

# HORIZONS

## **A Lasting Handshake**

*Early Meeting  
Sets into Motion  
Immeasurable Gifts*

## **All about Choice**

*Getting to the Heart  
of Human Nature*

# *Launching Dreams*

**Alumna Sets Her  
Sights on Space**





*Shaping Potential, Shaping Worlds.*



**COVER STORY:**

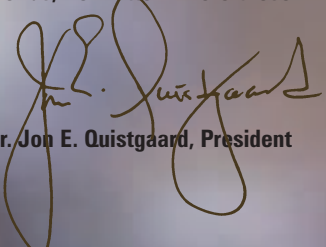
**BSU graduate Michelle "Shelley" Ford sets her sights on space as she oversees shuttle preparations for launches that someday she hopes to be on. Story on page 10.**

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### SHAPING POTENTIAL, SHAPING WORLDS.

Our new vision statement captures the essence of Bemidji State University and stands as our promise to those we serve, now and in the future. ✨ After 18 months of planning, the University also has a new strategic framework from which to translate this statement from words into action. We are committed to shaping each person's potential through a rich blend of arts, sciences, and select professional programs. Our learning environment is filled with educational experiences in the classroom and the community, career development opportunities, and student services. ✨ As a university, we are working diligently every day to reach our fullest potential, as well. In less than 100 years, Bemidji State University has transformed from a teacher training school with some 38 students to a major regional university with nearly 5,000 students. ✨ The articles in this issue of *Horizons* affirm Bemidji State's vision and share a striking commonality of story lines. No matter how different their BSU experiences have been, those featured in the articles credit the University for enabling them to pursue their passions and shape their potential. They have then used their talents to shape the spheres in which they live and work. ✨ A new chapter in Bemidji State's story will be written on May 16, when over 900 students join the ranks of some 39,000 BSU alumni. These students stand ready not only to graduate, but also to help shape their worlds, no matter where those worlds may be.



**Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard, President**

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# HORIZONS

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## New Guides Great for Use Outdoors

Susan Hauser, BSU English professor and department chair, has written new editions of two books published recently by FalconGuides. Hauser's latest books are *A Field Guide to Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac: Prevention and Remedies* and *A Field Guide to Ticks: Prevention and Treatment of Lyme Disease and Other Ailments Caused by Ticks, Scorpions, Spiders and Mites*.

The newly released books appear in a field-guide format for the first time, making it easier to use them outdoors.

Hauser, who teaches creative writing at BSU, also writes non-fiction literary works, history books, and poetry. Each summer, she also coordinates the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference, which runs June 15-20 this year. For more information go to [www.bemidjistate.edu](http://www.bemidjistate.edu) and click on "conferences."



## State Bonding Bill Funds Significant BSU Projects

Bemidji State University President Dr. Jon E. Quistgaard, along with Bemidji Mayor Richard Lehmann and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, addressed a celebratory crowd at Bemidji City Hall on April 9. The gathering featured a ceremonial signing of the state bonding bill that includes \$20 million for the Bemidji Regional Events Center and nearly \$12 million for BSU projects. The events center, slated to open in 2010, will include a hockey arena that will be home ice for BSU's Division I hockey programs.

The funded campus projects include \$8.9 million for renovations and an addition at Sattgast Hall, \$525,000 to create clinical labs and classrooms in renovated space at Memorial Hall, and over \$2 million for maintenance projects.

Governor Pawlenty had signed the official bonding bill earlier in the week.

**Preliminary drawing of the Regional Events Center to be located on the south shore of Lake Bemidji.**



DRAWING COURTESY OF LEO A. DALY



## ICAP Program Receives \$40k Grant

Bemidji State's Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP) recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The ICAP program serves students in grades 6-12 who come from low-income families or from families where neither parent has earned a bachelor's degree. Through its services, the program encourages students to earn their high school diplomas and to pursue post-secondary education.

Annually, Bemidji State's ICAP project will serve 90 participants in grades 9-12 from five rural counties in northwest Minnesota. The project will have ongoing contact and program activities with the students during the academic year and a six-week residential summer component.

"By getting this grant, we are able to increase some of the services we're offering to students," Kelli Steggall, assistant director and project director for BSU's TRIO and Upward Bound programs, says. "We're able to offer more college visits to different campuses around Minnesota, and we're able to allow more students to go on those trips."



## *Shaping Potential, Shaping Worlds.*

Bemidji State administrators unveiled the University's new vision and mission statements to the campus community this spring. The statements are an outgrowth of an 18-month strategic planning initiative.

The vision statement – Shaping Potential, Shaping Worlds. – reflects the opportunities students have at BSU to expand their talents and skills, and to use their abilities in making an impact within their personal, professional, community, and global spheres. It also exemplifies Bemidji State's role in shaping students' interests and talents, while preparing them for the future.

The updated mission statement emphasizes the University's commitment to northern Minnesota and refines its core goals: engaging in new worlds of

thought, embracing responsible citizenship, and educating for a future only imagined.

The statements were the focal point of a spring Campus Conversation, which served as the campus-wide kickoff for the University's upcoming re-accreditation efforts. Bemidji State University is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**Faculty and staff share their thoughts and opinions at the spring Campus Conversation.**



### **BSU Hosts High School Science Fair**

In February, more than 150 middle school and high school students from across northern Minnesota descended on Bemidji State University to display their science experiments and projects as part of the 55th annual Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair.

The annual fair included students in grades 6-12 from 15 northern Minnesota counties. The single-day event, judged by BSU faculty and staff as well as area volunteers, selected students to advance to the 71st annual State Science Fair in St. Paul.

### **Alumni Credential Files Being Eliminated, if Return Not Requested**

Career Services will begin eliminating credential files belonging to alumni on August 4. However, alumni with credential files containing documents created in 1975 or later may request to have their files returned to them. Requests must be made before the August 4 deadline.

Once a request is received, Career Services will return letters of recommendations and copies of student teaching recommendations, if those documents are on file.

Files containing documents created before 1975 are considered confidential under former guidelines and, except for student teaching recommendations, cannot be returned.

Not all file documents face elimination. Once Career Services begins the process, original student teacher recommendations will be housed with the Department of Professional Education. Transcripts will continue being retained by the Records Office.

To obtain a credential file release form, go to: [www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career). Send the completed form and the \$5 processing fee to: Career Services, Bemidji State University #18, 1500 Birchmont Dr. NE, Bemidji, MN 56601-2699.

If you're unsure if you have a credential file or if you need more information, contact Career Services by emailing [career@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:career@bemidjistate.edu) or by calling 218-755-2038 or 1-800-657-3726 (toll free).

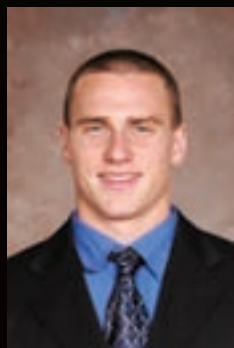
## ConnectED Tests Emergency Contact System

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Bemidji State conducted a test of the Connect-ED emergency notification system. Connect-ED allows the administration at Bemidji State to deliver messages to students, faculty, and staff via telephone and e-mail in a matter of minutes.

Bemidji State adopted the campus-wide notification system as part of an initiative by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.

"We had the same rationale as many campuses that have been seeking solutions like this in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings — making sure the campus was prepared for emergencies," Bob Griggs, interim associate vice president of information technology services, explains. "MnSCU found that individual campuses were negotiating with vendors for these types of services and found that, as a system, we could work more collaboratively to serve students."

As a result, Bemidji State became one of approximately 12 MnSCU schools to participate in a pilot program with Connect-ED.



Matt Read



Matt Climie



Emily Brookshaw

## Athletic Success in Competition and the Classroom

### HOCKEY

Having won the College Hockey America (CHA) regular-season championship, the men's ice hockey team advanced to the championship game of the CHA Tournament. By season's end, three BSU skaters earned All-CHA honors, with **Matt Read** named CHA Rookie of the Year. The Beavers also set a CHA record by placing 18 skaters on the Academic All-CHA team, breaking its own record of 16 student-athletes. Goalie **Matt Climie** signed a two-year developmental contract with the NHL's Dallas Stars and reported to its Iowa Stars AHL affiliate franchise. Climie was a two-time All-College Hockey America selection while at Bemidji State.

**Emily Brookshaw** earned Third-Team All-Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) honors as goaltender for women's ice hockey. Brookshaw, as well as 12 other Beavers, earned Academic All-WCHA honors, which is a school and conference record.

**Tom Serratore**, head coach, men's ice hockey, was named CHA Coach of the Year for the fourth time in seven years.



*Shaping Potential, Shaping Worlds.*

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Bemidji State athletics enjoyed a strong winter season, with the men's ice hockey program winning its third, regular-season conference championship in five years and several athletes from various BSU sports gaining regional or national recognition for their performances in competition and in the classroom.



## INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

**Sheena Devine** and **Joe Remitz** were named the NSIC's Female and Male Athletes of the Year, respectively, for indoor track and field this season. In March, Devine captured her third consecutive indoor national championship in the shot put at the NCAA Division II championships. *Sports Illustrated* also featured her in "Faces in the Crowd" in the March 25, 2008, issue. Not since 1994 has a BSU student-athlete appeared in the publication. Remitz earned All-America honors in the shot put by finishing second in the event at the championships and in the weight throw by placing sixth. He also broke his own BSU outdoor record in the shot put at a Moorhead event this spring.

