

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2012

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION FOR
BSU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Insuring SUCCESS

A BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION
HAS HELPED AL CLARK BECOME STATE
FARM INSURANCE'S TOP AGENT

Bemidji State University
HORIZONS

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FROM PRESIDENT R. HANSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another issue of Horizons magazine – and another chapter in the unfolding story of Bemidji State University.

The articles and features in every edition of this publication are intended to keep you, our alumni and friends, informed about the accomplishments of our students and graduates and present highlights of campus news and events in recent months.

We are never bashful about sharing our university's successes and the success of our alums, like Al Clark, the subject of our cover story, who followed the path from Bemidji State to become one of the nation's most successful insurance agents.

Each article, whether focusing on a few of our many outstanding 2012 graduates or the extraordinary journeys of our alumni, reveals a new perspective on how BSU continues to transform lives and prepare individuals who go on to make a positive difference in the world.

This has been another outstanding year for our athletics programs, especially our men's basketball team, and you will find updates on the spring seasons of our men's and women's sports. Likewise, it's fascinating to read about the accomplishments of our new Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, several of whom have gone on to inspire and motivate young athletes in their careers.

Thank you for your interest in Bemidji State, and, as always, thank you for your support of our students and faculty. Our continued partnership with you could not be more vital to our future.

Best wishes,

Richard Hanson

Campus NOTES



Eagles near campus

Bald eagles were seen near campus in mid-March, a sure sign of spring in Bemidji. While some eagles stay in the area for the winter, most migrate south and then return in spring. The nearby Chippewa National Forest is home to one of the largest breeding populations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

Tadlock named Provost/VPAA



Dr. Martin Tadlock has been named Bemidji State's provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Tadlock has prior experience as an administrator at Bemidji State. From 2001-06, he was BSU's dean of the College of Professional Studies and School of Graduate Studies. He also was a professor of professional education.

Tadlock comes to Bemidji State after serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern State University in Alva, Okla. He served as that school's interim president from August through December of 2011. Tadlock also has worked at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Utah State University, California State University, Monterey Bay and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

He holds bachelor's degrees in geography and English and a master's degree in English secondary education, both from Utah State. He earned his doctorate in educational administration and leadership from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Tadlock will begin his role at Bemidji State in June.

BSU-NTC hire new communications director



Scott Faust in April joined the staffs of Bemidji State and Northwest Technical College as their joint director of communications and marketing. He will lead efforts to ensure that people in the Bemidji region, the Upper Midwest and beyond are aware of and appreciate

the strengths and contributions of the two institutions' programs, faculty and students.

Faust comes from California State University, Monterey Bay, where he was executive director for strategic communications since 2008. Previously, he worked for 26 years in the newspaper industry as a reporter, editor and general manager, most recently at The Salinas Californian.

He has a master's degree in communication and leadership studies from Gonzaga University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas. Faust and his wife, Lee Richmond, have two sons, who will be attending Bemidji schools.

New signs declare campus tobacco-free

When students, faculty and staff arrived back on campus in January for the start of spring semester, they noticed new signs strategically placed near building entrances and high-traffic areas reminding the community of BSU's tobacco-free policy. BSU went tobacco-free in the fall of 2011 as part of a student led initiative that began in 2010.

'First Speakers' Emmy on display at AIRC



The Midwest Regional Emmy Award won by the Twin Cities Public Television production, "First Speakers: Restoring the Ojibwe Language," was on display in February at the American Indian Resource Center as part of a statewide tour. The documentary focuses on the endangered Ojibwe language and highlights a new generation of scholars and educators working to preserve it. The documentary, which includes interviews with Ojibwe elders, scholars and teachers, prominently features Bemidji State's Ojibwe language program.

BSU named to Princeton Review list of green schools

For the second consecutive year, Bemidji State has been named one of America's greenest colleges and universities by *The Princeton Review*.

The publication's Guide to 322 Green Colleges evaluates colleges and universities on environmentally related policies, practices and academic offerings. In partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, the Review has produced lists of America's green colleges since 2011.

In the 2012 guide, *The Princeton Review* noted Bemidji State for its green fee; its aquatic biology, environmental studies and education programs; its status as a Presidents Climate Commitment signatory; its active Students for the Environment club; and its requirement that all students take a People in the Environment course in order to earn a degree. The magazine also recognized the University's efforts to encourage sustainable water usage through tapwater stations and use of reusable bottles to minimize use of bottled water.

Foundation to fund business internships

Bemidji State has partnered with the George W. Neilson Foundation to offer a unique opportunity for businesses in the Bemidji area to hire students for internship positions.

The foundation is offering businesses within 30 miles of Bemidji the opportunity to hire an intern, with the foundation paying up to \$2,500 of that intern's salary. Beginning this summer,

the foundation will fund 10 internships, including one nursing position and nine for any other private business that pertains to any major or program offered by Bemidji State or Northwest Technical College.

Funding will be split equally, with 50 percent of the hourly compensation for the intern being paid by the foundation and the remainder paid by the business.

Henry signs her new book of memoirs

Dr. Annie B. Henry, professor emerita of education, hosted a book signing in March for her memoirs, "The Girl From Jacksonville Who Dared to Dream, Hope and Believe!" at the American Indian Resource Center.

Henry retired from the BSU faculty in 2007 after 20 years as a professor of professional education. The book recounts her experience as a girl born to sharecropper parents in a legally segregated America who went on to become the first in her family to earn a doctorate degree. Henry created BSU's first endowed scholarships for African Americans in education, and a room in the Education-Arts Building is named in her honor.

Events celebrate student accomplishment



More than 300 students showcased their academic and creative labors on April 4 at Bemidji State's 13th Annual Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference. This year's conference featured about 75 presentations and more than 85 posters, along with music and art events and a mock trial.

The kick-off breakfast for the conference featured a keynote address by CBS News correspondent Hallie Kauffman. She was the first Native American person to deliver an on-air report on a prime-time, major-network news program. President Hanson also spoke, and the Kingbird Singers performed.

Reitmeir joins Women's Hall of Fame

Mary Ann Reitmeir, professor emerita of social work, was inducted into the Northwest Minnesota Women's Hall of Fame on March 17. Reitmeir helped found Bemidji State's women's studies program, and she served as a role model to countless students and faculty. She has been active in the region as a social work educator, a community organizer and a consultant.

Dr. Louise Jackson, professor emerita of psychology, gave the keynote address at the induction ceremony.

MEMBERS OF THE GLAS FAMILY GATHER APRIL 21 AS THE GLAS SCHOLARS HOUSE IS PRESENTED TO THE CAMPUS.



Glas Scholars House dedicated

On April 21, Bemidji State officially unveiled BSU's Glas Scholars House, former home of John and Lily Glas and their sons John "Boysen", Robert and Richard. The Glas family were fixtures in Bemidji for decades, and John Glas spent 36 years at BSU in a variety of leadership and administrative roles. He was assistant to the president and vice president for academic affairs and, from 1967-68, he served as the University's acting president. BSU's John S. Glas Fieldhouse, the home of Beaver hockey from 1967-2010, was named in his honor in 1975. Elfy Glas donated the home to the University after moving closer to her sons. BSU will use the house as a residence for visiting scholars.

BSU hosts regional science fair

About 150 high school students from a 15-county region around Bemidji were on campus Feb. 25 for the 59th Annual Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair.

Students submitted a variety of projects in all areas of science and engineering. The top 31 projects advanced to the Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair, held March 17-20 in Bloomington. The fair's overall winner will travel to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, May 13-18.

Students submit a variety of projects in all areas of science and engineering. Projects have included macro-invertebrate populations, the design and development of high-voltage oceanic wave electrolysis, and development of an eco-friendly paver using incinerator ash. Students can win a variety of awards, and the top prize is a trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Pittsburgh.

New hires in Division of Advancement



Bemidji State's Division of Advancement in April announced a pair of new hires. Molly Aitken-Julien has been named interim director of the BSU Alumni Association. She has worked with the Office of Admissions at BSU since 2007. Keir Johnson has joined the BSU Foundation as a planned giving officer. Johnson has worked in Duluth since 2005, first as executive director and CFO of the A.H. Zeppa Family Foundation and later as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.



Winter Sports RECAPS

MEN'S HOCKEY finished 17-18-3 in its second season in the WCHA and fell to 12th-ranked North Dakota in the first round of the WCHA Playoffs in Grand Forks. BSU had five wins over ranked teams, including a sweep of No. 10 Colorado College in February... **WOMEN'S HOCKEY** had its best year ever, setting a school record with 17 wins and finding itself ranked in the nation's top 10 for most of the season. **Montana Vichorek**, a senior from Moose Lake, was named Third-Team All-WCHA... **MEN'S BASKETBALL** won a school-record 22 games, claimed the NSIC championship for the first time since 2003-04, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for only the second time in the program's history. **Dermaine Crockell**, a junior from Mesa, Ariz., was named NSIC Newcomer of the Year, and **Bryce Tesdahl**, a senior from Crosby, was named first-team All-NSIC after setting the league record for assists. Tesdahl also earned second team All Region honors... **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** finished 9-18 for the season and 7-15 in the NSIC. **Morgan Lee**, a sophomore guard from Hayward, was named Second-Team All-NSIC. Lee led the Beavers in scoring and was BSU's first all-conference honoree since 2008... **INDOOR TRACK & FIELD** finished 11th at the NSIC Championships in February. **Kirsten Maras**, a senior from Ramsey, set a school record in the 800m to place sixth, and **Ashley Larva**, a junior from Floodwood, set a school record in the 60m hurdles.

ATHLETICS NEWS



NSIC Coach of the Year Bowen Leads Hoops to NCAA Tournament

Men's basketball coach **Matt Bowen** was named NSIC Coach of the Year after guiding the Beavers to one of their most successful seasons. After BSU was picked seventh in the NSIC pre-season coaches' poll, Bowen led the squad to a school-record 27 wins, an outright NSIC regular-season championship, and the second NCAA Tournament berth in school history. Under his guidance, the Beavers received their first votes in the national poll and were ranked as high as third in the NCAA's Central Region.

Ellisor Named Daktronics National Player of the Year

James Ellisor, a senior forward from Glendale, Ariz., in March became the most-decorated player in BSU men's basketball history when he was named Daktronics National Player of the Year. The award highlighted a busy award season for Ellisor, who also was named NSIC Player of the Year, Daktronics Central Region Player of the Year, National Association of Basketball Coaches First Team All-Central District, NABC All-America and Division II Bulletin All-America. Ellisor is BSU's first three-time All-America honoree.



