclassification and even termination."

Fifty years later, great strides have been made toward athletic equality in the Title IX era, compared to the treatment female athletes experienced before 1972, thanks to the actions of countless athletes, coaches, administrators and advocates for equality — people like Dorn.

Dorn graduated from Bemidji State in 1972 with a physical education degree and, after a three-year stint as a physical education teacher and coach at Crookston High School, landed at North Dakota State University. That spurred a 38-year career as NDSU's women's athletic director. The women's teams she supported won seven NCAA national championships, 62 North Central Conference titles, 37 Summit League championships and nine conference all-sports trophies during that time.

Dorn's leadership at NDSU was well-respected throughout the college athletics world. She was named one of the five most influential people in Division II athletics by College Sports



Photo: David Samson, The Forum

magazine in 1995, Women's Basketball Coaches Association Administrator of the Year in 1997 and a top administrator by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators in 2002. She was also active on several NCAA national committees and served as an NCAA Division II vice president before retiring in 2015. She was inducted into the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994 and the NDSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022.

From the start, Dorn and NDSU senior

"Equitable treatment is a moving enterprise, but Title IX must be in the forefront of it all."

—LYNN DORN '72

administration did not look at Title IX so much as a mandate to be followed, but common sense guidance for how to treat student-athletes fairly and with respect, regardless of gender.

"We took the position to do what was right without regard to federal legislation," she said. "This is not to suggest that early progress (regarding Title IX) wasn't slow or without conflict, but I truly believe that our transition to equity was much better than other institutions."

Recent examples of inequity between men's and women's NCAA athletic programs show there is still work to be done, however. The NCAA famously faced intense backlash from the college women's basketball world when it provided women's teams only one set of dumbbells and a stack of yoga mats during the 2021

NCAA Division I national tournament, while the men's teams enjoyed a fully stocked workout facility.

Clearly, with this oversight and several others making sports headlines, barriers between men and women programs still exist. Dorn says now is not the time to rest, especially as the face of collegiate athletics continues to evolve.

"There is a swell of change for women in sports, including sponsorships, media personalities, name, image and likeness opportunities and leagues of play at all levels," she said. "Equitable treatment is a moving enterprise, but Title IX must be in the forefront of it all."

Advancing Title IX will continue to be an ongoing responsibility of not just university athletic directors and other senior leadership, but everyone who participates in, coaches, supports or enjoys women's athletics at any level.

"Generations have embraced the value of women in sports. Moms and dads line the playing fields, gyms, pools and tracks encouraging their daughters to excel in their chosen sport," she said.

What does all this mean, and where do we go from here? The former Beaver and athletic administrator puts it simply.

"There is no turning back opportunities for women to compete."

ALUMNI NEWS

Drive with BSU pride

Minnesota residents can show their Bemidji State University pride and support scholarships for BSU students with the state's new branded BSU license plate. \$25 from the tag's initial cost and subsequent renewals directly support scholarships for BSU students.

Learn more at bsualumni.org/licenseplate



Seven inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

Seven individuals were inducted into Bemidji State University's Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony and brunch, October 8 in the Beaux Arts Ballroom.

BSU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Eddie Acosta III, 1999-2003 (Football)
Kelly Lewis, 1975-79 (Men's Swimming & Diving)
John Murphy, 1975-79 (Men's Hockey)
Zuzana Tomcikova, 2008-12 (Women's Hockey)

ALUMNI COACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Alan J. Murdoch '69

BSU JOHN S. GLAS HONORARY LETTER WINNERS

Paul and Paige Hanson

Beavers cheer Twins on to victory on August 5

The BSU Alumni & Foundation hosted nearly 250 alumni, donors and friends of the university for BSU Night at Target Field, August 5 in Minneapolis. The Bemidji Alumni Choir sang the U.S. and Canadian national anthems on the field before the game, which saw the Twins defeat the Toronto Blue Jays, 6-5, in 10 innings.