## BASKETBALL

**Amy Lawson**, senior guard for the BSU women's basketball team, was named to the All-North Central Region Team and also became the first BSU player to earn an Academic All-District honor from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

## SOCCER

Midfielder **Megan Wallner** became the first Beaver women's soccer player to turn pro. She signed a one-year contract with Sundsvall DFF, a professional franchise in Sweden that competes one level below the highest professional league in Europe, similar to Triple-A baseball in the U.S.



Sheena Devine



Joe Remitz



Amy Lawson



Megan Wallner

## \$20,000 Grant Helps Fund Community Service and Leadership

Bemidji State was one of five higher education institutions in Minnesota to receive a \$20,000 capacity-building grant from the Minnesota Campus Compact, an affiliate of the national Campus Compact and its network of more than 1,100 higher education campuses committed to civic responsibility.

With the grant, Bemidji State plans to create a student-driven, community leadership center – a vision first articulated by the student organization, Students Today, Leaders Forever. The center is meant to inspire participation in activities surrounding the University's civic engagement signature theme.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this project is that the design for the initiative is student-conceived and student-focused," Lisa Erwin, vice president for student development and enrollment, says.

The proposed center will be the on-campus clearinghouse to connect students with leadership opportunities that address vital community issues. The grant supplies the capacity building and early implementation resources to plan the center and establish a framework to sustain it. The University will assess current leadership and civic engagement capacity and initiate a student-focused discussion and planning process to create the center.

The BSU Student Senate and Students Today, Leaders Forever will be key planning participants for the project with guidance from staff at Bemidji State and the Headwaters Regional Development Commission in Bemidji.

**W**ith his shoulder-length hair, western shirt, and fondness for the music of Tom Petty, Neil Young, and Warren Zevon, Bemidji State University senior Zach Olson projects a fresh take on a '70s style. He relaxes in the second-floor lounge of the recently renovated Linden Hall, where students selected the bright colors of the '70s for a hip, modern, 21st century look.

Some things never change. And what's old is new again.

Yet, behind the walls at Linden Hall, a lot has changed. Instead of traditional rooms, Linden Hall offers two- and three-person suites, each with its own bathroom, temperature control, air conditioning, and wireless Internet access. The facility also features modern lounge areas, kitchenettes, and a gaming room with nine plasma TVs and plug-and-play stations for computer gaming.

The renovated building opened in January. Exterior work continues to finish a front yard patio overlooking Diamond Point Park and a tree-lined backyard containing a fire pit and charcoal grills. Such amenities were unimaginable a

# Gathering Places

## *Residential Life Adapts to Changing Lifestyles*

decade ago. Now, they have become requisites for meeting the needs and interests of today's college students.

Even the term "dorm" is obsolete. Planners today think about residence halls in terms of neighborhoods and lifestyles.

More than 1,200 students live on campus this year, including 75% of the freshman class. Residential life staff point to housing options such as those at Linden Hall as a way to encourage them to continue living on campus through graduation.

For the students, privacy is a priority and, surprisingly, it's not about private bathrooms as much as it is about having a space to be alone, says Dale Ladig, director of residential life.

A comfortable place to be social, however, is also important. Ladig figures future residence halls will need to accommodate the different stages of student life. One scenario may be a hall with double-occupancy rooms for freshmen, enabling them to gain from the social experience. For sophomores, it could be suites for sharing space with more close-knit friends.

Super suites with dinettes or apartments may give juniors and seniors the independence they desire.

"Everything is on the drawing board right now," says Ladig. "What we do know is that planning demands us to be good listeners and to respond to what we hear from students."

For Olson, a resident assistant and major in creative and professional writing from Baudette, MN, staying on campus is convenient. "The laundry is downstairs. I have no utility bills. I always have a place to park. It's a three- to four-minute walk to classes, and I hardly ever have to drive," he notes.

That unencumbered lifestyle leaves Olson more time for things that matter to him: playing guitar, concentrating on his writing, and taking advantage of Bemidji State's Outdoor Program Center, one of the things that first attracted him to Bemidji. His dream job is to combine a writing career with camping and climbing adventures.

Olson also enjoys the pulse of campus life – the comings and goings of students, the cram sessions for midterms and finals, the rush for morning classes, the social weekend nights, and just hanging out with hall mates.

"There are a lot of community experiences here that you wouldn't get off campus," says Olson, who has no regrets about his choice. "By living on campus, everything is taken care of. You don't have to worry about anything."

HORIZONS





JUMP

# Starting College



Jaycob Robinson



Courtney Bitter

HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS EARN  
BSU CREDITS  
THROUGH  
CONCURRENT  
ENROLLMENT

COLLEGE

*"I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"*

Patrick Henry

On a Thursday afternoon, Jaycob Robinson finishes his fourth-hour class at Bemidji High School (BHS) listening to his instructor read Patrick Henry's speech from the 1775 Virginia Convention. Robinson is familiar with the historic rhetoric, but listens now from a literary perspective as part of a college-level, American literature course. At 16, this is his first college course and, if he passes, he earns tuition-free college credit without leaving his high school campus.

Robinson is one of 125 juniors and seniors participating this spring in Bemidji State's concurrent enrollment program. Courses are taught by certified high school teachers with supervision by Bemidji State professors, who review curriculum, exams, and grading standards. They also visit the classrooms periodically.

For Robinson, it's just what he needed to keep him on track. "When I'm not challenged enough, I tend not to care, and that's not good," he comments. Only a junior, he's already completed advanced placement courses in composition, U.S. history, and psychology.

Robinson enjoys the rigor of a more demanding course, while staying fully engaged in high school where

*Continued on page 8*



Jaycob Robinson

## HIGH SCHOOL

for example, BHS students who completed the math offerings available to them were left with two choices in their senior year: advanced placement calculus or no math. Many were choosing no math. College algebra has helped fill that gap, with about 40 seniors taking the course at BHS in the last year.

Bemidji State works with the high school to determine which classes should be offered. The high school instructors then serve in an adjunct role and are compensated through the school district. Although BSU does not receive tuition, it does gain valuable relationships with students and faculty, according to Bob Griggs, interim associate vice president at BSU and the program's coordinator.

"Program faculty often visit with high school students or invite classes to attend lectures on the University campus," says Griggs. "That collaboration is important to the community and Bemidji State. It creates a stronger, more viable learning community, while providing more options for higher achieving students."

### GETTING CREDIT

Having already completed a college writing course, Courtney Bitter, a senior honor roll student, enrolled in Ann Bowman's college algebra course this spring. Considering math her weakest subject, Bitter felt she could get more one-on-one help by taking the course in high school rather than in college.

he competes in three sports – cross country running, Nordic skiing, and track and field. In addition, he and his father own 24 sled dogs and race them each winter at meets in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada. Training the dogs three to five days a week, Robinson finds that balancing school, sports, and the dogs can be a challenge.

Taking college courses at the high school allows him to follow the BHS schedule, which makes it easier to keep up with athletic practices and competitions. "For me, it's mainly about the experiences these classes offer," says Robinson, noting that the chance to earn college credit is nice, but preparing for post-secondary education is more important to him.

### EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

At Bemidji State and elsewhere, concurrent enrollment is an increasingly popular option for high school students looking for college courses without sacrificing the social aspects of the high school experience. Some

students earn enough credits to start their college careers as sophomores, an advantage that saves money, jump starts their college careers, and provides more flexibility in course options later on.

In the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, 20,452 high school students participated in post-secondary enrollment options in 2007, with concurrent enrollment being the most popular. Bemidji State offered 14 courses in English, algebra, and physics at Bemidji High School this year, as well as a section of physics at Park Rapids Area High School. BHS also plans to add a Bemidji State business course next year.

Concurrent enrollment courses are open to high school juniors ranked in the top third of their class and seniors ranked in the top half. BHS started offering the courses in response to parents who wanted students to have better access to tuition-free credits.

In addition, the program offers students advanced options that otherwise would not be available. In math,

## STUDENTS EARN BSU CREDITS THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

She also knows that college-level results are expected, because Bowman has high expectations for her students, wanting them to become successful and confident in their abilities.

"I want her to leave here saying, 'I'm good at math,'" says Bowman.

Covering the Bemidji State general education requirements, the course includes an additional four-chapter introduction and advanced material available due to longer high school class periods. That extra time to establish a foundation was important to Bitter.

"When I first came in here, I was scared to death because we started with review, and I didn't even understand the basics," says Bitter, who usually sets aside her study hall periods to concentrate on math. "I'm more confident now than when I started."

Bitter, a nationally ranked volleyball setter, will be a freshman and member of the volleyball team at Bemidji State this fall. Finishing her math credits now will lighten her fall semester course load, making it easier to balance volleyball and academics.

### SETTING HIGH STANDARDS

Despite the advantages many students enjoy, some critics suggest that concurrent enrollment options may push students too hard and that it's not feasible to teach college-level material in a high school setting.

BHS instructor Greg Bernard, who teaches the college American literature class, doesn't see that happen-

ing. He finds that his students are well prepared and highly motivated, even more so than some college students he's taught. He also enjoys the chance to teach a more rigorous course.