Men's Hockey Players Sign Professional Contracts

Three BSU men's hockey players signed professional contracts shortly after the season. **Brad Hunt**, from Ridge Meadow, B.C., and **Jamie MacQueen**, from St. Thomas, Ont., both signed with NHL minor-league affiliates in the American Hockey League. Hunt signed with the Vancouver Canucks-affiliated Chicago Wolves, while MacQueen signed with the Lake Erie Monsters, affiliated with the Colorado Avalanche. **Shea Walters**, from Hibbing, signed with the East Coast Hockey League's South Carolina Stingrays, a minor-league affiliate of the Washington Capitals.



Tomcikova is BSU's First Women's Hockey All-American

Goaltender **Zuzana Tomcikova's** record-shattering four-year hockey career came to a close in award-winning fashion, as she became the first Beaver to earn All-America accolades. BSU's all-time leader in every major goaltending category, including wins (41) and shutouts (18), earned Second-Team All-America laurels from CCM. She also earned First-Team All-WCHA honors, becoming the first BSU player to earn a spot on the all-conference first team. Tomcikova finished her career with 3,518 saves, second-most in WCHA history and third-most in NCAA history.

Tomcikova, who garnered international accolades for her play for Slovakia during the 2010 Winter Olympics, again represented her home country at the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championships, held in April in Burlington, Vt.

13 Named to Winter Academic All-NSIC Team

Thirteen student-athletes were named to the 2012 Winter Academic All-NSIC team, including five from men's basketball, four from women's basketball and three from track and field. In addition, seven BSU student athletes were awarded NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction honors. Named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, the award is given to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher and are completing their undergraduate careers. BSU's honorees were **Courtney Anderson** (softball, Virginia); **Megan Beard** (softball, Fveleth); **Kelli Christiansen** (tennis, Bemidji); **Brianna Duff** (soccer, Ramsey); **Britney Greenwaldt** (tennis, Morris); **Alison Hougen** (track and field, Bemidji); and **Jessi-Beth McCannell** (volleyball, Brandon, Man.).

AL CLARK *Insuring* SUCCESS



Al Clark's background in education has served him well as the top insurance agent in State Farm's North American network.

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At age 12, Al Clark overheard his brother-in-law talking about a course he was taking at Bemidji State University.

"They were studying mutual funds, and he was talking all about it, and his interest brought me in," says Clark, 69, who spent his boyhood summers 16 miles south of Bemidji selling angleworms to fishermen on Kabekona Creek. "I took \$500 of my angleworm money and bought some mutual funds. My father had to sign."

That was his first investment in mutual funds, and he hasn't stopped.

"I've always been an investor, I've always been a saver," Clark says. "That was something that got started early. I guess some of it was ingrained early in my life."

His knowledge of investing, combined with lessons in hard work during years in his family's grocery store, gave him the tools he would need to succeed as an entrepreneur.

"I always felt at some point I was going to have my own business," Clark says.

Today, he has that business he dreamed of in his youth. He is the No. 1 multi-line agent among more than 18,000 State Farm Insurance agencies in the United States and Canada.

Though owning his own business was never far from his mind, Clark knew education would be the first key to his future success.

The youngest of five children, he followed his siblings to the education field at Bemidji State.

"I had four brothers and sisters who preceded me to Bemidji," he recalls. "It was a natural thing to do. My oldest sister was the one who led the parade. She taught elementary school in Cass Lake, then she became a librarian. My next sister ended up being a principal in the Nashville system, then she became an administrator. My sister Dorothy was a kindergarten teacher; her husband graduated from Bemidji and taught

at a junior college. My other brother-in-law was a professor at Vanderbilt. And, my brother taught all his life and coached high school football."

Clark spent four years at Bemidji State, earning a degree in business education in 1964. As a commuter student, he was focused on the task at hand and soaked up all he could from his classes and surroundings.

"I was there to get a degree," he says. "I was there to enjoy the people, the teachers and the experience. It was a welcoming place. Nobody was there to put you down or flunk you out; they were there to provide education."

After graduation, Clark hoped to combine his dual passions for business and teaching. His wave of applications for business education teaching positions led to his first job in Pine River. That job would set him on the course that eventually led to his owning his own business.

"Pine River was looking for someone to continue the vocational education program. They knew I had lots of business experience because I worked in the family business," he says. "That job fit me perfectly. It would have been very difficult for me to spend seven to eight hours in a classroom."

Instead, Clark was able to teach a couple of classes during the day and spend the rest of his time supervising and heading up student placement services.

Over the next 15 years, he went on to head up vocational education programs in St. Paul. He also earned master's and doctorate degrees in education and business from the University of Minnesota.

Education to Business

Like many others, Clark reached a major turning point in his career when he was offered a promotion. He found his path to success by declining the opportunity and heading in a different direction.

"I was offered a job to be in charge of one of the vocational schools' post-secondary programs in St. Paul," he says. "I turned it down because I really had a desire to have my own business."

From there, Clark began to research the type of business that would best fit his skills, passions and experience. He decided on insurance, a field he had helped many of his students break into over the years. In 1979, Clark moved to Arlington, Texas, and opened his own State Farm agency. He used the knowledge gained in his years as an educator to hire a staff, attract clients and begin meeting their insurance needs.

"Insurance is teaching people to understand their policies, so there's an education process there," he says. "I also had all this exposure running on-the-job training programs, helping students with their career paths, helping them write business plans. I became my own student."

While Clark is still using his skills as an educator, he also has never stopped learning. In the years since opening his agency, he has earned a charter financial degree and become a certified life insurance underwriter.

"I do a tremendous amount of reading, and I always try to achieve the best in whatever I do," Clark says. "School has never been out for me."

He isn't just one of many successful insurance agents. For the past 10 years, he has run the most successful and highest-earning agency in State Farm's North American network.

As for the secret to his success, Clark credits good old-fashioned hard work and a drive to succeed. These are traits he learned early, both as a young angleworm salesman and growing up in the family grocery store.

"I was waiting on customers and helping my father when I was probably 6, 7, 8 years old," Clark recalls. "I spent all my time in the store helping. Business has been in my genes my entire life."

He has also drawn from his past career in education and his own schooling.

"I've used my marketing skills and things I've studied," he says. "They joke and call me the marketing genius."

While the title may be in good fun, Clark's focus on marketing his start-up agency has paid tremendous dividends for State Farm. Over the past 32 years, he has attracted more than 25,000 accounts that include auto, homeowners, life, health, mutual funds and bank loan policies.

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"Insurance is teaching people to understand their policies, so there's an education process there. I also had all this exposure running on-the-job training programs, helping students with their career paths, helping them write business plans. I became my own student."



AL CLARK RECEIVED THIS HOCKEY JERSEY IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR BSU SCHOLARSHIPS.

Insuring **SUCCESS**

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"I was able to grow an agency during those first 20 years in a way that had never been done before," he says.

In addition to hard work and ambition, Clark attributes his success to hiring and training excellent employees who share his passion. There, too, he's excelled, staffing his office with more than 20 employees – five times as many as most State Farm agencies.

"My people have been with me a long time," he says. "Twelve have been with me more than 15 years; five have been with me more than 20 years; and I still have my original first employee."

Clark says the key is to hire dedicated employees, then give them the opportunity to succeed in a positive environment. His goal is to provide his employees the opportunity to have a career instead of just a job. That care and concern for his employees is something he observed back in his undergraduate days at Bemidji State.

"I felt professors were interested in me and interested in my progress," Clark recalls. "They were there to provide whatever support and education I needed. It was more than just trying to get an education, it was the whole package that I thought was the key that Bemidji has to offer."

"The experience of being around people with a caring attitude has returned many benefits such as long-time career employees, loyal clients and respect in the community where I live. It has built into my passion to do things that I believe will make a difference."

Whether in his dealings with clients, employees or the community, Clark thrives on giving back.

"The experience of being around people with a caring attitude has returned many benefits such as long-time career employees, loyal clients and respect in the community where I live. It has built into my passion to do things that I believe will make a difference."

"I have a good day when I can help someone," he says. "I've always felt when you're in a business, and you're doing business in a community, you need to give back to your community."

In part, Clark has lived out this principle through his involvement in the Arlington Rotary Foundation. The foundation provides elementary school students incentive to focus on their own studies by paying four years of college tuition for every sixth-grade student who goes on to graduate from high school.

"I'm head of the foundation for that program," he says. "We now have 33 kids in college. Within that, I personally sponsor five kids every year."

Clark has also been generous in his donations to his alma mater, offering incoming freshmen and some upperclassmen financial assistance to attend Bemidji State.

"I think education is the key to our lives," he says. "So that's where I've chosen to give back." ■

BEMIDJI School of Nursing

A recent report by the Institute of Medicine found that the most highly educated nurses tend to deliver the best nursing care. Beginning this fall Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College will continue their efforts to deliver that high-quality nursing care, organizing under one umbrella as the Bemidji School of Nursing.

This new structure will benefit nursing students like Megan Richer, who started at NTC and wants to complete her four-year degree at BSU.

Richer, who graduated in 2007 from Cass Lake High School, has always wanted to be a nurse but got cold feet after starting a nursing program in Nebraska. She moved back to Bemidji after a year, found work in a group home and enrolled in the licensed practical nursing program at NTC.

"It was a nice transition back into school, and I ended up loving it," says Richer, who will complete her associate degree in May and enroll in the BSU baccalaureate program this fall. "I know now that this is what I want to be doing. This is what I'm passionate about."

Richer, who plans to go into public health, looks forward to her transition to BSU. "I really like the idea of having access to the resources of both institutions," she says. "It will create more opportunities to get involved with the faculty and other nursing students and make the transition a little less stressful."

Dr. Jeanine Gangeness, founding dean of the Bemidji School of Nursing and former chair of the BSU Department of Nursing, says part of the

impetus behind the new organization is to make that transition as seamless as possible.

"We want to encourage nursing students to pursue the highest level of education that's best for them," Gangeness says.

At full enrollment capacity, the two institutions have a combined total of 750 students. Under the new organization, both schools will continue to provide the same programs they have traditionally provided. NTC will provide practical nursing and associate registered nursing programs, while BSU will provide the four-year, baccalaureate nursing program.

Shared efforts will include student advising services and a joint committee on accreditation. The BSU program already is nationally accredited, while NTC is working on accreditation. Under the leadership of a single dean, the school will also negotiate single contracts with health care agencies where students complete practicum training. BSU has about 80 such contracts, and NTC has nearly as many.