BSU NIGHT AT
Target Field

MAKE SURE THE BSU ALUMNI OFFICE HAS YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFORMATION

Alumni who have changed jobs or their names and those who have multiple or seasonal addresses are asked to update their contact information by visiting bsualumni.org or calling (218) 755-2599 so you can stay up-to-date on news and events.

Annual
Report
available at
bsualumni.org

Staff changes at BSU Alumni & Foundation offices

Over the last few months, the BSU Alumni & Foundation team has welcomed five new members while three existing staff members have assumed new roles.

Lisa Hofstad - Director of Advancement Operations (formerly director of development)

Adrian Dunn '09, '11 - Director of Development (formerly advancement officer)

Justin Klander '01 - Senior Advancement Officer (promoted from advancement officer)

Kari Cooper '14 - Advancement Officer

Rhonda Walters - Database Coordinator

Kim Carver Smith - Gift Processing Specialist

Jesse Katz '15 - Director of Annual Giving, Athletics

Jessie Horien '16 - Donor Relations Coordinator

Athletics introduces Pillars of Impact giving program

BSU Alumni & Foundation and Beaver Athletics

have announced Pillars of Impact, a donor recognition

program to celebrate proud Beaver supporters who ensure student-athletes are successful both in the classroom and during competition.

Donors who support Beaver Athletics each fiscal year receive special recognition, invitations to VIP-only events, opportunities to interact with coaches and players, exclusive game-day experiences and more. Gifts made to Beaver Pride, hockey ticket premiums or specific sports build upon each other, incentivizing supporters to give multiple times throughout the fiscal year.



PILLARS OF
IMPACT
ANNUAL GIVING

Five alumni honored during Homecoming



PROVOST



GOODWIN

The following alumni were recognized for their personal and professional accomplishments at the BSU Alumni & Foundation Honors Gala, September 16 at Bemidji's Sanford Center.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Dr. Joseph Provost '88, Spring Valley, California

Cheri Goodwin '11, Bemidji

Dr. Thomas Chong '92, Singapore

Dr. Timothy Beebe '87, Minneapolis

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HALL OF FAME

Sally Soliday '78, Lakeville



CHONG



BEEBE



SOLIDAY

Read inductee bios and learn more at bsualumni.org/gala

IN MEMORIAM

in order of class year

Houtsma, Brandon '07, Ogilvie

Gilsvik, Patricia '85, Grand Rapids

Dahlen, Robert '83, Goodridge

Desizlets (Roberts), Peggy '83, Bemidji

Bialka, Arthur '79, Sauk Rapids

Larson, Paul '79, Fort Dodge, Iowa

Knotts, Gregg '78, Rochester

Mattfield, Daniel '78, Grand Rapids

Swanson, Rory '78, Shackelfords, Va.

Taffin, Stephen '78, Bagley

Johnson, Betty (Tangen) '77, Crookston

Swanson, Deanna '75, Mesa, Ariz.

Allen, Kathryn '74, New Hope

Leonard, Chester '74, Northborough, Mass.

Blom, Greg '74, Wascott, Wisc.

Witt, Louise '74, McKinleyville, Calif.

Carlson, Roy '73, St. Paul

Cummings, George '73, Detroit Lakes

Blomberg, Richard '71, Shevlin

DeLap, Roger '71, Thief River Falls

Riley, Timothy '71, Frazee

Roberts, William '71, Hamel

Sabart, Dennis '71, Eveleth

Alstrom, Carol '70, Cokato

Neary, Ted '69, Hibbing

Knutson, Katherine '67, Thief River Falls

Niemela, Evelyn (Ornquist) '64, Greenbush

Sylvester, James '64, Little Falls

Aldrich, Charles '62, Green Valley, Ariz.

Averill, Christie (Simonsen) '62, Chisholm

Sycks, Rodney '60, Hinckley

Lee, Shirley (Brekke), '57, Plymouth

Ahrens, Jr., William '56, Owatonna

Lee, Lloyd '56, Plymouth

Eggen, Vivian '55, Wannaska

Sanner, Harriet (Wilmer) '52, Lancaster

Larson, Celia (Gustafsson) '49, Bagley

CLAS S N O T E S

2021

LINDSAY STAGE

works as a staff accountant for Westberg Eichens in Granite Falls where she assists with client bookkeeping, payroll and tax preparation. She lives in Dehli.