"There's no way my regular students could handle the reading, dissecting, and discussing of material that we do here," says Bernard. "I can expect more out of these students, and doing well in my class gives them a good sense of how they'll perform in another similar college course."

Dr. Mark Christensen, BSU professor of English, oversees the college writing course at the high school and also

teaches college students preparing to become high school English teachers. From his standpoint, concurrent enrollment is not only valuable for students, but also makes for better teachers and enriches the learning experience.

"The interaction between teachers keeps us sharp," says Christensen, reflecting on the impact the program has on BSU faculty. "It keeps us aware of what's going on in the high school and what's new in pedagogy. These collaborations are very powerful and can really have a positive effect on students' lives."

**HORIZONS**



Courtney Bitter

A photograph of the Space Shuttle Endeavour during launch, angled upwards against a dark blue sky. The orbiter is white with a NASA logo, and the external tank and boosters are orange and white. Large plumes of white smoke and fire trail behind it.

# Launching Dreams

## BLAST OFF!

**A**s NASA's 100-ton space shuttle Endeavour thrust through the pre-dawn sky on its latest mission to the International Space Station, Bemidji State University alumna and central Minnesota native Michelle "Shelley" Ford was no doubt holding her breath.

"I'm excited and nervous – a little of both," Ford said, four days before the launch. "But I'm mostly excited to see those boosters ignite." As the NASA vehicle manager for Endeavour, she processes the shuttle from landing to launch, checking and inspecting the vehicle throughout.

In March, Endeavour launched, delivered its payload to the International Space Station, and returned to earth successfully, despite a cooling system failure and loss of a thruster-controlling electronics unit.



ALUMNA SETS HER SIGHTS ON SPACE

*"From the time I was 10, everything I did was aimed toward working in the space program."*

**Michelle "Shelley" Ford**

"My role is to ensure that all the requirements for a mission are implemented and that we process it safely," Ford explains. "I am responsible for the management and integration of the vehicle flow planning and scheduling

process to ensure implementation of inspection, test, checkout, repair, and modification requirements."

Once Endeavour returns from a mission, Ford inspects it and oversees the day-to-day operations that prepare it for the next launch.

Being responsible for a space shuttle's inspection may sound daunting, but Ford embraces the role. "I love my job," she says. "It's definitely my favorite job since working at the space center," a privilege she's enjoyed for some 12 years. During those years, she has served in positions such as systems engineer and project manager with contractor United Space Alliance and now with NASA.

At 35, Ford feels she has already lived much of her dream to be a part of the space program. "From the time I was 10, everything I did was aimed toward working in the space program."

In pursuing her dream, she headed first to the University of North Dakota,



planning to be a pilot en route to her ultimate goal of being an astronaut. However, Ford decided to change course, even though plotting a new direction wasn't completely clear.

With friends attending and recommending BSU, she switched schools and majored in math, a subject in which she excelled and enjoyed. She also participated in what was then a new space studies program. Within the program, she took a space law class that whetted her appetite for the law degree she's currently pursuing. "It was really interesting," she recalls. "They asked questions like, 'Who owns Mars?'"

Although she is in her third year of law school and looks forward to getting her degree and passing the bar, Ford has no intentions of practicing law as a career. "It'll be something I can do on the side," she says. "I don't want to leave NASA."

In fact, long-term plans still focus on her childhood goal of being an astronaut. "It's the only thing I can ever remember wanting to be," Ford recalls. "Some people go through phases of wanting to be a doctor, fireman, or whatever. I never got out of this phase."

With the next astronaut selection cycle beginning in July, Ford is preparing to apply. She has met the minimum health, work, and education requirements. Now she hopes to make an impression

that will propel her application to the top. "I just want to get from the large pile of some 4,000 applicants to the smaller pile of 100s," Ford says.

Because there hasn't been a selection for a while, she expects a lot of competition. But she's not discouraged. "I'm just going to keep applying," she says.

Ford recognizes that her dream of becoming an astronaut involves risk. Yet she remains undeterred. "The exploration is worth the risk," she says.

It's a risk she understands intimately. In fact, Ford was part of the team commissioned to recover debris from the Columbia space shuttle after it disintegrated over Texas during its return to earth. She also helped reconstruct the vehicle to discover the cause of the accident.

As a wife and mother of a 10-month-old daughter, Ford realizes her dreams and endeavors impact her family, but she feels fully supported by both her immediate and extended family members. "I have a wonderful husband who takes a lot of the load off me," she says. "And all the grandparents moved here (Florida) too."

Ford's husband, a chemical engineer, also works for NASA as a final inspection team lead. "He's part of a team that goes on the pad a few hours before launch, making sure there's no ice or debris," she explains.

The biggest challenge Ford cites in her NASA role is the dynamic environment. "You can't plan for everything that's going to happen in a day. It's multi-tasking at its best."

Fortunately, Ford feels she learned self-management skills at BSU. "That's one of the big life lessons I learned there: multi-tasking and prioritizing," she says. "I'm pretty busy, and I think those life skills I learned in college help me stay sane now."

With all her tasks and accomplishments, Ford points to the human aspect of her work as her favorite. "The people," Ford says. "I really love the people I work with and being around others who have the same dreams. You get excited about your work when you have people around you working for the same goal."

It's the mutual pride that makes being part of the NASA team rewarding. "People go above and beyond to get the work done and make sure it's the best possible. There's just so much pride that comes with being in the space program," she explains.

While she loves the people and the work she does on the ground, she's hoping to launch her ultimate dream and blast into space on a shuttle mission of her own someday soon.

## HORIZONS

# A Lasting Handshake

EARLY MEETING SETS INTO MOTION



**IN 1996,** *two hands clasped in a brief greeting. Thirteen years later, one – overtaken by uncontrollable tremors – would be calmed to stillness by the skilled precision of the other.*

**In 1996,** two hands clasped in a brief greeting. Thirteen years later, one – overtaken by uncontrollable tremors – would be calmed to stillness by the skilled precision of the other.

“You never know what’s going to happen,” says Joe Lueken of Lueken’s grocery stores in Bemidji. Lueken suffers from Parkinson’s disease, a degenerative disorder that causes his hands to shake uncontrollably. Last year, he underwent deep brain stimulation surgery at St. Mary’s Hospital, a Mayo Clinic facility in Rochester, in hopes of stopping the tremors.

The surgery, as fate would have it, was performed by Dr. Jeremy Fogelson, who is a Rochester Mayo Clinic resident physician obtaining specialty training in neurosurgery. A Bemidji State graduate, Fogelson attended the University through a scholarship funded by Lueken.

“I saw his name on our appointment list,” Fogelson says, nearly a decade and a half after their initial meeting at a scholarship donor-recipient reception. Curious, Fogelson did some research and confirmed that Lueken was the Joe Lueken who had funded his scholarship. “I wanted to meet up with him again,” Fogelson says. “It was very lucky.”

On the morning of Lueken’s surgery, the two hands that once came together in a polite greeting formed a

## IMMEASURABLE GIFTS

stronger, more lasting bond. Fogelson visited Lueken, introducing himself and thanking Lueken for the scholarship that provided the foundation for his career.

"I've been so grateful to him in helping me get my education," Fogelson says. Because of his scholarship, I was able to focus on my studies and really excel during school. You need that to get into med school and go through it in a competitive way."

After their meeting, Lueken was prepped for the deep brain stimulation surgery that would be performed by Fogelson and Dr. Kendal Lee, Fogelson's mentor at the Mayo Clinic. "With deep brain stimulation, we want to stimulate specific areas near the center of the brain," Fogelson explains. "We put electrodes in the right places and connect them to a stimulation device similar to a pacemaker."

An MRI scan provided a visual guide for the surgeons, but Lueken had to

**Continued on page 14**

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*"I've been so grateful to him in helping me get my education. Because of his scholarship, I was able to focus on my studies and really excel during school. You need that to get into med school and go through it in a competitive way."*

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**Dr. Jeremy Fogelson**



## A LASTING HANDSHAKE *(Continued)*

be awake for them to see the effectiveness of the probes' placement. While it's a stressful experience for the patient, once the probes are in place, the results are instantaneous and thrilling to witness.

"It's very emotional," Fogelson notes. "You watch the hand that's shaking for 14 years and, as soon as the probe's in the right place, it just stops."

"I was shaking pretty badly, then nothing. Everything was just still," Lueken recalls.

Before the surgery, Lueken's tremors were so pronounced that he could not keep a newspaper still enough to read or hold a glass without spilling its contents. At the moment of "stillness," Lueken was filled with gratitude, an emotion he continues to hold for the surgery and the surgeon that returned much of his quality of life.

Today Lueken continues working at the grocery store he first managed in 1966 and enjoying life with his wife of 45 years, Janice.

*"When the surgery was done,  
I had a tear in my eye.  
Even though I did the surgery,  
it was really Lueken who  
set it all in motion."*

**Dr. Jeremy Fogelson**

**Joe Lueken in his Bemidji grocery store.**



While Fogelson gave Lueken a gift that can't be quantified, Fogelson stresses the same when talking about what Lueken gave to him. The Bemidji State University Full-Tuition Scholarship that Fogelson received allowed him to attend the university of his choice and ultimately led him to a career that he enjoys and where he can make meaningful differences in people's lives.