"Nursing excellence is vital to our patients, our nurses and our community, and that's the guiding principle that this partnership with NTC and BSU shares," says Shirley Heinz, chief of nursing for Sanford Health in Bemidji, one of the contracted agencies. She notes that the school will be especially beneficial for working students who sometimes need more support to step into a four-year program. ■



BSU Students TO WATCH

As these extraordinary students prepare for the future, the sky is the limit



Zuzana Tomcikova grew up playing street hockey with her older brother, Martin, in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava.

Wherever Martin and his buddies went, Tomcikova followed. "We played street hockey with a baseball glove, made-up equipment and a tennis ball," she recalls. "They always wanted me to play goalie, and I liked it. My brother did not go easy on me."

Tomcikova will graduate from Bemidji State University in May with a degree in mass communication, a minor in psychology and a place in the hearts of Beaver hockey fans. A star goalie for four years, she will leave BSU as the program's all-time leader, with 18 shutouts and 3,518 saves. Her career save total is ranked second in Western Collegiate Hockey Association history and third-highest in the history of NCAA Division I women's hockey.

She also was the program's first WCHA Player of the Year, its first All-America selection and its first candidate for the Patty Kazmaier Award, given to the national player of the year.

"Needless to say, she is the finest player in our history," says Steve Serlich, head coach of the BSU women's hockey program. "But my favorite memory of Zuzana will be as a great teammate who handled all of her success with class, humility and a wonderful sense of humor."

Although Tomcikova has many personal records at Bemidji State, it is the team's accomplishments that mean the most to her. "We're really close, especially my class," she says. "I'm really going to miss them."

She notes that it's difficult for Europeans to play hockey in the United States, so she appreciates the opportunities she found at Bemidji State.

As a sophomore, Tomcikova helped lead the Slovakian women's hockey national team to a berth in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, where she garnered international attention for her performance.

"I was really surprised at the media interest there and how the people supported us," says Tomcikova, whose senior thesis explores the perception of women's hockey in the media.

When she returns to Slovakia, she plans to earn a master's degree, hopefully continue her hockey career and pursue her dream job of sports broadcasting.

"I would love to go back to the Olympics in 2014, but I don't know," says Tomcikova, who admits it's hard to imagine not playing hockey. ■

Jini Block counts becoming involved in fifth-grade band as one of the experiences that has had the greatest impact on her life. She chose to play the flute and knew almost immediately that music would be a lifelong passion.

"It was probably the biggest thing that I was interested in," she recalls.

Block will graduate from Bemidji State University in May with a degree in instrumental music education. She hopes the degree will help her pursue her dream of becoming a band instructor. Her journey toward that dream began after she worked with younger children at a summer band program in her hometown of Northfield.

Block says beginning musicians are her favorite students. "You're never going to see kids light up like they do when they hear their first sounds," she says.

The flute has been Block's main instrument, but she also enjoys the trombone and percussion. At Bemidji State, she has played in the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble and the Red Line Swingers and also has performed with the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra.

On campus, Block served as president of Bemidji State's chapter of the National Association for Music Education. She also helped organize the 2010 International Trumpet Guild Convention, which BSU's Department of Music co-hosted in Minneapolis.

In addition, she has been president of The Phoenix, Bemidji State's chapter of the Gay and Straight Alliance. The Phoenix works to educate and engage people about the challenges facing gay and lesbian students.

"Those kids really need support," Block says. "They lose friends, they lose family.

The Phoenix has done a lot, and I've seen such improvements on campus and in the community."

Block, who had been accepted at two private colleges, applied to BSU when a friend loaned her \$20 for the application fee. It was an offer she is glad she accepted. She says Bemidji State has been a good fit for her and her husband, David, a BSU mathematics student whom she married in July.

Block especially appreciates her music instructors. "They care so much. They're passionate, and they're experts in their fields," she says.

Block student-taught this spring and looks forward to having her own classroom, or maybe a band room. "Music can do something for everyone," she says.

Her mission is to bring music into people's lives and, she says, "help kids become whatever it is they want to become."

Sue Nelson, BSU instructor of flute, says Block has exceeded her musical goals.

"Jini is an excellent flutist and will be an excellent teacher," Nelson says. "Sometimes I wonder if she knows what a good musician she is." ■



Leah Palmer always wanted to be a teacher, but she could never choose between her passions of music and physical education.

"I thought I would do one or the other, but I got to my senior year and I still hadn't chosen. So I did both," says Palmer, who graduated from Bemidji State University in December with a double major in music education and physical education. This spring, she had student teaching assignments in both specialties and says she would gladly teach both subjects if the opportunity presented itself.

The Bismarck, N.D., native recently won a Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She is one of only three undergraduates nationwide to receive the award.

"Leah is well-deserving," says Dr. Donna Palivec, professor of physical education at Bemidji State. "She is a diverse, enthusiastic and energetic young woman who has accomplished a great deal during her time at BSU."

For Palmer, music and sports balance each other. As a high school trumpet player, she attended an international music camp and toured Europe with Bemidji State's band. As a BSU student, she took up the French horn and kept the trunk of her car full of sports gear – skis, skates, Frisbees, cleats and kickballs. "Wherever I go, I'm ready for action," she says.



At BSU, Palmer joined the Red Line Swingers, the Rock Climbing Club and the Physical Education Club. She also was captain of the school's ultimate Frisbee club team. Through BSU's Outdoor Program Center, she learned to sail on Lake Bemidji and once hiked through the Grand Canyon.

Her campus involvement did not stop at music and physical activities. Palmer was a peer minister and church cantor, a member of the Student Senate and Academic Student Advisory Council, president of the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee and state board member of the Penny Program scholarship fundraiser. In the summers, she worked as a firefighter for the North Dakota Forest Services and has fought fires in Arizona, California, Georgia and North Dakota.

Those diverse experiences have given Palmer a great deal to draw on as she seeks ways to enrich the lives of her students.

"Teaching is about sharing your talents so others can learn," she says. ■

Building a Business One

Drill

Bits

at a Time

MADE IN AMERICA



“Keeping manufacturing jobs in America and being able to stamp our drills ‘Made in America’ is on the top of my satisfaction list.”

As an undergraduate at Bemidji State University in 1969, Terry Bergum took his first ever ride in an airplane. And he jumped out.

That adventuresome spirit, nurtured during his days on the BSU campus, served Bergum well many years later when he joined a group of investors to reorganize a company on Minnesota’s Iron Range that was on the verge of shutting down.

“I took my entire 401(k) plan to buy into it,” says Bergum, a 1972 BSU graduate who now serves as vice president of marketing and sales for Twist Drill in Chisholm. “It was a big gamble, but I knew it was going to work. I just never thought it would work to this scale.”

Eighteen years ago, 20 manufacturers plied their wares across the U.S. market. The number today stands at four, including Twist Drill, which primarily supplied private-label

drill bits to large brand-name holders. Bergum and three working co-owners rescued Twist Drill in 2003 and grew the company in 2009 by purchasing Triumph Drills, its first brand-name product.

“We had always told our customers we don’t compete against them with a brand in the market,” Bergum recalls of the risky acquisition. “The nation was still in recession, and the bulk of Triumph sales were in housing and construction. Owning a brand name allowed us to control our own destiny and expand.”

Buying Triumph’s brand became a good move. Twist Drills now has sales in Canada and Mexico, with plans to start selling in England and New Zealand this year. In 2011, the company hit \$25 million in sales, \$18 million more than when it came under the new ownership. The workforce grew from 45 to 135 employees, and they have received nearly \$300,000 in profit sharing over the past two years. The plant produces 100,000 drill bits

each day, up from 30,000 just 10 years ago, with capacity to turn out 140,000.

Creating jobs on Minnesota’s Iron Range is important to Bergum, who together with his wife, Gail, raised two children there and now enjoy two grandchildren. “Keeping manufacturing jobs in America and being able to stamp our drills ‘Made in America’ is on the top of my satisfaction list,” he says.

In 2008, the company received the Labovitz Emerging Entrepreneur Award from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. In his 2009 State of the State address, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty cited the company for its job creation. Recently, the company’s CEO met with President Barack Obama’s economic advisers to share best practices for job creation and business development.

Bergum attributes the company’s success in part to a lack of corporate overhead, the company’s hands-on ownership and its trusted and committed employees. “Our customers love doing business with a

private company,” he says. “They can call me up and talk with me. A lot of them are friends as much as customers.”

A Builder and a Fixer

Bergum learned his way around a toolbox early in life. He grew up in East Grand Forks, where his mother’s family farmed and he helped fix machinery. His father’s family worked carpentry and construction. In this environment, he became handy and learned to build. Bergum planned to pursue an engineering degree at the University of North Dakota after high school.

Those plans were sidetracked in 1968 after he accompanied a neighbor on his first visit to Bemidji. It was a life-changing encounter. “I remember thinking, ‘Wow, this is kind of nice,’” Bergum says. “You get on campus in the summer, and you can’t but fall in love with the place.” In one day, he enrolled at BSU, where he would earn a degree in industrial engineering technology.

“The program was relatively new, but it was amazing because all of my instructors had doctorate degrees,” he says. “This education was well suited for me, and I’ve used what I learned in my personal and professional life. When I got into sales, I could speak the lingo for just about anything.”

Bergum notes that his network of friends is one of the most valuable assets of his BSU experience. “College teaches you how to network,” he explains. “It’s the social part that people sometimes take for granted, but today I have lifelong friends from BSU.”

Between his upbringing and his education, Bergum feels he was well prepared for his jobs in manufacturing and later in sales. At Bemidji State, Bergum took courses in everything from plastics and hot metals to electronics and woods. He also pursued adventures such as scuba diving, downhill skiing and other activities that fostered personal growth through risk taking – like jumping out of airplanes. ■

Spirit of INNOVATION

*One of the most valuable lessons
Cary Bates learned at Bemidji State
University started with six dots*



While working toward a degree in computer science, Cary Bates took a class on Pascal programming from Dave Miller. During the course, Miller required students to design a computer game. The one Bates developed was simple, involving six dots on a screen. The player would draw a line between two dots before the computer added a line. The first competitor to create a triangle would win.

"It was interesting to watch people's reactions and how they attributed intelligence to this stupid little game," Bates says. "That project helped me to be more careful about making assumptions, to have an open mind. I don't think Dave Miller intended it to be that, but it's one of the lessons that I took away."

To this day, whether he is working his day job as a senior software engineer for IBM or adding to more than 260 inventions carrying his U.S. patent, Bates combines lessons he learned at BSU with years of experience to identify problems and quickly solve them.