STAGE



SEOPA

MORGAN SEOPA works as a project engineer for Kraus-Anderson Construction. Seopa also serves as secretary for the Twin Ports/Iron Range chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction. She lives in Side Lake.

THALEN ZIMMERMAN

is a journalist and media content manager for the Echo Press in Alexandria. He lives in Alexandria.



ZIMMERMAN

2020

MADELYN HAASKEN is a multimedia editor and photographer at the Bemidji Pioneer. She lives in Bemidji.



2019

Alec Meyer joined United Community Bank in Perham as a mortgage lender. He lives in Perham.



MEYER

Madelyn Haasken '20

2018

ABBY SPERR earned her doctor of optometry degree from Midwest University's Chicago College of Optometry. She lives in Downers Grove, Ill.

PEYTON MILLS was hired as principal at Renville County West High School. He previously taught social studies at Parkers Prairie and Waubun-Ogema-White Earth High Schools. He lives in Renville.

STERLING KNOX was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan to the state's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee in May. The committee oversees Minnesota's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Knox's appointment on the committee runs through January 2026. He lives in Bemidji.



KNOX

2017

ALLISON COORDES is the assistant commissioner for membership services for the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Coordes was a captain on the BSU women's basketball team during the 2016-17 season and was a three-time NSIC All-Academic team honoree. She lives in Roseville.

2014

AMANDA MIX was hired as assistant principal at Ellen Hopkins Elementary in Moorhead. Mix most recently worked as support specialist for the Bemidji school district. She lives in Moorhead.

JENISE ROPP is a nurse practitioner for Sanford Health in Bagley. She previously worked as a registered nurse and family medicine nurse practitioner for Esperanza Health Center in Philadelphia. She lives in Bagley.

2013

REBECCA GRAVES became the executive director of the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, which serves seven counties and four tribal nations in northeastern Minnesota by encouraging local art development. Graves previously served as the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area. She lives in Cass Lake.



GRAVES

2011

JARED HOUSE oversees daily activities of Grant County's soil and water conservation district as the office's administrative manager. He started with the organization in 2016 as a resource conservationist. He lives in Morris.



HOUSE

2010

JUSTIN BROOKS was hired by the Haug/Kinzler Weath Management Group in Grand Forks. Brooks is a Certified Trust and Fiduciary Advisor with 12 years of experience in financial services. He lives in Grand Forks.



BROOKS

2008

ALLISON BARTA retired from teaching science at Bagley School District in May after seven years. Barta returned to BSU to earn her teaching degree after working for the Boy Scouts of America as a senior district executive for five counties in the Bemidji area. She lives in Cass Lake.



JACKSON

2006

NICHOLAS JACKSON exhibited a collection of original paintings at BSU's Talley Gallery in January. The exhibition, titled "Through the Darkness, Painted Hope," featured fantasy settings and elements of storytelling. Jackson lives in Bemidji.

MARK WILKOWSKI and his wife purchased Bemidji's Union Station building in downtown Bemidji and opened a thrift store, Union Station Thrift. Union Station began as a train depot in 1911 before becoming a number of restaurants including Union Station Restaurant, Bada Bing, Blue Ox Bar and Grill, The Depot on 1st and Señor Petron's. Wilkowski lives in Bemidji.

2004

GABE NELSON was hired as Austin High School's head boys track and field coach after six years as an assistant. Nelson also teaches physical education and health for the district. He lives in Austin.



NELSON

2003

AARON KALLHOFF was hired as assistant coach for Brigham Young University's women's basketball team. Kallhoff spent the last nine years coaching for Penn State, Louisiana State and Texas Christian Universities. He lives in Provo, Utah.



KALLHOFF

ABRAM SCHWARTZ, Bemidji Middle School math teacher, was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is considered the high honor given to science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators by the U.S. government. He lives in Bemidji.