As for performing life-changing surgery on the man who opened the higher education door for him, Fogelson feels a sense of satisfaction and appreciation.

"When the surgery was done, I had a tear in my eye," Fogelson says. "Even though I did the surgery, it was really Lueken who set it all in motion."

#### HORIZONS



# HORIZONS

## TO Watch

Meet seniors Dan, Vanessa, and Josh. They tell very different stories about their experiences at BSU. Yet, all three passionately describe how the University has guided them in discovering, expanding, and polishing their talents.



## Dan Koev

Ten years ago, fate aligned with opportunity for the Koev family of Yambol, Bulgaria, and opened passage to America. Dan Koev, a senior political science major at Bemidji State University, found the results boundless.

"I remember having mixed feelings about leaving, but was excited about the possibilities," says Koev, who was 12 when his family was among the fortunate few to get a green card through a lottery. They eventually settled in Elk River.

After earning an associate degree, Koev's pursuit of opportunity began in earnest when he arrived at Bemidji State to satisfy a growing interest in political science.

"I expected it to be like community college, where I felt like a number," Koev recalls. "The reality is the opposite. The faculty pay attention to students, care about them, and encourage them."

Though he acknowledges being timid and unsure, Koev has flourished as a result of that encouragement.

"Dan came to us very capable and talented," says Dr. Patrick Donnay, professor of political science. "All we had to do was convince him he had all those qualities."

Once he understood his potential, Koev applied it. He represented BSU

at the Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point. He presented original research at a meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. He received a competitive, paid fellowship from the University of Illinois, where he will enroll in the doctoral program.

"My interaction with faculty helped me gain confidence," Koev says. "When I first came to BSU, I wouldn't have believed this was possible."

In 2005, Koev fulfilled one of those possibilities by becoming a U.S. citizen. "It was amazing," he recalls. "I really liked going through it, because I felt I earned my citizenship."

The upcoming presidential election will be his first opportunity to cast a ballot on a national scale. As a political science major, he's glad students appear excited about the process this year.

"I would get a little upset when young people didn't get involved," he says. "That frustrated me, because it undermines democracy when people throw their vote away."

Koev isn't one to toss aside an opportunity. Whether it's pursuing a graduate degree or voting in an upcoming election, he relishes the chance to chase the American Dream.

**HORIZONS**

As a child, Vanessa Christian was known as the national anthem girl in her hometown of Warroad. She could sing, and there were plenty of sporting events to showcase her talent.

Ten years later, the curtain rose for her opera debut on one of the most esteemed stages of the genre in Rome, Italy. The youngest member of an international cast for Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, she sang the major role of Donna Elvira.

Regardless of the venue, the senior at Bemidji State University is motivated by what she says is the need to sing.

That compelling desire brought her to BSU. At Warroad High School, courses she needed to graduate were scheduled concurrently with music classes. Rather than drop music, she took advantage of Minnesota's post-secondary enrollment options at Bemidji State.

"I came here able to sing in a Broadway style, but now I am singing opera," says the vocal music major. "The techniques are totally different. I hadn't intended to stay, but the music took over my life. The essence of opera is emotion and the human spirit. It is who I am."

Under voice teachers Marci McKee and Dr. Ruth Jacobson, she learned



Vanessa

the proper way to breathe, interpret compositions, and place tones as she sings. She added an astounding 11 notes to her soprano range.

"The thing that impresses me most is her drive to excel," says Jacobson, an assistant professor of music. "In the end, careers are not based on talent alone. The necessary ingredient is drive."

Christian exhibited both drive and talent with her summer experiences. Encouraged by faculty to audition for the opera, she earned the role of Don Giovanni's spurned lover as a sophomore. A year later she was in New York with the Metropolitan Opera Company, where she worked on diction, stage presence, and singing with emotion.

"Singers and actors are often in a bind when they start out because they can't get an engagement without experience, but they can't get experience without an engagement," Jacobson adds. "Vanessa has made some excellent choices as she builds her resume and has made important contacts."

Her choice for the coming year will be to work with a voice coach, prepare for graduate school, and continue satisfying that need to sing.

#### HORIZONS



Christian



Josh Larson

When he arrived at Bemidji State University three years ago, Josh Larson admits he felt uncertain. Not about the location. He loved the community and the outdoors. Not in terms of family. He came to BSU with his twin brother Andy. He was unsure about where his future would lead.

The senior from Newfolden had no idea what to do, even after stints at two community colleges resulted in earning an associate degree. Classes at UW-Superior and traveling in Europe didn't clarify his aspirations either.

Being clueless changed in a hurry at Bemidji State, however, where Dr. Sally (Wiltse) Sertich was assigned as his advisor.

"At the risk of sounding like a mom, the first thing I told him was that Bemidji State was the last college he would attend," Sertich remembers. "He had to do some soul searching to figure out a major. He needed someone to push him, and I was willing to do that."

The intervention put Larson on a community health track that matched his interests in nutrition, physical activities, health, fitness, and sports. "I had never heard of the degree," Larson recalls. "I thought it was for nurses or doctors and focused on treatment."

As he explored the curriculum and the profession, he realized the major fit him perfectly. He rediscovered satisfaction in learning, looked forward to each new semester, and began having fun. He also encountered the realities of community health.

After volunteering at a local agency where he worked on compliance with a smoking ban, he was hired to establish non-smoking programs in the Bemidji schools. Later he accepted the challenge of working with businesses across 13 counties to implement a statewide smoking ban.

All the while, he continued taking classes full time.

"I help public health agencies with educating businesses, elected officials, and the public," Larson says. "My goal is to have no bars or restaurants close. I listen to them, describe what we can do, explain the law, offer assistance when needed, and root for them to succeed."

Once feeling lost, he's now found the confidence that his time at BSU and real-life experiences will propel him beyond the competition he'll face when seeking internships and employment.

"It has been fun to watch him move from undecided, to committed, and to confident," says Sertich. **HORIZONS**

# Searching FOR Answers

GRAD PURSUES PASSION FOR PEOPLE

**H**ow can life be better for people? While many ask the question, Dr. Virginia Kwan, a Bemidji State graduate and Princeton University psychology professor, is conducting research to find the answer.

The importance of her quest for answers was confirmed last fall, when she was named one of the field's rising stars by the Association for Psychological Science, which cited her as one of the "bright lights in psychological science." Kwan was among ten psychology researchers from such prestigious U.S. institutions as Yale, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Chicago, who were recognized at the time.

As a cultural psychology expert, with additional expertise in social and personality psychology, Kwan studies self-perception on three levels: self-perception, interpersonal perception, and group perception. "In my view, even self perception is an inherently social phenomenon," she explains. "The individual always acts as a perceiver and is always a target of perception."

Currently she's investigating self-perception accuracy and perception of non-human agents. The premise of her research lies in her belief that self-perception is critical in an individual's happiness. "At the very beginning of my career, I realized

self-perception is important for our functioning," Kwan says. "I wanted to explore this."

In one study, Kwan compares a person's view of his or her intelligence with the individual's grade point average or IQ score. She is researching whether we view ourselves accurately and if our self-assessments affect our mental health.

Additionally, Kwan is studying how and why people project their own characteristics onto non-human objects and beings.

"We use non-human things more and more today, but we haven't looked at the mental health aspects and how these agents affect us," Kwan explains. "For example, we use pets for social support, projecting human emotions and traits onto them. We know pet ownership brings health benefits, but we don't know much about the psychological mechanisms behind this."

In studying people and pets, Kwan has ventured to dog parks where she interviews pet owners. She looks at different types of anthropomorphism or human qualities people give to animals and inanimate objects. She also studies how people's judgment of others can be based on the pets they own.

"Some people may see themselves in the dogs; we call this egocentric," Kwan explains. "Other people see other dogs like they do other humans; this is homocentric. Others

see dogs like a possession or something related to you."

Besides her research, Kwan is forwarding Princeton's psychology curriculum by adding and teaching cutting-edge courses. She launched the first cultural psychology course at Princeton, which allows her teachings to complement her research.

For Kwan, teaching and researching psychology is satisfying. She particularly enjoys doing so in American culture, which she first came to know in Bemidji. "I was always interested in people and cultures, but I didn't know how much until I came to BSU," she says. "My time at BSU was the first time I lived in a different culture."

Attracted by the white winters she saw in pictures, Kwan came to BSU from Hong Kong to investigate a career in natural sciences, but found herself drawn to people. "As I interacted with people, I became intrigued by them and, at the same time, very interested in myself and my own Chinese culture," Kwan explains. "I started to wonder how much of myself was from my culture or just my own unique self."

Through her experiences with BSU's International Student Organization (ISO), Family Friends program, and psychology courses, Kwan became ever more curious about people as she became involved in their lives.

## AND PERCEPTIONS

"BSU – especially my Family Friends hosts Ken and Becky Berge – were very important in my coming into American culture," she says. "The Berges were wonderful and included me in everything from holidays to chopping wood to making strawberry preserves. I just loved it."

As an international student, Kwan also valued the social support she gained through BSU's ISO. "My experience with ISO was very positive," she says. "I still have a number of friends I keep in touch with."

Academically, Kwan recalls the influence of her psychology professors. "They opened my eyes to psychology, and I thoroughly enjoyed their classes."