"We all try to keep an open mind and not just see things in the way you're expected to see them," he says. "When you're purposely trying to innovate, all of a sudden you realize you want to look at this thing as objectively as possible and find something that's going to solve this problem better than just looking at the way everyone else has done it."

Problem Solving

Bates filed his first invention with the U.S. Patent Office in the early 1990s while

working on a master's degree in computer science from the University of Minnesota.

He and another Bemidji State alum were developing a computer text editor allowing two parties to simultaneously work in the same document. On a bus trip home from campus, an idea popped into his mind.

"The problem was, if you have a large document, the screen didn't scroll in real time," Bates recalls. "So if you move the slider and set it down on the scroll bar you never end up where you want to be. What we said was, 'We're going to make this slider remember where you've been.'"

His current patents encompass both digital and physical realms. Some are as complex as debugger software, while others are seemingly as elementary as a phone ringing a tone dependent on the user's location.

The sizeable patent list is testimonial to his ability to see a problem and work it through to a unique solution. He feels a critical component of his success as an inventor hinges on rarely appearing as the sole individual on a patent application.

"I've always been kind of patient with people. Part of it was maybe my upbringing; my dad probably moved every two or three years on average," Bates said. "[When] you're continually an outsider, you learn to listen to whoever will talk to you in that situation, whoever will be your friend."

Bates believes that relating to people from different backgrounds enhances the creative and critical-thinking processes. Listening to divergent thoughts and following where they lead some-

times show the inventor an atypical solution, he says.

In fact, Bates quickly dispels the impression that the best inventors are solitary figures who come up with ideas solely through the power of their own imaginations.

"Edison and a lot of the great American inventors would perpetuate a myth they were off in their office or their laboratory developing all this stuff from scratch with no input, and that's not true. It doesn't work that way," he contends. "The vast majority of the inventions I've had come from sitting with groups of people in a meeting where we've gotten together for the explicit purpose of inventing something."

Bates' father was also an inventor who held a number of patents, so exploration runs through his blood. But for him, innovation takes more than singular flashes of brilliance. The process requires straightforward problem solving, something he views as attainable for almost anyone who puts his or her mind to it.

"I've worked with lots of people over the years, and there are very few you can't teach to go through the innovative process once they understand it," Bates says. "Being an inventor is just looking at problems differently. There's a way things have always been done and people keep following the pattern and what they're used to."

"Sometimes if you look at something a little differently, analyze the parts, you can come up with something new." ■



Cary Bates



Laurie Daudt

Blowing Away the

Laurie Daudt traded a solid career in information services for an entrepreneurial partnership with her brother



Alumna Partners with Sibling to Start New Business

After graduating from Bemidji State University with a degree in graphic design in 1996, Laurie Daudt got her career off to a solid, inside-the-box start at a global information services company, Wolters Kluwer. There, she used her design skills to develop printed material and forms.

A decade later, her brother, Kevin Deick, came to her with an idea that changed Daudt's life. Deick was a metal engraver in Little Falls whose research showed that laser cutting had unlimited potential on many surfaces. He convinced his sister to join him in a new engraving company, making products for a general market.

"A desire to create something really unique motivated me to take the risk," Daudt remembers of her 2006 decision to form D&D Custom Laser Designs. At first, she continued full-time as a desktop publisher at Wolters Kluwer while handling marketing part-time at D&D. Deick was in charge of development and production.

The company started small, making wildlife and nature designs on plates for light switches and outlet sockets. Daudt, who lives in Randall, persistently contacted possible buyers of their truly singular merchandise. She eventually convinced Cabela's, the world's largest mail-order, retail and Internet provider of outdoor merchandise, to carry D&D's goods in 2008.

"Cabela's was our first big account," Daudt says. "It gave us a lot of confidence in our product and business and led us to pursue other ideas."

A client's suggestion allowed the fledgling entrepreneurs to begin focusing their efforts on the company full-time in 2009. Unsatisfied with a box-like cribbage board bearing the outline of a lake on its top, the client wanted a better product for its store. D&D came up with a shoreline-shaped cribbage board engraved with contour lines, depths markers, and lake features. Then came cribbage boards with wildlife themes, as well as state maps, complete with highways, towns and points of interest. A line of customizable products made of wood, marble, granite, metal and many other materials followed.

D&D has doubled its sales every year, and they are projected to triple in 2012. Cribbage boards now comprise 80 percent of D&D's business, and it has designs for more than 400 lakes, 20 states and 15 wildlife species. D&D's product line still includes the switch and socket plates that helped launch the company, but now also includes wall art, picture frames, coasters, rustic wood toilet seats, leather knife cases, acrylic plaques, marble tiles, champagne glasses, gun stocks and anything else the siblings can fit into their engraving machines – even deer antlers to personalize a successful hunt.

"It was scary starting a business with some big investments, but it was also intense

leaving a job that I had been at for 11 years to do the business full-time," Daudt says. "Both were really big risks. But Kevin and I have a lot in common. We don't always agree on everything, but we complement each other well."

Ten years older than her brother, Daudt's expanded role in the company now includes customer relations, website management, accounting and an occasional design project. Deick continues to manage the manufacturing end of the business, which has added six part-time employees.

"She doesn't treat me like a little brother," Deick says. "There are a lot of things I see and do well and other things she sees and does well. Most of our conversations are back-and-forth, disagreeing on some and agreeing on others. But I knew it would work out well because the work ethic we got from our parents makes the whole business go."

The sibling partners are hustling to keep up with demand as more custom engraving requests arrive on a regular basis. Daudt admits D&D Custom Laser Designs didn't have a business plan for its early stages, but one exists now to guide growth, time management and organization, while always remembering to see beyond apparent limitations.

"A passion makes us keep thinking outside the box and creating things no one else is offering," Daudt says. "The sky is our limit." ■

An unconventional

CAREER PATH

*provides a
unique perspective
on the world*

Over the course of her career, Melanie (Malterud) Teems has been a teacher, a restaurant owner and caterer, and a champion for the Chesapeake Bay. Now retired, she focuses on volunteering for organizations that work to uphold the integrity of the bay and improve the quality of life for bay-area residents.

"Melanie is guided by her passion for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, the history and heritage of the area, and for the arts it inspires," says Jeff Holland, executive director of the Annapolis Maritime Museum, and a friend of Teems. "Her career shows that all of those elements are inextricably, elegantly entwined."

While Teems began her work with the Chesapeake Bay Trust more than 20 years ago, the importance of water in her life goes back much further.

"When you grow up in Minnesota, you're never far from a lake," says Teems, who was raised on a small farm outside of Bemidji. "When I visited my parents after I left home, one of the first things I always did was walk down to the lakeshore and touch base. I probably thought I was checking to see if everything was OK. Of course, I realize now it probably was a mental exercise in checking to see if I was OK, too. Water always has that effect."

From her days living in Birch Hall, walking along Lake Bemidji, to her work to preserve the Chesapeake Bay, Teems' career has been bookended by water. But the path she followed between those points was anything but direct.

"Some people have a career and they just continue upward," she says. "I guess my career has some sharp curves and maybe some 90 degree angles in it."

Early Education

Teems, who graduated from Bemidji High School, chose Bemidji State University because it was close, comfortable and has a strong education department. From the beginning, though, the aspiring teacher had her eyes on what lay ahead after graduation.

"We always heard from our parents that it is a big world, and we should get out there and see it," she says.

Anxious to explore, Teems entered Bemidji State when she was just 16 and graduated three years later with degrees in biology and English. Though she was younger than her classmates, Teems learned the importance of hard work while at BSU.

"I became an adult while I was in college," she says. "I learned to confront the basic tasks first, work through them, and then go on to the more interesting aspects of my studies, or of my other tasks."

This served her well when she entered the teaching profession at just 19. She also took to heart a piece of advice given to her by her advisor, biology professor Dr. Harvey Levine.

"When I left to go to teach, he said to me, 'Wear suits and don't smile very much,' because he knew my kids would probably be close to my age," she says.

The next five years as a junior high science and English teacher took Teems to Minnesota, Montana and Chicago before she started to realize there was more to her destiny than teaching.

"I loved teaching, but I felt like I was a little confined in the classroom. I wanted to get out and see what the rest of the world was like," she says.

Career Curves Ahead

Not only did Teems want to see the world, she also wanted to expand her personal horizons and experience different walks of life, people and career paths.

"My parents encouraged me to not be afraid to do something different, or to see how other people live or how other organizations work," she says. "I don't think I've ever had a fear of moving or doing other things. I've always looked at it as an adventure and something that would open my eyes a little bit more to something I hadn't seen."

After leaving education, Teems moved to Atlanta, where she tried her hand in the restaurant business and ended up owning a restaurant and catering company.

"I enjoyed the creativity of the restaurant business," she says. "It's a very time-consuming involvement when you're in that business."

"I had other interests, too."

"Some people have a career and they just continue upward. I guess my career has some sharp curves and maybe some 90 degree angles in it."

One of those turned out to be Michael Teems, who worked at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. In 1985, she married Michael, and they moved to Maryland, where her life and career took another unexpected turn.

"Michael and I had a home built in the Annapolis area, and after moving and settling in, I wanted to meet people in the area," she says.

Teems learned the Chesapeake Bay Trust, an organization established by the Maryland Legislature to receive public contributions to help restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay, was looking for a temporary administrator to help with a new fundraising initiative.

"I wasn't looking for a new career, but this sounded interesting to me," she says. "It was soon obvious it was a good fit for both of us, and I became a full-time employee."

Teems worked with the trust for the next 17 years. She served for 11 years as the trust's assistant director and two years as its associate director for finance and administration.

She was able to draw on her experience growing up on a lake and her background in education to teach bay-area adults and children the importance of preserving water habitats.

"It's just an incredible experience to see people having a first-time awareness of the value of the water," Teems says. "I like to think that because of the hands-on projects that the trust has funded in Maryland schools, kids understand that temperature, pH and general water quality affect living things."

She retired from the trust in 2010, but her legacy there lives on through an annual award established in her name and given to exemplary projects that benefit the health of the bay.

A New Chapter

Now in retirement, Teems isn't content to settle down. Most days, her calendar is filled by volunteering. From sitting on boards for the Arts Council and County Heritage to working with a women's giving group, donating her time and resources has become a way of life.

She and her husband are also world travelers. They've amassed a list of destinations that includes China, South America, Croatia, Greece and Russia. This year, the couple plans to take a wine-tasting tour of northern Spain.

The path Teems has taken from Bemidji to the Chesapeake Bay, with all of its twists and turns, has given her a unique perspective on the world, one that informs how she chooses to live her life.