SCHWARTZ

KENNY NEWBY, principal at Forest Lake Elementary, was elected as Minnesota's representative to the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Newby lives in Scandia.



NEWBY

2002

STEPHANIE MERCIL was hired as pre-K to third grade assistant principal for Century School in Park Rapids. Mercil most recently worked as the school's coordinator of educational services. She lives in Park Rapids.



MERCIL

2000

ADAM FULTON was promoted to captain of the Minnesota State Patrol's Brainerd district. He lives in Brainerd with his wife, **Becky (Stensland) '01**, who works as a sales coordinator for Lincoln Financial Group.

1999

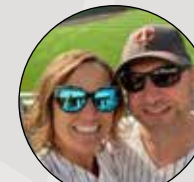
GREG SPRINGER was named chief financial officer of Consolidated Telecommunications Company based in Brainerd. Springer started with CTC in 2008 as director of finance. He lives in Brainerd with his wife, **KARI (SMITH) '99**, who makes custom quilts as owner of Riverwood Quilts in Brainerd.



SPRINGER

1998

TRAVIS HENSCH was hired as superintendent for Swanville Public Schools. He previously worked four years as the community and activities director for the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District. He lives in Henning with his wife, **SHANA (PAZDERNIK) '98**, who works as a physician's assistant for Tri-County Health Care in Wadena.



HENSCH

BRIAN TANGEN retired after a 31-year career teaching business education and coaching track and field at Frazee-Vergas High School. In retirement, he plans to continue working as a fishing guide in the Frazee area, where he lives.



TANGEN

Kari (Smith) Springer '99



[CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

CLAS S N O T E S

1997

AMY (MAIXNER) EVANS was appointed public health director for Dodge County. She previously worked as emergency preparedness coordinator for Olmstead County Public Health Services. She lives in Kasson.



EVANS

1997

GAIL LEVERSON is a senior funding specialist for WiDSETH, an architectural, engineering, environmental and surveying consulting company. She has worked for WiDSETH since 2019, previously working as assistant director for the Hubbard County Development Achievement Center. She lives in Park Rapids.



LEVERSON

HEATHER SCHJENKEN was named executive director for Itsaca Youth for Christ, a Christian-based organization that serves middle- and high-school students in Itasca County. She lives in Deer River.



SCHJENKEN

1996

MARK GRAVELLE has taught manufacturing, welding, engineering and project development courses as the technical education teacher at Northland Community Schools in Remer for 21 years. He was named teacher of the year by the district March 2022. Gravelle lives in Remer.

1993

LEE ZIEKSI is a realtor for Johnson Hometown Realty and sixth grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, both in Hibbing. He lives in Hibbing.

1985

KELLY McCALLA was named vice president of academic affairs for Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College in Cloquet. McCalla was previously an academic dean and interim vice president of academic and student affairs for Riverland Community College's Austin, Albert Lea and Owatonna campuses. He lives in Cloquet.



McCALLA

1983

MARY (DYE) MOEN retired after a 28-year career teaching music for the Staples-Motley School District. She lives in Wadena with her husband, **Del '82**, who is an interim pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Browerville.

1981

Brenda Child was awarded a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for U.S. History. A Northrup Professor of American Studies and member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, recently served as a committee member writing a new constitution for the Red Lake Nation. She lives in St. Paul.