Crediting much of her fascination with cultural psychology to her time at BSU, Kwan has turned that early fascination into research findings. These findings will likely help people understand and improve their lives, whether they're at Princeton, in Hong Kong, Bemidji State, or beyond.

### HORIZONS

*"As I interacted with people, I became intrigued by them and, at the same time, very interested in myself and my own Chinese culture. I started to wonder how much of myself was from my culture or just my own unique self."*

**Dr. Virginia Kwan**



# All about Choice

## GETTING TO THE HEART



*"If we care enough to believe, the issue becomes how we can make the best choices."*

**Dr. Kit Christensen**

**P**hilosophy professor, Dr. Kit Christensen, appreciates the commanding role choice plays in individuals' lives, including his own. Choice presents alternatives. It forces introspection, yet consideration of others. It challenges beliefs and affirms convictions. It demands interaction while creating action or inaction. Choice, once made, clarifies and defines lives. It comes with consequences.

As a teenager living in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1970s, Christensen chose to become a conscientious objector rather than participate in the Vietnam War. As a result, he headed to South Dakota to work at Lutheran camps as an alternative to military service. By the time he arrived in the Black Hills, however, the draft had ended and his obligation to serve evaporated. Yet, he decided to honor his commitment.

His decision to stay led him to pursue his professional and personal passions in an area of the country he came to love,

the Midwest. Enrolling in Minnesota State University-Moorhead to be near the young woman he would eventually marry, he studied philosophy.

For Christensen, studying philosophy was an easy choice. He loved those courses at the University of California, Berkeley, where he had taken classes before traveling to South Dakota.

"I've always believed in majoring in what you liked most and never in where you'd make the most money," he says. "Go for the passion, and it's going to work out most of the time. You'll have the ambition and the energy for it, and that's not anything that can be taught."

He eventually headed to Purdue University for a doctorate degree and then to Bemidji State University as a faculty member.

Teaching in what was a two-person department for many years, Christensen has evolved into a generalist in the field. With interests in the mix of moral and political philosophy, he explores questions of human nature, potential, the choices people make, and the chances of changing society for the better.

From the exploration of those topics, he has written two books, with another one underway. *The Politics of Character Development* examines virtue ethics, delving into questions of moral character. *Philosophy of Choice: Selected Readings from Around the World* is a textbook in comparative philosophies. His latest text, in manuscript form, analyzes issues of violence and non-violence, peace versus war, and justice as opposed to injustice.

Christensen sees philosophy playing

*Continued on page 22*

OF HUMAN NATURE





## GETTING TO THE HEART OF HUMAN NATURE

### *Continued from page 21*

a significant part in understanding choices and affecting decisions. "In ethics, for example, we focus on the evaluation of moral beliefs and how people justify those positions. We help students go through their ethical beliefs and think through those of others, so they can exercise choice in what is morally right or wrong."

His perspective on philosophy comes as no surprise to the thousands of students who have participated in Christensen's classes. He currently chairs the Department of Philosophy, which promotes the value of critical thinking in all its offerings.

"If we think of philosophy as an intellectual activity, there are skills involved," he explains. "We basically teach rational analysis. What it really comes down to is a fundamentally logical analysis of our beliefs and how we can go about justifying them, moving from premise to conclusion and looking at alternatives. If we care enough to believe, the issue becomes how we can make the best choices."

Studying world philosophies has extended his interests to include international studies and education. He has been active on the International Studies Council, taught in Iceland and Denmark, and set up both faculty and student exchanges abroad, most recently at the University of Tromsø, in northern Norway.

"With the international focus on Arctic issues currently, and Tromsø's participation in an international consortium of universities collectively

called The University of the Arctic, I think this is a great opportunity for our students to be exposed to research, discussion, and debate about very timely subjects," Christensen notes.

Christensen brings this broad worldview into his classes, which frequently include not only philosophy majors and minors, but also non-majors who choose the classes to fulfill liberal education requirements.

Christensen points out that there are no prerequisites for philosophy courses. What's needed is a willingness to think through problems, read difficult texts, talk about subjects in class, make as much sense out of the content as possible, and then write about it in exams and essays.

"They see it as fairly rigorous, rather complex, and not always an easily understandable domain of rational inquiry," Christensen observes. "Those who hang in there, don't freak out, start actually listening and reading, and pay attention realize they can do this."

Students who do choose to study philosophy find value, initially in the

courses and frequently in the program, as well. It is rare to find a BSU student pursuing solely a philosophy major, but very common to find undergraduates using its curriculum to augment another academic degree.

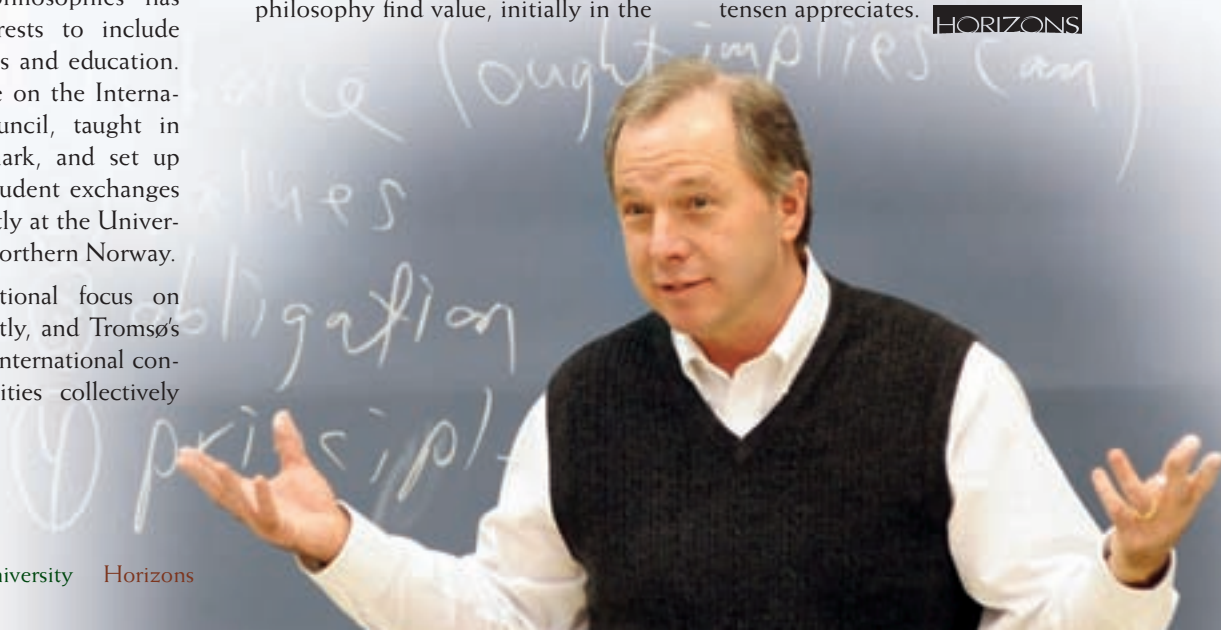
It's a combination that often sets one job seeker apart from other applicants and plants the seed of curiosity in employers, who want to find out more about a candidate with such an unusual set of credentials.

"It's not something you can take to an employer and ask to be hired as their philosopher," Christensen mentions. "But you should have these problem-solving, analytical skills. They make you a better team player because you're used to looking at other perspectives, and you're not in it just for yourself."

"Being a good listener, you won't be bowled over by someone who says something really different. You're not tipped over so easily by thinking outside the box, because that's where most philosophers think."

And deciding to examine life from all of its angles is a choice that Christensen appreciates.

**HORIZONS**





Alumni

AWARDS



## Athletic Hall of Fame

Eight athletes, one coach, and five teams were selected to enter the BSU Athletic Hall of Fame. Ceremonies will be held during the Athletic Hall of Fame and Alumni B-Club weekend October 17-18.

Inductees are listed by category, sport, and current hometown.

### ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

#### Kevin C. Kish

Wrestling  
Maple Grove, MN

#### John B. Kopari '67

Football, Track, Basketball  
Thief River Falls, MN

#### James E. Lawrence '61

Football, Baseball, Basketball  
Phoenix, AZ

#### Bruce L. Olson '69

Ice Hockey  
East Grand Forks, MN

#### Joseph F. Rezac '65

Track  
Baxter, MN

#### Kimberly J. Roysland '80

Volleyball  
Fosston, MN

#### Michael J. Roysland '80

Basketball  
Fosston, MN

#### Steven D. "Pete" Saxe '73

Wrestling  
Stacy, MN

### COACHES HALL OF FAME

#### Dr. Patricia A. Rosenbrock 1969-1989

Gymnastics, Track & Field, Volleyball  
Bemidji, MN

### TEAM HALL OF FAME

1957 and 1959 Football Teams  
1972, 1973, and 1976 Wrestling Teams

## 2008 Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients

Eight BSU graduates will be honored as Outstanding Alumni at the Alumni Honors Banquet on Friday, September 26, 2008, during Homecoming weekend. The eight alums, their current professions, and hometowns are listed below.