"Melanie is one of those amazing women who knows how the world works and quietly uses that knowledge to change it for the better," Holland says. "There are countless numbers of people out here doing good work in the environment, heritage tourism, and the arts because of what we've learned from her." ■



Melanie Teems

A CALLING TO teach

Shadiow makes an emotional connection with students

“Commencement is a time to reminisce, but also a time to look at new horizons for every graduate.”

When Dr. Linda (Christofferson) Shadiow marched at commencement as a graduate of Hibbing Community College in 1967, she carried her grandmother’s handkerchief to dry the tears she knew would come as she crossed the stage to receive her degree.

It had been just a few short years since she faced an uncertain future after graduating from Hibbing High School. The region’s iron ore industry was struggling, and the nation’s ongoing conflict in Vietnam was creating political unrest. The eldest of five children, she saw only uncertainty as she wondered how she would finance her future education.

Her grandmother, who taught in mining and lumber communities across northern Minnesota, provided an emotional kinship that led to those tears in Hibbing’s dark auditorium.

Shadiow has repeated the outpouring virtually every year since, including her 1969 graduation from Bemidji State University with degrees in English and speech/theatre; the ceremonies for her master’s and doctorate degrees; and the countless times since then she has watched undergraduate or graduate students walk across stages to receive diplomas.

Over a career in education encompassing more than 40 years, Shadiow shed her tears of joy during each and every culminating exercise of the learning process. In those ceremonies, she sees not the end of a journey, but the celebration of great futures.

“Commencement is a time to reminisce, but also a time to look at new horizons for every graduate,” says Shadiow, who spent many years as a professor and

administrator in the education program at Northern Arizona University before turning her attention to faculty development. But her emotional ties to students of pedagogy run particularly deep.

“To be a teacher of teachers carries an exponential responsibility,” she says, “because lined up behind every student getting a degree are metaphorically countless students they will teach.”

The line behind Shadiow began forming after she left BSU to spend a year in the Walker school district. After graduation, she taught five years in Bozeman, Mont., before she began her collegiate career at Montana State University. She joined Northern Arizona’s faculty in 1985. She started as an associate dean at the Center for Excellence in Education, which encompassed all teacher training. Five years later, she followed her heart and returned to the classroom.

“A colleague once told me there are two kinds of creativity: There are the singers and dancers and those who enable singers and dancers to flourish,” she explains. “I chose to work with students so we, collectively, could do the singing and dancing.”

Over her years in the classroom, Shadiow used each semester to develop a relationship where the faculty member, students and content created a community. Each participant invested in the community, and for many – perhaps especially for students who become teachers – that relationship continued throughout their educational careers.

The emotional connection Shadiow conveyed through her teaching style was widely recognized. The recipient of both Faculty Scholar of the Year and Administrator of the Year awards, she was named one

of Northern Arizona’s Centennial Class of 100, representing the university’s first century.

In 2005, students selected her to present that year’s commencement address. The author of more than 50 professional works and an active presenter at conferences, she was among American scholars invited to deliver papers at a Cuban-American education conference in Havana. She also led a workshop on educational policy development at Oxford University.

A book now in manuscript form with the proposed title of “What Our Stories Teach Us: A Guide to Critical Reflection for College Faculty” is scheduled for release in spring 2013. The monograph reflects her current interest in faculty development, which receives her undivided attention at Northern Arizona as its full-time director. It is also a natural extension of her passion for education.

“My career has progressed on two levels,” Shadiow says. “Early in my career I was a teacher of teachers, and now I’m a resource for university teachers. My current efforts help faculty strengthen their work with university students. The faculty member has to love the subject matter so much they want to teach it. That’s where the joy, passion and rigor come in.”

Her latest professional undertaking also creates a whole new population to cheer for during commencements, something which undoubtedly will lead to more tears of joy flowing into her grandmother’s handkerchief. ■



Dr. Linda Shadiow

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY STEVEN TOYA, NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

CLASS NOTES

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

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

'11 Kolby Gullickson is the new loan officer at Marshall County State Bank in Newfolds, where he lives and volunteers with the Fire Department ... **Kelsey Johnson** received the Lifesaving Award of Merit from the North Star Chapter of the American Red Cross. She was honored for performing CPR on her stepfather after he had a seizure. She continued the procedure until paramedics arrived. Johnson is a nurse in the trauma unit at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, where she lives ... **Zach Fullmer** is a GIS analyst with the survey group of Kadmas, Lee & Jackson in Dickinson, N.D. As a GIS analyst, he is responsible for converting survey data from local to projected coordinate systems, as well as creating and maintaining geo data sets and map book collection. Kadmas, Lee & Jackson is an engineering, surveying and planning firm headquartered in Bismarck, N.D. ... **Matt Read** finished second in the shooting accuracy event of the National Hockey League All-Stars Skills Competition. Read is a rookie forward for the Philadelphia Flyers who had 38 points through the first 67 games of the NHL season. The native of Iucan, Ont., had five game-winners during that time and also was a +11 during his time on the ice.

'10 Alex Geving is a regional account manager at DC Group in Minneapolis, where he manages technicians who maintain equipment that provides critical power maintenance to data centers, telecommunications, hospitals and other companies requiring uninterrupted power. He lives in Forest Lake ... **Karl Haldorson** married **Denise Conner ('89)** during ceremonies last fall in Beaver Bay. The bride is a social worker at Sanford Medical Center, and the groom is a department manager at Menards in Bemidji, where the couple resides.

'09 Kelly Hill teaches school readiness for the Fillmore Central school district in Preston, where she lives. Hill worked in the AmeriCorps LEAP program and filled substitute teaching roles in the Twin Cities area before joining the district to prepare students for kindergarten by helping with their sounds, letters,

counting and social skills ... **Jeremiah Lindgren** is the administrator of the MedCenter One Clinic in Dickinson, N.D., where he now resides. The clinic has nine doctors, six visiting specialists and a nurse practitioner serving patients in the region.

'08 Travis Grimler is teaching English at Liaoning University in Shenyang, China. Prior to traveling overseas, the Backus native was a reporter for the *Pine River Journal* and *Lake Country Echo* ... **Justin Kaney** and his partners are moving forward with setting up the Bemidji Brewing Company, a microbrewery which recently raised \$17,500 in start-up money to create and market craft beers in the Bemidji area. Kaney, **Tom Hill ('06)**, and Iina Hanke are completing the paperwork and fine-tuning recipes to ultimately have their brews available this summer. Kaney, who lives in Bemidji, is a project estimator for Northwest Cabinets.

'07 Jon Labraaten married Sara Flatness last fall during a ceremony in Bemidji, where both live. Each is an agent with the Labraaten State Farm Insurance Agency serving Bemidji and Bagley.

'06 Amanda Grover and her husband, Jamie, are the new owners of DaRoo's Pizza in Bagley. Both graduates of Bagley High School, the couple moved back to Minnesota from Texas, where he worked in oil exploration and she ran a portrait business while caring for their three young children. Amanda is familiar with DaRoo's as she worked there while attending high school and BSU ... **Tom Hill** and his partners are moving forward with setting up the Bemidji Brewing Company, a microbrewery which recently raised \$17,500 in start-up money to create and market craft beers in the Bemidji area. Hill, **Justin Kaney ('08)**, and Iina Hanke are completing the paperwork and fine-tuning recipes to ultimately have their first brews available this summer. Hill has taken classes at the Siebel Institute of Technology World Brewing Academy and has completed training to become certified in selecting, acquiring and serving a wide range of beers. He currently works for Northern Brewer in St. Paul ... **Mitch Johnson** is the recreation supervisor for the city of Chanhassen, where he previously served in the community service and street departments. He lives in Deephaven ... **Ronna Dingal Treuer** is the unit director for the Boys and Girls Club in East Milton, Fla. A resident of Pensacola, Fla, she became involved in the Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji as a student and began working for the organization on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Cass Lake ... **Josh Rud** is a loan officer at First National Bank of Henning. Rud previously worked at banks in Bemidji and Pine Island. His wife, Brittney, is a surgical technologist at the Fergus Falls Hospital. They live in Fergus Falls with one young son ... **Allan Olson** received a second-place award in the columnist division from the Minnesota Newspaper Association. A reporter for the *Cass Lake Times*, Olson entered three columns

for the competition in the weekly category for newspapers with a circulation up to 1,500. He has been at the *Times* since 2006. His wife, Susan, is a seamstress and stay-at-home mom with their four children. They live in Bemidji.

'05 Josh Smith is a commercial and agricultural lending officer for Border State Bank's branch offices in Middle River and Thief River Falls. He previously worked as an underwriter for Federated Insurance in Owatonna. Smith lives in Thief River Falls with his wife, Josey, who works as a special education paraprofessional at Lincoln High School ... **Joshua Ziegler** is the new business manager of Independent School District #32 in Blackduck, where he recently located after serving on the staff of the state auditor in Duluth ... **Jaime Rowlette** is a mortgage lender at RiverWood Bank in Baxter. He brings experience in commercial insurance sales to his new position, which encompasses loans for conventional mortgages, new construction, home equity, secondary market and first-time homebuyers. He resides in Brainerd ... **Jeff Plattner** was recently hired as a demand planning analyst with C. H. Robinson, a leading third-party logistics company in Eden Prairie. He previously worked as a distribution manager of retail merchandise for the Minnesota Vikings. Plattner also publishes a column on sports, called "The Catch," in six newspapers across the state. His blog can be found at thecatch81.areavoices.com. He was recently married to Kelsi Layne, a fifth-grade teacher in Coon Rapids. The couple lives in Minneapolis ... **T.J. Melcher** is a public affairs coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Transportation District 8, which encompasses 12 counties in west central and southwestern Minnesota. Melcher, who serves as a lieutenant in the Minnesota Army National Guard, had previous media experience in broadcast and print journalism in Bemidji, which he still calls home ... **Nate Hodgins** has been promoted to assistant supervisor for the Windom-area Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries management office. He previously worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and for the Minnesota DNR in Baudette. The Windom area manages 80 lakes in 11 counties. His wife, **Sarah**, is a stay-at-home mom for their two young children, but also does substitute teaching. They live in Windom ... **Andrew Murray** has appeared in 39 games this season with the San Jose Sharks of the National Hockey League. Originally from Winnipeg, Man., Murray previously logged NHL ice time with the Columbus Blue Jackets over four seasons. He and his wife, Amanda, now live in San Jose, where she is a stay-at-home mom for their young son.

'04 Jessica Johnson is teaching fourth grade at Lowell Elementary School in Brainerd. She lives with her husband, Josh, and two children in Baxter.