CHILD

1979

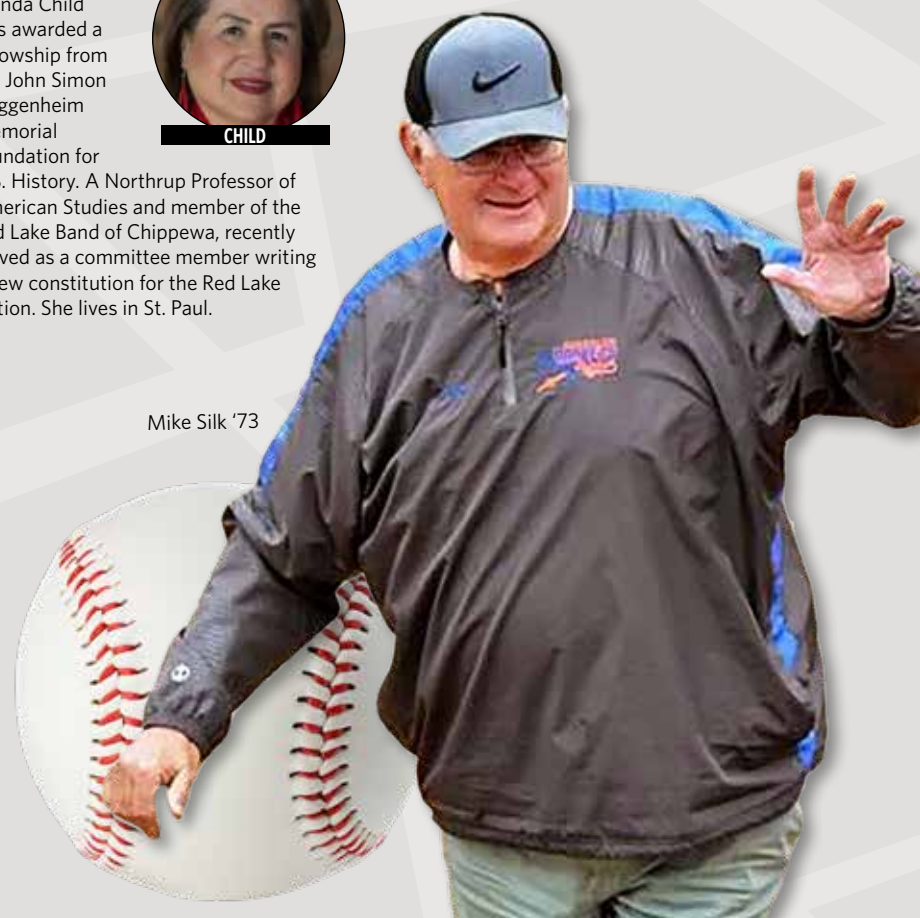
MICHAEL HERBERT, professor of criminal justice at BSU, wrote and published "Leaving Campus: A World War II Epitaph." The book tells the stories of Bemidji State Teachers College students who lost their lives in WWII. He lives in Bemidji.



HERBERT

1973

MIKE SILK was inducted to the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches' Association Hall of Fame. Silk founded Randolph High School's softball team in 1980 and served as head coach until 2014, now serving as an assistant coach. He lives in Inver Grove Heights.



Mike Silk '73

ALUMNI Calendar

JANUARY 14

BSU Track & Field Alumni Meet
Bemidji State University

FEBRUARY 3-4

Men's Hockey Alumni Weekend
Bemidji

FEBRUARY 21

DAY OF GIVING

FEBRUARY 24-25

Beaver Hockey Pregame Socials
Union 32 Craft House, Egan

MARCH 5

Alumni & Friends Social with President Hoffman
Sarasota, Fla.

MID MARCH

Alumni & Friends in Arizona
with President Hoffman
Multiple locations, dates TBD

APRIL 15

Green & White Dinner and Auction
for BSU Athletics
Sanford Center, Bemidji

JUNE 16

Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament
Bemidji Town & Country Club

JULY 14

Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament
Bemidji Town & Country Club

AUGUST 25

Howe-Welle Women's Athletics
Golf Tournament
Bemidji Town & Country Club

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1

Homecoming Weekend
Bemidji State University

**MORE EVENT INFORMATION
AVAILABLE AT:**

BSUALUMNI.ORG



ALUMNI & FOUNDATION





BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699



MINNESOTA STATE

Bemidji State University,
A member of Minnesota State

SAVE THE DATE

BEMIDJI STATE ATHLETICS
THE
GREEN & WHITE
DINNER & AUCTION

All proceeds benefit Bemidji State University student-athlete scholarships



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023, SANFORD CENTER

- 5 p.m.** — Registration/Coat Check
- 5:30 p.m.** — Cocktail hour / Silent Auction begins
- 7 p.m.** — Dinner
- 8 p.m.** — Live Auction begins

MAKE AN
IMPACT!

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023