#### Col. Randall G. Anderson '85

Army Medical Officer  
Silver Spring, MD

#### Lt. Col. Mark A. Backlin '79

Retired Air Force Officer/Consultant  
Colorado Springs, CO

#### Leah J. Carpenter '85

President, Leech Lake Tribal College  
Bemidji, MN

#### Linda E. Erceg '90

Camp Nurse and Health Services Provider  
Bemidji, MN

#### Anthony S. Gramer '70

Business Owner  
Bloomfield Hills, MI

#### Margaret F. "Peggy" Ingison '74

Chief Financial Officer  
Minneapolis School District  
New Brighton, MN

#### Scott K. Lindberg '75

Business/Insurance  
Mill Valley, CA

#### Dr. Benjamin K. Tsang '71

Medical Researcher  
Nepean, ON, Canada

# Class Notes

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

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
*Towns are located in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.*

**2007** Nathan Gresham of Las Vegas, NV, was hired by Home and Garden Television to videotape several homes in the Las Vegas area for their upcoming program entitled "Secrets That Sell." He also worked on the 2007 MTV Video Awards program ... **Jason Edens** is the director of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, Pine River, which equips qualifying low-income households with solar air heating systems ... **Joy Rairdon** and **Jonathan Rippentrop** were married September 29 in Duluth. She is employed at Heartland Homes and J&B Foods, and he works for Brother 'N Son Construction. They live in Menahga.

**2006** Michael Stanek and Elsie Rehberger were married September 8 in Brainerd. He is employed with the Minnesota Army National Guard, and she is employed at St. Joseph's Medical Center. They live in Baxter ... **Andrew Martens** and **Nicole (Linder) Martens** ('04) announce the December 18 birth of a son, Maverik ... **Andy Miller** teaches K-12 vocal music at Long Prairie/Grey Eagle Schools and served as artistic director of From Age to Age, a professional choral music ensemble that performed a benefit concert in Bemidji in January. Proceeds were earmarked for the Central Asia Institute, serving girls in remote mountain regions of Central Asia, and for The One Acre Fund, providing services to farmers in Africa ... **Jason Schmitz** and **Kelli Knudsen** ('05) were married August 18 in Brainerd. She is employed at Edina Realty Home Services in the Information Technology Department, and he is employed at Modeled Horizons. They live in Fridley ... **Al Zutz** of Bemidji has joined Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as a financial representative with the organization's North Country Regional Financial Office.

**2005** **Cassandra Krueger** and **Casey Rogers** were married September 8 at Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort, Biwabik. She is employed at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College as an academic coordinator for Upward Bound Math/Science, and he is employed at Hibbing Taconite as an operations coordinator. They live in Hibbing ... **Sarah Hayden** is a research coordinator with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, Pine River, which equips qualifying low-income households with solar air heating systems ... **Brice Vollbrecht** was hired recently as an officer with the Blackduck Police Department ... **Bryce Stordahl** and **Andrea Hydukovich** were married December 31 at Comstock. They are employed with the Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity in Moorhead, where he is a construction manager, and she is a program coordinator ... **Kelli Knudsen** and **Jason Schmitz** ('06) were married August 18 in Brainerd. She is employed at Edina Realty Home Services in the Information Technology Department, and he is employed at Modeled Horizons. They live in Fridley ... **Shane Foley** was recently hired as the new Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District manager and local water plan coordinator ... **Andrew Murray** signed a three-year, \$1.875 million extension contract with the National Hockey League team, the Blue Jackets, in Columbus, OH. The contract keeps him with the team through the 2010-2011 season. The Blue Jackets drafted him in 2001 ... **Kayla Thompson** and **Shane Bowe** ('04) were married August 4 in Ottertail. He is employed with the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources, and she is finishing her master's degree in biology at BSU.

**2004** **Nicole McDougall** and **Frank Udovich, Jr.**, were married on October 6 and live in Ely ... **Nicole (Linder) Martens** and **Andrew Martens** ('06) announce the December 18 birth of a son, Maverik ... **Justin "Gus" Fink** and **Megan (Jacklitch) Fink** announce the February 26 birth of a daughter, Gianna ... **Tim Patrino** has been named the varsity football coach for the West Central Area

Schools, Barrett. He served on the high school football staffs of Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster and International Falls before coming to West Central Area two years ago ... **Shane Bowe** and **Kayla Thompson** ('05) were married August 4 in Ottertail. He is employed with the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources, and she is finishing her master's degree in biology at BSU ... **Jessica (Radermacher) Smith** and her husband, **Kyle**, of Windom announce the January 15 birth of their second child, Leah Jean. They also have a daughter, Ada. Jessica is a substitute teacher and softball coach for Windom Area Schools.

**2003** **Charles Krysel** is the board chair of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, Pine River, which equips qualifying low-income households with solar air heating systems ... **Lucas Farm** and **Alison Prechel** ('02) were married August 11 in Springfield. He is a business manager at Gander Mountain Corp. in St. Paul, and she is employed as a graphic designer at GLS Companies, Minneapolis ... **Krista Galatz** was promoted to the position of universal banker with U.S. Bank at its Hibbing office. She's been with U.S. Bank since 2005 and has worked as a teller, vault teller, and teller coordinator ... **Amy Reznicek** and **Scott Horning** were married January 26 at Hoyt Lakes. She is currently teaching at the Fond du Lac Head Start in Cloquet, and he is employed at the Cloquet Country Club ... **Hope Schmitt** and **Randall Baird** ('02) were married on January 24, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico...

**2002** **Alison Prechel** and **Lucas Farm** ('03) were married August 11 in Springfield. She is employed as a graphic designer at GLS Companies, Minneapolis, and he is a business manager at Gander Mountain Corp. in St. Paul ... **Darin Mosch** of Valencia, CA, has been working as a business consultant for Tenrox, a consulting company, since January of 2006 ... **Randall Baird** and **Hope Schmitt** ('03) were married on January 24, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico ... **Amber Berg** and **Ryan Kearns** were married October 27 in Tres Pinos, CA. She is an English teacher at Hinckley-Finlayson

High School in Hinckley, and he is a firefighter for CAL Fire ... **Alison Prechel** and **Lucas Farm** ('03) were married August 11 in Springfield. She is employed as a graphic designer at GLS Companies, Minneapolis, and he is a business manager at Gander Mountain Corp. in St. Paul.

**2001** **Kim Kucera** was recently hired by the Mille Lacs Health System, Onamia, to serve as vice president of hospital-based services. She and her husband, Wayne, live in Onamia and have three sons and four grandchildren.

**2000** **Talia Mitzner** recently accepted a position with Farmchek Services, McIntosh. She lives near Trail with her husband, Joel, and daughters Aurora and Ciara ... **Trisha Berg** and **Chad Pendill** were married July 7 in Willmar. She is employed as a math teacher at Willmar Public Schools, and he is employed at LPG & NH3 Supply, Inc. They live in Willmar.

**1999** **Doyle Turner** of Bemidji was honored as an exciting new American Indian poet by the Sequoyah Research Center, University of Arkansas, at the Voices of the Present Conference held recently in Little Rock. As an honoree, his book of poetry, *Time is a Parlor Trick and Other Poems*, has been published. He is a White Earth enrollee ... **Amber (Martin) Block** of Wadena has worked in corrections for nearly nine years and recently secured her licensed practical nursing certification. She and her husband, Brandon, have one child, Addison ... **Jennifer (Lerfeld) Bodnarchuk** and husband, Brian, of Winnipeg, MB, Canada, announce the November 28 birth of a daughter, Keira. They also have a son, William, who was born in May 2006. Jennifer is employed as a statistical analyst with Manitoba Lotteries Corporation ... **Amy (Boll) Huie** and **Randy Huie** ('97) were married April 5 in Crookston. He currently teaches and coaches at Red Lake County Central High School, Oklee, and she teaches and coaches at Crookston High School. They live in Crookston.

**1997** **Gail Levenson** became executive director of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation in July. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Wadena and have three children, Sarah, Brian, and Adam ... **Janelle (Lee) Melbo** of Bagley teaches first grade at Bagley Elementary School, where she's been employed for the past nine years. She earned her master's degree from BSU recently. She and her husband, Brant, have two children, Maria and McKenna ... **Maria (Fuglestad) Raukar** and **Timothy Raukar** ('96) announce the November 9 birth of a daughter, Esme. She joins big sister, Amira. Maria has a home-based reflexology business, and Tim is an independent window contractor and also a human service technician at a group home for developmentally disabled adults ... **Charles Kramer** has been hired as corporate controller with BOR-SON Construction, Inc., Minneapolis. He was corporate controller at Kraus-Anderson Construction Company and also held senior financial positions with Manor Concrete Construction Inc., The Tree Trust, and Cuningham Group Construction Services ... **Randy Huie** and **Amy (Boll) Huie** ('99) were married April 5 in Crookston. He currently teaches and coaches at Red Lake County Central High School, Oklee, and she teaches and coaches at Crookston High School. They live in Crookston.