'03 Tiffani Apel married Anthony Folstad last fall during a service in Chisholm. She is a children's librarian at the Chisholm Public Library, and he is a journeyman electrician and member of the Minnesota National Guard. The newlyweds make their home in Hibbing.

'02 Mike Statz is in his seventh year of teaching fourth grade at Ripplside Elementary in Airkin, where he lives. He also is an assistant wrestling coach with primary responsibilities for junior high and elementary school children.

'00 Mike Mastin has been named the police chief for the City of Bemidji. Mastin served in the Bemidji Police Department for a decade prior to being sworn to replace the retiring chief. He lives in Lake George with his wife, **Amy (Potter)**, who teaches fourth grade in the Laporte school district.

'99 Ryan Holmgren is the new Elk River High School baseball coach. Holmgren, who teaches seventh-grade American history at Jackson Middle School in Champlin, previously was the head coach at Spring Lake Park for three seasons and an assistant for six years at Champlin Park. He also is an assistant girls' basketball coach in Elk River. His wife, Sarah, is a customer service manager at Pentair Corporation, a company specializing in the water solutions and technical products industries. The couple makes their home in Elk River.

'98 Jonathan Olson has been promoted to principal with LarsonAllen, a firm that provides audit, accounting, tax and advisory services to organizations, individuals and businesses in 12 states and the District of Columbia. Olson, who also has a law degree, has 12 years of experience in the profession and specializes in construction and real estate industries. He and his wife, Katy, live in Alexandria with their three young children ... **Andy Sween** was named the marketing coordinator for Grand Rapids State Bank, where he has worked since 2008 as an administrative analyst. Prior to joining the bank, he had experience in billing, sales and radio. He lives in Grand Rapids.

'96 Tracy Jones has opened the business, Emily Meats and Jones Taxidermy. Jones has more than 20 years experience in the fresh meat business in both Crosslake and Emily. While operating the meat market, he will also continue to offer a full-line taxidermy service. His wife, Fawn, also works at the shop. They and their three children make their home in Emily ... **Ryan Saulsbury** has been appointed to the Minnesota DNR fisheries oversight committee for the state's game and fish fund. The 2011 Pillager Teacher of the Year, Saulsbury has taught junior and senior high science for 15 years, 10 of which were in his current district and the remainder

in Sartell, Milaca and Bemidji. He is married to **Trishia (Kirk, '98)**, who is an education paraprofessional and substitute teacher in the area. They have two children and live in Staples ... **Wanda Hoyum** is the community relations and marketing coordinator at May Creek Senior Living Campus in Walker. The facility includes services for clients needing assisted living arrangements, as well as those with Alzheimer's or related dementia. Hoyum previously served for 15 years as the director of the Beltrami County Historical Society for 15 years. She is a board member of the Chippewa National Forest resource advisory committee, as well as the BSU mass communication advisory committee. She and her husband, **Gerald ('89)**, own and operate a hobby farm near Cass Lake.

'95 Jeri (Hakala) Fuller and her husband, Doug, are new owners of Papa Murphy's Pizza franchises in Bemidji and Minocqua, Wis. The Fullers plan to continue operating First Realty Real Living, a real estate firm they own in Bemidji, where they live with a young daughter.

'91 Patty Cook is serving as the dean of students at the Cass Lake-Bena Middle School, where she will primarily be in charge of discipline. She brings nearly 30 years of experience in education to the position, having started her teaching career in Texas in 1983. Her resume includes serving as principal, lead teacher and superintendent of the Bug O'Nay Ge Shig School; teaching English in Sitka, Alaska; handling principal and superintendent duties at Casa Blanca Community School in Bapchule, Ariz.; and working as an education specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Albuquerque, N.M. She and her husband, Lee, maintain a residence in Cass Lake ... **Patricia Haasch** was recognized with a Division Leadership Award from the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association. Haasch has 38 years of experience in education, including 25 for the Cass Lake-Bena school district, which she has served for seven years as an elementary principal. The association noted her collaborative skills, innovative projects, cooperation with other institutions, creative problem solving, interaction with other agencies and general excellence in administrative skills. A member of the BSU Teacher Hall of Fame, she and her husband, Stephen, live in Bemidji.

'90 Marilyn Mai was chosen as the 2012 Teacher of the Year for the Lake of the Woods school district in Baudette. An educator for 20 years in several locations, including an Alaskan village, Mai teaches English. She lives in Birchdale with one son and her husband, Art, who owns Mai Logging.

'89 Denise Conner married **Karl Haldorson ('10)** during ceremonies last fall in Beaver Bay. The bride is a social worker at Sanford

[continued on next page]

CLASS NOTES

(continued from page 25)

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

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

Medical Center and the groom is a department manager at Menards in Bemidji, where the couple resides.

'88 Kristil McDonald is the new principal at Clearbrook-Gonvick High School. She has 23 years of classroom expertise, primarily in Warren, as well as administrative experience at Pine River-Backus and Willow River schools. Her husband, **John ('91)**, is superintendent of the Kingsland Public Schools in the Spring Valley-Wyckoff school district. The couple has three children and makes their home in Gonvick.

'86 Brian Maciej was named the second runner-up for the Southern Minnesota Business Person of the Year Award. Maciej is president and owner of Lime Valley Advertising in Mankato. The award, presented by *Connect Business Magazine* to recognize outstanding achievement in the business community, is based on such factors as leadership, community involvement, business results and character. A two-time recipient of the International Award of Merit from the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen, he is on professional advisory boards at South Central College, Rasmussen College and Bemidji State. Lime Valley Advertising employs 12 people who provide copy writing, graphic design, illustration, multimedia, web design and photography services ... **Tracey Wensloff** has been named the 2012 Teacher of the Year for the Roseau school district. Wensloff has taught high school math there for 18 years after working for seven years in classrooms at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls. His wife, **Bonnie (Dehlin, '91)**, teaches music at Roseau Elementary School. The couple has three children and lives in Roseau ... **Dianna DeGeest** has purchased a farm near Arthur, N.D., and started a horse boarding business. She had previously worked 15 years for Cass County Electric, as well as seven years in law enforcement and private investigation.

'83 Mark Thompson will serve as interim auditor and treasurer for Kandiyohi County following an April retirement of the current county officer. Thompson has worked for the county since 2005 and was previously employed as the office manager at Mills Auto Center. His wife, **Colleen (Gunnarson, '82)**, is the superintendent of the wastewater treatment plant in Willmar, where they live. They have two grown daughters.

'82 Ed Nordskog has published the book *Torched Minds - Case Histories of Notorious Serial Arsonists*. A detective in the Los Angeles (CA) Sheriff's Department, Nordskog specializes in arson investigations. He has been named the 2004 Investigator of the Year by the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the International Association of Special Investigation Units for his lead role in breaking a massive arson for profit ring. After serving in the military following graduation from BSU, he joined the Sheriff's Department, where he has served for 26 years. Nordskog, who lives in Newhall, Calif., is a frequent guest lecturer and teacher on arson-related subjects in the United States and abroad. His book can be seen at www.torchedminds.com.

'81 Lori (Olson) Crowder is an account executive on the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* and *Manney's Shopper* sales teams. Crowder most recently worked at Pokegama Lawn and Sport in Grand Rapids and the Home Instead care facility in Hibbing. A resident of Bovey, she also had 17 years experience as an ad representative for *Manney's Shopper* in Grand Rapids ... **Bette (Whitehill) Block** is teaching private voice and piano lessons in Prior Lake. Block, who notes her role as a music therapist in her work, has taught students of all ages, from 3-year-old, piano-playing twins to an 80-year-old man who wanted to learn to sing. A performer whose credits include appearances in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, Block has raised three teenagers with her husband, Steve, a vice president at Infinita Bank in Bloomington.

'80 Nikki (Johnson) Shoutz is a Minnesota conservation officer assigned to work in the Pine River area. She started her position with the Department of Natural Resources in 1998 after serving as a teacher, waitress and boat and water deputy in Cass County. She has two adult children. Her husband, Cary, is a conservation officer assigned to Crosslake, where the couple resides.

'79 Dr. James Tuorila is director of the St. Cloud Honor Flight Program, which recently completed its fifth trip to Washington, D.C., with 100 World War II veterans. The previous outings brought 140 other vets to the nation's capital, and plans for future events include Korean- and

Vietnam-era soldiers. Tuorila retired in 2006 from his position as a clinical psychologist in the St. Cloud VA Health Care System and currently maintains a private practice at the Central Minnesota Counseling Center. He lives in St. Cloud with his wife, Diane, who is the office manager at Zablocki Roofing. They have one son.

'78 Brad Homstad was named the 2011-12 Administrator of the Year for District 32 by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. It is the second time in four years that Homstad, who is the superintendent of Lancaster schools, has won the award from the regional organization that includes schools in five northern Minnesota counties. He has worked his entire career in Lancaster, where he had also served as a principal and athletic director. He lives in Lancaster with his wife, Cathy, who works at the Nielsen Law Office. He has three sons ... **Gary Burstad** of Rock Springs, Wyo., recently completed a successful bighorn sheep hunt in the Wind River Mountain Range of Wyoming. He teaches industrial arts in the Rock Springs school district.

'76 Laurie Raymond has joined the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose school board. Raymond is a retired social studies teacher who spent 32 years in classrooms at Buffalo High School, where she also advised the Student Council for 27 years and the Mock Trial team for 16 years. She and her husband, Leroy, live in Buffalo.

'75 John Estall was re-elected to serve another term on the Eden Prairie school board. A self-employed corporate international tax consultant, Estall has a law degree and has completed graduate work on taxation at the University of Minnesota. He lives in Eden Prairie with his wife, Shirley Boyd, the vice president and associate general counsel for Cargill. They have two children.

'73 Bob Dettmer was selected to officiate at the Minnesota State High School League Wrestling Tournament. A retired teacher and wrestling coach at Forest Lake High School, he will work matches during the team competition on the first day of the tournament. Dettmer is a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and also is an Army reservist who served in Kuwait. He and his wife, Colleen, have two grown sons and live in Forest Lake ... **Robert Ladehoff** was inducted into the Windom High School Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating from BSU, he taught for three years in Wisconsin before returning to Minnesota, where he was hired at Tracy to teach social studies and serve as head boys' basketball coach. During his time in the southwestern part of the state, he brought kids into the city's basketball program at the middle school and elementary school levels, a move that

changed the development of programs throughout the region. When he retired in 2011, he had logged the most wins of a varsity basketball coach in the school's history. He and his wife, **Nan (Chiodo)**, now live in Longville.