**1996** **Kristi (Schmitz) Langemo** and husband, **Tory Langemo**, of Chanhasen announce the December 22 birth of their first child, Camille Cecelia ... **Paul Matchan** has been hired as a designer with White Ivy Design, Coleraine. He has four years of experience working in the design and print production field. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife and daughter ... **Annushka Gisella Peck** recently displayed a collection of her multi-media sculptures in Bemidji. The collection explored the mythology of urban and rural opposition ... **Joe Schaffer** has been hired as the associate dean of workforce programs and chief academic officer at Montana State University in Great Falls. He joined the college as director of outreach in 2002,

later became assistant dean of outreach & workforce development, and most recently served as interim associate dean. He and his wife, Brooke, have a daughter, Samantha, and have lived in Great Falls since 2002 ... **Timothy Raukar** and **Maria (Fuglestad) Raukar** ('97) announce the November 9 birth of a daughter, Esme. She joins big sister, Amira. Maria has a home-based reflexology business, and Tim is an independent window contractor and also a human service technician at a group home for developmentally disabled adults.

**1995** **David Griggs** and wife, **Carmen**, live in Grand Rapids and have two sons, Scott and Nick. Dave is a pharmacist with Target in Grand Rapids ... **Bill Peterson** of Lakeland is a self-employed systems analyst and custom gun stock maker. He's also a player-manager of the Lake Elmo Ducks amateur baseball team. He and his wife, Holly, have two sons, Will and Sebastian.

**1994** **Krisann Berglund** was selected as Tri-County Schools' 2007-08 Teacher of the Year. She serves as student council advisor and teaches high school classes in chemistry, general and college level physics, earth science, and physical science ... **Michael Rogers** and **Lia Merriweather** were married September 8 in Chicago, IL. He is employed with Homeland Security, and she is employed as an electronic communications supervisor at the National PTA. They live in Northbrook, IL.

**1993** **Rob Nelson**, a private wealth adviser with Ameriprise Financial, was ranked sixth among the state's top 25 wealth advisers by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* ... **Julie (Bjelland) Lokhandwala**, a professional dog trainer in California, has launched an interactive website for dog owners, webdogtrainer.com. Visitors to the website can learn step-by-step techniques of dog training. Ten percent of the profits raised from the site are targeted for charities that help rescue and shelter dogs.

Continued on Page 26

**1992** Beth Luukkonen and Daniel Kern were married October 12 in Wadena. She works at the *Wadena Pioneer Journal* as a graphic designer, and he is employed by Mason Brothers in the maintenance department at Abby's Bakery, Wadena.

**1990** David Lee was recently inducted into the West Aurora High School Sports Hall of Fame. He is a teacher and basketball coach in Hayward, WI, where he lives with his wife and three daughters.

**1989** Sue Lass began teaching dance as a private instructor last fall and soon after was hired as the head coach for the Barnesville Schools' new dance-line program. She also works part time for the North Dakota Supreme Court where she coordinates the Juvenile Drug Court for the East Central Judicial District in Fargo. She and her husband, Jayson, live in Pelican Rapids ... **Roy Booth** announces that his play, *Little White Lies*, which was co-written with Richard James of the United Kingdom, won in the "Best Comedy" and "Best Unpublished Play" categories at an annual contest held at the Norden Farm Centre for the Arts in Maidenhead, Berkshire, England. Booth is a published playwright who, when not writing, divides his time between his Bemidji and Brainerd comic book/gaming stores, Roy's Comics and Games.

**1988** Erich Campbell, a U.S. Army major serving in Iraq, was wounded during a suicide bomb attack in the northern Iraq city of Mosul on January 24. He was expected to recover and return home to his wife, Roline, and children, Allison and Johan, who live in Fort Riley, KS, and his daughters, Katy and Emily, who live in Aitkin. He joined the army in 1988 and has collected about 20 medals for his achievements while serving one tour of duty in Afghanistan and three in Iraq ... **Barbara Erickson** recently joined the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* as a graphic designer. Since 1990, she has been a freelance graphic artist.

**1986** Nancy Vyskocil was chosen to serve as the new president of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Bemidji, and assumed her new position in January. She had served as the chief financial officer and vice president of the Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Pelican Rapids, since 2001. She had previously worked as the assistant controller and director of administration for Arvig Enterprises, Inc., a family of communication companies; and as general manager of Royale Leasing, Inc., a human resource consulting and employee leasing firm, both located in Perham.

**1984** Michael Porter of Bloomington recently completed his doctorate in leadership, policy, and administration at the University of St. Thomas, where he also teaches entrepreneurship in the Opus College of Business' undergraduate program. He also runs a marketing, communications, and management consulting business, Sopra Voce. He and his wife, Anna, have four sons, Matt, Tyler, Bryan, and Sam ... **Roxanne Struthers** was posthumously inducted into the 2008 Northwest Minnesota Women's Hall of Fame. An internationally recognized researcher, educator, healer, and speaker for American Indian health, she was born and raised on the White Earth Indian Reservation. She died in 2005 at the age of 53 and is survived by her husband, James, two sons, and two daughters.

**1983** Tim Milliard recently returned to teaching business and computer classes at St. Mary's Catholic School following a long-term career in business. He has lived in Sleepy Eye for 20 years and previously taught at St. Mary's from 1986 to 1995.

**1980** Deb Carlson, a high school art teacher, was selected by Education Minnesota, Lake of the Woods chapter, as the 2007 Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Dana, are long-time residents of Williams and have two daughters, Katie and Lindsey. She has been an art teacher at Lake of the Woods Community Schools since 1984.

**1978** Scott Fox has retired from a 30-year career with the Pelican Rapids Police Department, having served as the police chief for the last six and one-half years.

**1975** Steve DeKrey is the head of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) program, which was rated the top EMBA program internationally, followed by the University of New York and Wharton School of Business ... **Deb Allison** is the new executive director of the Bi-County Community Action Program in Bemidji. She'd previously served for a number of years as human services director for Beltrami County ... **Cindy Hart** was named 2007 Minnesota Physical Education Teacher of the Year in October by the Minnesota Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She's been a teacher for 20 years at Rahn Elementary in Eagan. She and her husband, Bob, have three grown children.

**1974** Adele Munsterman has been appointed to serve as a director on the board of trustees of the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, representing the Third Congressional District. She and her husband, Walt, live in Brooklyn Park.

**1973** C.T. Marhula is the new clerk-treasurer for the city of Warren. He brings more than 20 years of management experience to the position, most of it with electric cooperatives. Most recently he'd been employed as a community liaison officer for Grand Forks Air Force Base for the past three years. His wife, Cindy, is a teacher at South Middle School in Grand Forks, ND. They have two daughters, Annie and Marilyn ... **Linda Wagner** of Bemidji competed for and won the title of Ms. Senior America 2007 last fall. She teaches music at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School. She and her husband, Bob Wagner ('72), have been married for 38 years and have three daughters ... **Sue Kringen** has joined First Federal Bank, Bemidji, as its new vice president and director of sales and marketing.

## IN MEMORIAM

She has more than 30 years of experience in marketing, sales, development, non-profit management, and community leadership. She previously served as senior director of development for the BSU Foundation and, prior to that, as director of BSU Alumni Relations. Her career experience also includes serving as the first executive director of the United Way of the Bemidji area and working at Northern National Bank, Bemidji, for 14 years.

**1972** Joe Aitken retired in January from his position as interim director of the Bemidji State University American Indian Resource Center, having served in that position since April of 2005. He'd previously served for 29 years as director of the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program and is a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ... Bob Wagner and his wife, Linda ('73), have been married for 38 years and have three daughters. Linda competed for and won the title of Ms. Senior America 2007 this fall. She teaches music at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School.

**1971** John Borg of Edina, a retired Fourth Judicial District Court judge, was selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2007-2008, in the field of alternative dispute resolution. He was also selected for inclusion in the *Lawdragon* 500 *Leading Judges in America* – 2006.

**1970** Dennis Ranta has the distinction of holding Minnesota Coach of the Year honors in four different sports: girls cross country, boys cross country, girls track and field, and boys track and field. He also holds 28 Section 7A Coach of the Year honors. A founding member of the Minnesota True Team Track and Field Committee, he conducts clinics for area coaches in Plainview, where he also runs a summer track and field camp for young athletes.

**1969** Kitty Krueger retired from a 40-year career in education, having spent the past 17 of those as a principal in the Perham-Dent School Dis-

trict. Prior to that, she was principal and superintendent of Borup Schools from 1985 to 1991 and had also served as an administrator in Plummer and Eagle Bend. She plans to remain in the Perham area ... Clint Moen, an orthopedic surgeon, joined the staff at Community Memorial Hospital, Cloquet, in January. He and his wife, Kris, spent two months doing orthopedics work overseas in Bhutan last summer.

**1968** William Smith and Mary (Vuchetich) Smith live in Georgetown, KY, where he is the computer specialist for the Scott County Public Library. Mary is director of the Licensed Officials Department at the United States Equestrian Federation, located at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Prior to 1999, they were long-time residents of Douglas County, where William taught mainframe computer languages at the Alexandria Technical College for about 25 years until his retirement.

**1966** Odette Bendickson of Thief River Falls was honored by the Thief River Falls chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) as one of two 2007 Women of Honor. She retired from teaching in 1999 after serving 26 years as an educator, most of that time in Newfolden. She and her husband, Orren, owned and operated a Dairy Queen in Thief River Falls from 1980 to 2004. They have been married for 43 years and have two grown sons. She's been an active member of the AAUW, serving as its president from 2002-2004 ... Andy Wells, owner of Wells Technology, a \$30 million manufacturing company in Bemidji, was recognized as the American Indian Business Owner of the Year at the Twenty-second Annual Reservation Economic Summit and American Indian Trade Fair held at the group's March meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Well-known for his business savvy, Wells is also recognized for his commitment to education. In 2005, he started a free school, Wells Academy, to prepare area residents for careers as machinists. In 2007 the academy graduated its first students.

## HORIZONS

Arnold "Arne" Anderson, Jr. '80, Fosston, MN  
 Carol A. Bauer '64, Grand Rapids, MN  
 Elaine Berger '72, Crookston, MN  
 Phillip V. Bowman '70, Boise, ID  
 Marlain J. Brufloodt '46, Alexandria, MN  
 Dr. Robert C. Bush '42, Walnut Creek, CA  
 Thomas R. Clark '69, Pipestone, MN  
 Luella Colligan '70, Bagley, MN  
 Charles Dudley '76, Sun City, AZ  
 Mary Eddy '56, Clearbrook, MN  
 Douglas Erickson '69, St. Paul, MN  
 Lucille Jeanette Erickson '32 & '63, Walker, MN  
 Cathi S. Evenson '71, McIntosh, MN  
 Helen Louise Grand '67, Bemidji, MN  
 Sidney Graser '55, Tenstrike, MN  
 Michael A. Gravel '67, St. Paul, MN  
 Verna Graves '52, Bemidji, MN  
 Ralph J. Gunderson '63, Remer, MN  
 James D. Habstritt '70, Roseau, MN  
 William E. Hamilton, Sr. '67, Brooklyn Park, MN  
 Michael D. Kallsen '81, Hawarden, IA  
 Patricia A. Kehr '94, Brainerd, MN  
 Milan Knickerbocker '72, Mansfield, OH  
 Roberta M. Kossow '65, Deer River, MN  
 Robert J. Kostelic '63, Chisholm, MN  
 James G. Lade '48, Valley City, ND  
 Rozalia Ione Landis '38, Blackduck, MN  
 Myrl Larson '66, Bagley, MN  
 Russell M. Nelson '51, Stevens Point, WI  
 Walter J. Nevitt '79, Bemidji, MN  
 Hazel Ollie '68, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Mary M. Patriquin '60, Needham, MA  
 Edna Pearson '58, McIntosh, MN  
 John A. Poppenberg '48, Bemidji, MN  
 Deborah Ranney '73, Minneapolis, MN  
 Donald W. Rautio, '62, The Villages, FL  
 Robert Reeve '49, Thief River Falls, MN  
 William J. Reierson '86, Monticello, MN  
 Kevin Remick '50, Avondale, AZ  
 Clyde A. Robb '53, Wadena, MN  
 Karlyn E. Rosa '01, Minneapolis, MN  
 Helen L. Seeling '35, Bemidji, MN  
 Robert T. Simmons '71, Gilbert, MN  
 Diane M. Stromberg '65, Forest Lake, MN  
 Donald Curtis Thompson '57, Eden Prairie, MN  
 Orville F. Tschida '89, Little Falls, MN  
 Edward A. Vinyard '83, Portland, OR  
 Gerald T. Wagness '65, International Falls, MN  
 Stanley S. Westra '59, Monroe, WA

# Save the Date

## **ALUMNI AND BEAVER PRIDE EVENTS**

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### *Wells Fargo / Gordy Skaar Tournament*

Supports Men's Athletics – Friday, June 20

### *Galen Nagle Memorial Tournament*

Supports Men's Hockey – Friday, July 18

### *First National Bank Women's Golf Classic*

Supports Women's Athletics – Friday, August 8

### ***Athletic Golf Tournaments at Bemidji Town and Country Club***

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### *BSU Alumni and Friends Dinner and Golf*

Oak Glen Golf Club – Stillwater, MN – Friday, August 1

### *Alumni Night with the Twins vs. New York Yankees*

HHH Metrodome – Tuesday, August 12

## **HOMECOMING 2008 – SEPTEMBER 26-27**

### *Friday, September 26*

Outstanding Alumni Reception – 5:00 p.m.

Alumni Honors Banquet – 6:00 p.m.

### *Saturday, September 27*

40-Year Reunion – Class of 1968 – 9:00 a.m.

Tailgate Party and Carnival – 11:00 a.m.

Homecoming Football Game vs. Northern State – 1:00 p.m.

President's Society Gala – 5:30 p.m.

## **ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AND ALUMNI B-CLUB WEEKEND – OCTOBER 17-18**

### *Friday, October 17*

National B-Club Forum – 9:00 a.m.

Beaver Pride Lunch – 11:30 a.m.

B-Club Meetings by Sport – 2:00 p.m.

Athletic Alumni Social – 6:30 p.m.

### *Saturday, October 18*

Beaver Pride Tailgate Party – 11:30 a.m.

Football Game vs. U of M Crookston – 1:00 p.m.

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet – 5:30 p.m.

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*For more information on each event, contact the Alumni Office at 1-877-278-2586 (toll free) or via email at [alumni@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:alumni@bemidjistate.edu) or visit our website at [www.bsualumni.org](http://www.bsualumni.org).*



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# Think Summer.

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

## SUMMER CLASSES

**Session I**, June 2-July 3

**Session II**, July 7-August 8



## SUMMER CAMPS

### MusiCamps

[www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/music/musiccamp.html](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/music/musiccamp.html)

#### **Instrumental Week**, July 13-19

*Piano, band, & jazz*

For grades 7-12

Contact: Dr. Del Lyren – [dlyren@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:dlyren@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-3931

#### **Choral/Vocal MusiCamp, Choir & Voice**, July 20-26

For grades 7-12

Contact: Dr. Brad Logan – [plogan@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:plogan@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2915

### Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

#### **STEM Camp: Branching Out**, June 8-13

*The Interplay of Science, Technology, and Mathematics*

For students in grades 10-12 in fall 2008.

Contact: Dr. Colleen Livingston

[clivingston@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:clivingston@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2843

<http://faculty.bemidjistate.edu/clivingston/>

### Transitions

#### **Post-secondary Readiness Experiential Program (PREP)**

*A transitions program for high school students with disabilities*

June 22-28

Contact: Kathi Hagen, Office for Students with Disabilities

[khagen@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:khagen@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-3883

[www.bemidjistate.edu/students/disabilities](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/disabilities)

### Wellness

#### **Wellness Adventure Camp for Kids**, August 11-14

*An activity-based, educational program to*

*explore healthy and active choices*

For students entering grades 2-6

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Space is limited.

Contact: Dr. Jim White

[jwhite@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jwhite@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2766

### Sports [www.bemidjistate.edu/athletics](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/athletics)

#### **Boys' High School Basketball Team Camp**, June 28-29

Contact: Matt Bowen, Head Coach, Men's Basketball

[mbowen@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:mbowen@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2774 – 800-475-2001

#### **Boys' Basketball Shooting and Scoring Camps**

*Single-day camps for boys in grades 3-12*

June 9, June 11, July 14, or July 16 – 9 a.m. - noon

Contact: Jeremy Tiers, Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball

[jtiers@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jtiers@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-4619

#### **Boys' Three-Day Basketball Camp**, August 4-6

9 a.m. - noon – Grades 1-6

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. – Grades 7-12

Contact: Jeremy Tiers, Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball

[jtiers@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jtiers@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2323

#### **Girls' Elementary School Basketball Camp**, June 16-19

#### **Girls' High School Basketball Camp**, July 20-23

For both camps contact:

Krissi Super, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball

[ksuper@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:ksuper@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-368-6547

#### **Northern Plains Visions of Sport Camp**, July 12-19

*For students with visual impairments*

Contact: Dr. Jim Mastro

[jmastro@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jmastro@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-3772

#### **Soccer Camp**, June 9-13

Ages 7-19

Contact: Jim Stone, Head Coach, Women's Soccer

[jstone@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jstone@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-2773

[www.bsusoccercamps.com](http://www.bsusoccercamps.com)

#### **Volleyball Camps**

*Overnight and camp-only options available. 9 a.m. - noon daily*

*Skills Camp* – Grades 7-12, June 22-25

*Elite Camp* – Grades 9-12, June 25-28

*Elementary Camp* – Grades 2-6, June 23-25

Contact: Laurie Bitter, Head Coach, Volleyball

[lbitter@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:lbitter@bemidjistate.edu) – 218-755-3784



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**ADMISSIONS' SUMMER SAMPLER**  
For Prospective Students  
*A Taste of BSU Campus Life*

**Fridays: June 20, July 18, August 1, 9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

- Check in 9:15-9:30
- Welcome 9:30-9:40
- Presentation 9:40-10:00
- Campus Tour 10:00-11:30
- Campus Picnic 11:30-12:30

**RSVP to BSU's Admissions Office**  
Phone: 218-755-2040 or 1-877-BEMIDJI  
Email: [admissions@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:admissions@bemidjistate.edu)

Keep updated on BSU events.  
Go to "Events Calendar" at [www.bemidjistate.edu](http://www.bemidjistate.edu)

**OTHER CAMPUS EVENTS**

- June 2 Summer Session I begins
- June 15-20 Northwoods Writers Conference
- July 7 Summer Session II begins
- August 25 Fall semester classes begin

**For camp information, see page 29; upcoming alumni events appear on page 28.**