'72 Steve Maanum is the state project coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources bridge to nature digital photography program, which has the goal of enhancing interaction with the outdoors for youth. Maanum provides workshops for teachers on how to incorporate photography with nature studies in their existing curricula. Since the start of the program in 2010, 1,026 teachers have completed the training. Maanum retired in 2007 after teaching for 34 years, the majority in the fifth grade of the Park Rapids district. You can see his photographs at www.stevemaanum.com. His wife, Debra, is a special education paraprofessional at Century Elementary in Park Rapids, where they raised two children.

'71 Tom Cannon has retired after teaching and coaching in the Monticello school district for nearly 40 years. Cannon elevated the Monticello swimming program to rank among the elite in the state. His squads won two true team state championships and placed among the top five of state high school league tournaments five times. He coached the boys' team from 1972 to 1993 and the girls' squad from 1998 to 2011. He was twice named the Minnesota Coach of the Year. His last team had a string of eight consecutive section championships. Cannon and his wife, **Mary (Israelson, '75)**, live in Big Lake.

'69 Jeff Oestreich presented a workshop and program at the University of North Dakota on his ceramic art. An artist with a studio in his hometown of Taylors Falls, he is known for using minimal surface decoration and salt-fired glazes with little use of color. Oestreich has exhibited his pieces internationally and has works in several notable collections, including the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, N.Y.; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; and the Kansas City (MO) Museum. His pottery can be viewed at www.oestreichpottery.com.

'67 Jim Sollund was recognized by the Minnesota School Boards Association with a 40-Year Service Award. Sollund has served the Karlstad and Tri-County School Boards for more than 40 years and is serving as clerk of the organization. After graduation, he taught in Blackduck for a few years before returning to Karlstad to help in the family plumbing business, where he continues to work today. His wife, **Carol (Petty, '68)**, retired in 2008 from working at Prime Security Bank in Karlstad, where the couple resides ... **Mary (Lyman) Allen** has returned to the classroom as a literature and language arts teacher at Chalfield High School. Allen, who taught for 24 years in the Roseau, Stillwater, Preston and Chalfield schools, retired six years ago from a principal's position. She lives on a farm

between Chalfield and Fountain with her husband, **Gordy ('66)**, who raises beef cattle and teaches in Plainview-Elgin-Millville schools. The couple has two grown children.

'66 Jim Lindberg was re-elected to serve another term on the school board in Monticello, where he had taught for 31 years. Active in several community organizations, he also is on the advisory council and board chair of Wright Technical School in Buffalo. He and his wife, Pamela, live in Monticello and have two grown children ... **Andy Wells** was named a 2011 Purpose Prize fellow by Civic Ventures for using his business as a work-readiness training center. Wells, who lives in Bemidji with his wife, Carol, was among the 40 fellows older than 60 recognized for their social entrepreneurship. Civic Ventures is a nonprofit think tank on baby boomers, work and social purpose.

'63 Howie Schultz was inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame this spring. Schultz was an assistant wrestling coach in the Bemidji school district for 23 years and also served a stint as interim head coach. Widely known throughout the area as one of the most respected wrestling referees, he retired in 1999 from teaching. His wife, **Darlene (Lindseth, '62)**, retired from teaching 35 years at the BSU Lab School and at elementary schools in Bagley and Bemidji. The couple lives in Bemidji.

'60 Carl Malm has been inducted into the Minnesota Track Coaches Hall of Fame. He began his career in education in California but moved to Bagley, where he taught and coached for 30 years before stepping down. He was instrumental in building the first track in Bagley, which the Flyers still use today. During his tenure, he guided boys' and girls' teams to more than 25 conference championships, four sub-section or district titles, and two entries into the state true-team meet. Along the way, he garnered six district and four section Coach of the Year awards. His wife, **Julienne (Schmiedeberg, '73)**, also retired after a teaching career in Bagley, where she helped Carl coach the girls' track team for 10 years and coached the dance line. They have spent a couple of months over the winter in Hot Springs, Ark., and still maintain their home in Park Rapids.

'52 Dr. Rodney Swenson received the Special Recognition Award from Pacific Lutheran University for his work nationally on the Fulbright Scholarship program, which provides assistance to more than 800 scholars and professionals to study in more than 153 countries each year. Swenson retired in 2000 following a 32-year career on the Pacific Lutheran campus in Tacoma, Wash., where he taught German and linguistics in addition to serving as a department chair. Rodney, who has studied 13 foreign languages, previously taught at St. Olaf College and Hamline University. He lives in Payallup, Wash., with his wife, Evelyn, who retired after 41 years in education as a teacher and librarian.

'51 Charles Watson has been selected to the Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame. Watson is credited with starting the hockey program in Moorhead, first through the city and later at the high school, where he was named the squad's first head coach. He continued serving on the bench for nine years, during which time he also chaired the committee to pass a bond issue funding an indoor facility. His wife, Barbara, retired from a career with Dayton's Department Stores, and he retired after teaching in the Moorhead school system for more than 40 years. They raised three children and live in Baxter. ■

IN MEMORIAM Summer 2012

Patrick C. Abrahamson '82, Brainerd
 Donald G. Anderson '58, Bemidji
 Darryl Anywaush '91, Granite Falls
 Wanda Baltzell '36, Bemidji
 Stella Bigo '72, Hibbing
 JoAnne (Barkowski) Bowers '70, Stockton, Calif.
 Spencer C. Brandt '92, Bemidji
 Percy J. "Peck" Brown '48, Hibbing
 Signie (Benson) Burke '34, Hibbing
 Mark D. Carter '71, Albert Lea
 James A. Claypool '63, Bemidji
 Harold C. Clementson, Sr. '54, Bemidji
 Wade Davis '42, Decatur, Ill.
 K. Lynn Doughman '72, Watertown
 Marilyn R. (Malmo) Dulin '51, Staples
 Verina (Schroth) Eichstadt '45, Bemidji
 Helen V. Evans '89, Fosston
 Leo W. Froehlich '64, Devils Lake, N.D.
 Russell A. Hamblin '85, Baxter
 C. Robert Hazell '61, Winnipeg, Man.
 Eleanora G. (Sverson) Hendrickson '71, Trail
 Betty R. Ingalls '54, Winona
 Earl L. Jenkins '70, Bemidji
 David H. Kaupp '66, Bemidji
 Mary J. Kelley '93, Bemidji
 John A. Kilderson '55, Bemidji
 Bessie P. (Parish) Knobloch '71, Hackensack
 Curtis A. Matheny '64, Blackduck
 Jeffrey F. McBride '10, Oakdale
 Jane R. (Rall) McLeod '63, Marion, Iowa
 Gerald Miklavich '82, Hibbing
 Samuel E. Morriss '78, Staples
 Patricia (Lawrence) Muir '81, Hallock
 Eugene Neumayer '90, Gilbert
 Mary A. (Ljungren) Niles '49, Cambridge
 James H. Oster '68, Fort Frances, Ont.
 Thomas "Dan" Pyle 1981-85, Blaine
 Mark K. Rakke '81, St. Cloud
 Kenneth M. Reese '62, Starbuck
 Ervin J. Richardson '72, LeRoy
 Linn A. Sakrisimo '79, Twin Valley
 Allen R. Skiple '74, Bemidji
 Chester A. Swedberg '49, Millersville, Md.
 Stephanie C. Vencel Leikvoll '94, Bemidji
 Frances M. Vidas Green '48, Salem, Ore.
 Lloyd W. Wallin '38, Plover, Wisc.
 Rosemary (Byrne) Whelan '62 & '72, Wadena



SAVE *the* DATE

For more information on each event, contact the Alumni Office at 877-278-2586 (toll free), 218-755-3989 (local) or visit the Alumni Association's website at www.bsualumni.org.

2012

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BSU Night with the Twins vs. Milwaukee Brewers
Target Field – Friday, June 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Gordy Skaar Memorial Golf Tournament
Bemidji Town and Country Club – Friday, June 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Galen Nagle Memorial Golf Tournament
Bemidji Town and Country Club – Friday, July 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Basketball Golf Tournament
Blueberry Pines Golf Club, Menahga – Friday, July 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff "Bird" McBride Memorial Golf Tournament
Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale – Sunday, July 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Sauer Memorial Golf Tournament
Tiana Country Club, Walker – Saturday, August 25 <input type="checkbox"/> BSU Community Appreciation Day
BSU Campus – Tuesday, August 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni & Foundation Honors Gala
Sanford Center Ballroom – Friday, September 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Homecoming 2012
Saturday, September 29 (events planned as of April 2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSU / NTC School of Nursing Launch • Football Tailgate Party • Homecoming Football vs. U of M Crookston • Lutheran Campus Ministry Open House and Appreciation Dinner • Football Alumni Banquet • Alpha Nu Alumni Dinner • Homecoming Street Dance |
|---|--|

2013

- Athletic Hall of Fame**
February 1-2
- Men's Hockey Alumni Reunion**
February 1-2



ALUMNI B-CLUB

MAKES CONNECTIONS

During February's Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Bemidji State University announced formation of the Alumni B-Club, an inclusive organization helping former Bemidji State student-athletes stay in touch with one another and their alma mater. All ex-Beavers are automatically members of the B-Club. "Our mission is to communicate, engage and support," says club President Joan (Campbell) Anderson ('76), who both competed and coached for BSU. "We will be the link to the campus for all the former student-athletes that we represent. This group is long overdue, and I'm glad to help connect everyone again."

A volunteer committee of 16 individuals representing various eras will coordinate activities. In addition to Anderson, committee members are Randy Bowen, ('73) vice president; Austin Wallestad ('70), secretary; Brian Weierke ('91); Dave Thomas ('80); Sherry Hill ('83); Bob Dettmer ('73); Beth (Buckingham) Baalke ('89); Lynn Dorn ('72); Becky (Rider) Rud ('98); Bill Olson ('86); Lois (Weiers) Masberg ('89); Sue Alstrom ('76); Erin Foss ('07); Bruce Melin ('64); and Ray Sauer ('70).

The committee will plan alumni gatherings and other special events; recommend selections for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame awards, as well as assist with the selection of the John S. Glas Honorary Letter Winner award given to a non-alumni

athlete who has made significant contributions to Beaver athletics.

The group will also establish and facilitate alumni committees with players from different decades to support the University's varsity teams. For example, Nate Sannes ('05) will co-chair the national football alumni committee, which includes 20 former players. He sees the B-Club as a way for student-athletes to network with their teammates.

"You graduate and you have your good buddies, you go to weddings, babies are born, and then you get wrapped up in your life and you lose connections," Sannes says.

Jon Olson, Bemidji State's director of development for intercollegiate athletics, believes the B-Club will strengthen the University's support for its 100 Beaver competitors every year.

"Our student-athletes are such an important part of the fabric of our University," Olson says. "They provide an identity to the campus and share a special bond with their teammates and with Bemidji State."

Updates, news and video clips of alumni events will be available on the B-Club's official Facebook or Twitter pages, as well as on a website scheduled to launch later this year. ■

2012 HALL of FAME

2012 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

John P. Noga '84



John Noga was a four-year letter winner in Bemidji State baseball. From 1980 to 1983, he played in 121 games as the Beavers' first baseman and pitcher, leading legendary head coach Bob Montebello's Beavers to a 57-80 overall record, a 1982 regular season

Northern Intercollegiate Conference (NIC) championship, a District 13 title, the Area IV championship and a berth in the NAIA College World Series. Noga finished his career in 1983 as a .345 career hitter with 108 hits and 63 runs batted in 313 plate appearances. As an ace of the 1982 pitching staff, Noga appeared in 12 games and threw a team-leading 49 2/3 innings. In his senior year as a captain, he led the team in RBI (24), runs scored (20) and home runs (5). Noga graduated from Bemidji State in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis in coaching. Since graduation, he has been a high school football, girls basketball, softball and baseball coach in Akeley and Parkers Prairie and was named 2010 Minnesota State High School Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

Leland "Lee" E. Patten '74



A four sport student athlete at Bemidji State, Lee Patten earned seven varsity letters from 1969-73. He was named to the 1st team All-Northern Intercollegiate Conference and 1st team All-NAIA District 13 in both 1971 and 1972. As a senior, Patten earned team

Offensive Player of the Year and team MVP honors and was named the first annual Dave Vilhauer Award winner as the team's MVP at the Homecoming game. He led the NIC in kick returns and total yards as a junior and in kick returns yardage as a senior, averaging 26.4 yards. He also was the team's leading rusher in his senior year. In 1974 Patten signed a free agent contract with the NFL's Minnesota Vikings. He also played for the Beavers' baseball team in 1971 and 1972, leading the conference in steals in 1971 and earning all-conference accolades at the conclusion of each season. He was a long jumper on the BSU track and field team in 1970, led all freshmen in scoring during the 1969-70 basketball season, and earned a letter his sophomore year. Since graduating from Bemidji State with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health with an emphasis in coaching, Patten has coached high school football, track and field, baseball, basketball, softball and gymnastics. He and his wife, Julie, live in Bemidji, where they are caretakers at the Neilson Spearhead Center.

Linda L. (Kirchner) Pomeroy '72



A student at Bemidji State from 1968-1972, Lin Kirchner Pomeroy was on the women's swimming team in only its second year as an intercollegiate sport at BSU. In 1969, under the direction of head coach Gwen Smith, Pomeroy recorded a 50-yard

breaststroke state record. In 1970, she was a member of Bemidji State's Minnesota State Champion swimming and diving team, competing on a State Champion 200-yard medley relay team. In 1969 and 1970, she qualified for the women's national swimming competition. In addition, Pomeroy was a member of the women's track and field team, specializing in the 440-yard dash. She graduated from Bemidji State in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. Pomeroy taught and coached at Coon Rapids High School before starting on her master's degree in Experiential Education and returning to BSU to help create the Outdoor Education program. She then became head of the Outdoor Education degree at Northland College in Ashland, Wis., and coached swimming there for two seasons. Pomeroy is married to Walt and they reside in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Dr. John M. Wasilak '73



John Wasilak was an athlete at Bemidji State from 1969 to 1973, where he excelled on the gridiron and in the pool. As a swimmer, he was a three-time all conference selection (1970-72) and was a 1970-71 NAIA All-America performer, with a fifth-place

finish at the national championship meet as a member of the Bemidji State 400-yard medley relay team. He also garnered four NAIA All-America Honorable Mention accolades from 1971-1973 in the 100 yard butterfly and the 400-yard medley relay. Wasilak was awarded the Most Valuable Swimmer at the NIC meet in 1973. At defensive tackle and defensive end in football, he earned the "Head Hunter" award each of the first four games in his senior year. After graduating from Bemidji State, Wasilak went on to become a successful swimming coach at the high school and collegiate levels, coaching a state champion at Osseo High School and several All-Americans at Cal State L.A.. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees from Indiana University, followed by an MBA from UCLA. He lives in Cary, N.C., with his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Mary, where he is a marketing director and business development manager at Quantia Technology.



JOHN S. GLAS HONORARY LETTER WINNER AWARD

The John S. Glas Honorary Letter Winner Award was created in 2011 and is intended to recognize an individual or individuals who were not student athletes at BSU but have had a major impact on BSU athletics, much like the late John Glas did during his 34-year tenure at BSU, which included roles as vice president for finance and briefly as acting president. His strong support of athletics earned him the honor of having the Fieldhouse named after him upon his retirement in 1975.

Recipients - Joseph and Janice Lueken



Joseph and Janice Lueken, owners of the Lueken's grocery chain, have been steadfast supporters of Bemidji State University athletics and the University as a whole.

Always loyal Beaver fans, the Luekens funded the replacement of the basketball floor at the John Glas Fieldhouse when they learned players were experiencing injuries on the old court floor. Then, through the Joseph and Janice Lueken Family Foundation, they made a substantial gift to furnish the weight training facilities and other amenities of the Bemidji State University hockey wing at the Sanford Center.

In addition, they have been long-time supporters of BSU student-athletes through annual Beaver Pride contributions and through the establishment of athletic scholarship endowments. They have been equally generous to the rest of the campus, funding endowments for academic and American Indian scholarships.

BSU COACHES HALL OF FAME

Donald "Don" V. Niskanen 1993-2010



Don Niskanen retired from his duties as head men's golf coach in 2010 after 17 successful seasons. Niskanen, a four-time Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Coach of the Year recipient (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000), led the Beavers to four conference team titles (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000), while earning runner-up accolades to conclude seven different seasons.

During his tenure, five players garnered Individual NSIC championships, while 35 members of the BSU golf team earned All-NSIC honors. Niskanen's teams have qualified for district, regional and national competitions on several occasions, including the 2010 campaign and most notably a 2006 Central Region Invitational Championship and a 1999 District V Runner-up performance. In addition to his role on the course, Niskanen worked tirelessly to develop the program from the ground up. Most notably, his fund-raising efforts have blossomed into several scholarships, including two that have since been endowed.

Niskanen's commitment to golf spans more than 50 years, dating back to his senior season at BSU as a letter winner in 1959 - just two years after being introduced to the game. Niskanen, a veteran of the U.S. Army after a two-year term in the Korean conflict, would go on to make a name for himself on the golf courses of northern Minnesota, earning the Bemidji Town and Country Club Championship and Senior Championship along the way. Niskanen coached several collegiate standouts and worked one-on-one with golfers who have gone on to the professional ranks.

He played an instrumental role as an administrator and committee member for golf events such as the prestigious The Birchmont amateur golf tournament and is a former member and president of the Bemidji Town and Country Club Board of Directors.

A 1959 and 1979 graduate of Bemidji State, Niskanen entered the coaching ranks at Bagley High School, where he coached the football and basketball teams. In 1965, he took the reins at Bemidji Junior High as head football coach, and after years of polishing his golf game, Niskanen accepted additional responsibility as head middle school golf coach in 1985. Following his retirement from the Bemidji School District in 1992, BSU called on Niskanen's golf expertise to lead the Beavers' golf program beginning in 1993.

ALUMNI COACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Timothy P. Buckley '86 & '88



Tim Buckley's career in collegiate basketball includes experience at the NCAA Division I, II and III levels, spans more than 25 years and features stops at Iowa, Wisconsin, Ball State, Rockford College and Bemidji State. He has completed four seasons as an assistant coach at Indiana University.

He began coaching as a graduate assistant at Bemidji State in 1986 after a successful two-year playing career, then moved to Rockford College in 1998 to serve as an assistant coach. After just one season at Rockford, Buckley was named head coach, becoming the nation's youngest. In four seasons (1989-93), he reached 50 wins faster than any coach in school history and remains second on the school's all-time wins list. Buckley's first experience in the Big Ten came at the University of Wisconsin in 1993-94. In one season as an assistant coach, he helped direct the Badgers to their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1947, where they advanced to the second round with an overall record of 18-11.

Buckley spent five seasons as an assistant at Ball State University (1994-99) before returning as the program's head coach (2000-2006). The Cardinals posted an overall record of 88-55 during his tenure, competing in the 1995 NCAA Tournament and 1998 National Invitation Tournament. BSU won the MAC Tournament in 1994-95 and earned a share of the league title in 1997-98.

Buckley was an assistant at Marquette University for the 1999-2000 season. During his time there, the Golden Eagles posted a 15-14 record and were selected to play in the NIT. He then returned to Ball State as head coach in 2000, compiling a record of 143-139 in six seasons.

Buckley landed at Indiana in 2008 after one-year stops in Marquette (2007-08) and at Iowa (2006-07). In his return as an assistant for the Golden Eagles, he helped the squad to the Big East Tournament semifinals and the second round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament. At Iowa, he helped guide the Hawkeyes to a 17-14 overall record.

Buckley has served on the Executive Committee for the Mid-American Conference, a regional committee for the NCAA, and the Division III NCAA Tournament Committee. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications in 1986 from Bemidji State and completed his master's in administration of physical education at the University in 1988. Buckley and his wife, Shannon, live in Bloomington, Ind.



Front (L to R): Rick Kennedy, Brian Stalock, John Noga, Doug Shequen - captain, head coach Dr. Robert Montebello, assistant coach Jim Grimm, Paul Jenkins - captain, Frank Lamb
Back (L to R): Dave Wicker, Al Desrosier, Scott Bartholomew, John Kennedy, Mark Shepard, Jon Larsen, Lance Chambers, Stan Quinn, Ken Severson, Charlie Warring, Tracey Wensloff.
Missing: Assistant coach Pete Maus, Tim Milliard, Greg Hadley, Ed Nordskog - captain

TEAM HALL OF FAME

1982 Baseball Team

- NIC Champions
- District 13 Champions
- Area IV Champions
- NAIA National Tournament
- 23-20 Season Record



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

1500 Birchmont Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699

WINNING SEASON

Senior forward James Ellisor, named BSU Athletics' 2011-2012 male student-athlete of the year, helped lead the team to a school-record 22 wins.

